



# Annual Report

## 2016

**December 1, 2015 - November 30, 2016**

### *Mission*

To provide leadership to ensure the prevention and treatment of mental illness, developmental disabilities and substance abuse by identifying, planning, coordinating, fostering development, and contracting for quality services for all citizens of McHenry County, Illinois.

### *Vision*

McHenry County residents experience optimal mental wellness through access to an integrated system of behavioral healthcare services of excellent quality representing a recovery and resiliency focused, consumer driven, and culturally inclusive community-based continuum of care.

### *Values*

- ▶ We lead the way in transforming lives and systems through partnership and planning.
- ▶ We empower individuals and families toward mental wellness and resiliency.
- ▶ We are accountable for quality, cost-effective services.
- ▶ We value diversity in services, staff, and community.
- ▶ We provide education in order to aid recovery and prevention.

## **McHenry County Mental Health Board**

620 Dakota Street

Crystal Lake, Illinois 60012

815-455-2828 phone | 815-455-2925 fax

[www.mc708.org](http://www.mc708.org)



# ABOUT MCMHB

## MCHENRY COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD



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### McHenry County Mental Health Board Overview

The McHenry County Mental Health Board (MCMHB) is a special purpose unit of government regulated by the Community Mental Health Act (Illinois Compiled Statutes, Chapter 405, Act 20, Section 0.1 et.seq.). In accordance with the Community Mental Health Act and through the direction of a board of community representatives appointed by the County Board, the MCMHB is mandated to carry out the following activities:

- Review and evaluate community mental health services and facilities, including services and facilities for the treatment of alcoholism, drug addiction, developmental disabilities, and intellectual disabilities.
- Submit to the appointing officer and the members of the governing body a written plan for a program of community mental health services and facilities for persons with a mental illness, a developmental disability, or a substance use disorder.
- Within amounts appropriated therefore, execute such programs and maintain such services and facilities as may be authorized under such appropriations.
- Consult with other appropriate private and public agencies in the development of local plans for the most efficient delivery of mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance use disorder services.

Accountability

Fiduciary  
Responsibility

Transparency

### Mental Health - Substance Abuse Intellectual & Developmental Disability

The Community Mental Health Act mandates the publication of an annual report. The MCMHB Annual Report provides an accounting to the citizens of McHenry County of its activities and expenditures during the fiscal year. As citizens of McHenry County, please take the time to review the MCMHB's Annual Report and learn about the actions and services supported by your levied funds. As the MCMHB exists at the will of the community, feedback is always welcomed.

**The MCMHB can be reached at 815.455.2828  
or through its website [www.mc708.org](http://www.mc708.org)**

# ABOUT MCMHB

## MCHENRY COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD



**CONNIE MESCHINI,  
MENTAL HEALTH BOARD PRESIDENT**

### **LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**

I would like to thank all of McHenry County’s mental health, substance abuse, and intellectual and developmental disability service providers for their ongoing commitment and dedication to providing quality care to members of our community. We are looking forward to a productive and successful year!

As we have experienced, McHenry County is not immune to forces of change influencing a complex service administration environment, although we are fortunate to have a foundational and stabilizing institution such as the Mental Health Board to provide leadership. Throughout a year dominated with headlines and themes of uncertainty and change, the Mental Health Board did not waiver from its mission of “identifying, planning, coordinating, fostering development, and contracting for quality services for all citizens of McHenry County, Illinois.”

Together, the Mental Health Board worked with service providers, old and new, to uphold its mission by contracting for psychiatric services, child/adolescent and adult outpatient mental health services, traumatic brain injury services, and increased access to developmental disability related services during an extremely tumultuous time.

In some cases, the name on the service provider’s sign may have changed, but with the support of Mental Health Board funds, McHenry County was successful in minimizing the impacts of change at the State and Federal level on those in McHenry County. At the same time, Mental Health Board efforts and funds continued to support and sustain a strong and established local network of care.

As we work together, the Mental Health Board will remain committed to its mission, while allocating community resources in a responsible manner to best address the behavioral health needs of all residents in McHenry County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Connee Meschini".

### **LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

We are so fortunate to have such an engaging and active community. I am deeply honored to have this opportunity to serve the residents of McHenry County as the Executive Director of the McHenry County Mental Health Board (MCMHB).

Building on a long tradition of leadership and service, the MCMHB is uniquely positioned to function as the nucleus of McHenry County’s network of mental health, substance abuse, and intellectual and developmental disability related services.

To effectively serve in this capacity, the MCMHB has remained committed to adapting and responding to current and emerging challenges, while judiciously promoting and allocating resources on behalf of our community.

Through the efforts and shared successes of our local service providers and persons who seek their assistance, the MCMHB continues to support the foundation of a safe and healthy community with access to critical services that make life better for all.

Within this Annual Report you will find an accounting of MCMHB activities and expenditures incurred while carrying out the MCMHB mission and statutory requirements throughout County Fiscal Year 2016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Block".



**SCOTT BLOCK,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

# SERVICE ENVIRONMENT

MCHENRY COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

**FORCES OF CHANGE** are trends, events or distinct factors that may impact the context in which mental health, substance abuse and intellectual and developmental disability services are delivered. These forces - which may be positive or negative - tend to be externally driven, and reflect conditions over which neither the MCMHB nor its service providers have the ability to control.

In preparing to understand the realities and impacts of these forces, the MCMHB monitors the service environment through active involvement in trade associations, advocacy groups, and statewide taskforces, etc. The information learned through these activities is vital to the MCMHB's ability to meet its statutory duties.

In the areas that are of particular concern to our community, the MCMHB acts as an advocacy leader. As a leader and an advocate, it is the MCMHB's responsibility to support on-going positive system-wide change.

Fortunately, even during times of change, McHenry County service providers continue to care for thousands of our neighbors, employ hundreds of others, and contribute to our state and local communities and economies.

## Network Council

The Network Council, which is a collaboration of service providers and the MCMHB meets monthly and has various subgroups addressing specific issues. These issues include mental health, substance abuse, intellectual and developmental disabilities system access issues, delivery and quality issues, and system needs. Consequently, McHenry County constituents are continuously benefitting from planning efforts to address up-and-coming concerns.

In FY 16, the Network Council and MCMHB started a joint strategic planning effort utilizing a modified Mobilizing for Action through Planning & Partnerships (MAPP) process to evaluate the existing service delivery environment and identify strategic priorities moving forward. The plan is expected to be complete in April of 2017.

## **FORCES OF CHANGE**

Illinois State Budget Crisis

Illinois Health & Human Services Transformation Plan

Illinois Statewide Transition Plan

Illinois 1115 Medicaid Waiver

Value-Based Contracting

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

Grant Accountability and Transparency Act

## Industry Affiliations

- National Council for Behavioral Health
- Community Behavioral Health Association of Illinois
- Association of Community Mental Health Authorities of Illinois
- Illinois Partners for Human Service
- National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disability Directors

# COMPLIANCE & QUALITY ASSURANCE

MCHENRY COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

## Accountability at All Levels of Service Delivery

In addition to the **Network Council**, Operations and Program Managers from funded agencies participate on the **Quality Management Team**, which reviews training and best practices methodology, crisis utilization, coordination of care, satisfaction survey data, and program performance and outcomes within the Behavioral Health Network.

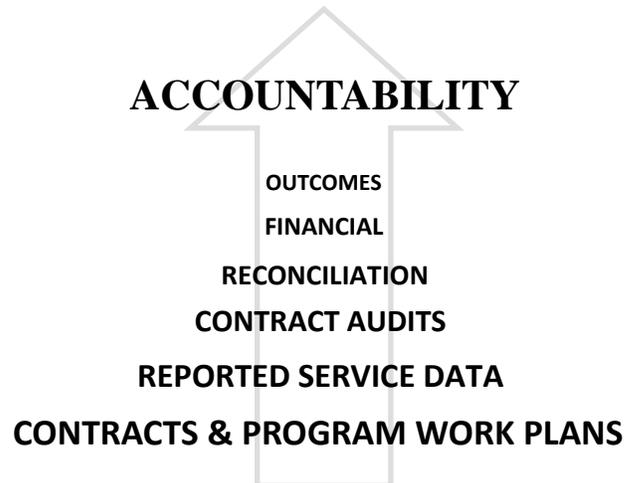
**Intake Coordinators** from funded agencies gather regularly to resolve service navigation issues within the Network, as well as monitor the wait times and wait lists for clients to access services.

## Continuous Quality Improvement

Service delivery issues, consumer or provider complaints, and sentinel events are investigated by Mental Health Board staff. Providers meet to conduct a root cause analysis. Network and program policies and procedures may be amended as a result of the analysis. All Continuous Quality Improvement issues and events, and any resulting Behavioral Health Network modifications are reported to the Mental Health Board Ethics and Compliance Committee, the Network Council, and to the Quality Management Team.

## Contract Compliance

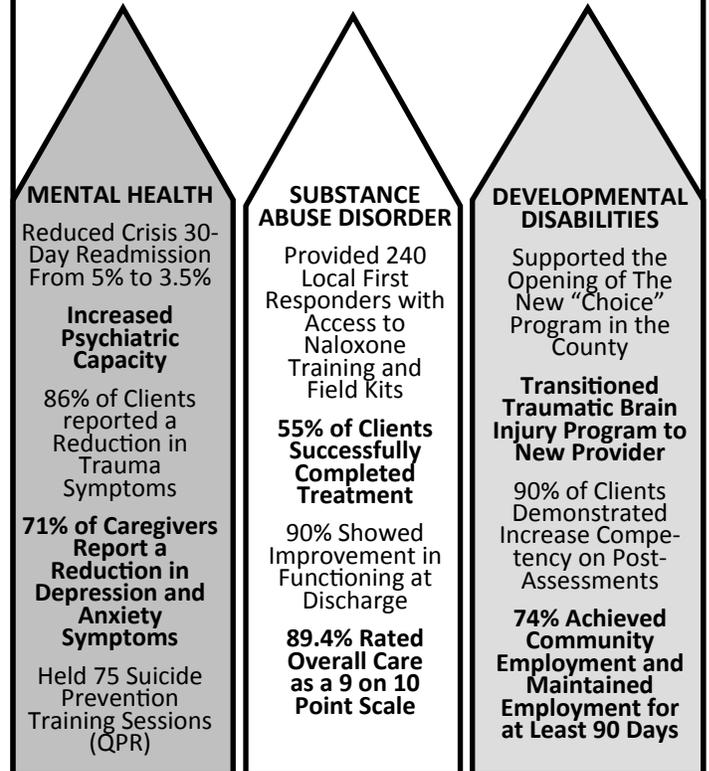
All funded programs and providers have a detailed work plan, which defines the scope of the service, service delivery specifications utilizing evidence-based practices, and expected program outcomes. Each program and provider is audited by the Mental Health Board at least once a year to validate services delivered and compliance with federal, state and local requirements.



## PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



## PROGRAM OUTCOMES



# COMMUNITY SERVICES & SUPPORT

MCHENRY COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

## QPR Suicide Prevention



The MCMHB has embraced a population health approach to suicide prevention focusing on groups or populations of people, versus treatment of individuals. Fortunately, strong evidence shows that a comprehensive population health approach is effective in reducing suicide rates.

QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) is an evidence based practice that focuses on how to recognize persons who may be at risk of suicide, persuade them to seek and accept help, and refer them to appropriate resources.

Research shows that the majority of those who attempt suicide give some warning signs – verbal, written, or behavioral. These warning signs are often seen during the weeks preceding an attempt. QPR is designed to interrupt this journey.

Since completing instructor training in 2015, approximately 25 volunteer QPR instructors have completed more than 70 trainings in the community, providing prevention information to over 2000 people including school staff, faith organizations, students, first responders, and the general public.

Please visit [www.mchenrycountyqpr.org](http://www.mchenrycountyqpr.org) to access information about the QPR Program, request to attend or host a training, and obtain resources regarding suicide education and prevention.

## QPR Suicide Risk Assessment & Management

Considered to be the next level in MCMHB's suicide prevention efforts is the QPR Suicide Risk Assessment and Risk Management Training program for professionals. In October of 2016, the MCMHB brought this Registered Best Practice training program to local clinicians in order to teach the core competencies required of professionals responsible for the care and safety of consumers detected to be at elevated risk for suicidal self directed violence. The QPR Training included modules on means restriction counseling, collaborative crisis safety planning, and managing/monitoring risk over time, documentation, and a skills practice session.

The overall QPR mission is to reduce suicidal behaviors and save lives by providing innovative, practical and proven suicide prevention training. QPR believes that quality education empowers all people, regardless of their background, to make a positive difference in the life of someone they know.

### TASK FORCE & COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT

McHenry County Continuum of Care to End Homelessness

Suicide Prevention Task Force

Recovery Conference

Substance Abuse Coalition

People In Need Forum

Children's Health & Safety Fair

Traumatic Brain Injury Task Force

Developmental Disability Task Force

Transition to Adulthood Panel

### MHB Facility Use

- ▶ **371 Support Groups**
- ▶ **314 Meetings**
- ▶ **88 Trainings**

## MCMHB Sponsored Trainings



The MHB is committed to ensuring access to quality services and a well-developed workforce working up to the potential and benefits allowed under licensure. In FY 16, the MCMHB organized and hosted **21 trainings** offering professional and continuing education units with over **1000 attendees**.

**Topics included:** Accountability in Service Delivery, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Working with LGBTQ clients, Vicarious Trauma, Law Enforcement seminars, Epilepsy, Brain Injury and Mental Health, Eating Disorders, and Adolescent Drug Use and Addiction.

# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & JUSTICE COLLABORATIONS

MCHENRY COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Nationally and locally, people diagnosed with mental health and substance use disorders are over-represented within the criminal justice system. This over-representation results in devastating effects for individuals, families and communities and also has a significant impact on public safety and government resources. In response, McHenry County has implemented a number of MCMHB supported behavioral health and justice initiatives to address these realities.

## Behavioral Health & Justice Collaborations

Naloxone—Law Enforcement Drug Over-dose Prevention Program

Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS II) Training

22nd Judicial Circuit Court’s Mental Health & Adult Drug Court Programs

Thinking for a Change (T4C) Program

Mental Health First Aid for Public Safety (MHFA) Trainings

Personal & Professional Breakthroughs for Police Officers and Family Transitions in Law Enforcement trainings

- ▶ National estimates state that 14.5% of male inmates and 31% of female inmates in local jails are diagnosed with a serious mental illness.
- ▶ Nationally, 76% of local jail inmates are dependent on or abusing substances.
- ▶ In FY 16, 21 individuals graduated from the McHenry County Adult Drug Court and Mental Health Court Programs.
- ▶ During FY 16, the MHB supported Mental Health First Aid training for 123 local first responders and police officers.



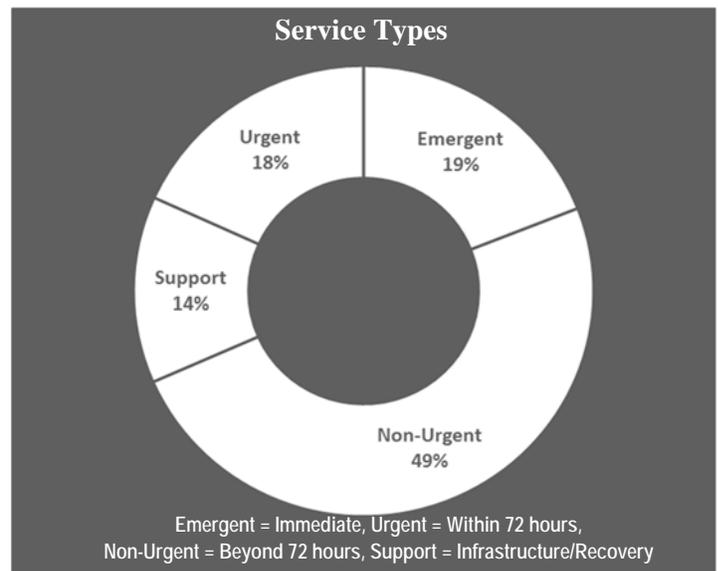
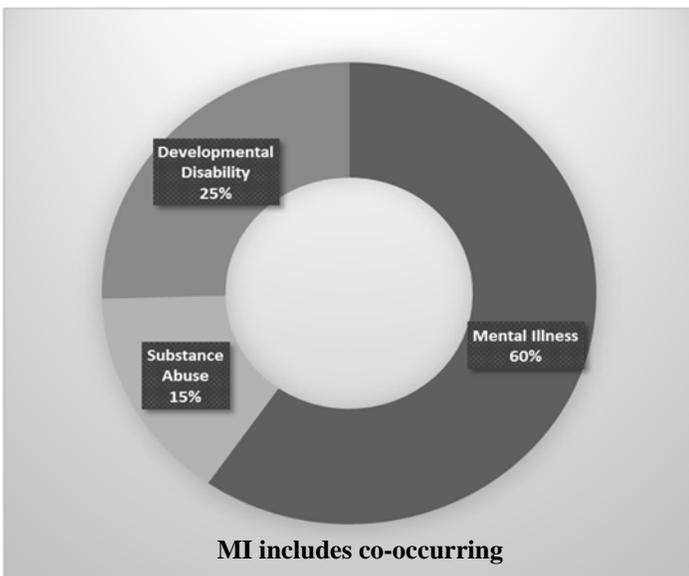
**NREPP** SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices

# 2016 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2016 (DECEMBER 1, 2015– NOVEMBER 30, 2016)

The Mental Health Board policy, in accordance with the Community Mental Health Act, ILCS, Chapter 405, Act 20, Section 0.1, et.seq., stipulates that funds allocated by the MHB may be used to contract for mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disability services. Funding for FY16 was aligned with Mental Health Board goals and strategies as outlined in the 2015-16-17 Three Year-Plan. Further prioritization of funding is subject to the urgency of need, impact on system access, and/or applicability of leveraging other funds.

## Funding Breakdown



### Mental Health Board Funding Contract Types

#### ▶ Grant

Provides funds for access to specific care or for the infrastructure of a program. Payment is fixed based on the contract award and obligations within the contract. Accountability is tied to defined performance measures (includes pay-for-value).

#### ▶ Purchase of Position

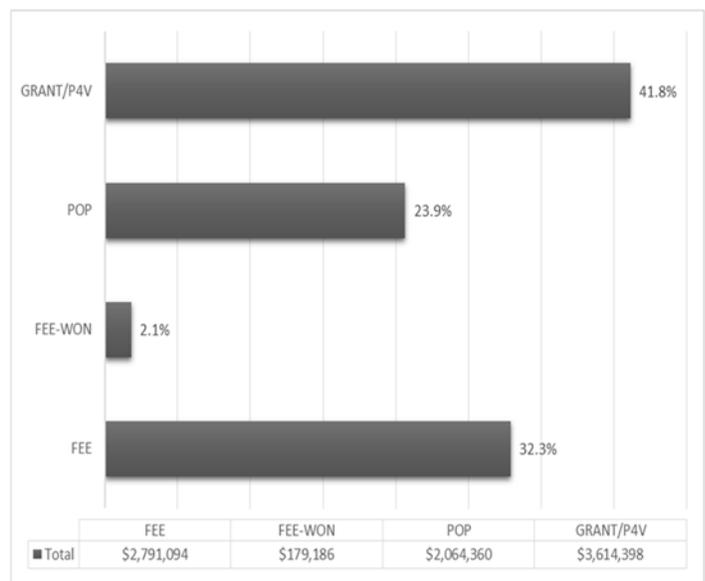
Payment for a particular staff position that is critical to the delivery of an approved program or service for which Fee for Service funding is not applicable.

#### ▶ Warrant of Need

Payment for psychiatric/behavioral health services for individuals who have proven financial need. May be on a Grant or Fee for Service basis.

#### ▶ Fee for Service

Payments for each event of service within the constraints of the contract. When possible, payment is based on rates set by the State of Illinois.



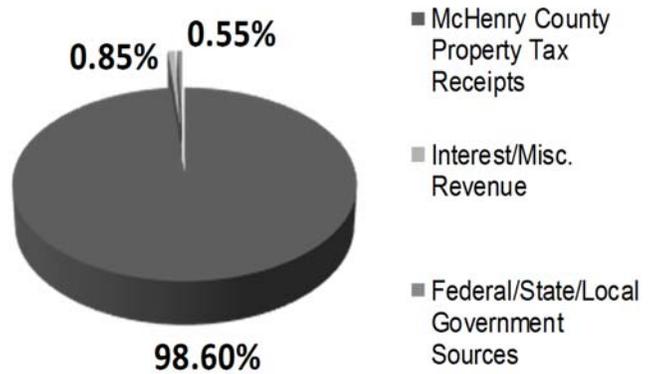
# 2016 FINANCIAL SUMMARY <sup>(1)</sup>

2016 (DECEMBER 1, 2015– NOVEMBER 30, 2016)

| Expenditures - Community Services and Supports (2)  |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| 22nd Judicial Circuit of McHenry County             | 180,120             |
| Alano Club of Crystal Lake                          | 13,845              |
| Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center, Inc.            | 67,746              |
| Association for Individual Development              | 257,257             |
| Centegra Hospital                                   | 1,320,563           |
| Clearbrook  | 244,889             |
| Consumer Credit Counseling                          | 27,922              |
| Epilepsy Foundation                                 | 525,348             |
| Families ETC  | 35,945              |
| Family Alliance                                     | 243,390             |
| Family Health Partnership                           | 80,431              |
| Garden Quarter Resource Center                      | 32,305              |
| Greater Elgin Family Care Center                    | 95,064              |
| Home of the Sparrow                                 | 280,042             |
| Horizons Behavioral Health                          | 99,016              |
| Mather's Clinic, LLC.                               | 125,011             |
| McHenry County Health Department                    | 109,326             |
| NAMI - McHenry County                               | 187,671             |
| Northern Illinois Special Recreation                | 40,637              |
| Northwest CASA                                      | 18,414              |
| Options and Advocacy                                | 325,855             |
| Other Contractual - Service & Education Related     | 50,150              |
| Partnering for Prevention                           | 98,894              |
| Pioneer Center                                      | 1,598,538           |
| Rosecrance  | 950,033             |
| Special Education District of McHenry County        | 49,117              |
| Thresholds  | 727,929             |
| Transitional Living Services                        | 245,951             |
| Turning Point                                       | 692,916             |
| University of Illinois Extension                    | 3,500               |
| <b>Grand Total Community Services &amp; Support</b> | <b>\$ 8,727,825</b> |

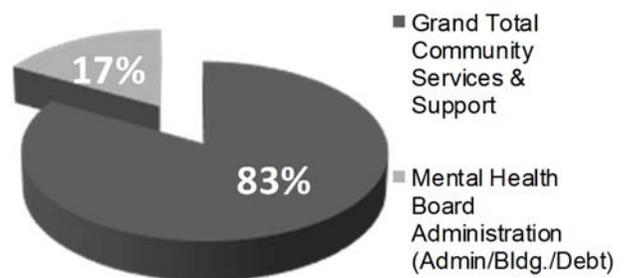
| Mental Health Board Administration (Admin/Bldg/Debt) |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Debt Service   | 411,058              |
| Building Occupancy Expense                           | 120,362              |
| Administrative Salaries and Benefits                 | 880,714              |
| General Administration                               | 335,896              |
| Total Mental Health Board Administration             | \$ 1,748,030         |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>                            | <b>\$ 10,475,855</b> |
| REVENUE OVER/(UNDER) EXPENDITURES                    | \$ 263,815           |
| FUND BALANCE - Beginning of the year                 | \$ 10,083,197        |
| FUND BALANCE - End of the Year                       | \$ 10,347,012        |

## FY 2016 Revenue



|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| McHenry County Property Tax Receipts   | 10,589,326          |
| Interest/Misc. Revenue                 | 91,521              |
| Federal/State/Local Government Sources | 58,823              |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>                   | <b>\$10,739,670</b> |

## FY 2016 Expenditures



### Footnotes:

(1) McHenry County Audits for 2016 will not be finalized until the end of May 2017. As a result, at the time of printing, this financial summary is based on unaudited numbers.

(2) Total MHB funds allocated for community services and support were \$11,461,021. Total MHB funds used for community services and support were \$8,727,825.

# MCHENRY COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FOUNDATION

## MCHENRY COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

### The McHenry County Behavioral Health Foundation

The McHenry County Behavioral Health Foundation (The Foundation), is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Originally chartered to support the MCMHB, the Foundation's 2016 efforts returned to that "foundational" focus by partnering with the MCMHB by:



- ▶ Sponsoring Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Leadership and Law Enforcement Level Training
- ▶ Securing grant funding to provide alternate therapies, support groups, and transportation for Veterans with PTSD
- ▶ Co-Hosting McHenry County's Sixth Annual Recovery Conference
- ▶ Hosting McHenry County's Eighth Annual *Vision of Hope* Awards, to recognize and publicize community leaders and individuals in recovery who improve mental and behavioral health services for others
- ▶ Making safety-net support distributions/grants
- ▶ Embarking on a formal communication plan with MCMHB to jointly increase community awareness of, and access to, the behavioral health programs and services that improve the lives of McHenry County citizens

The Foundation sincerely appreciates the individual donors, community groups, local businesses, grant-makers and volunteers who support their efforts. A list of contributors can be found on the Behavioral Health Foundation website at [www.mcbhf.org](http://www.mcbhf.org).

### We Welcome Your Feedback

Consistent with our commitment to ensuring quality services for all residents of McHenry County, the Mental Health Board is requesting assistance from the community. The MCMHB asks that any individuals receiving services or family members of individuals receiving services through one of our funded provider organizations take a few moments to complete a survey. Feedback provided will be used to address and improve upon barriers to the delivery of quality services. The MCMHB thanks you for taking the time to help. All information will remain confidential.



Consumer survey can be completed at [www.mc708.org](http://www.mc708.org).

**Public comment is also welcomed and available at the beginning and end of all MCMHB meetings.**

# 2016 MCMHB FUNDED AGENCIES, BOARD & STAFF

## MCHENRY COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

### FUNDED AGENCIES

22nd Judicial Circuit <https://www.co.mchenry.il.us/>  
Alano Club of Crystal Lake <http://www.crystallakealano.org/>  
Association for Individual Development (A.I.D.)  
<http://www.the-association.org/>  
Aunt Martha's [www.auntmarthas.org/woodstock](http://www.auntmarthas.org/woodstock)  
Centegra Hospital - Woodstock <http://centegra.org/>  
Clearbrook <http://www.clearbrook.org/>  
Consumer Credit Counseling of Northern Illinois  
<http://www.illinoiscccs.org/>  
Epilepsy Foundation  
<http://www.epilepsyheartland.org/McHenry>  
FamiliesETC  
Family Alliance, Inc. <http://familvallianceinc.org/>  
Family Health Partnership Clinic <http://hpclinic.org/>  
Garden Quarter Neighborhood Resource Center  
<http://gardenquarter.org/>  
Greater Elgin Family Care Center  
<http://gefcc.org/locations/mchenry-community-health-center/>  
Home of the Sparrow, Inc. <http://www.hosparrow.org/>  
Horizons Behavioral Health, LLC <http://www.horizonsbh.com/>  
Mathers Community Mental Health Center, LLC  
<http://www.themathersclinic.com/>  
McHenry County Department of Health  
<https://www.co.mchenry.il.us/>  
NAMI - McHenry County <http://namimchenrycounty.org/>  
Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association (NISRA)  
<http://www.nisra.org/>  
Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault (NWCASA)  
<http://www.nwcasa.org/>  
Options and Advocacy for McHenry County  
<http://www.optionsandadvocacy.org/>  
Partnering for Prevention  
<http://www.partneringforprevention.net>  
Pioneer Center for Human Services  
<http://www.pioneercenter.org/>  
Rosecrance Health Network <http://www.rosecrance.org/>  
Special Education District of McHenry County (SEDOM)  
<http://www.sedom.org/>  
Thresholds <http://www.thresholds.org/>  
Transitional Living Services, Inc. d/b/a TLS Veterans  
<http://www.tlsveterans.org/>  
Turning Point, Inc.  
<http://www.mchenrycountvturningpoint.org/>

### BOARD MEMBERS

#### Per Mental Health Board By-Laws:

*Board members are appointed to serve four year terms.*

- **Connee Meschini, President**  
*Term: 1/8/05 - 1/1/18*
- **Cathy Ferguson, Vice President**  
*Term: 5/21/13 - 1/1/19*
- **Sam Melei, Treasurer**  
*Term: 2/18/14 - 1/1/18*
- **Diane Wasilk, Secretary**  
*Term: 12/3/13 - 1/1/17*
- **Mary McCann, County Board Liaison**  
*Term: 12/16/14 - Open*
- **Ray Lapinas, Member**  
*Term: 7/1/14 - 1/1/17*
- **Kathleen Kuchta, Member**  
*Term: 7/1/14 - served to 6/28/16*
- **Dawn Pruchniak, Member**  
*Term: 8/16/16 - 01/01/21*
- **Bruce Treadway, Member**  
*Term: 3/3/15 - served to 12/1/16*
- **Sarah Wilson, Member**  
*Term: 4/21/15 - 1/1/19*

### MHB STAFF

- **Scott Block**, Executive Director
- **Terry Braune**, Compliance & Operations Manager
- **Jane Wacker**, Fiscal Operations Manager
- **Patricia Peterson**, Executive Assistant
- **Denise Bowman**, Training & Community Development Associate (*Effective 8/8/16*)
- **Adrienne Burman**, Administrative Specialist II (*Retired 5/27/16*)
- **Kristen Doherty**, Administrative Specialist II
- **Melanie Duran**, Accountant II
- **Carolyn Frasor**, Training & Community Development Associate (*Resigned 8/12/16*)
- **Sonya Jimenez**, Database Administrator
- **Vickie Johansen**, Administrative Specialist II
- **Laura Maras**, Data and Audit Program Monitor
- **Pamela Marrs**, Accounting Assistant (*Retired 11/30/16*)
- **Lori Zeek**, Administrative Specialist II (*Effective 6/13/16*)

*The Mental Health Board meets monthly on the fourth Tuesday at 6:00 pm at the McHenry County Mental Health Board, 620 Dakota St., Crystal Lake, Illinois. For a complete list of Board and Committee meeting dates and times visit: [www.mc708.org](http://www.mc708.org). For agendas and meeting minutes click the Meeting Portal link.*

**The McHenry County Mental Health Board makes its facility available for free meeting space to nonprofits throughout the County. In FY 16 the MHB hosted 371 support groups, 314 meetings, 88 trainings and 21 sponsored trainings with over 1000 attendees. Last year, these nonprofit guests included:**

McHenry County Emergency Management Agency (EMA)  
McHenry County Substance Abuse Coalition  
CASA of McHenry County (Court Appointed Special Advocates)  
Alexander Leigh Center for Autism  
The Renewal Center  
McHenry County's All Our Kids Network (AOK)  
Survivors of Suicide (SOS)  
American Red Cross of Chicago and Northern Illinois

*McHenry County EMA has been privileged to use the Mental Health Board meeting facilities on numerous occasions. In the beginning, it was due to a funding shortfall. We didn't have enough money to rent a space for our severe weather spotter course put on by the National Weather Service. MHB Staff, arrangements, and A/V equipment were all top notch in delivering this important training to nearly 200 first responders and community volunteers. The meeting space has met our needs time and time again for training and community presentations. Our guest speakers have been from the National Weather Service, Texas A&M University, FEMA, IEMA, and others. All have commented favorably on the tremendous resource you provide. We are always given a warm welcome by the staff of the MHB and willing assistance with technical matters. Our first go-to location had always been the Administration Building, but increased use there with shifting priorities, caused us to reach out to you. You made us feel welcome. It works to our advantage that you are more in the population center of our audience, as well as other conveniences in the area. Thanks so much for all you do, but most especially, assisting EMA in our mission!*

**David Christensen**, Director  
**McHenry County EMA**

*"The American Red Cross appreciates the partnership of the McHenry County Mental Health Board to support disaster preparedness, response and recovery across McHenry County. The Mental Health Board provides a wonderful meeting space complete with technology and tools that allow for our volunteers to collaborate and practice skills to support disaster preparedness, response and recovery in the community. This partnership brings the Red Cross to the community and allows access to additional collaborative resources to support the work that is carried out by the team. I don't know how we would manage the programming or provide an outlet for volunteers to gather and connect without the McHenry County Mental Health Board."*

**M. Kathleen O'Shea**, Disaster Program Manager | Disaster Cycle Services  
**American Red Cross | Chicago & Northern Illinois Region**

*"The Mental Health Board has been a big support to CASA of McHenry County. We have been able to use their space to hold training events for our CASA Advocate Volunteers. This fantastic organization has invited CASA to attend many of their training events they hold which have been a fantastic opportunity for our Advocates to earn continuing education credit hours as well as broaden their knowledge. Our Advocates are extremely appreciative for these opportunities offered by the Mental Health Board and look forward to all the future ones."*

**Stephanie Newsom**, Advocate Manager  
**CASA of McHenry County**

*"The McHenry County Substance Abuse Coalition uses the Mental Health Board facilities for monthly meetings, sub-committee meetings, and special training events. The areas are always neat and staff is very responsive to helping set up ... the ability to use this location has been a convenience to the majority of our partners because of its central locale. ... (M)embers of the coalition have attended multiple trainings organized through MHB staff ... the variety of options allows us to increase the effectiveness of our organization and provide for individual growth. MHB staff are always courteous, professional and clearly articulate about what is needed to complete a project or what the Mental Health Board can provide as a resource. When unable to meet a need, they provide suggestions and contact people that might be better suited for the task. Their awareness of other services that exist in our community is invaluable as we attempt to serve difficult populations every day.*

*We are very grateful to the Mental Health Board and all that it offers to our coalition as we attempt to address the very serious issues surrounding substance use and abuse in McHenry County."*

**Chris Gleason**, Chairman & **Laura Crain**, Drug Free Program Coordinator  
**McHenry County Substance Abuse Coalition**



*Empowering Minds, Transforming Lives*

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