



Cook County
Minutes of the Alternative Health Intervention & Response (ALT-HIR) Task Force

May 4, 2022

10:00am

Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams

ATTENDANCE

Present: Das, Joshi, Degnen, Davis El, Hernandez, Mora (6 – quorum met)

PRESENTATIONS

Department: NAMI Chicago

Presentation Title: What's New in 2022 in Illinois' Mental Health Crisis System

Presenters: Rachel Bhagwat, Director of Policy

Summary: The purpose of this presentation was to introduce the 988 and the ongoing of Illinois & Cook County's mental health crisis system. Ms. Bhagwat introduced the current mobile crisis intervention infrastructure and touched on what's needed for continued growth.

Department: Cook County Service Providers

Presentation Title: Crisis Intervention Provider Landscape

Presenters: Greg Lee, LCSW – Senior Vice President of Behavioral Health & Community Based Services, Pillars Community Health & Dr. Sharronne Ward, EdD – President & Chief Executive Officer, Grand Prairie Services

Summary: Mr. Lee and Dr. Ward introduced their service providers and crisis intervention work. They also provided context to the Task Force about current crisis intervention coverage in Cook County and how each provider has adjusted their service coverage under the 590 RFP and what's needed to continue expanding crisis intervention services in the County.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Remarks made by: Degnen, Mora, Hernandez, Das, Joshi (Members)

Nate Sanders, Soul in Chicago (Public)

Comment: The only way for this to work is for this to REPLACE what we currently do with our Public Safety funds with the crisis response system that NAMI Chicago mentioned is needed for the 590 programs to make sense. The money needed to build out this system is equivalent to the amount of money used to currently incarcerate this same population.

Question: Can a commissioner on the Public Safety committee talk about how/why they would choose to NOT fund a program like this to keep us safe, but are willing to fund (1.9 Billion) for programs like police/sheriff that cause us harm and do NOT keep us safe?

People are safe when others in their community have all the resources they need, especially mental health services. We need them healed through professional help and sent back to us whole and able to participate in family life.

MEETING RECORDING LINK:

[5/4 Meeting Recording Link](#)