

# Advocate for 708



# What does it do?

- Evaluates community needs and creates targeted local support
- Strategizes, plans and allocates funding
- Coordinates a comprehensive system of services to help people living with
  - Mental health issues
  - Intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)
  - Substance use issues.
- Reduces or eliminates long waiting lists and gaps in services
- Can only be used for Wheeling Township residents

# What is a 708 Board ?

- A local citizens' board established by referendum
- Volunteer board of 7-9 members
- Appointed by the Township Board Supervisor
- Accountable to the citizens of our community
- More than ninety in Illinois
- Governed by the Illinois Community Mental Health Act
- Are not service providers

# The Need and the Numbers

## Mental Health

- ER visits and calls to Alexian Brothers Center for Mental Health were up over 22% from the prior year.
- June 2019 to Sept 2020, local police officers answered 973 calls related to mental health and/or substance use crisis.
  - Approx. 65 calls per month; 16 calls per week; 2 calls per day
  - More than one quarter of these calls (266) were suicide-related



# Mental Health Care by the Percent

## Mental Health Care **MATTERS**

Mental health treatment — therapy, medication, self-care — have made recovery a reality for most people experiencing mental illness. Although taking the first steps can be confusing or difficult, it's important to start exploring options.

The average delay between symptom onset and treatment is

**11 YEARS**

### PEOPLE WHO GET TREATMENT IN A GIVEN YEAR

**45%** of adults with mental illness

**66%** of adults with serious mental illness

**51%** of youth (6-17) with a mental health condition

### Adults with a mental health diagnosis who received treatment or counseling in the past year

**23%** of Asian adults

**33%** of Black adults

**34%** of Hispanic or Latinx adults

**43%** of adults who report mixed/multiracial

**49%** of lesbian, gay and bisexual adults

**50%** of white adults

# The Need and the Numbers

## Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities

- 300 Wheeling Township residents with I/DD are on a statewide waitlist (PUNS).
  - 7 to 8 year wait for services.
- In the next 10 years 28,000 children will move from Special Ed Services onto the PUNS list.
- Community based services have faced budget insecurity



# The Need and the Numbers

## Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities

- CDC's latest number on autism: "1 in 42 boys and 1 in 189 girls having an autism spectrum disorder."

## Mental Health

- Issues affect approximately 1 in 4 adults in a given year. Of those with some form of mental illness, 1 in 17 will live with a serious mental disorder such as schizophrenia, major depression or bipolar disorder.

**Most families in our area know someone, or have a family member, with a mental illness, development disability or substance use issue.**



# The Need and the Numbers

## Substance Use Disorders

Substance Use Disorder is a chronic **brain disease** that causes a person to take drugs or alcohol repeatedly, despite the harm they cause.

- In 2020, in Wheeling Township
  - 60 residents died from opiate overdose.
  - Another 184 individuals were treated for non-fatal emergency visits and hospitalizations.



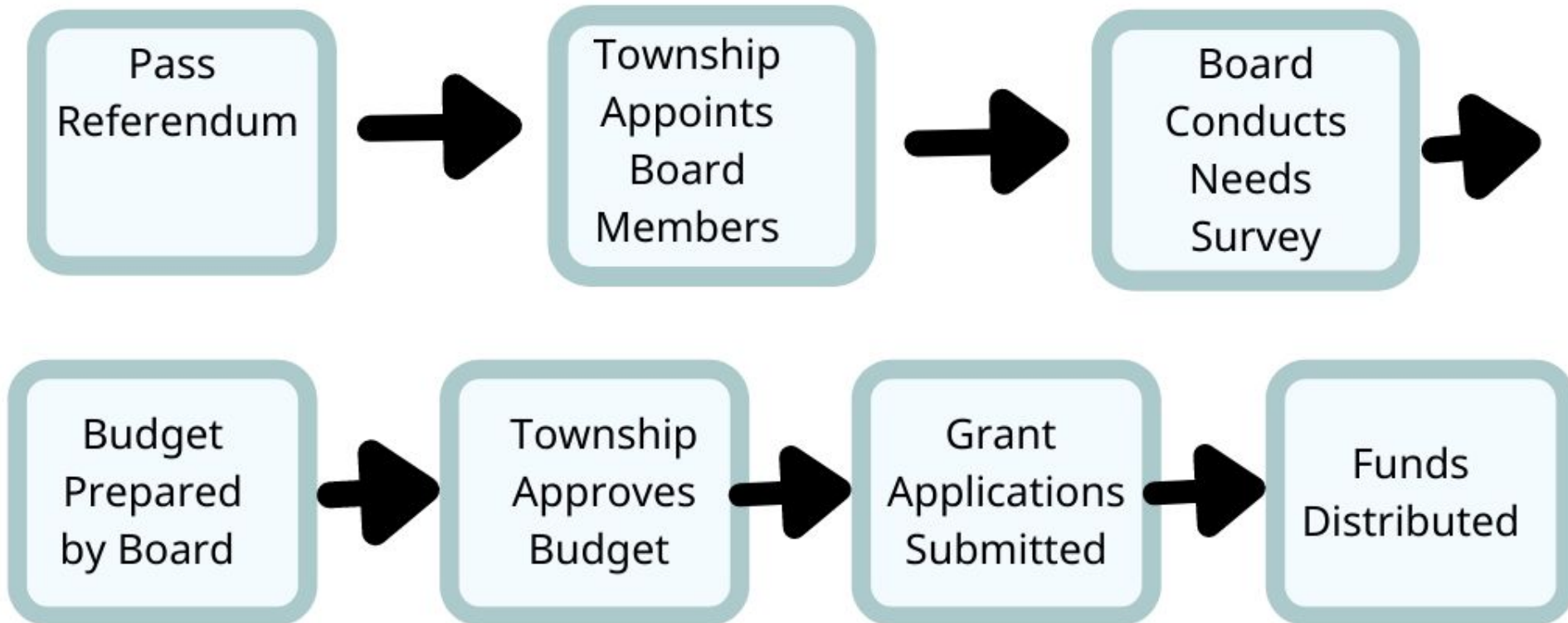
# The Need and the Numbers

## Substance Use Disorders

- Drug overdose deaths reached an all-time high of 100,000 Americans from April 2020 - April 2021
  - A nearly 28.5% surge from the record numbers we saw in 2020
- Illinois opioid deaths increased 20% in 2020



# Process to Creation of a 708 Board



# How much does it cost?

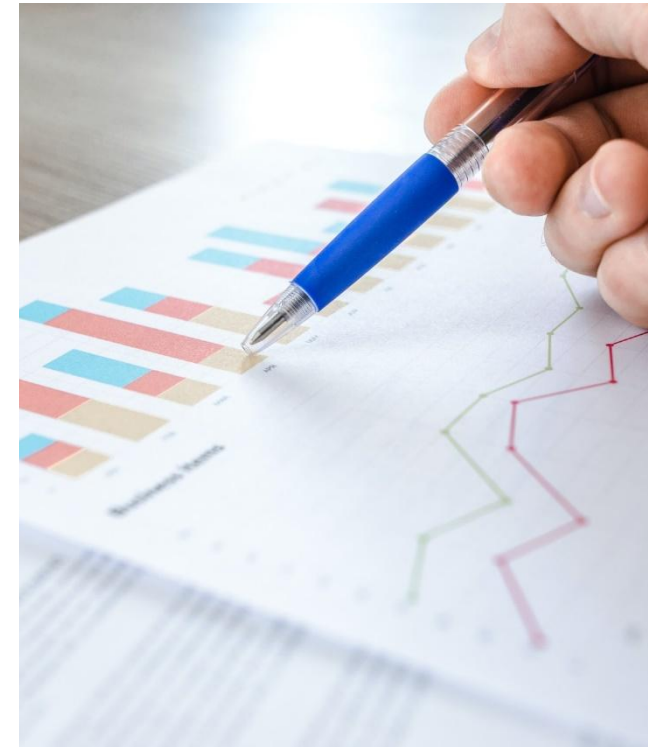
First and most importantly – you and your neighbors get to choose.

- For about the price of a pizza delivered to your home, you can be sure that your money stays in the community and provides critical services for people with mental health issues, intellectual and developmental disabilities and substance use issues.



# 708 Board Funding

- The levy is capped at 0.15% of the equalized assessed property value.
- To raise \$1.5 million dollars, the cost for the median priced home would be \$28.36 annually, at tax rate of 0.026%.
- What do other 708 boards charge?
- Currently 9 boards in Cook County
  - Avg funds raised = \$1.637 M
  - Avg tax rate = 0.082%



# 708 Boards Work

- In Bloomingdale, social workers were added to all community police forces
- McHenry County offers QPR (Question, Persuade and Refer) a suicide intervention training for families & professionals
- Oak Park township, during COVID, connected parents of children with I/DD, to caregivers for support
- Hanover Township, in just 9 months, provided services to more than 5% of their population



**Let's Make Our  
Community Even  
Better!**

# Contact Us

Lorri Grainawi

[lorri.grainawi@gmail.com](mailto:lorri.grainawi@gmail.com)

(815) 575-3106

Facebook - Mental Health Boards for Wheeling Township

<https://www.advocatefor708.org/>



# References

## Cost Calculations - WT

- Total Equalized Assessed Value in WT = \$5,713,696,276.00
- 1.5 million = .026% of Total Equalized Assessed value
- Median assessed home value is \$335,080.00
- Median equalized assessed value is \$108,009.69
- \$108,009.69 multiplied by 0.026% is \$28.36

# Oak Park example

- Also raises \$1.5 million dollars
- However their Total Equalized Assessed Value is less than half
- Oak Park population is also less than half of Wheeling Township
- Their median home price is 25% more
- Because their total income is less, home prices are higher, and they are raising the same amount of money, cost per home is also higher, \$102