

708 Board Planning Committee  
January 30, 2015 – 1:30 p.m.  
Courtroom 5

Present: Margo Willis, Linda Flowers, Kathy Baumann, Renee Schwartz, John S. Rendleman

Margo Willis called the meeting to order at 1:28 p.m.

Renee Schwartz shared information which she thought may be helpful to the Planning Committee. This included local newspaper articles highlighting deficiencies in the current mental health system, information on grant opportunities, community needs assessments and 5 year plans which had been prepared by local health departments, the strategic plans provided by currently funded agencies, lists of mental health services/facilities in the area, details of relevant studies and recent research, information on potential community connections (existing local agencies as well as the faculty and students at the nearby university and college), and a brainstorm of possible directions for the Committee to consider.

Kathy Baumann reviewed the currently wording of the Illinois state statute and indicated that “adjudicated delinquents” are now also on the list of populations to be served by the 708 Board. Research shows that a high percentage of the juvenile delinquent population, as well as prison and jail inmates, may have a mental illness diagnosis. The Committee discussed under-served populations, the current ways their funds are being used, and the possible ways they can expand their scope of services.

Chairman Rendleman briefly stopped by to ask a few questions about the Board. The discussion reinforced that the general public sees the 708 Board as only a holder of the purse strings. Ms. Willis stated that that people see 708 assessment on their tax bill and do not know what it is about. The Committee agreed that it was necessary to put more effort into community connections and having the purpose and the work of the Board be visible. They agreed that there is much good work being done to help those with mental illness, intellectual/developmental disabilities, and substance use disabilities in the community, and that they do not want to be redundant; however, they would like to collaborate.

Ms. Baumann stated that she is also on the board of the United Way and that they require recipients of their funding to put on all documents that they are funded by the United Way. This is a way of raising awareness of one’s organization. The 708 Board website is currently being developed; the Committee stated that it will contain a page on each currently funded agency and that those agencies could be required to link back to it though their websites. The 708 Board site can also serve as a central location for lists and publications of community services, as well as the posting of relevant grant opportunities. Ms. Schwartz and Ms. Baumann shared grant announcement websites with one another. Ms. Schwartz was asked to share information on a grant with The Women’s Center.

Ms. Baumann asked the Committee to consider, in determining the priorities for its one year plan, what things are non-negotiable.

- Who are we serving?
- Who do we want to serve?
- Why?
- How do we want to serve them?

She felt that our one year plan could consist of identifying those things; our three year plan could then be written after we have determined our goals for the community and how we wish to tackle them. She reinforced that we need to state in plain language who we are, what we do, and where we want to go. There are also substance abuse, mental illness, and intellectual/developmental disability priorities in the Healthy People 2020 standards; the targets in the three year plan could be aligned with these.

Ms. Schwartz discussed the need of having more specific baseline data on where we are now, in order to be able to show growth in any future target areas. She passed out a list of service categories, which had been developed by the 708 Board of McHenry County, and suggested that we ask the currently funded agencies to be more specific as to *in what way(s)* they provide services for mental illness, intellectual/developmental disabilities, and substance abuse. Currently the agencies only indicate those three general categories. Each agency would complete the form keeping in mind ONLY the services we fund. This will allow for a more precise picture of the ways the Board is currently supporting the County.

Ms. Schwartz also shared some data on FY 2014. Seven of the 8 funded agencies provide mental health services, 5 of the 8 provide intellectual/developmental disabilities services, and only 2 of the 8 provide substance abuse services. She also asked that the quarterly status report form be revised, as the data was unsatisfactory and incomplete. Currently, this form asks for the number of new residents served each quarter, and the number of returning residents. There is no way to count the number of non-duplicated persons, from quarter to quarter, and the tally at the end of the year is not a useful figure. What we need are discrete cases – the number of people served, not the total number of visits. Ms. Bauman stated that the form also ignores the number of people discharged as well as the number of people on the waiting list. She indicated that the form did not need to necessarily be filled with detailed questions; if the Board let the agencies know what kinds of information they need, the agencies could report it in the way that was most useful. The Committee also expressed that they would like to know the demographics of the people they are currently serving. The agencies, as part of their accreditation, are already keeping this information, including gender, age, race and ethnicity, and which disability.

Ms. Schwartz stated that she felt the Board should be reaching out to new agencies and that she has been looking through resource directories to identify those which are not currently receiving funding. It was the consensus of the Committee that the Intergovernmental Agreement would save the Board money on administrative costs, allowing it to set more aside for funding. Ms. Flowers identified a resource in Harrisburg that was not in one of the directories and asked Ms. Schwartz to pass this along.

Ms. Schwartz indicated that she felt strongly about building community connections through collaborations with other agencies – with or without funding them – as well as hosting invited speakers for events that could be open to the public. Students in several departments of the university could, for example, come and present their research to the 708 Board as a preliminary step to defending their masters thesis. This would benefit the students; it would also keep the Board and the public aware of cutting edge research.

Ms. Willis spoke about the need for community forums to address the problem of bullying. She felt that even \$500 grants could show our presence and benefit useful projects that operate on a small scale. Traditionally the 708 Board has focused on funding traditional agencies; however, our world is ever-evolving. The Committee agreed that it would be advantageous to have small amounts of money in the budget set aside, earmarked for future needs as they arise during the fiscal year. Ms. Flowers highlighted the growing concern about mental health needs among the senior population.

Both the Jackson County Health Department and the Franklin-Williamson Bi-County Health Department have made mental health one of their top priorities in their 5 year plans and statistics show it is a serious need. The background research done by both health departments shows sobering data in Jackson County compared to other counties in the state of Illinois. Ms. Baumann reminded the Committee that the Affordable Care Act will have impacts yet to be seen. In all, the Committee felt that it was necessary to have flexible funding available each fiscal year to meet the unforeseen needs of the community.

Each member of the Committee gave their requests to Ms. Schwartz of what document links they would like her to email to them, based on which printed materials they were most interested in from her display. Each member will read the information shared and highlight those items which strike her the most. They will look for common threads at the next meeting. The Committee plans to meet on a monthly basis. The one year plan will be presented to the 708 Board for its approval at the November meeting. Upon approval, it will be presented to the full County Board.

The Committee adjourned its meeting at 2:40 p.m.

One-Year Plan Musings	Three-Year Plan Musings
<p>Use this time to figure out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who are we serving?</li> <li>• Who do we want to serve?</li> <li>• Why?</li> <li>• How do we want to serve them?</li> </ul>	<p>Determine goals for new populations to be served and/or new agencies to be funded</p> <p>Create a list of steps to help achieve each goal as well as how success will be measured</p>
<p>Collect baseline data from currently funded agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More specific categories of service</li> <li>• Demographic information</li> <li>• Accurate # of county citizens served</li> </ul>	<p>Add a flexible funding component to the FY 2016 budget</p> <p>Advertise that funding is available for special projects</p>
<p>Evaluate community needs with an eye to developing a three-year plan</p>	<p>Monitor and identify needs in the community which would benefit from the flexible funding</p>
<p>Create website which can be a central resource on services available in the County for MI/DD/SA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include a page on each funded agency</li> <li>• Require agencies to link back to it</li> <li>• Include grant opportunities</li> <li>• Include community resource lists and downloadable reports</li> </ul>	<p>Build relationships with SIU and J.A. Logan to determine future research projects being planned and explore possible collaborations</p> <p>Build community connections with other agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include them on our website</li> <li>• Attend their organizational events</li> <li>• Have a representative at their meetings</li> <li>• Determine mutual goals</li> <li>• Engage in joint projects / grant applications</li> </ul>
<p>Create a series of invited guest speakers and public roundtable discussions</p>	
<p>Write letters of support for current research</p>	