

THE COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S RESOURCE BOARD
OF ST. CHARLES COUNTY
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
June 28, 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, Ken Dobbins, Cory Elliott, Nancy Schneider, and Catherine Williams

Absent: Pastor Raymond Horry (vacation), Larry Marty (vacation), and Allison Onder

Staff: Bruce Sowatsky, Michelle McElfresh, Jeanne Spencer

Guests: Mark Halastik (Big Brothers Big Sisters), 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 Klopfnor (Epworth Children & Family Services), Heather Lytle and Rachel Svejkosky (F.A.C.T. – Family Advocacy & Community Training), Shima Rostami (Gateway Human Trafficking), Kathy Thompson (LINC St. Charles County), Gayla Gibson (Lutheran Family & Children's Services), Tina Meier and Will Wallis (Megan Meier Foundation), Christine Patterson (NAMI St. Louis), 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 Rebecca Ingle (The Sparrow's Nest), Brittany Morgan (Saints Joachim & Ann Care Service), Madronica Malone (Thrive St. Louis), Denise Liebel (United Services for Children), Michelle Gorman (Youth In Need), and Cheri Thurman

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

A motion was made to approve the May 24, 2021 Board minutes. (M.S.P.: Boschert/Dempsey) – Motion passed.

Partner Presentation:

- **Bethany Christian Services:** Christine Corcoran, Executive Director, presented an overview of services provided by the CCRB-funded Safe Families for Children program, which provides short-term respite care for children whose families are experiencing a crisis. They are currently recruiting families to host children and mentor parents, as well as referrals for children who need services.

- **Family Advocacy & Community Training (F.A.C.T.):** Heather Lytle, Executive Director, presented an overview of services provided through their Parent Partner program of the CCRB-funded Partnership With Families, which is contracted through Compass Health Network. F.A.C.T. currently serves 308 children in St. Charles County through in-person, telephone, and virtual meetings. Due to COVID, they have found they

are better able to accommodate family needs by offering virtual services in addition to the in-person services.

- **Our Lady’s Inn:** Kaitlyn Ashen, Child Advocate, presented an overview of their services funded by the CCRB. Our Lady’s Inn provides a residential shelter and individualized support plan for mothers who are homeless and pregnant. If a mother has older children, they can live at the home with them. Programs focus on parenting education, nutrition, and helping mothers find and retain stable housing, with the goal to prevent child neglect, abuse, and trauma.

Public Comment: No Public Comment.

Report of the Chair: No Report of the Chair.

Report of the Treasurer: Bruce Sowatsky gave the Report of the Treasurer on behalf of Cory Elliott and reported on the financial statement ending May 31, 2021. The following balances were reported:

Balance	Amount	Budget for Month
Services Fund	\$2,506,280.01	
Current Assets	\$3,749,454.18	
Actual tax revenues	\$575,799.03	\$684,741.00
Investment Income	\$0.00	
Fundraising	\$418.36	
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$0.00	
Total Revenue	\$567,217.39	\$684,706.67
Services Requests	\$554,523.51	\$719,611.18

Explanation of the 26 line items that were over the 5% variance and over \$1,000 included: 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 (PWF psychiatry), 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), and Youth In Need (counseling, student counseling; and shelter room & board) were due to high demand. 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 (specialized classroom) were over the variance due to school-based usage.

A motion was made to approve a wire-transfer for \$554,500.00 for the month of May. (M.S.P.: Dempsey/Dobbins) – Motion passed.

Bruce reported revenues have increased 8.5% over 2020 year-to-date.

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 billing was submitted and the reimbursement check was received. The CCRB will receive a 4th quarter disbursement and Bruce will request permission from the CTF to use this money for an additional grant.
- 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:

- Michelle McElfresh reported the CCRB conducted audits for 31 partner agencies and 51 programs. Staff reviewed a total of 727 files, of which 677 files (93.1%) met all CCRB requirements for age, residency, and billing.
- Bruce and Michelle met with the Executive Directors of partnering agencies to discuss utilization, priorities, and the changes to the funding process and reports approved by the Board in May.
- Bruce has been monitoring agency utilization and currently 60% of programs are projected to use 70% of funds or greater. Bruce recommends the Board consider waiving the 95% utilization policy for 2022-2023 funding.
- The CCRB received a proposal from a consultant to analyze racial data and access to mental health services. Bruce and Cory continue to communicate with the consultant about the proposal. Bruce will share information with the Board as it is available.
- The CCRB has higher revenues than anticipated. Bruce recommends the Board approve Supplemental funding beginning in August. If revenues continue to be high, the Board can decide to make “rolling” supplemental applications available until year end.
- 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. A survey will be emailed to Executive Directors in July to collect data about these issues.
- Agency trainings are scheduled for July 16 and July 21 to review changes to the Mid-Year and Year-End reports.
- The CCRB will be honored with the Boys & Girls Clubs’ “Child Advocate” award at their annual Crystal Ball on August 21 and with United Services for Children’s “Children’s Champion” award from United Services for Children at their gala on August 28. Additional information will be distributed to the Board as it becomes available.

Old Business: No Old Business.

New Business:

- **Line Item Transfer Request – NAMI St. Louis:** Bruce reported NAMI St. Louis has used all funding for their school-based prevention program and requests moving money from their home and community-based and crisis intervention programs in order to fund more prevention services for the remainder of the funding cycle.

A motion was made to approve the request to decrease NAMI St. Louis' Home & Community-Based services by 41.3 units (\$6,050.00) and Crisis Intervention services by 30 units (\$4,950.00) and to increase School-Based Prevention services by 55 units (\$11,000.00) as presented. (M.S.P.: Dobbins/Boschert) – Motion passed.

Announcements:

Jacquelynne McClelland announced the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Charles County will hold their annual gala on August 21 and the CCRB will be presented with their Child Advocate Award. They are also hosting a Back to School Bash for families on July 31 at the Boys & Girls Clubs' St. Charles location. All in the community are invited to attend.

Denise Fonderen announced Our Lady's Inn will host their Luncheon for Life on September 23 at Defiance Ridge Vineyards.

Heather Lytle announced Family Advocacy & Community Training (F.A.C.T.)'s Rock 'n Roll Bingo fundraiser will be held on September 18 at Old Towne Park in St. Peters.

Kathy Thompson announced LINC St. Charles County has supportive services to prevent homelessness. Contact their office at 636-332-5217 for information.

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 a.m. (M.S.P.: Dobbins/Dempsey) – Motion passed.