

MEETING OF THE NORTH RIVER EXPANDED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM
GOVERNING COMMISSION—WEDNESDAY, August 21, 2013

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

After a brief examination, the minutes of the July 17 Governing Commission meeting Commissioner McGill moved that the minutes be accepted. Commissioner Spreitzer seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

President Zick presented the Bylaws which were submitted at the last meeting and were posted for public review. President Zick opened the meeting up to allow public comment on the bylaws. No members of the public made comment on the bylaws. Commissioner Spreitzer then moved that the Bylaws, which had been presented at the July meeting by Commissioner Tinich, Chairman of the Bylaws and Committee, be accepted. Commissioner Centeno seconded the motion, and the Bylaws were accepted unanimously.

In Committee Chair Commissioner Tinich's absence, Commissioner Tirio announced that attorneys from Jenner & Block had agreed to work *pro bono* with the Governing Commission in preparing the documents necessary for creating the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) referendum and in assisting the Finance Committee to submit all the documentation required to obtain the tax levy from the County Assessor. She then presented tentative wording of the proposed referendum which will appear on the March 18, 2014, ballot. Commissioner Shehan read the proposed wording aloud. Discussion ensued during which it was decided to remove the reference to the North River Mental Health Center. Commissioner Spreitzer suggested that further action on the wording of the referendum be deferred for final perusal by the attorney. The matter was referred back to committee.

Commissioner Spreitzer presented the report of the Finance Committee. The committee met one time with the goal of determining the legal definition of the territory to be taxed. The committee worked with the City Clerk's Office and the Map Department of the city and created the legal description of the North River Mental Health Services Program Territory. The lawyer will examine it before it is submitted to the County Clerk.

Commissioner Shehan inquired about residency requirements for receiving services. Commissioner Spreitzer said that in order to receive services, people would have to be residents of the defined territory. The Committee will also prepare a letter to the County Assessor asking that office to compute and inform the Finance Committee of the total amount of funding we can expect to receive.

Commissioner Spreitzer moved that the Commission accept Jenner & Block as *pro bono* attorneys to work on the PTELL Referendum and the Tax Levy issues. Commissioner Shehan seconded the motion. The Commission members voted unanimously to accept the Jenner & Block attorneys.

Commissioner Centeno, chairman of the Program Services Committee, reported that the committee had met once and had drafted a Request for Proposals (RFP) which explains the legal requirements for applicants. Their goal for their next meeting is to prepare an application with questions that tentative service providers will answer. The application will be posted so that by January 2014 the committee will have chosen a service provider, and by August 2014 actual services will begin.

Mary Shehan asked if only one service provider would be hired. Commission President Zick, also a member of the Program and Services Committee, responded that only one provider would likely be hired. Commissioner Centeno added that the committee would select one provider to do a needs assessment. The provider will have a two-year initial contract after which they will be able to reapply.

Commission President Zick announced that the next meeting would be on September 18 and that Jenner

and Block will have their representatives here.

During the Public Comment portion of the meeting, Elaine Lorenz, a resident of the area and member of the Coalition to Save Our Mental Health Centers, asked how service providers were going to be obtained. Commissioner Centeno explained the procedure the Committee will use to engage private providers.

Commissioner Spreitzer moved that the meeting be adjourned; Commissioner. Shehan seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Tirio
Interim Secretary