

**NORTH RIVER EXPANDED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM GOVERNING  
COMMISSION**

**Governing Commission Office**

**3525 W. Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60659 (Via Zoom)**

**Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Commission Members Present: Gloria Centeno (President), Rosemary Tirio (Secretary), Kathy Donofrio (Treasurer), Rev. Jacob Agepog, Mary Tinich, Joyce Zick**

**Commission Members Absent: Elizabeth Granato, Joan Liautaud,  
Commission Employee: Celeste Burke (Office Administrator/Bookkeeper)**

**Community: Sharon Nichols, Nancy Burke**

**I. WELCOME**

**President Centeno called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.**

**Roll call: Listed above.**

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 18, 2023, MEETING**

**Commissioner Donofrio moved to approve the minutes of the January meeting.**

**Second: Commissioner Zick**

**Approved unanimously.**

**III. TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Treasurer Donofrio said there was really nothing new to report.**

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Program Services Committee**

**The Kedzie Center Annual Report was received, sent to all Commissioners, and reviewed in this meeting. The recommendations are as followed:**

**1. The Commission would like to have a page in the report that shows how the taxpayer funds were used at the center. We want the voters in the area to be able to clearly see how their funds are being used!**

**2. The Commission would like a simpler, cleaner cover page for the report with just The Kedzie Center logo, the year, and an acknowledgement that it is a report to the North River EMHSP Governing Commission.**

The Commission agreed for the Program Services Committee to finalize approval of the report. President Centeno will send an email to the Executive Director, Dr. Sedenio with recommendations and information that the Program Services Committee Chairperson, Commissioner Zick will follow-up to schedule a meeting to review and finalize approval of report,

Other questions and suggestions that arose from Commissioners during our meeting included: how other first responders were being served (firefighters, police, etc), what are the current outreach efforts are to seniors and veterans in the community, and how the center is determining whether individuals live within the program boundaries. The Commission wants to continue discussions on the branding of the center, the commitment to remaining apolitical with the taxpayer funds, and how the Commission can directly communicate with the work being done at the center.

#### **b. Building and Personnel Committee**

Chairman Donofrio announced that our office has been moved to another office. in the same building. Office Administrator Burke said that the office is rectangular and about one foot smaller all around than the other office. The rent is less. President Centeno said we can be proud of ourselves in the careful use we make of the public tax funds we receive to run.

#### **c. Finance and Tax Levy Committee**

Chairman Tinich said all the reports have been filed and there was nothing new to report.

### **V. NEW BUSINESS AND NEXT MEETING**

Office Administrator Burke worked with Mike Snedeker to submit all the documentation for the audit by the state. We are almost ready to submit last year's audit as well as this year's audit.

Regarding reappointments to replace retiring commissioners, President Centeno said Mike Snedeker is assisting with this.

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday June 21, 2023**

### **VI. Public Comment**

Sharon Nichols expressed concerns with the branding of The Kedzie Center, specifically the look of the Kedzie Center business cards, which in the eyes of the

community is emphasizing the word mental health and she fears that is going to take away from people getting the help they need due to the current stigma related to receiving services in a mental health center. President Centeno thanked Mrs. Nichols for bringing this concern to the attention of the Commission.

Nancy Burke from the Expanded Mental Health of Chicago, (EMH) NFP Board of Directors introduced herself and asked questions regarding the approval of the Kedzie Center Annual Report. Since Mrs Burke came into the meeting after the report of the Program Services Committee, President Centeno provided a brief summary of the decision of Commission regarding the report and informed her that the Program Services Committee will schedule a meeting with representatives from EMH of Chicago, NFP to provide recommendations suggested and finalize approval of the report before the next Commission meeting.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**President Centeno moved to adjourn the meeting.**

**Second: Commissioner Tinich**

**Approved unanimously.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Rosemary Tirio  
Secretary**