

Jo Daviess County
708 Mental Health Board
Minutes from Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
Jo Daviess County Administrative Offices (Temporary Location)
Former Galena Primary School
219 Kelly Lane
Galena, IL 61036

Meeting is Accessible via Audio Call-in

In Attendance: Board members present: Linda Nobis (acting chair) and Bill Hermann

Via Zoom: Colleen Farrell, Mary Jo Losey and Jane O'Brien

Absent: Joanne Robinson and Lynn Gallagher

County Officials in Attendance: Tammy Cahill

Service Provider in Attendance: Tyler's Justice Center – Alegria Koser

Service Providers via Zoom/Audio: Midwest Medical – Katie Meusel, Riverview Center – Lori Apel, Kreider Services – Alicia Fleege, Sinnissippi Centers – Connie Davis

Call to Order at 5:31 p.m. by Linda Nobis

Roll call - Establishment of Quorum: Roll call taken, Quorum Established.

Approval of Minutes:

- a) 708 Mental Health Board meeting minutes from the December 13, 2023 quarterly meeting. There being no questions or discussion, motion by Colleen Farrell, 2nd by Bill Hermann. All in Favor. Oppose: None.

Citizen's Comment: None

Treasurer's Report: The financial statements were included in the packet.

President's Report: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Service Provider Reports for 1st Quarter FY2024: Please refer to Exhibit B in meeting packet.

- i. Midwest Medical Center – Katie Meusel reported that lots of exciting things have been happening at Midwest Medical Center. There is growth in their counseling now that they offer forty hours of counseling a week. We are still running into a high no-show rate which is something that we need to discuss again. We are still using telephone calls and video visits for any of our mental health visits or our tele psychiatry visits. There is some additional adult tele psychiatry times. We have had our certified mental health nurse practitioner here two days a week which has been phenomenal. It has also been a really positive experience for patients. We have also been offering additional hours of child and adolescent counseling. Now that we have three different councilors, two of which are seeing patients under the age of eighteen, and also breaking down our senior mental health services as well a little bit more. We still offer services one day a week at the Galena Nursing Home which has been wonderful. On the inside at Midwest Medical lots of excitement. Still on target for the new build and addition phase one to be completed in August-ish. That is the space that is going to have our mental health program. We will have a group room where counselors can go in and have a bigger group or be able to cook or do art work. Just have more space to be able to do things for patients. Linda Nobis commented that it has been a continuing issue with the no-shows. Meusel explained that when they do have no-shows the process that they already have in place is that is there are three no shows in a row they take you off of the schedule and put you back at the bottom of the wait list. That is six weeks of counselling that could have been provided to someone else. It is the same people. They want to look at their process and see how to make it better. Mary Jo Losey pointed out

that everyone needs to look at the Exhibit B documents in the packet to see a synopsis of what each of the agencies are doing. Colleen Farrell commented that we are seeing a huge jump in your numbers which she was very happy about.

- ii. Riverview Center, Inc. – Lori Apel reported that you can see their preventionists have been busy in the schools providing a number of programs to the elementary, middle and high school students. Programs varied from Body Safety, Safe Dates, Sexual Harassment, Bullying Prevention, Teen Dating Violence, etc. They certainly are well versed in providing programs to our area schools. Windows Between Worlds is a new program that they have launched this year and is incorporating art within trauma informed programming and opportunities for survivors to express traumas through art. We continue to struggle with getting the word out on evening programs. We need to continue to investigate other means to advertise programming that's held in the evening. We have a number of upcoming Community Partner Sessions that will begin within a week or two. We have four to five sessions planned with different community members and organizations. We are going to discuss Riverview services as well as talk about our trauma informed approach with survivors. April we will have our Sexual Assault Awareness Month with several events scheduled.
- iii. Jo Daviess Workshop, Inc. – Not present.
- iv. Tyler's Justice Center for Children – Alegra Koser reported that since our last meeting they have had ten children from Jo Daviess County that were referred to them for services. They assisted twelve non-offending family members and they conducted ten forensic interviews. They have done 97 total forensic interviews to date. Koser has been busy giving presentations about what TJDD is and their role in the community to several area organizations as well as two upcoming presentations. Their Program Coordinator/Family Advocate had a healthy baby girl and is currently on maternity leave. Their MDT Coordinator/Forensic Interviewer, recently conducted patrol trainings for the Stephenson County Sheriff's Office. She is working on getting patrol trainings for the law enforcement agencies in Carroll and Jo Daviess Counties scheduled as well. They hosted a Family Valentine's Fun Night on Valentine's Day. Only three children participated, but they all had a really great time. They took a risk having it on Valentine's Day and it was also Ash

Wednesday, so that may have contributed to the low turnout. Last night they hosted an Open House. It was a really good event and was fairly successful. They had a lot of people come through their doors. They have their Share Night at Culver's in Galena on May 7th. They also have their Teeing Off for Tyler's Golf outing coming up on June 14th at Woodbine Bend. More details on that will be forthcoming. They are gearing up for April being Child Abuse Awareness Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Koser read information about the Blue Ribbon Campaign.

- v. Kreider Services – Alicia Fleege expressed her great appreciation they have for the community. They have received several different charitable donations – The Hope Foundation for wheelchairs, The Eagle's Club to help with the renovation of the homes, The Rotary Club to also help with the upgrades in the homes. They received the Elks Lodge Impact Grant again this year. They will be getting Flex Passes from Timber Lake Playhouse, pool access at the Country Inn & Suites, a six-week bowling series at Cherry Lanes in Dubuque and working with the ARC on doing several arts and cooking programs. This year they will be including people outside of their group homes fostering new relationships and friendships. They don't need to live and work with the same people. They can have friends in the community. They are building great relationships and getting their name out there better. This has caused their waitlist to increase. Sadly we have a hard time staffing the three homes that we do have. Please spread the word they are still hiring. They will be teaming up with Riverview for staff training. They will be in the St. Patrick's Day parade this weekend.
- vi. Sinnissippi Centers – Connie Davis reported that in the last quarter they provided two and a half hours of service to five inmates. With the Safety Act that has gone into effect, many times the jail is empty. If there are one or two detainees there they don't always want services. Davis wants them to keep offering them services. It is a great thing that they do. She has found another client that has been seen by them following up with services after they were released from the jail. We have had at least three or four and every one has been a success. We want to be there for the detainees that are being held longer than over night or whatever the case may be.

Board Member Concern: Bill Hermann commented that he has seen that Rosecrance is working in the area. Colleen Farrell added that they are currently renting space in our Health Department and they are providing limited drug and alcohol abuse services. We are happy for their presence and they may put in a grant request for July.

Citizens Comments: None

Next regular meeting – June 12, 2024 at 5:30 – Jo Daviess County Administrative Offices (Temporary Location), Former Galena Primary School, 219 Kelly Lane, Galena, IL 61036

Motion to Adjourn at 6:06 p.m. by Mary Jo Losey, 2nd Colleen Farrell. All in Favor.