



**Board Meeting  
Tuesday, May 17, 2022  
8:00 AM Zoom**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approval of March Minutes
- B. Financial Report – Scott
- C. Governance Committee - Sam
- D. Executive Director Report - Gayle
- E. Program Committee – Janelle/Gayle

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- BOD Slate & Secretary needed – Sam / Sue
- Committee Work/Assignments & In-person Summer Board Mtg
- FY23 Budget - Gayle
- Annual Meeting

**NEXT MEETING:      Annual Meeting June 17, 2022      8 AM University Center, Grayslake**

**Adjourn**

Alliance for Human Services  
Board meeting  
Tuesday, April 19, 2022

Minutes

Present: Corry Connelly, Carla Gutierrez, Sam Haik, Bobbie Hinden, Maria Elena Jonas, Scott Jewitt, Janelle Miller Moravek, Gayle Nelson, Meghan Powell-Filler, Susan Suhling, Paula Turelli

Meeting called to order at 8:11 am

Consent agenda:

- Scott asked that the financials be pulled out for discussion:
  - Updated P&L statement sent out this morning
  - Charge to Justin Mabee (website vendor) \$1,900 now and one more payment of \$1,900 to be made at the end of the project (end of May).
  - Grainger grant is covering website charges and increase in Gayle's time
- *Motion to approve made by Sam, seconded by Scott. Motion passed.*

BOD applications:

- AHS board currently has 10 members – 8 have confirmed that they will serve again next year; 2 will be stepping down.
- Per by-laws, we need to add 1-4 new board members. We have received 7 applications.
- Nomination committee will meet next week to review candidates and discuss next steps in selection process.

Poverty Simulation

- Saturday, April 30, 2022. Set-up on Friday, 2-4 pm.
- 82 people registered so far (not including volunteers).

Annual Meeting

- Scheduled for Friday, June 17, 2022, 8 am.
- Will be virtual and in-person at University Center.
- State Senator Melinda Bush will be the program.

FY23 Planning

- Programs (2 legislative sessions, annual meeting and one additional event) will pivot to in-person. We discussed need to allow virtual options. In-person locations will move around the county. First will be at Catholic Charities new location in Round Lake.
- Meetings will remain virtual.

Motion to adjourn made by Janelle, seconded by Bobbie. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 am.

# AHS Fiscal 2023 Board Members

Returning Board Members			
Name	Organization	Board Position	AHS Membership
Carla Gutierrez	Catholic Charities	At Large	Organizational
Meghan Powell-Filler	PADS	At Large	Organizational
Sam Haik	NA	At Large	Individual
Bobbie Hinden	Family Focus	At Large	Organizational
Scott Jewitt	Northern IL Food Bank	Treasurer	Organizational
Janelle Moravek	YFC	Vice President	Organizational
Susan Suhling	Warren Township	President	Organizational

Exiting Board Members			
Name	Organization	Board Position	AHS Membership
Maria Elena Jonas	Haces	At Large	Organizational
Corry Connelly	NA	Secretary	Individual
Paula Turelli	Mothers Trust Foundation	At Large	Organizational

# AHS Fiscal 2023 Board Members

New Board Members				
Name	Organization	Position	AHS Member	General Info
Michele Bauman	Avon Township	Township Supervisor	Organizational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Township entails 8 towns including Grayslake &amp; Round Lake</li> <li>Had been member of Township Board of Trustees</li> </ul>
Damon Coleman	Lake County Community Development	Senior Grant Administrator	Organizational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Previously worked for Lake County Housing &amp; Lake County Judicial Circuit</li> <li>MPA from DePaul U</li> </ul>
Alicia Garcia	Haces	Director of Programming	Organizational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Previously worked for United Way &amp; Waukegan Public Library</li> <li>AHS Replacement for Maria Elena Jonas from Haces</li> </ul>
Ed Gallagher	Pace	Community Relations Representative	Individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On AHS Respond Leadership Committee</li> <li>Previously worked in 3 separate state legislator offices</li> </ul>

## April Alliance meetings

### April 1-8

#### Internal

- RESPOND meeting
- ED Check in
- RESPOND Leadership meeting

#### External

- Chair Sandy Hart
- Maggie LCCCF
- Julia, Grainger

### April 11-14

#### Internal

- Book club prep
- Dora meeting (intern)
- Program committee
- Leslie-intern 2023 academic year

#### External

- School Resource Fair planning meeting
- Jeremiah-19<sup>th</sup> Judicial circuit

### April 18-22

#### Internal

- Dora meeting (intern)
- Alliance Board meeting
- Alliance monthly meeting
- Scott- poverty simulation planning

#### External

- Bolder Advocacy
- Crystal-CLC

April 25-29

**Internal**

- Poverty simulation
- Alliance Board candidate conversation

**External**

- Lake County ROSC Meeting
- Gale Graves
- Adam Carson, Drop and Culture
- Nina Becker, Waukegan program, Josselyn Center
- Rebuilding Together



## Executive Director Report May 17, 2022

The Alliance was a sponsor to two recent successful events our Poverty Simulation on April 30<sup>th</sup> and the School Resource Fair on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The Poverty Simulation was held at St. Joseph's in Libertyville and organized with CASA Lake County, Love Inc, PADS of Lake County, and Catholic Charities. It was facilitated by Amy Taucher, a social worker at Magee Middle School in Round Lake. Special thank you to Bobbie, Susan, Scott and Paula for all of your help.

We welcomed over eighty people including local government officials, school personnel, St. Joseph members, and board members from member nonprofit organizations. It was exciting to see such a diverse group of people. A Journal reporter and photographer covered the event. Here is the [link to the article](#)

Many of the participants as well as those that were not able to attend are contacting us to discuss how we can help to bring the event to their communities or asking when there will be another so that they can attend. The Alliance plans to host another in the fall as well as next spring We are also exploring ways to scale the event by providing guidance or assistance rather than organizing it ourselves.

The School Resource Fair welcomed over 80 school social workers and other personnel as well as over forty nonprofit organizations. It was exciting to see this come to fruition after cancelling it twice due to covid. The Alliance is exploring partnering again with the District and Mothers Trust Foundation in the fall.

Upcoming events include our in person Annual Meeting as well as our book club. I look forward to your participation in all these activities. Together we will continue to build a strong Alliance community as well as strengthen the safety net for all in need throughout the county.

### Revenue

The Alliance is in a strong financial position. Scott will present organizational financials. Here is a summary:

- A) Bank Checking Balance: \$46,470.54
- B) Membership: eighty-seven paid members have renewed or paid their membership for the first time. Total number of members is 98. Total membership revenue for the fiscal year is \$28,575.

## **Alliance Meetings and Events**

### **A) April meetings**

Last month's member meetings were well attended. For the RESPOND meeting, the Alliance explored the educational opportunities available for those living in Lake County, regardless of citizenship status, who want to enhance their math, reading, and writing skills. The Alliance welcomed Carmen Nieto, Lake County Community College Outreach & Recruitment Coordinator, Yesenia Mata, Student Lake County Community College Success Coordinator and Griselda Quezada, Student Lake County Community College Success Coordinator. We also hosted our regular RESPOND Leadership Committee.

During the April Alliance meeting, we discussed how low-level offenders may have opportunities to participate in diversion programs and avoid a criminal record. During the meeting, we learned more about these programs to educate clients on opportunities to participate and how to support their success from Lake County States Attorney Rinehart, Lauren Callinan, Chief of Domestic Violence Division and Kevin Malia, Chief of Rehabilitative Services.

### **B) Upcoming meetings**

The May RESPOND meeting explored how the pandemic has increased the trauma and mental health needs of many throughout Lake County. Participants picked up additional skills to better support those experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis and learned about the free mental health first aid training from Lake County Health Department Behavioral Health Service M.H.F.A. Coordinator, Phillip DeRuntz, M.Ed. CBT. RESPOND Leadership Committee meeting was Friday May 6<sup>th</sup>.

The May Alliance meeting is on May 22<sup>nd</sup> when we will partner with HR Source to help participants expand their human resource skills. The Alliance is excited to welcome Candace Fisher, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, Certified Coach and Director, Organizational Development at HR Source. Candace works with members to help develop the talent in their organizations. This includes facilitating training sessions, coaching individual managers and teams and designing organization-specific performance management systems. She also facilitates training sessions at HR Source and, as part of our HR Hotline team, advises members on a variety of organizational issues such as employee relations, supervisory and management concerns and change management. In her spare time, Candace volunteers at a local humane society and has earned the moniker, "Crazy Cat Lady" at the Association.

### **C) Spring Events**

June RESPOND meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 when we will discuss the growing number of evictions and learn how to prevent evictions through partnerships with legal aid and other legal service organizations. The Alliance hosts Katie E. Pinter, Supervising Attorney, Prairie State Legal Services, Inc. to discuss how to preserve the evidence they need to support renters in the county.

June RESPOND leadership meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup> at 11.

Annual Meeting, Friday June 17 at 8AM. We are awaiting final approval to host a conversation with Illinois State Senator Bush at University Center sponsored by LCCF.



Book Club, Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at Noon. We are reading *Enrique's Journey* by Sonia Nazario exploring the immigration journey from the Latino perspective. Special thank you to our facilitators: Board member and Catholic Charities Director Carla R. Gutierrez, LCSW; Family Service Case Manager for Family Caregiver Gabriela (Gaby) Strobehn; and Waukegan Public Library Customer Service Assistant Manager Esmeralda Maldonado.



*This was such an incredible experience for our members. Thank you so much for providing this program.  
Leaders United of Lake County*

## Poverty Simulation

Throughout the year, the Alliance offers Poverty Simulations to empower Lake County leaders, including teachers and other school personnel, government leaders, volunteers, and nonprofit staff and board members, to expand their knowledge, increase resources for those experiencing poverty, and create a more resilient health, human and education sector. The Simulation is a two and a half to three-hour experience for those who have not experienced poverty to begin to walk in the shoes of neighbors experiencing poverty.

During the Simulation, seventy to hundred participants role-play the lives of low-income individuals. Similar to those experiencing poverty, participants are put into situations in which they don't have enough resources and are forced to make difficult choices that can negatively affect them and their families.

The Alliance helps to facilitate this experience by offering the materials organizations need, providing guidance, and/or organizing the half day event.

\$175- Rent the kit- Alliance will provide instructions and the kit as well as put the kit back together once the event is completed.

\$425-Alliance provides the kit and offers guidance and expertise to event committee and event facilitator.

\$650-Alliance organizes, recruits volunteers, identifies other potential partners, sets up, and facilitates the event, as well as helps to publicize it.

For more information and to begin the conversation, please email Gayle at [gayle@allianceforhs.org](mailto:gayle@allianceforhs.org)



May 09, 2022



# LAKE COUNTY JOURNAL

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## Poverty simulation offers glimpse into lives of Lake County's low-income families

Social service providers aim to gain insight about people they help every day

By Jami Kunzer

May 05, 2022 at 1:33 pm CDT

✕ Expand



Candace H. Johnson-for Shaw Media Alicia Rios, of Zion, portrays a banker with Trust National Bank, hands out cash to a participant who cashed their check during the Poverty Simulation at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Libertyville. The event was sponsored by The Alliance for Human Services. (4/30/22) (Candace H.Johnson)

LIBERTYVILLE – To better understand poverty, community leaders and volunteers throughout Lake County recently spent a day experiencing it.

They chose between buying groceries to feed their families or paying the mortgage. They struggled to find jobs, pay for gas and afford child care.

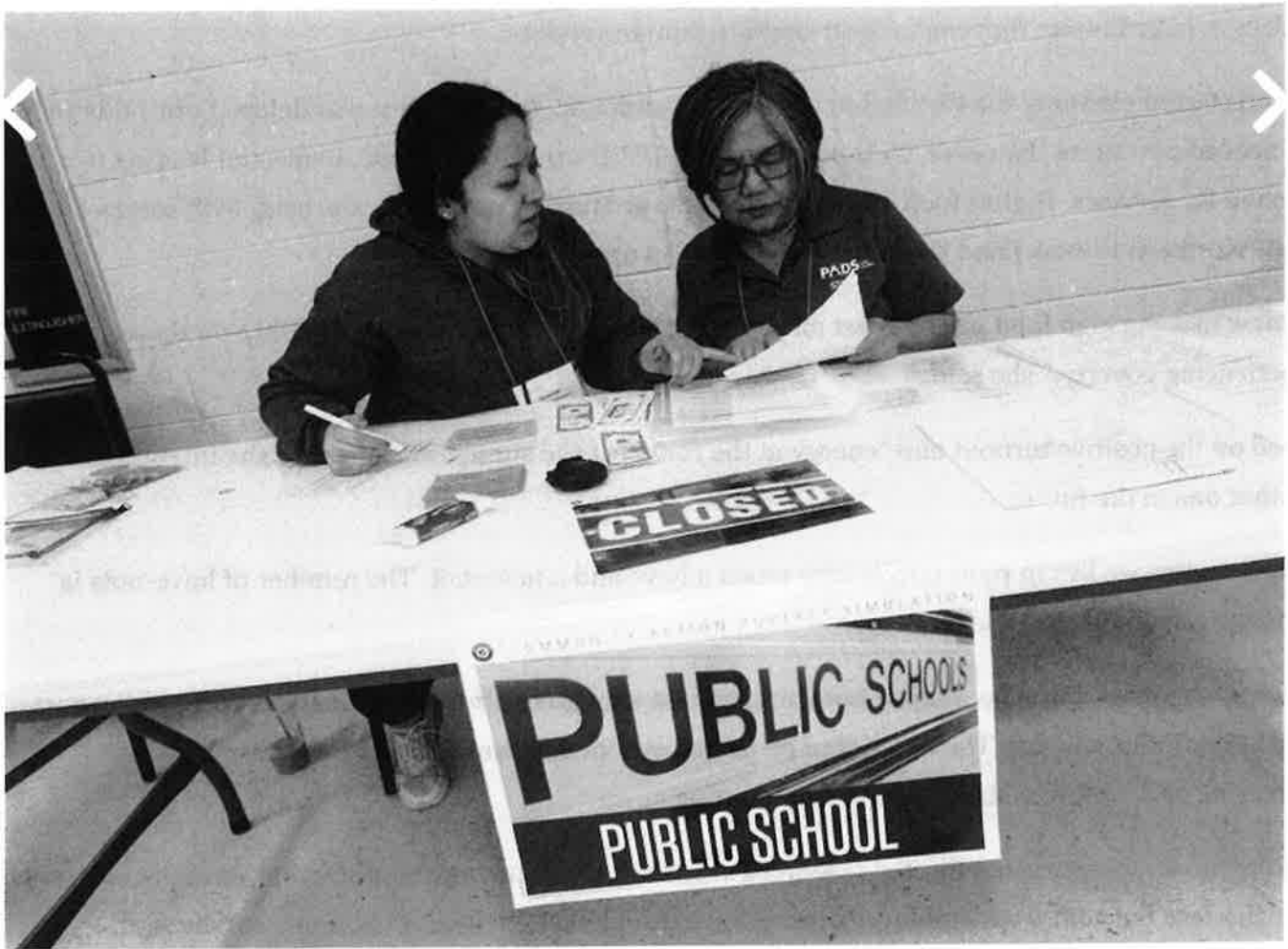
They felt the anxiety and fear that often comes with living in poverty.

“You think it’s all straightforward when you’re on the outside looking in, but I found out it’s not,” said Patricia Toyra of Gurnee, one of about 80 participants in an April 30 poverty simulation at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Libertyville.

As part of the simulation – organized by The Alliance for Human Services, along with CASA of Lake County, PADS of Lake County, Catholic Charities and Love INC (In the Name of Christ) of Lake County – participants took on the identities of others. All identities were based on the stories of real-life clients.

A volunteer for about 10 years with St. Vincent de Paul Society through Saint Paul the Apostle Church in Gurnee, Toyra took on the role of an unemployed 34-year-old woman with a 14-year-old daughter and a 17-year-old son who had dropped out of high school. Her son’s girlfriend was pregnant. Her husband had left and she had about \$10 to her name.

All participants spent a “month” in the shoes of someone in poverty. Areas set up during the simulation served as social service agencies and places for participants to seek help, buy food and pay bills, such as the mortgage and utilities.



Candace H. Johnson-for Shaw Media Vanessa Ocampo, of Highwood and Claress Pettengill, of Gurnee portray teachers at Realville Public School during the Poverty Simulation at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Libertyville. The event was sponsored by The Alliance for Human Services. (4/30/22) (Candace H.Johnson)

Toyra tried to find a job and was sent to employment services. A caseworker wasn't available, so she was told to come back another day. She didn't have transportation to get there.

"Because I was trying to figure out what to do, I forgot to feed my family," Toyra said.

She ended up getting evicted in the last week of her monthlong simulation because she could only come up with enough money to pay half her rent.

It's an experience she'll never forget, but one she's seen play out as a volunteer trying to provide assistance to low-income families in Lake County.

"People want to get back on their feet, but they don't know where to start," she said. "It was nice having to put the shoe on the other foot and seeing what they go through and the aggravation, the tension, the frightfulness."

The simulation comes at a time when many are struggling in Lake County, said Gayle Nelson, executive director of The Alliance for Human Services, a network of more than 90 government and nonprofit

leaders in Lake County that works to strengthen human services.

Nelson started planning the simulation before the pandemic, but the event was delayed until this year. It's needed now more than ever, Nelson said, with COVID-19 increasing the divide and leading to a demand for services. Higher food and gas prices also are having an impact, she said, with services such as the Northern Illinois Food Bank struggling to keep up.

"I know that the high food prices affect all of us, but they are really having a hardship on those experiencing poverty," she said.

Based on the positive turnout and "energy in the room" at the simulation, she said she intends to host another one in the future.

"The economy we live in right now is very much a have and a have-not. The number of have-nots is growing tremendously," she said.

"Even if wages are going up, they're not going up fast enough to afford continual increases in the cost of food and utilities and gas. The number of people experiencing trauma and needing services is increasing and, unfortunately, we don't see it going down."

Among the challenges is the limited resources available to low-income families, and some social service agencies face burnout from employees and volunteers, along with dwindling finances, she said.

The simulation helped participants see the big picture of what those in poverty face while trying to navigate through life, Nelson said.

"Our goal is to really strengthen the social security sector. We do that by connecting people and organizations together," she said. "People experiencing trauma or poverty need many services. The goal is not to give them a voicemail or a phone number we thought was right, but to give them a real human being, to make that warm handoff."

For participants such as Julee MacGibbon of Libertyville, the simulation offered a reminder of advantages perhaps taken for granted. A member of St. Joseph's parish, MacGibbon began volunteering with Love INC of Lake County when she retired.

A network of about 60 churches, Love INC enables churches to pool their resources and services for those in need.

"When I look at my monthly budget, I just don't have the same concerns when people are trying to decide whether to buy lunch or gas," MacGibbon said. "I think it's good to be concerned and know there are things we can do to help."

Along with accepting donations of gently used items, including furniture, Love INC tries to connect resources and cover needs not being met by single agencies, said Laurie Mueller Comilla, office and

communications coordinator for Love INC. The organization also hosts life skills classes at area churches.

“We want to be able to serve people in ways they need to be served and not the way I personally might think they need it,” Mueller Comilla said.

“In order to do that well, I need to understand other backgrounds and where people are coming from. I don’t have a personal lived experience in poverty. This is my chance to get a close glimpse at what people in Lake County are living with every day,” she said of the simulation. “Less judgment allows me to love my neighbors.”

**Recommended For You:**

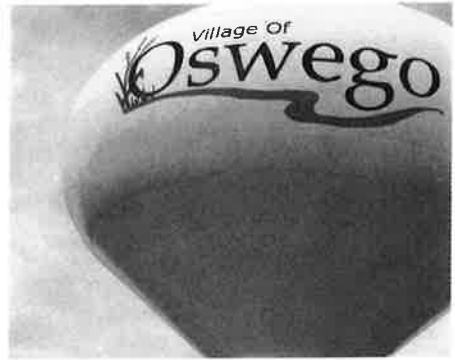


**Restaurants, retail and apartments part of pitch for Fox River Grove property obtained through eminent domain**



**Photos: Midwest Tulip Festival opens in Maple Park**

**SHAW LOCAL News Network**



**Future Oswego water rate hikes may be larger if voters reject referendum**

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**\$112,450**



**\$33,000**





**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
OF LAKE COUNTY

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# GOT A MINUTE?

**ARE YOU WONDERING WHAT THE  
AVERAGE SALARY IS IN THE LAKE  
COUNTY HUMAN SERVICE SECTOR?**



**THE ALLIANCE IS PARTNERING WITH THE  
BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF LAKE COUNTY  
TO CONDUCT A SURVEY TO HELP  
DEVELOP CONSISTENT COMPENSATION  
WITHIN THE INDUSTRY, IMPROVE OUR  
COMPENSATION STRUCTURE AND HELP  
EACH OF US FUNDRAISE FOR IT.**

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**LINK TO SURVEY:**

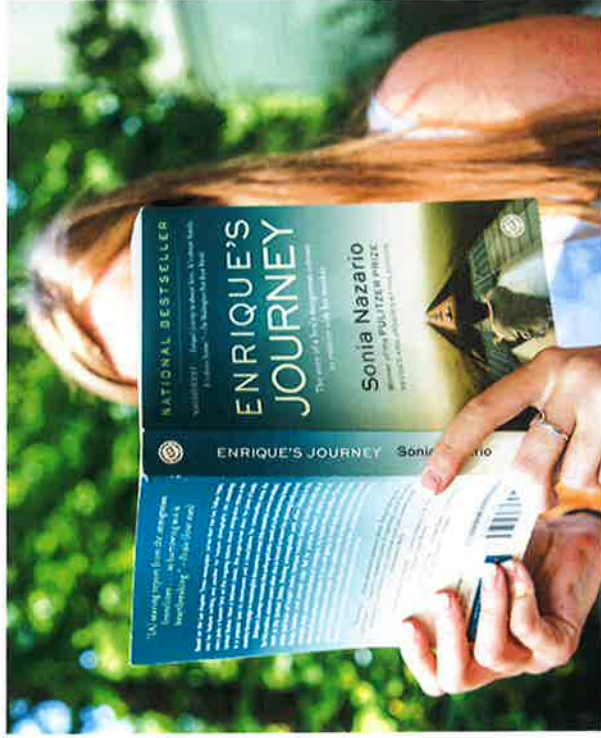
**[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/4BTZJNB6](https://tinyurl.com/4BTZJNB6)**

**SURVEY CLOSES MAY 27**



# JOIN US FOR **BOOK CLUB**

Pick up Enrique's Journey by Sonia Nazario which helps us explore the immigrant journey through a Latinx perspective. Join the conversation!



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**JUNE 21ST**  
**VIA ZOOM:**  
**[https://tinyurl.com](https://tinyurl.com/mrf496ud)**  
**/mrf496ud**

For more info email:  
**[gayle@allianceforhs.org](mailto:gayle@allianceforhs.org)**