

THE COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S RESOURCE BOARD  
OF ST. CHARLES COUNTY  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
February 22, 2021

**Meeting Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

**Roll Call and Guests:**

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

Absent: Allison Onder and Ken Dobbins (travel)

Staff: Bruce Sowatsky, Michelle McElfresh, and Jeanne Spencer

Guests: Rapheal Ingram (Behavioral Health Response), Mark Halastik (Big Brothers Big Sisters), Karen Englert and Jacquelynne McClelland (Boys & Girls Club), Ben Chambers (CHADS Coalition for Mental Health), Christine TenEyck (The Child Center, Inc.), Todd Barnes (Community Council of St. Charles County), Sheri Wiltse (Community Living), Katrina McDonald Fuller (Compass Health Network), DiAnne Mueller (Crisis Nursery), Jessica Coulter (Epworth Children & Family Services), Heather Lytle and Rachel Svejkosky (F.A.C.T. – Family Advocacy & Community Training), Anne Zink (Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition), Shima Rostami (Gateway Human Trafficking), Kathy Thompson (LINC St. Charles County), Gayla Gibson (Lutheran Family & Children's Services), Tina Meier (Megan Meier Foundation), Christine Patterson (NAMI St. Louis), Melinda Monroe (Nurses for Newborns), Denise Fondren and Kaitlyn Ashen (Our Lady's Inn), Kelly Broeker, and Megan Payton (Preferred Family Healthcare), Sandra Barker (Saint Louis Counseling), Katie Roam and Kirk Kasicki (The Sparrow's Nest), Brittany Morgan (Sts. Joachim & Ann Care Service), Felicia Linear and Madronica Malone (ThriVe St. Louis), Amy Willard and Nathan Harms (TREE House of Greater St. Louis), Cara Merritt (Youth In Need), Jennifer Patterson (Francis Howell School District), and Cheri Thurman

**Board Member Oath of Office:** Molly Dempsey, Cory Elliott, and Catherine Williams were sworn in for a new term ending 12/31/2023.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the January 25, 2021 Board Minutes. (M.S.P.: Boschert/Elliott) – Motion passed.

**Partner Presentation:**

- **Family Advocacy & Community Training – F.A.C.T.:** Heather Lytle, Executive Director, gave an overview of the Parent Partner services F.A.C.T. provides to St. Charles County youth through with Compass Health Network's Partnership with Families program. F.A.C.T. provides the Parent Partners component, which provides peer-to-peer wraparound support to parents and caregivers of children with a mental health condition. In 2020, they served 634 families; even with the effects of COVID-19 they were able to support families as needed.
- **TREE House of Greater St. Louis:** Nathan Harms, Executive Director, and Amy Willard, Director of Programs, gave an overview of their Equine-Assisted Therapy

services for children in St. Charles County and how the therapy impacts youth in St. Charles County. Due to COVID-19 they have reduced the amount of clients they can serve, but they are working to transition to full service availability as soon as it is safe. They have been providing virtual and limited in-person services since March 2020.

**Public Comment:** No Public Comment.

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

**Report of the Treasurer:** Cory Elliott gave the Report of the Treasurer and reported on the financial statement ending January 31, 2021. The following balances were reported:

<b>Balance</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Budget for Month</b>
Services Fund	\$2,672,437.26	
Current Assets	\$3,907,601.82	
Actual tax revenues	\$658,763.59	\$684,741.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$7,658.41	
Total Revenue	\$666,422.00	\$684,665.00
Services Requests	\$724,851.15	\$716,548.57

Explanation of the 17 line items that were over the 5% variance and over \$1,000 included: The Child Center (advocacy and forensic interviews), Community Council (coordinated entry), Compass Health Network (psychiatry), Eleventh Circuit Family Court (supervised visitation), FamilyForward (counseling and psychological assessments), and Lutheran Family & Children's Services (counseling) were due to high demand. The Child Center (prevention), Compass Health Network (Pinocchio – individual, School-Based Prevention, and School-Based Mental Health Specialists), Saint Louis Counseling (crisis interventions), and United Services for Children (specialized classroom) were over the variance due to school-based usage. Compass Health Network (Medicaid match) was over due to multiple months of billing.

A motion was made to approve a wire-transfer for \$725,000.00 for the month of January. (M.S.P.: Elliott/Marty) – Motion passed.

Cory reported reimbursements for January were issued using the new electronic check system.

All of CCRB invoices and bills paid were completed with 100% accuracy.

**Report of Standing Committees:**

- Children's Trust Fund: Bruce Sowatsky reported the 2021 Children's Trust Fund contracts and faux checks were mailed to agencies. In lieu of the annual check presentation, each agency was asked to take a photo with their faux check and submit it to the CCRB. The press release and photos will be sent to the CTF office.
- Finance: No Finance Committee report.
- Personnel: No Personnel Committee report.
- Executive – Policies and Procedures: Larry Marty reported he will meet with Bruce to plan out the 2021 policy review.

**Report of Executive Director:** Bruce Sowatsky reported:

- The Missouri Ethics Committee forms and state link were distributed by email to the Board and are due to the State by May 1.
- The CCRB Conflict of Interests forms were distributed to Board members with instructions to complete and return to Jeanne Spencer.
- Board members are needed to join an Ad Hoc committee to review the CCRB Request for Funding Proposals process.
- The CCRB's 2020 audit was conducted and there appears to be no concerns from the auditor.
- Bruce and Michelle McElfresh met with the five public school district Superintendents about increasing awareness of mental health services for students and who to contact in regards to data about new prevention education mandates from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- Agency partners submitted their Year-End Reports and Michelle will present on this at the March 22 Board meeting.
- Jeanne Spencer has scheduled virtual tours with agency partners. The first virtual tour is on 2/26 at 10:00 a.m. with Thrive St. Louis. Invitations and an electronic sign up form will be sent to the Board and agency partners as the tours are available.
- Bruce is monitoring the reimbursement of 2020 Emergency funds and all but two agencies have completed their contracts.

**Old Business:**

- **Preferred Family Healthcare – Service Rates:** Bruce reported Preferred Family Healthcare's (PFH) funding request was tabled at the January meeting. PFH has provided further justification for the salary increases. PFH requested for Home & Community-based services – Team of Concern a rate increase of \$9.37 for counseling (\$12,630.76) and a rate increase of \$4.12 for school-based services (\$21,370.44). The rates are over the audited rate costs in order to account for an increase in staff salaries and expansion of services. The Board discussed the request.

A motion was made to approve Preferred Family Healthcare's Home & Community-based services – Team of Concern's counseling request for a rate increase of \$9.37 (\$12,630.76) and school-based services' request for a rate increase of \$4.12 (\$21,370.44) as presented. (M.S.P.: Dempsey/Elliott) – Motion passed.

**New Business:**

- **Gateway Human Trafficking Request:** Bruce reported he and Michelle met with Shima Rostami, Executive Director for Gateway Human Trafficking, about their contract and they decided to consolidate their two line items into a single rate for their presentations based on similar contracted services. The new contract would include a single line item of Community Presentations for 120 units at a rate of \$172.50 per hour (\$20,658.00.) These adjustments do not exceed the original contracted amount for 2021 services.

A motion was made to approve Gateway Human Trafficking's request to amend their contract by combining the two line items into one, Community Presentations, for 120 units at a rate of \$172.50 per hour (\$20,658.00.) (M.S.P.: Boschert/Williams) – Motion passed.

- **Youth In Need Request:** Bruce reported Youth In Need submitted a request to expand funding in order to fulfill a request by the Francis Howell School District for more counseling services. Youth In Need is requesting \$71,582.50 for 535 units at \$109.50 (counseling - individual) and 200 units at \$65.00 (counseling - student), which would be used to serve 65 students. Dr. Jennifer Patterson, Director of Student Services for Francis Howell School district, spoke on behalf of this request and the imminent need for expanded counseling services in the district.

A motion was made to fund half of Youth In Need's emergency funding request for counseling. (M.S.: Elliott) – Motion failed for no second.

- **Berry Organizational Leadership Development (BOLD) Contract:** Bruce recommended the Board hire Dr. Cynthia Berry and BOLD to conduct further analysis of the data from the Missouri Student Survey in regards to school suspensions relating to student race. The cost would be \$11,000 for this service.

A motion was made to approve the contract with Berry Organizational and Leadership Development for \$11,000 as presented. (M.S.P.: Elliott/Dempsey) – Motion passed.

#### **Announcements:**

Todd Barnes, Community Council of St. Charles Council, announced:

1. Their educational series on behavioral health concludes this week with presentations on February 23, 10am by Angela Berra with NAMI and on February 25, 10am by Lisa Wenger with SSM Health. For information about upcoming events, visit [www.communitycouncilstc.org](http://www.communitycouncilstc.org).
2. Todd also announced there is state assistance for housing relief to help people who are struggling with rent and utility costs. Coordinated Entry will have some assistance available through this. To apply visit <http://www.mohousingresources.com/safhr>.

Karen Englert, Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Charles County, announced they will provide their Summer Blast program at both locations for youth 6-18 years old. Information is available at [www.bgcstc.org/summer](http://www.bgcstc.org/summer).

**Adjournment:** A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 a.m. (M.S.P.: Elliott/Boschert) – Motion passed.