

**APPROVED
OTTAWA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION**

**Thursday, September 1, 2005 4:00 PM
Harbor House Ministries**

919 - 44th Avenue, Jenison, MI 49428

The Ottawa County Board of Commissioners met on Thursday, September 1, 2005, at 4:00 p.m. at Harbor House Ministries, Jenison, and was called to order by the Chair.

The Chair led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present at roll call: Mrs. Kortman, Messrs. Kuyers, Swartout, Mrs. Ruiters, Messrs. Rinck, Rycenga, Schrotenboer, Disselkoe, Berghorst, Holtrop, Vander Kam (11)

Work Session Items

A. Harbor House Ministries/ Community Mental Health Funding Discussion – Patrick Barrie, Deputy Director for Mental Health in the State of Michigan, explained part of the history of mental health funding, referenced Mental Health Code of 1974. He explained there is a shrinking general fund. There is some legal basis for six beds or less facilities because larger facilities are considered less integrated settings. He “believes” a private agreement is fine but government dollars “might” be against the law.

Gerry Cyranowski explained the process that Medicaid dollars flow through to get to Ottawa County residents. He encouraged Harbor House to find alternative funding because CMH can not support more than one home. CMH has had unprecedented demand in a short time for out of home placement. Many other counties in similar situations are reluctant to fund these projects.

The Commission discussed the need to see a budget forecast for CMH. They discussed whether the County can raise our State allocated funds.

Chuck Schipper, President of Harbor House, explained that only private funds were used to build these homes. They believe staffing is their biggest expense and would like to look at more creative ways of funding for this. The master plan is to have a campus setting with multiple buildings.

Peggy Driesenga, Harbor House Community Relations, explained where Harbor House gets their funding now; Medicaid is used for client care, PSI funds are used for utilities, buildings are debt free. She believes the demand for services shouldn't be a surprise.

Jean MacDonald, Harbor House Director, wants a solution so the clients can be placed.

Rita Bird, Community Mental Health Board Member, explained that the Mental Health Code should be clarified by our lawmakers. It is everyone's responsibility to look at funding issues.

Scott Wondergem, Harbor House Treasurer, the budget was created based on what CMH said they would pay.

Public Comment

The following residents expressed opinions and concerns and asked the Board of Commissioners for support with funding for placement of their children at Harbor House Ministries in Jenison, Michigan.

1. Mark Stephenson, 8374 First St, West Olive
2. Dean Lange, Kent County
3. Karen Hansen, 2230 Valarie Dr., Zeeland.
4. Ralph Hondard, Ottawa County
5. Al Lanning, 4136 -56th, Hudsonville
6. Michelle VanKlompsonberg, 7334 Adams, Zeeland
7. Cheryl Rupkey, Ottawa County
8. Jan Lange, Kent County
9. Gordon Petroelje, Ottawa County
10. Greg Nickel, 4601 Leonard, Coopersville

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

DANIEL C. KRUEGER, Clerk
Of the Board of Commissioners

ROGER RYCENGA, Chairman
Of the Board of Commissioner

Agenda

August 30, 2005

To All Ottawa County Commissioners:

The Ottawa County Board of Commissioners will meet on **Thursday, September 1, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. for a Work Session Meeting** at Harbor House Ministries, 919 - 44th Street, Jenison, Michigan.

The Agenda is as follows:

1. Call to Order by the Chairperson
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
3. Roll Call
4. Public Comments and Communications from Staff
5. Work Session Items:
 - A. Harbor House Ministries/Community Mental Health Funding Discussion
6. Public Comments
7. Adjournment