

MEETING OF THE NORTH RIVER EXPANDED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM
GOVERNING COMMISSION—WEDNESDAY, September 18, 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, Joan Liataud, Pastor Wilfredo Santiago, Mary Shehan, Carole Spreitzer, Mary Tinich, Rosemary Tirio. Roger McGill was absent.

Commissioner Spreitzer, chairman of the Finance and Tax Levy Committee, moved that paragraph 6 of the minutes of the August 21 Commission meeting be changed to show that the Finance Committee has already sent 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 Tinich seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The remainder of the minutes of the August 21 meeting were approved by the Commission.

Ethics Officer Commissioner Tirio asked commissioners to submit certificates of completion of the Open Meetings Act on-line training and Acknowledgements of Participation in 2013 Ethics Training for Appointees to State of Illinois Boards, All but two of the commissioners have submitted both certificates. The others, who were absent from the last meeting, will do so at the October Commission meeting.

Commissioner Mary Tinich, chairman of the Bylaws Committee, reported that she and Commissioner Spreitzer, Chairman of the Finance and Tax Levy Committee, met at the Jenner & Block Law Firm with four attorneys, two men and two women, and laid out our needs, i.e., what we need to know about the exact process and dates and deadlines for complying with the PTELL Act. They also asked the attorneys to assist in framing the language for the PTELL referendum so that voters will understand that they have already voted for the provisions of this referendum last year and that the PTELL referendum only asks them to vote again for the sum total of tax money to be earmarked for the implementation of the Expanded Mental Health Services Program. The attorneys said they would be in touch with the Cook County Clerk and Chicago Board of Elections, and that we will hear back from them.

Commissioner Spreitzer, Chairman of the Finance and Tax Levy Committee, reported that the committee met once and that their first priority is to get the tax levy amount from the Cook County Assessor's and the Cook County Clerk's offices. They have sent a letter and have made phone calls to people behind the scenes, but have not received a response as of the meeting. Mr. Bill Vaselopulos, the County Tax Extension Manager in the Clerk's Office, called and said he understands what we need, but that office does not perform the functions we need because we are expected to have staff to do this ourselves. However, he said that we might have the tax levy amount by the week following the Commission meeting. We need to be writing the Tax Levy Ordinance and the Budget Ordinance to present at the next meeting. However, we can't do this without knowing the amount of tax revenue available to us. Commissioner Spreitzer expressed the hope that the attorneys will be able to assist us in the wording of the referendum. She postponed the next Finance Committee meeting a week until they obtain the information needed. "The clock is ticking for us," she added. "We must have a month's notice for the public." They also presented our legal description of the territory involved in the referendum to the attorneys and now are awaiting their approval.

Commissioner Centeno, Chairman of the Program Services Committee, reported that the committee has completed a draft of the RFP (Request for Proposals) which will be reviewed by a lawyer. The draft RFP includes a reminder that services should not duplicate existing services mandated by law for the severely mentally ill. Candidates for Service Provider should also include issues of cultural diversity and the use of peer specialists in any proposals. The Service Provider will be a non-profit agency and 100% of funds allocated to the service provider will be utilized for direct service. The initial contract term will be 24 months.

The Program Services Committee approved the initial draft of the RFP. By the October meeting the

Program Services Committee should have a final draft of the RFP for the approval of the rest of the Commission.

Commissioner Centeno suggested that the Services Committee should come up with a formula as to how much money they should get. The Committee will meet before the next Commission meeting. They have set Dec. 31 as the due date for submission of proposals. During January the proposals will be reviewed by the committee with a planned Service Provider selection date in February 2014.

New Business

Commissioner Spreitzer urged the Commission to keep in mind whose terms will be expiring and who needs to reapply to the Governor.

Commissioner Zick said the next Commission meeting will take place Wednesday, October 16.

Commissioner Spreitzer moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Tinich seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Tirio
Interim Secretary