

**708 GENEVA COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

May 9, 2023 7:00 P.M.  
Geneva City Hall  
22 S. First Street  
Geneva, Illinois

**1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

Chair Shogren called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM  
Members Present: Fintzen, Gaines, Hamilton, Kautz, Shogren  
Members Absent: Gabriel, Wagner

**2. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

None

**3. OMNIBUS AGENDA ( OMNIBUS VOTE)**

All items listed with an asterisk ( \* ) are considered to be routine by the Mental Health Board and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a board member or citizen so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Omnibus ( Consent ) Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the Regular Agenda.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, PAYMENTS**

\*A. Regular Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2023  
\*B. Approve Payment to Recording Secretary for Services  
Motion to approve by Gaines second by Fintzen  
Voice Vote Aye: 5 No: 0

**6. Chairperson's Report**

Administrative staff with the city has inquired about reappointments to renewed terms for board members Kautz, Gaines and Wagner if they agree to continue service to the board. Chair Shogren will inform the city, and this will be added to a May 15<sup>th</sup> City Council agenda. Chair Shogren discussed somewhat of an abundance of new laws being proposed and or approved by the State of Illinois with regard to mental health. Some include the following:

- A children's behavioral health blueprint outlined by JB Pritzker. The plan would create an interagency coordination services team and increase capacity to meet the demand for care. The bill also seeks to address workforce shortages in mental health.
- Community Mental Wellness and Resilience Act of 2023 is being proposed. It would authorize the CDC to fund and support community based initiatives nationwide using a public health approach to address the nation's need for mental health and wellness support as it relates to climate change. In 2021 more than 40% of Americans lived in a county that was impacted by a major national disaster.

Through some efforts in canvassing various mental health resources, Chair Shogren has identified The Substance Abuse & Mental Health Administration website, which offers a tab labeled "findsupport.gov". The site is innovative, easy to access and helpful. It will walk a person through a flowchart or thought process of sorts to help a person in need filter down to identify a specific need and then how to access resources.

The Kennedy Forum also provided information from a 988 call log statistic from a March 2023 call report:

- Total routed contacts were 371,822
- 64,078 called the veterans' crisis line
- Increase in overall volume over the last year – 164,337 more calls, chats and texts.
- The average speed decreased from 168 seconds to 36 seconds.
- Nationally, calls increased by 47%, chats were 136% increase, and texts 1299% increase in the last year.

The Kennedy Forum also offered the metrics by state. Notably the seven states who offer funding are proving to be more successful in implementation. A map and metrics were passed round table. The state of Illinois has added seven more call centers. Attempts to respond to nearest are a goal, so that local referrals are optimized in each state.

7. **ACMHAI Report**

Vice Chair Hamilton discussed a role held by Cheryl Potts, formerly of the Kennedy Forum, who now works in a paid administrator role for the 708 Mental Health Board in Oak Park; but is also a liaison for ACHMHAI in Springfield. One aspect of her role helps ensure situations such as conflicting laws between local and state levels do not hinder progression.

Chair Shogren added further, the work to ensure language exists in lawmaking that does not hinder the work of a 708 Board.

8. **New Business:**

A. May Mental Health Month

Chair Shogren shared a copy of the Mayor's Proclamation for May Mental Health Month which was signed on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

Chair Shogren thanked the board for their support for tying the ribbons, purchase of the pretzels, working with the kids from the schools and all their efforts to raise awareness in the community.

The supporting teachers sent a thank you for apples that were left for them by board members.

Geneva High School has a tentative plan to host a mental health fair in the fall, and stated they will invite the board to this event once more detail is available.

Chair Shogren additionally thanked the board for their work to get the 988 printed posters out, including a thank you to Jean Gaines for contacting her resources across various areas of the city. Members of the board will bring posters to, local Starbucks, restaurants, the library and nursing homes this month.

Mental Health America has produced a book titled "Where to Start" that serves as a guide for people who wish to seek help. Chair Shogren will leave a copy of the book with the library along with copies of the 988 pamphlets that were printed.

B. Chris: Hands of Hope Open House

Board Member Kautz attended the open house on May 1<sup>st</sup> and described the atmosphere as calming and inviting, but a very busy open house.

Michael Cobb from Elderday has contacted the board offering information on their Gala which will honor Sam Hill on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Board member Connie Wagner will be in attendance.

9. **Old Business:**

None

10. **Public Comments/Mail:**

Chair Shogren received mail from:  
NAMI – newsletter  
Ecker Center  
Changing Children’s World Foundation

Chair Shogren also shared a piece of mail received from a family member from DuPage County. This individual is running for State Rep (out of DuPage County), on a platform in support of mental health services.

11. **Adjournment**

Chair Shogren asked if there were any other items or a motion to adjourn.  
Motion to adjourn by Kautz second by Gaines  
Voice Vote Aye: 6 No: 0  
Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM

**All Scheduled Meetings for the 708 Geneva Community Mental Health Board to begin at 7:00 PM unless specifically noted**