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# Advisory Forum for Community-Based Organizations Serving Bloomingdale Township Residents

## 2024 Q1 Report to Bloomingdale Township Mental Health Board

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### Program Overview

- ❖ An advisory cohort of community-based agencies serving Bloomingdale Township residents with mental health, substance abuse, and intellectual/developmental disability services.
- ❖ Investing in professional development and outreach programs helps forum members achieve goals, expand networks, and enhance skills. Together, we can better support this community.
- ❖ Monthly results-driven group forums include:
  - Advisory topics to enhance professional development
  - Member spotlighting to gain consultation from peers
  - Group dialogue to identify angles to solve key challenges
  - Actionable goal setting to move the learning forward
  - Site visits and network building



### Year One (2023) Results

- ❖ 9 individuals completed the twelve-month cohort from 9 different Bloomingdale Township 708 grant-funded agencies: Alive Center - Hanover Park, Bloomingdale Township Youth Service Bureau, DuPage Health Coalition, ICNA Relief, NAMI DuPage, NEDFYS, Serenity House Counseling Services, Teen Parent Connection, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago
- ❖ “Connecting with other professionals, site visits, and the opportunity to showcase each member and take a group approach to thinking through, validating emotions, thoughts and even being able to problem solve.” (*Katherine, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago*)
- ❖ “The individual sessions are very helpful in setting my specific goals and needs, and also very helpful in narrowing down exactly what I need to do and focus on. The group forum is very helpful in networking and getting to know other service providers in the area. It was also useful to bounce ideas off of and brainstorm with a group.” (*Alex, Alive Center*)
- ❖ “It has been a good check-in to make me more accountable to my goals and work. The group advisory has given me an opportunity to meet others in the field, hear about their work, learn from their advice and connections.” (*Deanne, Bloomingdale Township*)
- ❖ “Individual coaching sessions have helped me slow down a bit and actually concentrate on what I am doing in the here and now. Group forums have given practical advice that I can use immediately as well as help develop enduring relationships.” (*Karen, DuPage Health Coalition*)

### Year Two (2024) Growth

- ❖ Retained 8 of the 9 organizations (89%) from the 2023 Advisory Forum.
- ❖ Added Bloomingdale Township grant recipient Ray Graham Association to Advisory Forum.
- ❖ Received affirmation from DuPage County Health Department Executive Director Adam Forker for the Advisory Forum, resulting in the addition of a supervisor from Youth & Family Services.
- ❖ The 2024 Advisory Forum includes representation of all of the 708 service lines: mental health, substance abuse, and intellectual/developmental disabilities.