

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD (CCMHB)

And

**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD FOR CARE AND TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH A
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY (CCDDB)**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW) STUDY SESSION

Minutes – February 21, 2007—6:00 p.m

*Illinois Terminal Building
45 East University Avenue
Champaign, IL*

MEMBERS PRESENT: Deborah Townsend, Chair; Janet Anderson, Aillinn Dannave, Ernie Gullerud, Deloris Henry, Holly Jordan, Mike McClellan, Mary Ann Midden, Thom Moore

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Joyce Dill, Holly Jordan, Michael Smith

STAFF PRESENT: Peter Tracy, Executive Director, William Conlin, Mark Driscoll

STAFF EXCUSED: Nancy Crawford, Stephanie Howard-Gallo

OTHERS PRESENT: George Roth, Consultant; Julie Kartel, Lisa Benson, Malinda Johnson, Karen Simms, Bryana French, Sheila Ferguson, Mental Health Center of Champaign County (MHC); Stuart Broz, Marilyn Garmon-Starks, C-U Area Project (CUAP); Mary Kay Pleck, League of Women Voters (LWV); Cathie Johnson, Prairie Center Health Systems (PCHS)

CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Townsend, CCMHB Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

CITIZEN INPUT:

Ms. Julie Kartel from the Mental Health Center (MHC) announced Tom Grove has written a book about his work with the Nurtured Heart Approach in Champaign Unit #4 and elsewhere and it has just been released. The CCMHB was acknowledged in the publication.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from the January 17, 2007 Committee of the Whole study session were included in the Board packet. Committee members asked that it be noted Bill Gleason was present at the meeting and the “A” in Depression Bi-polar Support Alliance (DBSA) stands for “Alliance” and not “Association”.

MOTION: Ms. Anderson moved to approve the minutes from the January 17, 2007 Committee of the Whole (COW) study session as amended. Ms. Dannave seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE STUDY SESSION:

Presentation: “Peer Ambassadors”

The study session’s focus was on the Peer Ambassadors program at the Mental Health Center of Champaign County. Peer ambassadors are a group of African-American teens (ages 15 – 20) who:

- Reach out to peer and try to help those in need;
- Are peer counselors out to make a difference in our community.

Peer Ambassador’s three main areas of focus are:

- Education (about mental health and healthy decision making)
- Peer to peer counseling
- Leadership (to peers and through Project ACCESS)

Karen Simms from the Mental Health Center (MHC) introduced the peer ambassadors to study session members. Ms. Simms and Ms. Bryana French , an intern with the MHC, facilitated the session. Among the topics discussed by the peer ambassadors were:

- An overview of what the peer ambassadors do;
- Peer’s personal experiences;
- Peer’s experience with speaking to youth at the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC);
- Peer’s insight on what is needed for youth in the community.

Questions were asked by Committee members and representatives of the Peer Ambassadors provided thoughtful and honest answers.

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Developmental Services Center, in partnership with the CCMHB and the CCDDDB will be sponsoring a free seminar on special needs future planning and adult guardianship. Brian Rubin and Sherri Schneider will discuss special needs estate planning. The seminar will be held at Hawthorn Suites in Champaign on March 8, 2007 from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Townsend adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully

Submitted by: _____ Approved by: _____

Stephanie Howard-Gallo
CCMHB/CCDDDB Staff

Dr. Deborah Townsend
CCMHB Vice-President

Date: _____

Date: _____

**Minutes were approved at the April 18, 2007 Committee of the Whole meeting.*