

MCHENRY COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH COURT
TASK FORCE MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2006

Attendance: Lou Bianchi, Margi Worth, Chris Harmon, Bob Lessor, Virginia Peshcke, Donald Brewer, Peter Austin, Pat McNulty, Deb Cypher, Tom Svoboda, Phil Ulmer, Dr. Robert Meyer, Jean Bianchi, Tom Carroll, Jack Nichols, Vickie Johansen, and Sandra Salgado (Chairman)

The meeting was called to order by Sandra Salgado. A motion was made by Margi Worth, seconded by Donald Brewer, and accepted to approve the minutes from the January meeting.

Jack Nichols of McHenry County PADS, was introduced and welcomed to the meeting.

Margi Worth distributed copies of the following draft documents: court order, release of information, and initial contact. Please contact Margi or Vickie Johansen with suggestions and/or changes to the forms. Revisions will be made and brought to the next meeting for further review.

Also distributed were the abstract and selection criteria sections of the grant application, which Margi asked everyone to review and give her any changes by the end of today's meeting. The application deadline is tomorrow (2/2/06). The grant has to be submitted electronically and requires a grants.gov number, which the State's Attorney's office has applied for and hopes to receive before the grant deadline. Peter Austin will double check with the Sheriff's department, if we don't receive the grant.gov number in time, to see if we can use their grant.gov number. Margi then reviewed the sections and point values of the applications and thanked everyone who submitted letters of support and assisted with the application. Margi was also thanked for her hard work on this project. Discussion followed and suggestions were given. All agreed this is a great start/base for future grant applications. The Mentally Ill Offenders Act grant is due in March 2006.

Peter Austin stated that he put the Mental Health Court fee on the County Board agenda for the next meeting, however he is uncertain if it is too soon to take action. In the eight months since Lake County began collecting the fee, they have collected \$25,000. The committee discussed options as to how the fee could be added to court costs and to what charges, possibly increasing the fee from \$10 to \$12 to cover the cost of the additional processing, and when to begin charging the fee. Tom Carroll said that the statute states it can be used to finance, hence it can fund the start-up cost. Peter will bring the topic to the next Law and Justice Committee meeting and Margi Worth will invite Bill Kays to attend the next Task Force meeting.

Margi Worth informed the committee that she had spoken with a potential candidate for the program. They had a positive conversation, but this candidate was most interested in getting out of jail, not necessarily rehabilitation. Margi and Chris Harmon may have to focus on a candidate from the private sector, perhaps already receiving services.

The Community Subcommittee will be reorganized. While the previous meeting showed community support, a smaller group will be assembled to work on the community/clinical protocol.

Lack of housing was again raised. The committee discussed whether this is an appropriate issue for the Task Force to address or if it should be brought to the Mental Health Board or the County

Board. Sandra Salgado asked the committee to consider the options and bring their ideas to the next meeting.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 1, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.

Addendum: There will be a Community Protocol Meeting on March 2, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. at the State's Attorney's Office in lieu of the March 1st Task Force meeting. The next Task Force meeting will be Wednesday, April 5, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by V. Johansen