

MARBLEHEAD BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES, November 15, 2022

Present: Chm. Todd Belfbecker, Helaine Hazlett, Joanne Miller, Andrew Petty, Director
Also Present: Dr. Tom Krueger (LWV)

Hybrid Meeting -Web-based video conferencing meeting of the Board of Health via Zoom.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm.

MOTION to approve meeting minutes of September 28, 2022 as submitted. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Ms. Helaine Hazlett, in favor; Ms. Joanne Miller, in favor; Dr. Todd Belfbecker, in favor.

MOTION to approve meeting minutes of October 11, 2022 as submitted. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Ms. Joanne Miller, in favor; Ms. Helaine Hazlett, in favor; Dr. Todd Belfbecker, in favor.

MOTION to approve meeting minutes of October 12, 2022 as submitted. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Ms. Joanne Miller, in favor; Ms. Helaine Hazlett, in favor; Dr. Todd Belfbecker, in favor.

Terri McDonough, LSW, Ruth Ferguson, (president of the MCC), and Ron Grenier (board member of the MCC) of the Marblehead Counseling Center came before the Board. They all stated that the demand for services was increasing before COVID. The Hobbs Center needed repairs and structural changes to meet the needs of clients. This included: outdoor repairs and making the building ADA compliant with a ramp, and moving the reception area to the first floor as well as clinical offices. Approximately, \$80,000 was spent from the MCC endowment for these improvements. The town has been very supportive. IT improvements were also necessary to obtain telehealth capabilities and training. The center is continuing to operate in a hybrid model however there is a huge demand for trained clinicians. The center has allowed a greater flexibility for the clinicians using a hybrid model. There will be a fee for service at times to meet with clinicians. Operating and revenue expenses have increased. Fundraising is still essential to help defer costs. A waiting list exists with approximately 200 clients on it (70-80% are Marblehead residents) and under 20 years of age is 140 (60%).

An ARPA request was presented. There are three areas of need:

- Insufficient and inadequate technology and related equipment and software. Cost \$50,000
- Expansion of clinical office space and building repairs. Cost \$55,000
- Highly competitive environment for hiring and retaining mental health professionals. Cost \$40,000

Currently, the Board of Health gives the counseling center \$60,000 each year. More funds are needed at this time. The counseling center will return in January to meet with the Board on definitive numbers as the budget season will be approaching.

Joanne spoke about the MHTF being very supportive of the counseling center. This is a resource that the community benefits from. Andrew recommended that the task force put together what is needed for funding through the ARPA funds. Todd mentioned there would be ARPA funding available to the counseling center. At the last Mental Health Task Force (MHTF) meeting there was an in-depth discussion on how to reduce the stigma associated with mental health issues. There are many initiatives that are being reviewed. The Marblehead Rotary Club has a program called Inner Explorer which helps students and faculty in mindfulness. Other initiatives: mental health fair, holistic approaches, speaker series and editorials in newspapers. Helaine commended Joanne on the great job she is doing. Helaine presented a

CJP handout about mental health access. 988 is the state emergency number for suicide and crisis lifeline. This is available 24 hours a day / 7 days a week.

The Transfer Station Facility Committee is meeting tomorrow 11/16/22 with Dana Weeder of Winter Street Architects. He will be presenting a conceptual site plan, staff and scale house plan, traffic flow.

As of November 1st there is ban on disposal of textiles in the solid waste stream. Textiles include clothes, linen, curtains can be placed in the bins near the recycling area at the transfer station. These items should be cleaned and placed in plastic bags. The transfer station does get paid for textiles as a bulk. Rugs and carpets can go in the solid waste stream. Also, on November 1st, mattress and box springs can no longer go in the waste stream. These can be recycled at the Transfer Station for \$25. This cost will need to go up to \$35 for a mattress and \$35 for a box spring. The solid waste fees are also going to be increased. To be discussed further at the December 12th meeting.

Director's Report

- Paving will be done at the transfer station. This will require the transfer station to be closed during this time.
- Opioid settlement by the town was awarded in the amount total of \$101,291.00 over the next five years. A budget will be developed for delivering services as needed.
- December 7th is Household Hazardous Waste Community Collection Day. Details are available on the town website marblehead.org.
- Recycle Smart is a helpful website to know what is recyclable.

The next meeting will be December 12th.

MOTION to close meeting. On a polled vote the Board voted as follows: Ms. Joanne Miller, in favor; Ms. Helaine Hazlett, in favor; Dr. Todd Belfbecker, in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Andrea Flaxer
Senior Clerk

List of documents used:
MCC – ARPA Request
CJP – Mental Health Access Handout

