



### **Media Release**

250 S. IL Route 59, Bartlett, IL 60103  
(630) 837-0301 Office | (630) 837-9064 Fax  
[www.hanover-township.org](http://www.hanover-township.org)

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **For information contact:**

Tom Kuttnerberg, (847) 888-8329  
[tkuttnerberg@hanover-township.org](mailto:tkuttnerberg@hanover-township.org)

### **Hanover Township Mental Health Board awards grants to Ecker Center**

The Hanover Township Mental Health Board awarded \$25,450 in grants to Ecker Center for Mental Health at their April meeting.

The agency received a \$25,000 emergency grant in order to support outpatient services due to the State of Illinois budget impasse. To date, Ecker Center has provided \$700,400 worth of services without any state compensation and has relied entirely on their reserves to maintain operations. Even with personnel and other budget cuts, Ecker Center will be forced to close one of its group homes in Elgin on May 8.

“As the state enters the 11<sup>th</sup> month without a budget, the Mental Health Board is doing everything they can to ensure our residents are provided for,” said Mary Alice Benoit, Trustee Liaison of the Hanover Township Mental Health Board. “Unfortunately, without the state’s help, closures and other disruptions in services are inevitable and we can only hope to keep these programs running for so much longer.”

A \$450 staff development grant was also given to the Ecker Center for Mental Health to support the cost of hosting a workshop. The workshop will focus on therapeutic relationship bonds, presented by an instructor at Elgin Community College, Dr. Joseph Rosenfeld. Many clients at Ecker Center have serious mental illnesses that can deter a positive relationship between the clinician and client.

Ecker provides an array of outpatient mental health services that includes crisis care, psychiatry and counseling services available to adults, children and adolescents. Other adult services range from early intervention to recovery and include case management, rehabilitation, intensive outpatient, resident and psychotherapy assistance.

New board member Debbra Sirchia was sworn-in at the meeting by Hanover Township Clerk Katy Dolan Baumer. A resident of Elgin, Sirchia is a past president of the Streamwood Lions



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Club and is active with the Toys for Tots program. Sirchia will serve a four year term on the board.

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 Tuesday, May 10 and then not again until August 23.

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](http://www.hanover-township.org/MHB).

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