

Behavioral Health & Addiction Recovery

Minutes of the Meeting on
January 23, 2023

**Village of Homer Glen
14240 W. 151st Street
Community Room**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Ruben Pazmino.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call; Establish Quorum

Members present at 6:04 pm: Trustee Pazmino, Chief Building Official Baber, Homer Glen Resident Mark Rabar, Village Manager Carmen Maurella and Committee Secretary Gia Cassin.

4. Approval of Amendments to the Agenda

There were no amendments to the agenda.

5. Approval of Minutes (None to Date)

6. Public Comment

7. Reports and Communication

a. Report from Trustee Pazmino

Trustee Pazmino stated this is an honor to be with this committee, this is the elephant in the room, no one talks about it because Homer is such a nice area. He thanked Joe and Mark for being here and to start moving this committee along. There are lot of working parents and kids are home alone and kids find themselves with time to get into trouble.

Joe Baber read the Mission Statement and Purpose into the record:

Mission:

To promote awareness and to communicate for a comprehensive mental health system for persons of all ages and to meet the identified needs of the general public system for alcohol and drug evaluation, prevention and treatment services for Homer Glen.

Purpose:

To develop productive programs, generate services, provide information and support as well as coordinate with other committees, businesses and residents to aid in the enrichment and thru education the community regarding goals, programs, facilities and policies of available county behavioral health and addictions services in Homer Glen.

Carmen stated that in the Hampton Village there is a task force that educates the students because there is a big problem with abuse there. There are a lot of outreach programs there and their committees are prominent.

b. Report from Village Manager Maurella

Carmen stated he is a long time resident, saw his best friend die from huffing. Wasn't aware that he was doing it. There was a local K-Mart store at the time and his friend was able to get stuff from there, he huffed Scotchgard. You don't always know what kids are doing.

c. Report from Chief Building Official Baber

Joe said addiction has affected all of our families in one way or another. He spoke to Jill with the Sheriff's office, they do go the schools and present intensive programs. There are lot of resources out there in Will County and other counties to check with.

Mark asked if we could partner with the Sheriff's office. Joe said that they have a very specific program that they work with and Joe will see if they can have someone put it on for one of our meetings. Mark asked if they partner with HERO'S – Joe said it was something different.

Carmen said that he's also concerned with the college kids, after they are on their own, where is the education at.

Mark said that he agrees with the education and awareness part and likes the idea of partnering. He added that people with mental illness or the start of mental illness and having idle time may mask their symptoms with drugs such as oxycontin. He added there are Saturday night experimenters out there also. Then there are people that get hooked on pain pills because of an injury. Doctors are easy to prescribe a significant number of pills for injury and pain relief. He said that grade school is also a good age. If you are carrying a cell phone, you have a direct means to place an order for drugs.

Ruben said that the pop culture even promotes using drugs.

Mark said if we are in to have speakers, we should be doing some outreach. The group was in agreement.

Joe said he would reach out to see what we could get.

Carmen suggested even using our Channel 6 to broadcast a separate session where a speaker is providing information / education and, also put it on our website.

Ruben asked if we could put a marketing plan together to draw people in to speak and attend.

Carmen suggested to have a round table session like Ability Awareness just had with ARC.

Mark suggested for those that know their kid has a problem, what is next? What can we do next, where do we go next? He would like for us to provide a list of resources. Rehab in Joliet for example, and have a list of next steps for people.

Ruben confirmed Joe will work with sheriff's office and Ruben said he would reach out to the County to see what they have available and what they offer.

Carmen said that he has a friend at Governors State who does a 2-day presentation on behavioral health, people wear headphones to drown out sounds and don't feel their stressors and the next day she explains what's happening to them.

Joe mentioned Beyond Healing and their services, which Mark suggested to reach out to them also.

Mark said he reached out to Kelly Calderone who would like to be a participant. Carmen suggested that we talk about the kinds of people we would like on our committee.

Mark suggests we reach out to Al-Anon – we have many in the community and Ala-Fam, it's for the family of anyone that has someone that has an addiction. Its free and extremely helpful for people living with an addict. Mark said he attends because he says there is a lot of useful information.

8. Old Business (none to date)

9. New Business

a. Discussion to establish committee logo

Group reviewed the logos and quickly selected which they would like to use for this committee. They would like to establish a page on the website for it and Facebook too, where there is resourceful information that people can call.

Ruben said when we are ready to launch the social media, we should put a disclaimer about if this is an emergency. If there are people from Beyond Healing willing to put an email and be a resource for contact. BHAR@homerglenil.org mailbox on the web was recommended.

Carmen said that people often handle these via text, not phone.

Mark said that if he has information that he would like on the website, we could have it posted on the website. We will email each other and find agreement to post.

b. Discussion about committee goals

Ruben stated the following: (1) outreach (2) education (3) resources

Ruben said what will the building blocks be meeting to meeting. We established outreach, do we let it evolve on its own?

c. Discussion about public involvement: types of volunteers the committee would see out and to what capacity would their involvement include or be limited to

Mark suggests we look to bring in professionals. Ruben said the committee members are limited, and then get many volunteers.

There was discussion about training to use Narcan, putting a booth at the Fest, and then the trailer with the hiding places, HEROS Trailer. It's an event type of draw and then also bring it to the Homer Fest to meet many people.

d. Discussion of the number of committee members desired and quorum

No more than 7 on the committee. Bring in professionals.

10. Next Meeting – February 27, 2023

Topics for the next agenda: share website ideas, Joe Baber will report back with sheriff depts input, Ruben will reach out to county health and Kellie Calderon and Dr. Snow and Father Tom from the Byzantine Church.

Carmen and Gia will work on website, get more materials,

Mark will work on speakers.

11. Adjournment

Ruben Pazmino motioned to adjourn, seconded by Joe Baber. All were in favor, zero (0) opposed. The meeting adjourned at 6:58pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Gia Cassin

Assistant to the Village Manager

Date: 2/27/2023