

MEETING OF THE NORTH RIVER EXPANDED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
GOVERNING COMMISSION—WEDNESDAY, June 18, 2014

The meeting of the North River Expanded Mental Health Services Governing Commission was convened at 7:04 p.m. by Commission President Joyce Zick, at the Parish Hall of St. John's Episcopal Church. The following Commissioners were in attendance: Joan Liautaud, Roger McGill, Mary Shehan, Carole Spreitzer, Mary Tinich, Rosemary Tirio. Commissioners Gloria Centeno and the Rev. Wilfredo Santiago were absent.

Commission President Zick delayed the opening of the meeting noting the severity of the weather that might have delayed the arrival of some commissioners. She also mentioned that this meeting marked our first anniversary as the Commission was inaugurated in June of 2013. Zick also commented on the accomplishments of the Commission during the year.

President Zick announced that guests from the service provider, Expanded Mental Health Services of Chicago NFP, would arrive at the meeting later to meet the full Commission and to report on their progress.

Commissioner McGill moved to accept the minutes of the May meeting. Commissioner Shehan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner McGill presented the report of the Programs and Services Committee in the absence of Committee Chairman Gloria Centeno, who was out of town with her family. On June 10, the committee met with Dr. Turk, one of the psychiatrists on the board of EMHS of Chicago NFP, and Matt Hiller. Expanded Mental Health Services of Chicago NFP had signed copies of the amended contract and the committee exchanged copies of the contract and talked about mental health issues. Commissioner Centeno provided coffee and cake and photos of the occasion were taken. The invitation for members to attend the Commission meeting this evening was extended at the meeting also.

The Building Committee Chair Commissioner Tinich reported that the committee is willing to provide feedback to the provider in their search for an acceptable clinic location. Additionally, Commissioner Tinich reported that the Building Committee would begin looking for a small office space for the two anticipated Commission staff members.

Commissioner Spreitzer, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reported that the committee had not met but that she would report on what has happened since the last meeting. Work on the changes to the wording of the legislation is complete and the bill passed unanimously. It was signed by Governor Quinn on May 29. Bill Vaselopulos, of the Cook County Clerk's Office, received the information he needed by that week and he was able to inform the Commission of how much money we will receive and when. The amount, \$559,000 is less than anticipated. Similar reductions happened to all taxing districts. The first part of the funds will be available for electronic transfer on July 14. The remainder will be available on August 1. We need to set up a bank account to receive the funds. Commissioner Spreitzer moved that she be granted authority as Treasurer of the Commission to start up the necessary bank account to receive and disburse the funds the Commission is about to receive. Commissioner Liautaud second the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Shehan noted that we need to identify who needs to sign off on disbursements and suggested that two signatures be necessary. Commissioner McGill suggested that President Zick and Treasurer Spreitzer approve all disbursements.

Commissioner Spreitzer said that because the amount of funds we will receive is less than anticipated, a review of the budget should be done to determine any adjustments that might be necessary. President Zick said that everything related to the adjustment of expenses will be clarified by our next meeting. The Finance Committee will meet before the next meeting to make adjustments to the budget. They invite any other interested commissioners to attend the meeting also.

Commission President Zick introduced the representative from the EMHSC, Matt Hiller, Project Manager for the EMHSC. Dr. Freidman who was also scheduled to attend the meeting, was delayed in traffic.

Mr. Hiller reported that EMHS was in the process of seeking and hiring a clinical director who will be taking the lead on the start-up of the new clinic following the signing of the contract.

Commission Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee Spreitzer reported that most of the funds will be available by July 14. The original plan called for the first payment to the EMHSC to be in September, but perhaps it should start in August. She explained that the original amount has been reduced. The original quarterly amount was to be \$127K, but the Commission would be discussing this amount in light of new information that the total tax levy was lower than estimated by the Cook County Clerk's Office.

Commissioner Shehan asked if they had found a potential location for the clinic yet. Mr. Hiller reported that the Commission was in the process of seeking a building and was working to find a location that best suited the needs of the area. Commissioner Tinich repeated that the Building Commission is willing and happy to help in the building search.

Commissioner Liataud commented that psychiatric and mental health services do not require a medical facility per se.

Commissioner Shehan asked how we will inform the community that the new clinic is up and running. Mr. Hiller reported that after the clinical director is hired, it will be his or her job to inform those who would likely make referrals to the new facility.

Commissioner Tirio asked if a projected date for opening the clinic will be set. Mr. Hiller reported that it is hard to give a concrete date at this point. EMHS of Chicago is focused on securing the location and hiring the clinical director. That being said, their goal is to begin providing services as soon as they can. Commissioners then asked several questions regarding billing and other issues. EMHS of Chicago will likely look for guidance or some definitions regarding smaller points of the contract.

Commission President Zick reminded those present that the next Commission meeting for July 16, 2014, and asked for Public Comments. Hearing none, she called for a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Liataud moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Shehan seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Tirio
Secretary