

“Our mental wellness is something that should be nurtured and cherished. We want to bring new mental health services to Bronzeville by voting YES on both questions on November 3rd!”

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1 OCTOBER 2020

COALITION TO SAVE OUR MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS

THE BRONZEVILLE MENTAL HEALTH BOOSTER

Serving the neighborhoods of Douglas, Oakland, Grand Boulevard, Fuller Park, Washington Park, and Near South Side



Vote YES on November 3, 2020 Expand Mental Health Services In Our Community!

On **November 3rd, 2020**, voters in the greater Bronzeville community will have an opportunity to make Chicago history by voting on a binding referendum question to create the new Bronzeville Expanded Mental Health Services Program (EMHSP).

The referendum question asks whether Bronzeville voters are willing to raise their own property taxes by a nominal amount (roughly \$16-\$24 per year) to create new local community mental health services. If approved by the voters, the funds can be used to provide services deemed essential by the residents of the six Bronzeville community areas to help children, couples, teenagers, families, seniors, and veterans.

The November 3rd vote was made possible when on July 31st, members from the Bronzeville Community Action Team (CAT) delivered 7,200 signatures to the Chicago Board of Elections to place on the ballot the two questions needed to create the EMHSP.

The first question creates the EMHSP, the second provides additional protection to taxpayers against an increase in the rate they have approved.

The delivery of the signatures marked the culmination of a summer-long effort by the Bronzeville Advocacy Team and local residents. For eight weeks, they went door-

to-door and engaged neighbors at their parks, food pantries and local shopping centers to gather signatures and educate them about the Bronzeville EMHSP. While wearing Personal Protective Equipment (masks, gloves, hand sanitizer), providing free pens to all who signed, and observing social distancing requirements, the Team visited every block in Bronzeville during the summer.

“Understanding the truth about one’s self produces the better man or woman,” said Bronzeville resident and Community Action Team (CAT) member, Ms. Kimberly Griffin. “The goal of our CAT is to work directly with community residents to identify the needs of our neighborhoods and organize with them.”

“We’re proud of our young people for the contact they made with so many of our residents, including myself,” added Toni Waller, a CAT member. “They have provided us the impetus to address the mental health needs of our Bronzeville residents with new resources tailored exclusively to local needs.”

The CAT team urges all Bronzeville residents to *“Vote Twice for Mental Health”* on November 3rd.



Bronzeville CAT leaders Kimberly Griffin and Dr. Brandi Jackson address the media as they prepare to submit petitions to the Board of Elections on July 31st.

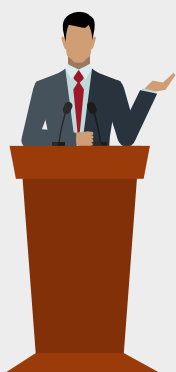


Advocacy Team members (left to right: Shawn Ward, Emanuel Williams, LeFerrah Hill, Deja Brown, and team leader Rapheal Arteberry) in front of King Drive & 40th Street mural as they complete a day of outreach in the community.

NOVEMBER 3rd, 2020 SAMPLE BALLOT

Two referendum questions will appear on your November 3rd ballot. Vote **YES** on both questions to expand mental health services in our communities

To the voters of the Bronzeville expanded mental health services program area:



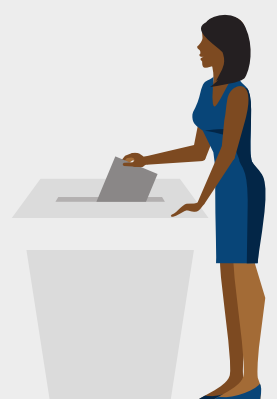
Shall there be established, to serve the territory community described on this ballot or notice of this question, a Bronzeville Expanded Mental Health Service Program, to provide direct free mental health services for any resident of the territory who needs assistance in overcoming or coping with mental or emotional disorders, where such program will be funded through an increase of not more than .025% of the equalized assessed valuation of all properties within the boundaries of the territory?

SELECT YES!



To the voters of the Bronzeville expanded mental health services program area:

Under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law, may an aggregate extension not to exceed \$600,000 be made for the Bronzeville Expanded Mental Health Service Program for the 2021 levy year?



Our Vote, Our Voices, Our Mental Health

For many of us living in Bronzeville, the need for mental health services is an urgent one. We have watched our neighbors struggle as the city reduced mental health funding at all city-run centers and ultimately closed fourteen of them. These pressures have now been exacerbated in our current period of COVID and economic insecurity. We have watched as our youth cope with violence on our streets and have few safe places to meet and talk about their concerns. We know the feeling of families and friends who tell us they have nowhere to turn for help.

This November, we have the chance to change that.

Over the course of the summer, residents of our community initiated the creation of the Bronzeville Expanded Mental Health Services Program. Such programs are authorized by the 2011 state law titled the Community Expanded Mental Health Services Act. This law allows Chicago communities to join together by placing a referendum on the ballot that allows voters to decide if they want more mental health services and are willing to approve a small property tax increase to pay for them.

The increase is 0.025%, approximately \$4 for every thousand dollars we currently pay in property taxes or an estimated \$16-\$24 per household each year. The state law ensures that every penny of this revenue will go towards

providing mental health services for our community and protects taxpayers by never increasing the rate beyond what is approved by the voters.




Services at our new center will be available to anyone who lives in the community areas of Near South Side, Douglas, Oakland, Grand Boulevard, Fuller Park, and Washington Park, regardless of their ability to pay. Such services will be overseen locally by a Governing Commission of residents living within our community and tailored to the specific needs of our community. They can include outreach group counseling programs in schools, parks, homeless shelters, and senior centers, counseling and therapy for individuals, couples, and families, and other services tailored to our local needs.

Our neighbors have spoken through the 7,200 signatures gathered to place this referendum on the ballot. On November 3rd, we will be given the chance to speak again. Our new center will be created by us, funded by us, and overseen by us. It will house mental health services to meet the unique needs of our neighborhoods. And the center will be right here in our community.

Vote YES to both referendum questions on November 3rd!

What does .025% mean to me?

A \$4 increase for every \$1000 you currently pay in property taxes is equivalent to the price of one latte.

Property Tax Bill	Lattes Per Year	
\$4,000		\$16
\$6,000		\$24
\$8,000		\$32



Advocacy Team member Emanuel Williams watches as local resident signs new mental health center petition.

Bronzeville EMHSP Timeline 2020-2021



Election Day November 3, 2020

Local voters vote on the binding referendum questions asking if they are willing to raise their own property taxes by .025% (an average of \$16-24 per year) to restore mental health services. If the majority of voters say YES, the program will go into effect.



Establishing Governing Commission November 2020– February 2021

A Governing Commission of local residents including mental health professionals, consumers, and community members are nominated by local non-profits and appointed by the Governor and Mayor to oversee the Bronzeville EMHSP. All meetings and decisions are public with all budget decisions legally required to be posted online. According to State law, these funds can only be used for mental health services for residents in our community.



Needs Assessment and Providing New Mental Health Services 2021

Once the Governing Commission is appointed, it will determine an appropriate service-delivery plan to provide new and expanded mental health services. By law, it will be guided by a mental health needs assessment enabling it to gain a nuanced understanding of the community's specific mental health needs.

Coalition to Save Our Mental Health Centers

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The Coalition is pleased to acknowledge support from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Crossroads Fund, and many individuals who attend the Coalition's annual Building Resilient Communities Fundraiser and are participating in the *Building Mental Health and Wellness for All Chicago Communities* campaign.

Editorial Committee: Arron Pighee, Sequena Luckett, Kimberly Griffin, and Rapheal Arteberry

Below are some of the many possible services that could be provided at our center.



School Services
- Student Outreach
- Diagnostic Assistance
- Bullying Prevention
- Trauma Training for Teachers



Prevention/Early Intervention
- Services aimed at helping people before they become disabled or referred to hospitals
- Parent-child groups



Violence Prevention
- Community safe spaces
- Restorative practices
- Youth opportunities
- Support for first responders



Other Services
- Seniors and veterans
- Prisoner re-entry
- Mood/anxiety disorders
- Domestic violence