

THE COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S RESOURCE BOARD  
OF ST. CHARLES COUNTY  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
October 15, 2020

**Meeting Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. The meeting was held in-person and via Zoom, a video conferencing online application, due to community restrictions caused by the COVID-19 virus.

**Roll Call and Guests:**

Present: Molly Dempsey, Cory Elliott, Pastor Raymond Horry, Larry Marty, Nancy Schneider, and Catherine Williams

Staff: Bruce Sowatsky, Michelle McElfresh, and Jeanne Spencer

Absent: Paul Boschert (work), Allison Onder (vacation), and Ken Dobbins

Guests: Mark Halastik (Big Brothers Big Sisters), Sissy Swift and Laura Cook (The Child Center, Inc.), Sheri Wiltse (Community Living, Inc.), Gayla Gibson (Lutheran Family & Children's Services), Kate Bohlhofer (Megan Meier Foundation), Megan Payton (Preferred Family Healthcare), Kirk Kasicki (The Sparrow's Nest), Steve Bourne and Greg Dahl (UMSL Center for Behavioral Health), Denise Liebel and Lori Kohrs (United Services for Children), Cara Merritt (Youth In Need), and Cheri Thurman

**Public Comment:** No Public Comment.

**Report of the Chair:** No Report of the Chair.

**New Business:**

- **2020 Supplemental Funding Decisions:** Bruce Sowatsky reported the CCRB received eight (8) Supplemental Funding applications, of which two agencies requested to rescind their applications. The total request from the six remaining applications was \$95,713.11 on a budget of \$200,000.

The CCRB received Supplemental funding requests from:

Bethany Christian Services		
Respite	70 units	\$3,780.00
The Child Center, Inc.		
School-based Prevention	40 units	\$13,800.40
Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition		
30 Days to Family	145 units	\$21,462.90
Megan Meier Foundation		
Counseling	25 units	\$2,931.50
UMSL Center for Behavioral Health		
Psychological Assessments	294 units	\$28,194.60
United Services for Children		
Behavioral Services	5,517 units	\$25,543.71

A motion was made to approve the 2020 Supplemental funding requests as presented for a total of \$95,713.11. (M.S.P.: Elliott/Marty) – Motion passed.

**Review of 2018-2020 Strategic Plan:** CCRB Board members discussed the 2018-2020 Strategic Plan. Consultant Wendy Dyer reported on the accomplishments made during in the areas of Expanding Our System of Care, Early Identification of Mental Illness and Prevention, Improve the Application Process, and Data and Public Relations. Positive county-wide accomplishments include a reduction in infant mortality, fewer teen pregnancies, and a decrease in juvenile delinquency offenders.

**Emerging Challenges:** Wendy reported the emerging challenges for CCRB are an anticipated increase in need, with 6,400 youth in need of services beyond the current system’s capacity, and a \$23 million shortage in funding.

**SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis:** The CCRB staff and 3 partner agencies focus groups provided SWOT feedback of the CCRB to Wendy and she reported the focus group findings.

- Areas identified as strengths included: collective data; collaborative effort; relationships amongst agencies; Executive Director mentoring and thought leadership; responsiveness and customer service of staff; community engagement; and the CCRB newsletter.
- Areas identified as weaknesses included: too few staff; application system and document submission requirements are complicated; reimbursement is issued as a paper check; utilization policy; agency hearings before the Board; the rotation and transition process for Board members; upcoming retirement of the Executive Director; and the emergency funding process.
- Areas of opportunity included: increase funding; support state efforts to collect an online sales tax; establish a regional data commission and share data with the United Way; continue community engagement efforts; provide training for System of Care members; continued bridge building with mental health providers; and further public education about needs, trends, and community impact.
- Areas of threat included: agencies being able to provide competitive pay and find talented staff; reduced agency budgets due to COVID-19 effects; federal tax credit reductions on charitable giving; increased demand for services and service delivery restrictions as a result of COVID-19; the Executive Director’s planned retirement in 2025 and a change in leadership.

**Focus Group Feedback and Survey Results:** Wendy distributed an 18-question survey to partnering agency Executive Directors and Program Managers prior to the Focus Group sessions. There were 26 responses to the survey received and included in the data. Questions were divided into three categories: Administration, Relationship, and Community Involvement.

**Strategic Plan Topics:** Wendy presented potential strategic plan topics, originating from the SWOT Analysis, Focus Groups, and the Agency Survey. Five primary topics emerged:

1. How Funding Decisions are Made
  - a. Funding decisions process in terms of procedures; frequency of funding; and priority setting.

2. Tax Campaign to increase services funding
  - a. What is the CCRB's role in a community initiative to increase services funding?
3. Succession Planning for the Executive Director
  - a. The Board should refine the process for the Executive Director's succession and consider whether there a need to hire someone with a clinical background.
4. Diversity, Racism, and Prejudice
  - a. Should the CCRB collect data on gender, race, and culture? If so, how will this data be used?
  - b. What role should the CCRB play in increasing access to services?
5. Expansion of the System of Care
  - a. What is the impact of Crisis Intervention Team training for law enforcement officers?
  - b. Mitigating the stigma of mental health conditions and public education.

**Breakout Groups:** Board members formed into two groups and discussed the Strategic Plan topics.

**Visioning Exercises:** Board members participated in a visioning exercise to better determine the direction and focus for the CCRB.

**Announcements:** Molly Dempsey from St. Charles County Government announced a free COVID-19 testing on Friday, October 16 and Saturday, October 17 at the Family Arena at 2002 Arena Parkway, St. Charles.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:02 p.m. (M.S.P.: Dempsey/Williams) – Motion passed.