

RESOLUTION 2005-17

Honoring Dr. Kenneth O. Slater

WHEREAS, Ken Slater has committed his professional life to freeing people from institutions so that they may lead lives with dignity and choice in the community. He carried out this commitment for the past 32 years through a number of roles within the Community Mental Health (CMH) Authority of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties.

WHEREAS, While at CMH he has served as a case manager, the Supervisor of CMH's Life Consultation unit, as the Director of CMH's Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled and as the organization's Deputy Executive Director.

WHEREAS, Ken led CMH in its growth and development from a struggling community-based organization to a highly sophisticated organization, employing leading edge clinical and administrative capabilities. He is known as a pioneer, humanitarian and quiet champion for persons with disabilities, the marginalized, and the vulnerable in our society. Through his creativity and perseverance, he developed resources and services where none existed to empower people with disabilities.

WHEREAS, In being a life long champion for people with disabilities, Ken recognized that he needed many co-champions to move things to a better space. To that end, while he seeks accessibility and inclusion for all people in the community, he himself is always accessible. He reaches out to everyone, encourages initiative as much as is humanly possible, and is model for fairness. In his thirty-two years of service, he has earned widespread respect in large part for his humble, unassuming manner. The next time he takes credit for any of CMH's many splendid accomplishments will be the first time. Through his personal example of working hard and with great purpose, he has been an inspiration to the hundreds of staff who have looked to him for leadership.

WHEREAS, Ken has, over the last three decades, quietly and effectively unleashed the potential of CMH and those whom it serves through his caring, competence and unmatched commitment. Through his leadership and great concern for people in need, he has created a corporate culture where all can make significant contributions.

WHEREAS, In addition to Ken's work at CMH, he has been actively involved in humanitarian efforts throughout the community, nation, and the world. These include traveling with his wife Donna, annually, to Catacamas, Honduras to build a playground, install a sewer system, put in a water line, set up a computer system and refurbish a school there; funding a scholarship so that a child living in poverty may attend the School of the Good Samaritan; serving as a board member at his church; serving as religious education teacher for twenty nine years; serving for twenty five years as a counselor and board member of the Michigan Christian Youth Camp; being an active member, for the past fifteen years, of the Rochester College Presidential Development Board; and preparing meals for people who seek assistance at Advent House.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Clinton County Board of Commissioners salutes Dr. Kenneth O. Slater for his exceptional service as Deputy Executive Director of the Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clinton County Board of Commissioners commends and offers our respect to Dr. Kenneth O. Slater as he retires after 32 years of exceptional service to the tri-county community.

Signed this 28th day of June, 2005.

John W. Arehart, Chairperson

Diane Zuker, County Clerk