

Director's Report – 7.23.24

To: Board of Directors
From: Leonetta Rizzi, Executive Director

The MCMHB's 2024-2026 Strategic Initiatives are accompanied by goals and objectives based on existing needs, emerging trends, opportunities, and challenges identified as critical to maintaining and enhancing the local network of services to meet our mission of leading and contracting for quality services for all people of McHenry County. These Strategic Initiatives include:

- Strategic Initiative #1: Enhance Access to Quality Care for BH & IDD Services
- Strategic Initiative #2: Enhance Continuum of Quality Care for BH & IDD Services
- Strategic Initiative #3: Increase Awareness & Visibility of Community Resources
- Strategic Initiative #4: Provide Visionary Leadership, Empowerment, & Advocacy to BH & IDD Stakeholders

MHB General Updates/Notable ED Activities

- FY25 application(s) are due on July 31, 2024, and thus far applications are coming in slow with only one application submitted officially and 66 in draft format. We had approximately 100 program/request applications last year in total that we had to evaluate. There are 8 of our current provider agencies without any draft applications in the system this year, which is unusually high. We anticipate 7 of those 8 submitting applications this year. ED has continued to meet with current agencies requesting meetings as well as the MHB Management Team meeting with new applicants. Approximately \$10,830,000 is budgeted for Client Services MHB funding and \$650,000 budgeted for Opioid Settlement \$ available for FY25. Staff reviews and input will be completed in the Foundant system in August for Board review/input to follow. Vickie will be sending out the tutorial again for the Board. (1)(2)(3)(4)
- ED connected with the only other Assisted Outpatient Treatment program in IL to discuss their program and future collaboration with the process. ED also connected with Scott Block who's working on these initiatives. (1)(3)(4)
- ED meeting weekly with the Grant Writer and assisting with grant deliverables when needed. See grants calendar in the appendix for submitted grants of which we are waiting for notifications. (1)(2)(3)(4)
- As part of our strategic initiative in increased awareness of services, MHB sent 88 letters, with samples of McHelp flyers, bookmarks and window clings to all Libraries, Park Districts, Townships, City Halls, and Legislatures with encouragement to post, place the McHelp App on their website and to contact us for further materials they're interested in showcasing at their sites. (3)(4)
- MHB office space update: Lease agreement and documents being processed for last office with start of 8/1/24. (4)
- IT Projects update: Door project is anticipated to be completed this week and new badges will be issued next month. The Board Room live-streaming camera project should be ready for the August board meeting due to delays with connections to the e-scribe system. These meeting links will be posted on the website and only accessible to those who click specifically on the link. (4)

MHB County/State/Federal Interface

- ED reviewed Q1 sample (see appendix) of MHB reports with Peter Austin, County Administrator. The reports will be part of the County Board meeting packets quarterly to start in August with Q2. These are a combination of our finance and outcome reports. Carolyn Schofield, County Board liaison, has also begun her reports to the County Board. ED will also be attending PHCS quarterly (vs once per year) and presenting annually to the COW (as we did in May). These are all the regular commitments we set with County Administration to increase awareness of MHB operations. Thank you all! (4)
- As a follow-up to the Community Mental Health Act changes recently passed re: Workforce Development, see document in the addendum (e.g. NaCo Workforce Brief) on this topic illustrating some investments and initiatives in other areas across the state and country. The act clarified our ability to fund and support local efforts in FY25 regarding educational assistance, student loan repayment, and professional certification. and licensure assistance, and internship stipends to address workforce shortages. (1)(2)(4)
- To continue to support patient-centered care and improve outcomes for people with substance use disorders (SUD), the Illinois Department of Human Services/Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (IDHS/SUPR) is providing an important resource – The American Society of Addiction Medicine's (ASAM) Criteria, Implementation Guide – to each IDHS/SUPR-licensed organization providing SUD treatment services. IDHS/SUPR does not have an anticipated date of adoption. IDHS/SUPR is reviewing new information and expects to provide guidance and training prior to its implementation. For more information, please see the Smart Alert – The ASAM Criteria, 4th edition at <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=42567>. (2)

- This month, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker signed the Healthcare Protection Act into law as Public Act. 103-650. The legislation provides for increased consumer protections from predatory practices used by some commercial insurance companies (note this does not apply to Medicaid). Effective 1/1/25, the legislation accomplishes the following:
 - Bans “step therapy” which is when an insurance company requires a patient to try and fail alternative medications before covering medications their doctor recommends;
 - Bans prior authorization for in-person mental health treatment for the first 72 hours;
 - Mandates insurers post all procedures requiring prior authorization; and,
 - Provides the Illinois Department of Insurance authority to approve or reject proposed premium rate changes in large-group health insurance plans.
- Issues with DHS funding for homeless has impacted our network with WARP CORPS and Pioneer PADS programs. County Community Development division is seeking to assess if there’s funding that could be released to assist. (1)

Association of Community Mental Health Authorities (ACMHA) Update (4)

- August Membership Meetings - August 1 Best Practice Training 1pm-4pm, and August 2 Business Meeting 9am-noon. See Bridget for registration (previously sent to the Board).
- ED involved in review and selection recommendations for the RFP for professional services for Lobbyist/Consultant services. The contract is to start October 1, 2024.

Community Behavioral Healthcare Association of IL (CBHA) (4)

- Launched their new [CBHA Platform](#) and created this hub as a resource for all things behavioral healthcare: policy updates, news about statewide initiatives, and managed care tools. There’s a special section for members only. Therefore, please reach out to the ED if interested in access to member only area.

Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (IARF) (4)

- IARF is monitoring ongoing litigation in Illinois following a recent ruling. The U.S. Supreme Court overturned a 40-year-old precedent, impacting federal regulations protecting the rights of people with disabilities. The Court ruled that agencies should no longer have deference in interpreting laws, known as Chevron Deference. Advocates fear this could lead to increased litigation affecting the interpretation and application of laws like the Americans with Disabilities Act. Federal regulations are crucial in implementing various statutes protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities, such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Rehabilitation Act. This year, the government has finalized rules addressing disability discrimination in health care, online ADA application, and updates to Medicaid home and community-based services.
- 2024 IARF Educational Conference & Expo on August 28th – 30th in Bloomington – Normal.

MHB Network Training Events (2)

- [CLICK HERE](#) for the latest Hot Sheets which is more than all the education items in appendix.

MHB & Network Monthly Highlights (1)(2)(4)

- Our Trauma Coordinator, Gary Rukin, in collaboration with others, put together a 2 -hour video on trauma-informed care for school professionals to aid in meeting state regs : <https://youtu.be/YBIGGL3vHCE>
- Youth Empowerment Alliance received a transformation grant for their great efforts in empowering youth.
- CCCS – Consumer Credit Counseling Services recent news feed: <https://www.fox32chicago.com/news/fed-data-missed-car-payments-what-means-you>
- All funded Providers are now meeting the Electronic Payment requirements set in the FY24 contracts. Payments that were being held have now been released.
- The Compliance team has performed the following audits since our last Board meeting with no major findings: Crystal Lake Teen Center; Horizons; Independence Health & Therapy; NW Medicine; Aunt Marthas; and Rosecrance.

Important Dates

- MHB Ethics & Compliance Committee | July 30, 2024 | 5pm | MHB Conference Rooms
- MHB Board Meeting | August 26, 2024 | 6pm | MHB Conference Rooms
- Save the Dates:
 - September 13, 2024| Community Connection Summit (formerly Suicide Prevention and Recovery Conference) | 9am-3pm | MCC
 - September 28, 2024 | Never Walk Alone – Suicide Prevention Walk – details to come. Join MHB Team.
 - October 5, 2024 | NAMI Walk & Resource Table opportunity – let ED know interest | Veterans Acres - CL

Respectfully Submitted,

Leonetta Rizzi, Executive Director

- Attachments in Appendix: Network Council Minutes; Q1 MHB Reports for County Board; NaCo Workforce Brief on Workforce Challenges; SMART Alert – The ASAM Criteria, Implementation Guide; and MCMHB Grants Calendar.