



Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hanover Township Mental Health Board awards grants to area agencies

The Hanover Township Mental Health Board awarded \$48,915 in grants and welcomed a new board member at their March 22nd meeting.

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois (GSNI) was awarded a FY17 challenge grant for \$13,915. This funding will support a new program that is targeted to provide Girl Scouts Leadership experience to underserved populations of girls who might otherwise lack access to quality extracurricular activities. After a successful pilot program last spring, GSNI is expanding programming throughout Hanover Township and has programs established in 3 Hanover Township-area elementary schools.

The Board also awarded Renz Addiction Counseling Center with a \$15,000 challenge grant to support the implementation of a Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT) program. MAT combines behavioral therapy and medications to treat substance abuse disorders and prevent opioid relapse and overdose. MAT is part of a comprehensive outpatient alcohol and drug recovery treatment program that includes case management, counseling, therapy, and medication for effective long-term success as overseen by a licensed psychiatrist and medical director. Programs like MAT are not easily accessible outside of a treatment facility. This pilot program will begin in July 2016.

Challenge grants are awarded by the Board year-round to agencies launching new programs for Township residents.

Northwest Compass received \$20,000 in annual funding to continue to provide the Legacy Corps program to veterans in Hanover Township. Northwest Compass became the new sponsoring agency for the Legacy Corps program in March 2016, after Lutheran Social Services of Illinois cut the program in January due to the state budget crisis. Services include respite care, information dissemination on veterans' medical conditions, childcare respite services, and transportation services.



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“FY16 was a challenging year for virtually all of our funded agencies,” said Linda Best, Chairwoman of the Hanover Township Mental Health Board. “While the state has been negligent in their responsibilities, the Mental Health Board begins FY17 with a budget that provides annual funding to local agencies caring for our most vulnerable residents.”

The Hanover Township Board of Trustees appointed new member, Deb Sirchia, to the Mental Health Board at the March 22 Board Meeting.

Sirchia has been a resident of the Township for over 30 years and is active in the community. She previously served as president of the Streamwood Lion’s Club and is heavily involved in the Toys for Tots program at her church. She currently lives in Elgin with her husband.

The Mental Health Board meets the fourth Tuesday of the month, at 6:00PM at the Township offices, 250 S. IL Route 59 in Bartlett. Due to scheduling conflicts, the board will meet on Thursday, April 21 and Tuesday, May 10.

The volunteer board advocates for increasing the availability and quality of mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services by allocating funds to nonprofit agencies that provide services to Township residents. Last year, the board approved over one million dollars in funds to local agencies.

Hanover Township serves over 101,000 residents in portions of the Cook County communities of Streamwood, Elgin, Bartlett, Hanover Park, Hoffman Estates and Schaumburg.

For questions about the Mental Health Board or to learn more about their funded agencies, please call (630) 837-0301 or visit www.hanover-township.org/MHB.

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