

**Observer:** Pat Blumen

**Members Present:** Karen Reutzler, Chair, Sandi Johnson, Becky Feiffer, Jessica Sales, Irene Ziaya, Jackie Haimes, George Hall; **Absent:** Mike Pierce

**Staff present:** Jessica Wingader, Pat Effiom

**Meeting started:** 7:06 pm

**Meeting ended:** 8:50 pm

February Minutes approved.

Pat Effiom, Equity & Empowerment Coordinator, presented city's thinking about priority-based budgeting:

In the past, it was assumed that all residents were equal & could achieve the same outcomes. We have been funding the same programs year after year.

It needs to be asked how the populations we are serving has changed over the past year and who is underserved. Some residents start at different places & have poorer outcomes.

Priority populations need to be identified using the Equity Budget Lens Tool:

4 This program or service is in place specifically to meet the needs of historically underrepresented populations.

3 This program or service does not specifically target historically underrepresented populations; however, assistance (e.g. scholarship programs) is available to ensure accessibility for all residents.

2 This program provides indirect benefits to underrepresented populations and it is likely that underrepresented populations would be disproportionately impacted if this program is cut.

1 This program does not target underrepresented populations nor does it have provisions to make the program accessible to those populations.

This program does not provide direct or indirect benefits to underrepresented populations.

Pat would be willing to assist the Board in program evaluation by developing a set of questions.

Focus is on which communities experience poorer outcomes and to engage members of that community to determine what can be done to improve outcomes.

City is interested in how information was obtained from those communities, where was the information obtained and how we will embed this information in our funding process.

In response to Karen's question about the City's timeframe, Pat responded that this is a lifelong process.

Jessica W. clarified that specific populations within at-risk populations need to be identified.

Pat suggested that MHB begin to have discussions with grantees about the new focus with the question: What are we missing?

Also need to go directly to communities who are not being served at all currently to see what, if anything, they need, what gaps in service may be and barriers to service.

As different sources of information like schools, faith-based communities, ERs, Moran Center, 1st responders, 311 operators.

Agencies in the audience (Metropolitan, Presence, NSSS, Impact, Connections, Trilogy) gave feedback that this is scary as they have based their programs on evidence-based practice.

### **Agency Reports**

Becky Feiffer gave update info: re: Metropolitan, which now has staff therapist at Erie Health; Family Focus is emphasizing STEM and arts as well as cooking and sewing in the After School programs; is concerned about staff turnover due to low salaries; Impact: new ED started (Patti Capeche – sp?) got grants to expand advanced clinical training on trauma for staff and to expand collaboration.

Karen Reutzel discussed Turning Point's Open Access program now serving 9 Evanston residents and will do outreach campaign to increase that number; they operate 9 – 3; NW CASA is main Sexual Assault provider now that Victim Services was cut from Police Dept.

### **Staff Report**

Jessica Wingader said qrtly. reports are due; sit visited Turning Point & Trilogy.

#### **MHB Priorities for 2019**

Jessica Sales & Sandi Johnson presented a draft which was unanimously approved. There were quite a few changes from the first draft presented during the discussion. This is my best recollection of how it ended up although there may be some word differences:

In conjunction with city efforts, MHB will be part of the broader equity and empowerment initiative.

Programs & services that respond to mental health & substance abuse needs, including crisis intervention & mental health promotion. (same)

Programs & services that strengthen mental health through linkages to emergency or long term housing, case management or nutritional services.

Programs & services to enhance the mental health, empowerment & protection of youth, seniors & families.

Programs & services that promote mental health, cultural diversity & social inclusion for all, including refugees & immigrants. (same)

### **Name Change**

Apparently, there was some pressure from City to change name to more fully reflect responsibilities. After much discussion, unanimously voted to keep "Mental Health Board."

### **Chair Report**

Sandi & Becky volunteered to serve as nominating committee for slate to be effective 7/1. Karen cannot continue as chair. Nominations to be presented at next mtg. with voting at the following mtg.

Jessica & Jackie volunteered to do draft of letter to Mayor requesting that some of the money in NU's \$1million Good Neighbor Fund, which mayor earmarked for

Evanston Youth and Social Services (\$330,000) for job training be allocated for mental health needs.

Karin & George Hall volunteered to present MHB priorities to the Human Services Committee.

Next meeting: Thurs, 5/10, Room #2402.