

**Hanover Township Community Education Support Task Force**  
**MINUTES of the MEETING**  
**May 6, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Task Force Chair Alisa “Lee” Beattie at 4:39 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Task Force Chair Beattie, Kristen Cruthers, Bill Wright, Paige Moran, Dr. Elizabeth Ma, Joe Markowski, Josie Gama, and Shannan Petty. Also, present James Barr, Township Administrator, Tina Houdek, Director of Youth and Family Services, Hailey Matich, Assistant to the Administrator, Mary Abbott, School District U-46, School Social Work Lead, and Monica Ruzika- Stout, School District U-46 Student Success Coordinator.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Ms. Cruthers. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**Public Comment:** None

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

**Approval of the Task Force Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2024:** Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Markowski, seconded by Ms. Cruthers. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**Presentation from the U-46 School District Lead Social Worker:** School Social Work Lead Mary Abbott began her presentation by providing the Task Force with an overview of School District U-46’s Social Work Department. She explained that in School District U-46 the school social worker (SSW) to student ration is 1 SSW to 450 students, while the national average is 1 SSW to 250 students. Abbott shared some of the regular duties of a U-46 SSW, including crisis intervention and stabilization, psychosocial assessments, individual and group therapy, and provide consultation services to staff. School Social Work Lead Abbott explained the differences between a school social worker, school psychologist, and school counselor. Also included in the presentation were several statistics highlighting how pervasive mental health is in students and that many youths with mental health concerns are receiving some services through their school. Abbott detailed District U-46s method for crisis tracking in the Social Work Department. She detailed the past 4 years of data that was retrieved from crisis tracking, the data showed a decrease in reported crises from the 2021 to 2024 school years. Abbott also shared survey results that highlighted where District U-46 school social workers thought community partnerships would be beneficial including an attendance campaign, adult mental health and wellness, newcomer support, and trauma informed care.

**Discussion of Future Task Force Meeting Presentations:** The Task Force discussed not having a presenter at the next meeting and instead holding the meeting at Streamwood High School and discussing the Task Force’s findings up to this point.

**Other Business:** None

**Adjournment:** Mr. Wright moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Petty seconded the motion. Motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hailey Matich  
Task Force Secretary