

September 6, 2023

708 Board Meeting: 1 PM

Those board members present included B. Scott, S. Hinkle, B. Utz, C. Warfield, S. Griffith, B. Winskill

- I. Betsy Scott called the meeting to order. She welcomed the following guests: Paul Kuhns, Sherriff Effingham Co., Faith Griffith, Kim Dust, Jenny Kimmy, Jill Wright, Lauri Grisman, Beth St. _____, Brook Durbin,
- II. Intro and welcome
 - a. The Board approved the minutes from the June 6th 2023 meeting with a motion from Barb Utz and a second by Shannon Griffith. The motion was carried.
 - b. Treasurer’s report: Barb Utz reported on current balance. The balance reflected the payments to each of the five agencies making requests, but no bill had been secured from One Hope.
 - i. It was discussed that Heartland will get an additional 12k.
 - ii. New Light an additional 6k
 - iii. Barb recommended we support those additions. All were in favor.
 - iv. At that meeting we still owed everyone for the 4th quarter.
- III. New Business
 - a. **Heartland** Comment: there is great need in the county jail to provide mental health services. It was discussed that there needs to be a “bridge” from jail to services. Ideally, to help with decreasing crime.
 - b. **Sheriff Paul Kuhns** spoke. He spoke with grave concerns about jail and those inmates who have mental health concerns. “We are woefully unprepared to help those being detained.” He is desperately seeking assistance with mental health.
 - c. Current practices for Mental Health Services was discussed—months out for services. Heartland would track services and outcomes.
 - d. Safety Act was discussed and how this may effect use of mental health services.
 - i. Carol suggested that the focus be on Prevention.
 - e. **Safe** representative , Jill Wright, spoke about their program. There is an increase in need but a deficit in funding. They are also operating with a waitlist for the first time.
 - f. **New Light** They focus on helping those who have no funding source for counseling; they do not wish to turn anyone away; sometimes they refer out.
 - g. **Griffin Therapeutic Services**, represented by Faith Griffin. Faith spoke about her current staff and the need for funding for her agency.

