

THE COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S RESOURCE BOARD
OF ST. CHARLES COUNTY
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2021

Meeting Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:01 a.m.

Roll Call and Guests:

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

Absent: Allison Onder

Staff: Bruce Sowatsky, Michelle McElfresh, Jeanne Spencer

Guests: 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, Paula Ellis, and Stephanie Klopner (Epworth Children & Family Services), Heather Lytle and Rachel Svejkosky (F.A.C.T. – Family Advocacy & Community Training), Jamie Scaccia (FamilyForward), Anne Zink (Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition), Shima Rostami (Gateway Human Trafficking), Charles Patterson (Lutheran Family & Children's Services), Tina Meier and Will Wallis (Megan Meier Foundation), Angela Berra and Christine Patterson (NAMI St. Louis), Melinda Monroe (Nurses for Newborns), Denise Fondren and Kaitlyn Ashen (Our Lady's Inn), Kelly Broeker (Preferred Family Healthcare), Sandra Barker (Saint Louis Counseling), Katie Roam and Rebecca Ingle (The Sparrow's Nest), Brittany Morgan (Saints Joachim & Ann Care Service), Madronica Malone (ThriVe St. Louis), Denise Liebel and Lori Kohrs (United Services for Children), Cara Merritt and Michelle Gorman (Youth In Need), Dr. Cynthia Berry (BOLD), and Cheri Thurman

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the April 26, 2021 Board minutes. (M.S.P.: Boschert/Elliott) – Motion passed.

Ken Dobbins requested the April 26, 2021 minutes be changed regarding the approval of the March 22, 2021 Board minutes. Dobbins was not present at the meeting but was listed as motion second. The CCRB staff will revise the minutes to reflect this and request approval at the June 28 Board meeting.

Partner Presentation:

- **FamilyForward:** Jamie Scaccia, Program Manager for the Assessment Team, presented an overview of FamilyForward's therapy and psychological assessment programs and the impact of these programs for St. Charles County youth who have experienced developmental trauma. Their primary population for the programs is children who are in foster care or who were adopted. FamilyForward utilizes psychological assessments to determine the level of trauma and give guidance on the best way to begin therapeutic interventions. FamilyForward has a short waitlist for therapy and a few weeks for assessments.

- LINC St. Charles County:** Kathy Thompson, Executive Director, presented an overview of LINC’s counseling, case management, wraparound, and music therapy services funded by the CCRB for St. Charles County youth. They primarily serve families who have children and who are in crisis or living in poverty. Kathy reported children in their pre-school program achieved 85% of their kindergarten-readiness goals. Many of these children also participate in music therapy and counseling with the goals of increasing social skills and self-worth and decreasing anger and disruptive outbursts. She reported staff are seeing increased trauma on the whole family because of one parent leaving a home. They currently have a few openings for counseling services.

Public Comment: No Public Comment.

Report of the Chair: Nancy Schneider commended the winners of the CCRB High School Art Contest. On May 21, the CCRB held an Open House honoring Minnie Adams, senior at Francis Howell North, and Sebastian Bierhals, freshman at Lutheran High School and featuring their original artwork which was installed in the CCRB’s office. Attendees included the students’ art teachers, their families, the CCRB Board, and Steve Ehlmann, the St. Charles County Executive.

Report of the Treasurer: Cory Elliott gave the Report of the Treasurer and reported on the financial statement ending April 30, 2021. The following balances were reported:

Balance	Amount	Budget for Month
Services Fund	\$2,749,180.98	
Current Assets	\$3,989,320.28	
Actual tax revenues	\$647,768.68	\$684,741.00
Investment Income	\$0.00	
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$0.00	
Total Revenue	\$647,768.68	\$684,665.00
Services Requests	\$818,675.56	\$719,382.02

Explanation of the 35 line items that were over the 5% variance and over \$1,000 included: Boys & Girls Clubs (center-based), CHADS Coalition for Mental Health (home-based), The Child Center (advocacy, counseling, and forensic interviews), Community Council (coordinated entry), Community Living (respite), Compass Health Network (Partnership With Families – psychiatry and care coordination), Crisis Nursery (home-based), Epworth Children & Family Services (psychological assessments), FamilyForward (psychological assessments), Gateway Human Trafficking (presentations), Lutheran Family & Children’s Services (counseling), Megan Meier Foundation (counseling-individual), Preferred Family Healthcare (Outpatient – assessment, counseling-group, and drug tests) Saint Louis Counseling (counseling), UMSL Center for Behavioral Health (psychological assessments) and Youth In Need (counseling and student counseling) were due to high demand. CHADS Coalition for Mental Health (prevention), The Child Center (school-based prevention), Compass Health Network (Pinocchio-group, Pinocchio-individual, and School-Based Mental Health Specialists), Saint Louis Counseling (crisis interventions), and United Services for Children (social work and specialized classroom) were over the variance due to school-based usage. Compass Health Network (Partnership With Families – Medicaid Match) was over the variance due to multiple months of billing.

A motion was made to approve a wire-transfer for \$817,700.00 for the month of April.
(M.S.P.: Elliott/Dempsey) – Motion passed.

Bruce reported revenues have increased 3.8% over 2020 year to date and NAMI St. Louis' school-based prevention program has expended 100% of funding for 2021.

All 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 reimbursement request is due in June.
- Finance: No Finance Committee report.
- Personnel: No Personnel Committee report.
- Executive – Policies and Procedures: Bruce reported the committee will review Governance policies this summer.

Report of Executive Director: Bruce Sowatsky reported:

- Spring site audits are 90% completed and Michelle McElfresh will report on at the June 28 Board meeting.
- The Missouri Legislature passed a Wayfair Tax in May, however there are no early indicators of the impact it will have on the CCRB revenues.
- Utilization for programs is beginning to increase and year-to-date, 60% of programs are projected to use 70% of funds or greater.
- The CCRB received a proposal from a consultant to analyze racial data and access to mental health services. Bruce will review the proposal with Cory Elliott and they will provide recommendations to the Board on next steps.
- Bruce and Michelle will meet in June with the Executive Directors of the CCRB-funded agencies to discuss utilization, priorities, and the changes to the funding process approved by the Board in April.
- Bruce will convene a think tank with agencies in August to discuss staff shortages and retention and how it is impacting the ability of agencies to provide services to the community.
- The CCRB's open house honoring the Art Contest winners was well attended and Bruce commended Jeanne Spencer for her efforts in organizing and conducting the Art Contest and Open House.
- The CCRB will be honored with the Children's Champion award from United Services for Children at their gala on August 28. Additional information will be sent out to the Board as it becomes available.

Old Business:

- **2022 Application Process:** A second reading of the proposed changes to the 2022 Application process was held. Bruce shared feedback from the agencies regarding the changes. Concerns were expressed about the closed session Board meeting, scores for application quality, and the elimination of the funding priorities system. Bruce addressed each of these concerns:

- Elimination of priorities is a temporary situation for the 2022-2023 funding cycle.
- The closed session meeting will increase Board efficiency during the December funding meeting; funding decisions will not be discussed.
- Application quality scores should reduce the amount of time the CCRB staff spends in processing the applications.

A motion was made to approve the changes to the 2022 Application process.
(M.S.P.: Dempsey/Marty) – Motion passed.

New Business:

- **Report from Dr. Cynthia Berry:** Dr. Cynthia Berry of Berry Organizational and Leadership Development (BOLD) presented on the 2020 Missouri Student Survey. Dr. Berry was contracted to analyze grade level and racial data for St. Charles County youth for the purpose of identifying mental health condition trends and concerns in these populations. The full report will be made available to the CCRB's funded agencies and the St. Charles County school district Superintendents.

Announcements:

Molly Dempsey, St. Charles County Government, announced a COVID-19 vaccine clinic on Thursday, May 27 at the St. Charles Family Arena from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 a.m.
(M.S.P.: Elliott/Dobbins) – Motion passed.