

NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
MONDAY March 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2023  
AGENDA

1. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2023 MINUTES
2. TRUSTEE AND CHAIR REPORT
3. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT
4. LIAISON REPORTS
5. OTHER BUSINESS
6. ADJOURN

ADMINISTRATOR NOTES

Hello to the members of the Committee and our trustee liaison. I just wanted to say it has been a pleasure working with all of you during the last round of funding hearings. To learn to process is to see tax dollars at work and citizens in action. I'm impressed and inspired by those of you that volunteer your time and effort to make this community a better place. Seeing citizens volunteer to serve and make important decisions about where the Township's funding goes is not only matters for the many agencies that request and get funding, but for the citizens of the community who benefit from these services. To see New Trier Township, recognize the importance of mental health gives me great pride to be a part of this process going forward. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have going forward.

Minutes from February 2023 Meeting

Members Present – Lisa McGowan, Joseph McGowan, Richard S. Drake, Lyn King, Patricia Guerra, Renee Cox, Tracy Sommer Katherine Casale MacNally, Brian Leverenz, Steven Anderson

**MOTION: McGowan/Drake – motion carried to approve the minutes as presented.**

The September 2022 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Trustee Katherine Casale McNally has no report. The board is thankful for the service of the committee and all the hard work put into these funding hearings. Chair Richard Drake added comments at the end of the funding hearing. The comments are included in a separate attachment and is listed below:

**Mental Health Funding and Oversight Committee Summary for Rick Drake – Board of Trustees**

January 10, 2023

Comments made following the presentation of the summary of the Committee's recommendations for funding.

Before I take any questions, I would like to share some of the concerns expressed by members of the Mental Health Funding and Oversight committee.

1. Following the tragedy in Highland Park in July, a grant of \$35,000 was made to Glencoe Family Services without any input from the Mental Health Funding and Oversight committee. Given the name of our committee, it would seem like our input would have been both valuable and necessary before making this grant.

- a. We are also concerned about the lack of information received from Glencoe Family Services regarding how these funds were used.
2. The committee would also like to know whether other counseling centers that we regularly fund were also given the opportunity to access additional funds.
  - a. Was there a reason only Glencoe Family Services received funding?
  - b. Were there reasons that other agencies, such as Counseling Center of the North Shore, Family Services of Wilmette, or possibly even Haven did not receive funds?
3. The committee is not aware of a process for emergency funding requests.
  - a. We believe it is our function to review and evaluate all requests for funding from those agencies that fall under the umbrella of the Mental Health committee.
  - b. We understand that this was a unique situation, but because of that, all committee members would have made the extra effort to quickly review any emergency requests. We would have made efforts to reach out to all agencies that may have been impacted by this, or any future tragedy that may impact our community.

In the future:

1. We will be asking Glencoe Family Services for an accounting of how the additional funds were used.
2. We would like to see a process put in place for any future emergency situations.
3. We would like to make sure that all New Trier Township agencies be given equal opportunities to request emergency funding.

Thank you.

Gail's response:

- All agencies were given an opportunity to apply for emergency funding.
  - At the July meeting of all agencies, Gail made the announcement that those wishing to apply for emergency funding related to the Highland Park shooting may do so.
  - Only two agencies responded: Glencoe Family Services and another agency hoping to reduce gun violence.
- The Trustees did follow the documented procedure for allocating off-cycle new program funding.

Both Gail and Trustee Robbins acknowledged that bringing our committee into the process would have been a good idea, but this was an unprecedented situation and the Board acted quickly. They both stated that they should include us next time (hopefully never again.)

The chair went over responses from supervisor and trustees regarding emergency funding in 2022 in response to the Highland Park tragedy. Trustee Katherine Casale MacNally said the board hear their

concerns and explained the off-cycle funding process. The committee was shown where this information was on the township website. This is Community Service Administrator Brian Leverenz's last hearing for the Mental Health Committee. The committee thanks him for all his hard work and guidance over the many years he has served. The funding hearings will be at the next Township Board Meeting on February 14th, 2023. Joseph McGowan said he enjoyed the process and learned a lot from the process. The committee discussed the idea of digitizing / putting online / making a portal for next year's funding applications.

## LIAISON REPORTS

Joseph McGowan report submitted for his agency. The report is in a separate attachment and is listed below.

We have been very busy at FSC, here is a quick rundown: Despite holiday schedules and continued Covid impacts, January 2023 client counseling sessions increased by 25% since last January. We also continue to be out in the community engaging---in educational programs. These included recent programs for Wilmette District 39 parents on both friendship and bullying. Intakes are underway for this spring's Leadership & Resilience Builder group program for middle school students. We are currently in the process of interviewing for year 2 of our clinical internship program. FSC's two senior clinicians recently completed the first round of EMDR training and can begin using EMDR with clients. Our Spanish language program, which began in earnest in November with the onboarding of our Laura Catalina from Bogota, Columbia ( our international mental health professional intern) is quickly growing, with 12 families within our intake process currently or receiving counseling. We continue to receive positive feedback from our English language digital outreach including adding more during this year's version of the Holiday Expectations vs. Holiday Reality series and newsletters this fall on things like: Sleep deprived teens, Toxic Culture, and our Emotional Health. We have been invited to a sit on the Wilmette Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee as they begin a yearlong study of Mental Health issues.

We successfully have held 4 NEW fundraisers this fiscal year and are gearing up for our big event on May 6, 2023. Pickleball Social "Rally for Mental Health" (Fall, first one successfully held on 9/16/22). Chrysalis Luncheon to celebrating those who are transforming mental health in our community. (Fall, first one successfully held on 11/16/22). FSC Creative Experiences Events. With four scheduled this year, these smaller events are designed as fun ways to connect with new members of the community and build awareness, while also raising funds. Cake Decorating Party at Punky Cakes on 12/8/22. Charcuterie Board Party on 2/2/23 | Event Photos We anticipate launching our fully updated and upgraded website first quarter of 2023!

## REVIEW OF FUNDING PROCESS

The committee expressed a desire to digitalize the funding process. Community Partnerships Coordinator Steve Anderson will work with board members going forward in terms of providing digital copies of contract request going forward. We are fortunate to have a member of the committee who does a great deal of grant writing on the requestor side, and she mentioned the following as good and reputable companies: AmpliFund, Submittable, CyberGrants, and Apply (which is a Survey Monkey company). This digitization would be in keeping with the streamlining of processes and procedures that we've taken as a Township over the past year.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee has no other business.

8. ADJOURN

The committee adjourned at 8:39 PM. The next meeting will be on March 6th, 2023, at 7:30 PM.

Regards,

Steven Anderson