



MEETING MINUTES
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
Thursday, October 12, 2023 7:00 PM

Social Services Committee

Members Present: D. Ohanian, K. Rolling, K. Hayes, R. Phillips, Councilmember Burns, Councilmember Reid (participating electronically)

Members Absent: S. Olds Frey, A. Ngola, S. Lackey,

Staff Present: M. Johnson, J. Wingader

Call to Order / Declaration of Quorum

Acting Chair Ohanian noted that there was no physical quorum present, but requested to start presentations at 7:23 pm.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for September 14, 2023

As there was no physical quorum present, the minutes were not approved.

Mental Health Task Force Presentation

Cindy Solorzano Castro, Manager with Ascension Illinois Behavioral Health, spoke on behalf of the Mental Health Task Force, she defined the organization and shared community needs from the perspective of the Task Force including the lack of affordable housing, no year round shelter, the need for additional mental health services especially affordable psychiatric services, and lack of staff. Ms. Castro advocated for provision of non-restricted funds as many agencies are not able to cover the funding gap between staff salaries and costs of service provision versus medicaid reimbursement rates. Ms. Castro closed by providing an update about wraparound services discussions held by community stakeholders across sectors and led by the Task Force.

Discussion of FY2023 Safety Net Program Outcomes/Updates

The following agency representatives provided updates and answered questions about program outcomes:

Books & Breakfast - Advancing Racial Justice and COVID Recovery in Dist. 65:

Kimberly Hammock, Executive Director and Kyle Hanawalt, Director of Development & Operations

Childcare Network of Evanston - Learning Together: Deepa Mehta, Director of Programs/Head Start and Chava Alpert, Mental Health Consultant

Childcare Network of Evanston - Mental Health Services: Carolyn Myszkowskic, Programs Manager and Deepa Mehta, Director of Programs/Head Start

Connections for the Homeless - Drop-In, Health & Outreach Program: Michael Mallory, Chief Government Relations Officer

Infant Welfare Society - Safety Net Services: Stephen Vick, Executive Director and Diana Newton, Director of Development and Communications

Interfaith Action of Evanston - Safety Net Services: Susan Murphy, Director

James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy: Patrick Keenan-Devlin, Executive Director

Meals on Wheels Northeastern Illinois - Home Delivered Meals: Deborah Mack, Executive Director

North Shore Senior Center - Safety Net Services for Older Adults: Moira Warnement, Grants Manager and Amy Kraus, Director of Marketing & Communications

Peer Services, Inc. - Substance Use Treatment: Noy Frial-Lopez, Executive Director and Anne Brown, Development Director (virtual participation)

Youth & Opportunity United - YOU Safety Net Services: Teresa Cortas, Executive Director of Clinical and Outreach Services

YWCA Evanston/North Shore - Safety Net Services: Jennifer Allen, Assistant Director, Shelter Services

Staff Report

No report.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Wingader
Senior Grants and Compliance Specialist