

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

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's Episcopal Church. The following Commissioners were in attendance: Gloria Centeno, Joan Liataud, Roger McGill, Pastor Wilfredo Santiago, Carole Spreitzer, Mary Tinich, and Rosemary Tirio. Mary Shehan was absent.

Commissioner Liataud moved that the minutes of the September meeting be approved. Commissioner Spreitzer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Spreitzer presented the Treasurer's Report. She distributed a Profit and Loss Statement and a Balance Sheet. Commissioner Tinich moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and Commissioner Spreitzer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Under Old Business, discussion of the motion to reduce the funding amount to be given to the Service Provider for direct mental health services in view of the reduction of the tax levy funds received by the commission was resumed. Commissioner Liataud moved that 85% of the funds received from the tax levy be the only funds used for direct services rendered by the Service Provider. Noting the possibility of unanticipated expenses which might arise and the fact that a smaller amount than was anticipated was actually received, the quarterly amounts furnished to the provider must be reduced from \$127,500 to \$115,424. More discussion ensued during which Commissioner McGill said that, since this was the start-up year, and since the provider had been promised the larger amount, that we should try to maintain the original amount. He stated that he felt the Commission should make every effort to provide as much funding for services as possible. Commissioner Liataud replied that the Finance Committee was only trying to be fiscally responsible in making sure that we did not run out of funds to finance the fourth quarter. Commissioner Centeno, chair of the Program Services Committee, stated that she still believed that the Commission should provide the original amount because the Commission had more than enough funds to do so, but in the interest of Commission unity, she would vote for the motion proposed.

Commissioner Liataud moved to limit the amount awarded to the provider to a maximum of 85% of the tax levy received. Commissioner Spreitzer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with Commissioner McGill abstaining.

Commissioner Centeno presented the report of the Program Services Committee. She said her committee was meeting with the provider to discuss policies that would ensure that the new services would meet the requirements of the Community Expanded Mental Health Services Act. These issues included the establishment of proof of residency in the catchment area, ensuring that the Center would not be replacing mandated services already provided by the North River Mental Health Center for the severely mentally ill, and that services would be free of charge after all available funding sources had been exhausted. She noted that this will be an ongoing process in the coming months.

Commissioner Tinich, Chairman of the Building and Personnel Committee, presented the resumes of the two candidates chosen by the Committee for the position of Administrative Assistant to the Commission. The candidates had appeared before members of the Commission prior to the beginning of the meeting. After discussion regarding the merits of Roger AbiNader and Eva Gelfand, Commissioner Tinich moved that the position be offered to Roger AbiNader. Commissioner Spreitzer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Commissioner Shehan will be appointed to work with the new Administrative Assistant in procuring supplies and equipment for the new Commission Office located in the United Methodist Church at 3801 W. Grace St. Commissioner Tinich will also request 4 keys from the church so that the Committee chairs and the administrative assistant will have access to the office. Commissioner Spreitzer, chairman of the Finance Committee and Treasurer of the Commission, said that \$2,000 had been budgeted for equipping the new Commission office although the Commission was in agreement that every effort should be made to spend less than the allotted amount if possible.

Commissioner Spreitzer presented the report of the Finance and Tax Levy Committee, which met

yesterday. She said that a new tax levy needs to be submitted for 2014. The Committee suggested that the Commission seek a levy increase of 4.9%. This amount would allow the Commission to ensure that it received the maximum amount of funds that were approved by the voters. Commissioner Spreitzer moved that the Commission therefore seek a tax levy of \$584, 690. Commissioner McGill seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

During the New Business section of the Agenda, Commissioner Zick introduced Dr. Angela Sedano, the Clinical Director hired for the new center. Dr. Sedeno introduced herself and gave an overview of her credentials for the directorship of the new center, which included many years of clinical experience including seven years with the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center. While in that position, Dr. Sedeno realized that after the juveniles were sent home, there were no adequate services for them in the community. She welcomes the opportunity to provide better services in the community and said she was happy to return to community mental health.

She said that she and her team was working with the Coalition to Save Our Mental Health Centers, the organization that has worked directly in the community to create the program, to prepare for a Grand Opening Ceremony on October 29. They have hired many staff members and are currently looking for a bilingual administrative assistant. She was very enthusiastic to report that she had been working with the community, as suggested by the Commission, to determine a name for the center: The Kedzie Center.

President Zick said that the new name sounds strong. Commissioner McGill agreed as did Commissioner Centeno.

President Zick announced that the next meeting will be on November 19 at St. John's Episcopal Church. She then asked for public comment.

Bob Sutherland of the Coalition to Save Our Mental Health Centers commended the Commission on what they have accomplished. Mike McGrail, also of the Coalition, said that the Commission has been placed in a position of public trust and together the community has won a great struggle. Both members then distributed invitations to each Commissioner inviting them to the Grand Opening Ceremony of The Kedzie Center.

Commissioner Santiago moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Centeno seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Tirio  
Secretary