

MEETING OF THE NORTH RIVER EXPANDED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
PROGRAM GOVERNING COMMISSION—WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2014

The meeting of the North River Expanded Mental Health Services Governing Commission was convened at seven p.m. by Commission President Joyce Zick, at the Parish Hall of St. John's Episcopal Church. The following Commissioners were in attendance: Gloria Centeno, Joan Liataud, Roger McGill, Mary Shehan, Carole Spreitzer, Mary Tinich, and Rosemary Tirio. Commissioner Pastor Wilfredo Santiago was absent.

Commissioner McGill moved that the minutes of the December 18 meeting be approved; Commissioner Spreitzer seconded the motion, and it was passed with eight yes votes and one Commissioner absent.

Commission President Zick proposed that the Commission continue the regular meeting schedule (third Wednesday of each month) and the same venue (St. John's Episcopal Church Parish Hall) as the church is willing to extend our use of their facility. Commissioner Tinich moved to approve the proposal and Commissioner Tirio seconded it. The motion was passed with eight yes votes and one Commissioner absent. Therefore, the meeting schedule for 2014 is as follows: February 19, March 19, April 16, May 21, June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17, October 15, November 19, and December 17.

Election of Officers - Commissioner Tinich proposed that the Commission retain President Zick and Secretary Tirio and nominated Commissioner Spreitzer for the office of Treasurer. Commissioner McGill moved to approve the proposal and Commissioner Centeno seconded it. The motion passed with eight yes votes and one Commissioner absent.

Commissioner Tirio inquired as to the status of the ending of her term which is scheduled to end in February. President Zick responded that the letters requesting the reappointment for Commissioners Tirio and Tinich have been sent and that the Commissioners will serve until reappointment by Governor Quinn, which is expected before they expire.

Commissioner Tinich, Chair of the PTELL (Property Tax Extension Limitation Law) Committee reported that, on the advice of our attorneys, the language of Resolution 13-02, which refers to the aggregate amount of \$601,034 of the tax levy or .026% of the EAV (Equalized Assessed Valuation) will appear on the March ballot. The alternative would have been Resolution 13-01 which referred to the tax levy amount as .004% of individual property tax bills, which is in reality one and the same amount. Commissioner Tinich further reported that she went to the Board of Election Commissioners on December 23 to deliver the language of the PTELL Referendum. Jim Scanlon, the legal counsel of the Board of Elections, looked over the Referendum and accepted it.

Commissioner Spreitzer, Chair of the Finance and Tax Levy Committee, reported that she submitted the Tax Levy Ordinance and the Proposed Budget Ordinance to the County Clerk December 23, "on time and appropriate." She has receipts for both submissions. Commissioner Spreitzer added that the technical problem brought up by County Tax Manager Bill Vaselopoulos is being worked on in conjunction with the Commission's pro-bono lawyers and the Clerk's Office. She will inform us of any additional information at the next meeting.

Commissioner Centeno, Chair of the Program and Services Committee, reported that they have received seven proposals from the following potential service providers: Catholic Charities, EMHS of Chicago NFP, Rincon, Community Counseling Centers of Chicago, Lydia Home Association, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, and UCAN. The Committee met January 7th for a preliminary review of the proposals to ensure each was in compliance with the checklist of requirements prepared by the Committee. At their second meeting on January 10, they conducted a thorough study of the contents of each proposal placing emphasis on two areas, particularly: community perspective, i.e., how each organization conducted the legally required mental health needs assessment, and how effectively they propose using the tax money that will be available to them including analysis of the types of services to be provided, how the budget focuses on meeting our community's mental health needs, and whether each group was compliant in using all funds for direct services as stated in the RFP to fulfill the legal requirements of the Commission.

Two of the proposals were found to be outstanding in innovation, creativity, community evaluation, diversity and networking. They are EMHS of Chicago NFP and Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. On February 11, the Committee will interview both providers at 10 a.m. devoting a half hour to each interview. Chairman Centeno moved that the two candidates be invited to the February 11 interview; Commissioner Liataud seconded the motion. It passed with eight yes votes and one Commissioner absent.

Commissioner Centeno invited all Commissioners to schedule a time to look over the two proposals at her office. She also invited Commissioners to attend the February 11 interview session with proposed providers and to bring any questions they may have for the providers to the meeting.

During the Public Comment portion of the meeting, Representative Jaime Andrade of the 40th District, introduced himself and expressed his interest in the Commission. He is filling the vacancy created by when former Representative Deb Mell was appointed to the aldermanic position of the 33rd ward vacated by her father Richard Mell who recently retired from the City Council. He indicated his support for the program and wanted to learn more about how the Commission was proceeding.

Mary Shehan moved that the meeting be adjourned; Gloria Centeno seconded the motion. The motion passed by seven yes votes and one Commissioner absent.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Tirio
Secretary