

THE COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S RESOURCE BOARD
OF ST. CHARLES COUNTY
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2021

Meeting Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m.

Roll Call and Guests:

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

Absent: Ken Dobbins (vacation), Allison Onder, and Jeanne Spencer (personal)

Staff: Bruce Sowatsky and Michelle McElfresh

Guests: Karen Englert and Jacquelynne McClelland (Boys & Girls Club), Ben Chambers (CHADS Coalition for Mental Health), Cindy Hemstedt, Amy Robins, Christine TenEyck, and Porscha Thorpe (The Child Center, Inc.), Dottie Kastigar (Community Council of St. Charles County), Sheri Wiltse (Community Living), Katrina McDonald Fuller and Katie Jones (Compass Health Network), DiAnne Mueller (Crisis Nursery), Jessica Coulter and Stephanie Klopner (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), Courtney Knipp (Lutheran Family & Children's Services), Tina Meier (Megan Meier Foundation), Melinda Monroe (Nurses for Newborns), Denise Fondren and Kaitlyn Ashen (Our Lady's Inn), Kelly Broeker, and Megan Payton (Preferred Family Healthcare), Saundra Barker (Saint Louis Counseling), Katie Roam and Kirk Kasicki (The Sparrow's Nest), Brittany Morgan (Saints Joachim & Ann Care Service), Felicia Linear and Madronica Malone (ThriVe St. Louis), Amy Willard (TREE House of Greater St. Louis), Denise Liebel (United Services for Children), Cara Merritt and Michelle Gorman (Youth In Need), Jennifer Patterson (Francis Howell School District), Mike Williams (Sikich), and Cheri Thurman

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the March 22, 2021 Board minutes. (M.S.P.: Boschert/Williams) – Motion passed.

Report of the Auditor: Mike Williams, Auditor for Sikich, reported on the 2020 CCRB Audit. Board members asked questions and Mike provided answers. The audit is clean and Sikich had no recommendations.

Partner Presentation:

- **Behavioral Health Response:** Rapheal Ingram, Account Manager for Behavioral Health Response, gave an overview of the 24/7 Youth Connection Helpline managed by BHR. The Helpline is available in St. Charles, St. Louis, and Franklin counties, and in St. Louis City area by call, text, or chat and is a direct link to master's-level clinicians. Services available through the helpline include mobile outreach, mental health assessments, referrals, psychoeducation, and follow-up support. A new service available is a 911-diversion system in St. Louis, where mental health crisis calls are re-routed to BHR from the 911 dispatchers.

- **Saint Louis Crisis Nursery:** DiAnne Mueller, CEO for Saint Louis Crisis Nursery, presented an overview of the services and programs the Nursery provides for families and children under age 13 in St. Charles County. They offer 24 hour emergency care and the Family Empowerment program at three St. Charles County Nurseries, which gives families wraparound support to help keep children safe from child abuse and neglect. During COVID-19, they added telehealth and virtual parenting support groups. DiAnne shared the demand for rent and utilities support has increased with COVID-19 and the Nursery was able to pay \$280,000 in rent and utilities across their service area. They serve an average of 100 children per month in St. Charles County.

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 March 31, 2021. The following balances were reported:

Balance	Amount	Budget for Month
Services Fund	\$2,814,412.30	
Current Assets	\$4,058,274.88	
Actual tax revenues	\$789,472.88	\$684,741.00
Investment Income	\$828.71	
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$10,120.00	
Total Revenue	\$800,421.59	\$684,665.00
Services Requests	\$712,680.98	\$719,382.02

Explanation of the 31 line items that were over the 5% variance and over \$1,000 included: Boys & Girls Clubs (center-based), The Child Center (advocacy and forensic interviews), Community Council (coordinated entry), Compass Health Network (Partnership with Families – psychiatry, care coordination, and parent partner), Crisis Nursery (home-based), Epworth Children & Family Services (psychological assessments), FamilyForward (psychological assessments), Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition (30 Days to Family and Family Works), Gateway Human Trafficking (presentations), Lutheran Family & Children’s Services (counseling), Megan Meier Foundation (counseling-individual), Preferred Family Healthcare (Outpatient – assessments and counseling-group) Saint Louis Counseling (counseling), UMSL Center for Behavioral Health (psychological assessments) and Youth In Need (counseling and counseling-student) were due to high demand. CHADS Coalition for Mental Health (prevention), The Child Center (school-based prevention), Compass Health Network (Pinocchio-group, Pinocchio-individual, School-Based Prevention, and School-Based Mental Health Specialists), Kids Under Twenty One (school-based prevention), NAMI St. Louis (school-based prevention and Crisis Intervention Team), Saint Louis Counseling (crisis interventions), and United Services for Children (social work) were over the variance due to school-based usage.

A motion was made to approve a wire-transfer for \$713,000.00 for the month of March. (M.S.P.: Elliott/Dempsey) – Motion passed.

Bruce reported revenues have increased 2.5% over 2020 year to date. All 2020 Emergency Funding Contracts have been reimbursed on time and as agreed.

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

Report of Standing Committees:

- Children's Trust Fund: Bruce reported the Children's Trust Fund will focus on funding Safe Sleep-focused programs for the next 4 years and the CCRB will not be a CTF partner during 2022-2024. However, the CCRB will have approximately \$2,500 in additional funds for a short term grant in 2021. It is recommended that agencies who were awarded CTF funds for 2021 submit their expenses by July.
- Finance: No Finance Committee report.
- Personnel: No Personnel Committee report.
- Executive – Policies and Procedures: No Executive – Policies and Procedures Report.

Report of Executive Director: Bruce Sowatsky reported:

- The CCRB received the 2021 Workplace Wellness Award from Community Strong.
- Spring site audits are underway and are going well.
- Bruce is monitoring current state legislation concerning the removal of local property taxes and a statewide prescription drug monitoring program.
- School survey about mental health needs and investments were distributed to the five public school districts and responses were emailed to the Board. Results indicate districts are investing heavily in suicide and sexual abuse prevention programming for students and staff. Feedback also indicates there is an increase in students showing warning signs for suicide and an increase in demand for appropriate mental health services.
- CCRB staff and Board members have volunteered at the St. Charles County Public Health vaccine clinics and volunteers are still needed for future clinics.

Old Business: No Old Business.

New Business:

- **2022 Application Process:**
A motion was made to conduct a First Reading of the 2022 Application Process recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Application Committee.
(M.S.P.: Schneider/Dempsey) – Motion passed.

Bruce reported the Ad Hoc Application Committee met and drafted recommendations for the Board to review for a First Reading. A summary of the recommendations was emailed to the Board for review. Proposed changes include:

1. Remove priorities from the application process
2. Move to a two-year grant cycle for currently funded partners and new programs from current partners in line with the current cycle. New programs applied for mid-cycle will be eligible for a one-year grant.
3. Agencies currently not funded by the CCRB may apply for a one-year grant.
4. A new category for scoring will evaluate timeliness and quality of documents submitted to the CCRB.

5. Agency Hearings for the first year of the two-year contract will be eliminated and replaced with a checklist summary. Agency Hearings for first time applicants and new programs will be held annually. The Board reserves the right to hold a hearing with any agency of concern.
6. The Board will hold a Closed Session prep meeting with CCRB staff to prepare for the December funding meeting. The purpose will be to review documents and address any questions the Board has about applications. A set agenda will be pre-determined by the Board and no funding decisions will be made during the closed session.

Announcements:

DiAnne Mueller, Crisis Nursery, announced their annual conference on April 30, from 9:00 to 12:30 p.m., featuring speakers who are experts in their field and topics relevant to Counselors and Social Workers' work. Topics include suicide prevention, trauma, and self-care. Register at www.crisisnurserykids.org.

Karen Englert, Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Charles County, announced they will provide their Summer Blast program at both club locations for youth 6-18 years old. Information is available at www.bgcstc.org/summer. She also announced they have cloth face masks to share thanks to a large donation from Old Navy.

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 a.m. (M.S.P.: Boschert/Marty)– Motion passed.