

Blackberry Township
Community Mental Health 708 Board Meeting
Thursday, June 29, 2023

MINUTES

President Caryn Spitzzeri called the regular meeting of the Blackberry Township Mental Health 708 Board to order at 7:03 PM on Thursday, June 29, 2023, via conference call.

Members Present: Judie Childress, Elizabeth Kufer, Carrie Seida, Caryn Spitzzeri

Members Absent: Donna Harner, Lois Mack

Also present: Colleen Balija, INC MHA
Ann Montgomery, INC MHA
Jennifer Long, Conley Outreach Community Services

Spitzzeri asked for approval of the minutes of the February 02, 2023, meeting. Upon a motion by Judie Childress and second by Carrie Seida, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Under Staff Report, Conley Outreach Executive Director Jennifer Long gave the West Towns report on the clients and activities. She stated 54 new clients were served, 196 total contacts were made, and 72 referred out. Activities include distributing community meals, sorting donations, working with clients at the Clothing Exchange Clothes Closet, hosting WTCRT Zoom meetings, Kaneland Coalition meetings, grief support groups, and completed Good Grief Day camp in late June.

Operations Manager Colleen Balija reported on the INC finances for the period of July 1 through April 30, 2023. All tax revenues have been received plus additional funds from Big Rock township, and interest rates are improving. Expenses YTD are \$1,756,971. Overall, Net Income is \$354,580.

Administrative Assistant Ann Montgomery reviewed the unaudited client statistics for the fiscal year through April 30, 2023. She reported that 259 Blackberry Township residents received 3,931 units of service for that period.

Balija reviewed the 2022 Tax Extension Report. She reported that the Blackberry levy request was \$61,481 and the extension is \$61,484.

Balija reviewed the preliminary 2023-2024 budget and noted changes to several items while offering explanations.

Balija presented the approved 2023-24 Allocations. She reported that the INC Board of Directors approved the funding recommendations by the Program Committee. There are 3 new agencies and 8 new programs in FY24.

OneDrive/Documents/FY23/708 Boards/Blackberry/BL Minutes/23-0629 BL

Under New Business, Baliya shared the recommendation from the INC Board of Directors to the Blackberry Township 708 Board for the proposed 2023 mental health tax levy. The increase would be for the 5% Consumer Price Index (CPI) allowed under the tax cap, plus any additional levy allowed due to new construction. Seida made the motion to accept the recommendation for the increase to the township board. The motion was seconded by Childress and passed unanimously. Staff will forward the recommendation to Supervisor Esther Steele.

Baliya presented the 708 Board with the proposed meeting schedule for 2023-24 and stated that concerns with the schedule can be directed to her.

Baliya reported that Donna Harner and Spitzzeri terms will expire on June 30, 2023. Spitzzeri graciously agreed to be re-appointed to another 4-year term and staff will reach out to Donna Harner regarding her re-appointment. If agreed, Alegria will request reappointments from Supervisor Steele. Baliya mentioned that there is one vacancy on the board and recommendations can be directed to staff.

Baliya invited 708 board members to participate in the INC MHA Program Committee and Scholarship Ad-hoc Committee. Description of the committees was reviewed. Board members interested in these committees can contact Baliya directly.

Under the Liaison Report, Spitzzeri reviewed a few items from the INC Board of Directors meeting in more detail for the Blackberry 708 Board.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Childress and, with a second by Seida, it was passed by unanimous vote at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Harner
Secretary