



## MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

McLean County Health Department  
200 West Front St., Bloomington, IL  
Thursday, May 20, 2021  
**Minutes**

The virtual meeting was called to order at 9:02a.m.

1. Roll Call: Chair Cory Tello, Rick Bleichner, Gaby Bontea, Mary Campbell, Dan Deneen, Martha Dittmer, Faye Freeman-Smith, Trisha Malott, Dr. Kristine Strauss, Laurie Wollrab  
Absent: Sharon Fitzer  
McLean County Staff: Samantha Vazquez, State's Attorney's Office  
McLean County Health Department Staff: Amy Hancock, Behavioral Health Program Manager, Taylor Davis, Behavioral Health Specialist, Julie Sullivan, Office Support Specialist II

2. Appearance by Members of the Public: None

3. Items for Action

- A. Approve 2-22-2021 MHAB Meeting Minutes

Rick Bleichner motioned to approve the minutes. Trisha Malott seconded.

Motion approved with a unanimous roll call vote.

- B. Approve MHAB By-Laws

The importance of the By-Laws for this committee, what is the role, was discussed. The Mental Health Action Plan, developed in 2015, led to the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council that oversees Behavioral Health planning and implementation in McLean County. The previous meeting highlighted three needs deserving immediate attention: Stable and Safe Housing, Mental Health for Youth and Seniors and Connection to Community Resources. Many groups in this county make up the "big picture initiatives that relate to Behavioral Health". Dan added points about addressing the underlying issues leading someone into the Criminal Justice System (CJS); spending resources on getting people help instead of sending them into the CJS; and monitoring the county trying to get in compliance with the statute. Some of this is happening in existing and new Councils and initiatives.

Samantha Vazquez guides the members to approve the By-Laws then the suggested changes can be discussed. Once there is a consensus the document updates are good, then a vote can be taken to approve the changes.

Laurie W. motions to approve the MHAB By-Laws edits to this point, seconded by Faye Freeman-Smith. Motion approved with a unanimous roll call vote.

The By-Laws handouts are referenced and edited during the discussion as each section is analyzed.

**"Article II Purpose"** statement is approved with the purpose referenced during future discussions: "...the purpose of the Advisory Board is to provide counsel, direction, and advice to the BoH in the field of behavioral health."

Under “Article II Purpose, The Advisory Board Shall”, discussion involved key words important to the document. The words included advocacy; analyze; assist; past; present; future; identify priorities areas; and evaluating funding as they all relate to Behavioral Health. Five statements were finalized for this section.

“Article III Members, Section 1, Number”, discussion included how the Chairperson is determined. The statute does not have anything about this. This is important and should be included in the by-laws. Each year the committee could approve who is Chair. “Chair” is the term to be used. The 377 Board wording is referenced to utilize. The addition is, “The officer of the Board shall be Board Chair. This position shall be elected annually at the first Board meeting after July 1 of each year. The duties of the Board Chair shall be those which are customary for such officers, (as defined in Roberts Rules of Order), and any other duties and conditions as shall be set forth in this document.”

“Section 2, Conflict of Interest”, discussion provided a section added about “perceived conflict of interest” and how the members could handle it within the Board. “The Chair shall make this decision with the input of the Board.”

“Section 3, Appointment and Removal”, discussion involved adding a procedure for removal from the MHAB. Cory found language to add details about why a member may be removed. Any member could be removed for “absenteeism, neglect of duty, misconduct, or malfeasance in office”. The committee members would vote on it. Members are appointed so removal should be approved by the BoH President. A written statement of the charges should be provided with the opportunity to be heard. The statements are added by Amy to the draft version and this section is complete.

“Section 4, Term”, Terms are three years, with reappointment an option.

“Section 5, Compensation”, no discussion.

“Section 6, Voting”, discussion about whether a county employee could be a voting member. The statute has nothing about it, so county employee does not need the “ex-officio” title. It is noted a county employee would remove him/herself for county resources voting.

“Section 7, Staff members”, no discussion.

“Section 8, Board of Health representative”, Cory does give an update at the BoH meetings.

“Section 9, Officers”, is an added section, defining the “Officer of the Board shall be Board Chair” and “elected annually at the first Board meeting after July 1 of each year.” Duties are added.

“Article IV Meetings, Section 1. Regular Meetings”, no discussion

“Section 2. Special Meetings”, discussion about identifying how a meeting can be called in accordance with the Open Meetings Act (OMA). Amy to fix on the document the procedure on how to call a special meeting per the OMA.

“Section 3. Notice of Meeting”, no discussion

“Section 4. Holding a Meeting”, the discussion adds “at the beginning of the meeting the presence of the quorum will be announced” at each meeting.

“Section 5. Manner of Acting”, It is suggested to leave this more open by inserting “ A quorum shall be defined in accordance with the Open Meetings Act”.

“Section 6. Public Participation”, Stopped here due to time constraints. To be discussed at the next meeting.

4. Items for Information                      Not Discussed
  - A. Updates on Human Service Programs within McLean County
  
5. Items for Discussion                      Not Discussed
  - A. MHAB Initiatives; Housing, Community Mental Health, and Connection to Community Resources
  
6. Other Business                              Nothing Discussed
  
7. Recess is called to continue the discussion to finalize the By Laws at the next meeting. The next meeting will be added soon, and the details will be posted.

Motion to recess made by Laurie, seconded by Trisha.  
Motion to recess is approved with a unanimous roll call vote.

The meeting was recessed at 11:07 am.