

THE COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S RESOURCE BOARD
OF ST. CHARLES COUNTY
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2024

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

Roll Call and Guests:

Present: Molly Dempsey, Dave Beckering, Jon Cunningham, Larry Marty, Jim Schaberg, Nancy Schneider, and Catherine Williams

Absent: Ken Dobbins (personal) and Cory Elliott (personal)

Staff: Bruce Sowatsky, Melinda McAliney, and Jeanne Spencer

Absent: Michelle McElfresh (personal) and Anna Muhm (personal)

Guests: Jessie Brown (Behavioral Health Response, Inc.); Aleisha Mulnix (Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Charles County); Colleen Pace (CHADS Coalition for Mental Health); Dottie Kastigar (Community Council of St. Charles County); Cathi Bornhop and Sheri Wiltse (Community Living, Inc); Katrina McDonald-Fuller (Compass Health Network); Rachel Svejkosky and Christine Vaccarro (Family Advocacy and Community Training - F.A.C.T); Jennifer Vorachack (FamilyForward); Kathy Thompson (LINC St. Charles County); Courtney Knipp (Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri); Melinda Monroe (Nurses for Newborns); Denise Fondren and Megan McLane (Our Lady's Inn); Kelly Broeker and Megan Payton (Preferred Family Healthcare); Angela Casimere (Saint Louis Counseling); Katie Corrigan (St. Louis Crisis Nursery); Brittany Morgan (Sts. Joachim and Ann Care Service); Allison Drese and Julie Seymore (The Child Advocacy Center); Juvaughn Baker (ThriVe St. Louis, Inc.); Lori Kohrs (United Services for Children); and Cara Merritt (Youth In Need, Inc).

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the February 26, 2024 Board Minutes. (M.S.P.: Cunningham/Williams) – Motion passed.

Partner Spotlight:

- **Our Lady's Inn:** Denise Fondren, Program Director, presented an overview of the CCRB-funded stabilization services provided to St. Charles County unhoused pregnant mothers and their children residing at Our Lady's Inn. Megan McLane, Child Advocate, gave an overview of the case management, advocacy, mandatory parenting classes, counseling, and community resources provided that support the emotional, mental, and physical wellbeing of the entire family.
- **The Child Advocacy Center of Northeast Missouri:** Julie Seymore, Executive Director, presented an overview of the CCRB-funded services provided to St. Charles County to children who have experienced sexual or physical abuse or that have witnessed a violent crime. Allison Drese, Therapist, gave an overview of the Problematic Sexualized Behavior (PSB) therapy program for children who are alleged initiators of sexual abuse against other children. The PSB program, which includes a caregiver component, has a 98% success rate in preventing future occurrences of abuse. It is open to children aged 7-10 years and is one of two programs in Missouri. The program will accept referrals from anyone, but at this time is currently full (serving 7 children) although there is a waiting list.

Public Comment: No Public Comment.

Report of the Chair: Molly Dempsey announced and introduced Melinda McAliney as the incoming Executive Director of the CCRB beginning April 16, 2024. Melinda expressed her appreciation to the Board and staff and provided a short biography along with her plan for the first 90 days.

Report of the Treasurer: Bruce Sowatsky gave the Report of the Treasurer and reported on the financial statement ending February 29, 2024. The following balances were reported:

Balance	Amount	Budget for Month
Services Fund	\$ 6,014,262.80	\$ 848,900.00
Current Assets	\$ 8,596,403.86	\$ 16,250.00
Actual tax revenues	\$ 909,568.58	
Investment Income	\$ 78,538.13	
Fundraising	\$ 0.00	\$ 50.00
Refund of Taxes	\$ 0.00	\$ (3,750.00)
Total Revenue	\$ 988,106.71	
Services Requests	\$ 1,143,682.06	
ARPA Funds	\$ 54,931.98	

Explanations of the 26 line items that were over the 5% variance and over \$1,000 included:

CHADS Coalition for Mental Health (School-Based Prevention); Compass Health Network (Pinocchio, School-Based MHS, and School-Based Prevention); Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition (Educational Advocacy); Gateway Alliance against Human Trafficking; KUTO, Kids Under Twenty One; NAMI St. Louis (School-Based Prevention); PreventEd; Saint Louis Counseling (Crisis Interventions); The Child Advocacy Center (School-Based Prevention); and Thrive St. Louis, Inc. (School-Based Prevention) were due to school-based usage. CHADS Coalition for Mental Health (Family Support, and Mentoring); Community Council (Respite); Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition (30 Days to Family and Family Works); LINC St. Charles County; Megan Meier Foundation (Counseling); St. Louis Crisis Nursery (Family Empowerment and Respite); Sts. Joachim and Ann Care Service; The Child Advocacy Center (Mental Health Counseling); Youth In Need, Inc (Crisis Interventions); and Youth In Need, Inc (Transitional Living); were due to high demand. Compass Health Network (Partnership With Families (PWF)) was due to multiple months billed.

A motion was made to approve a wire-transfer for \$1,143,700.00 for the month of February 2024. (M.S.P.: Beckering/Schaberg) – Motion passed.

A motion was made to approve a wire-transfer for ARPA for \$54,931.98 the month of February 2024. (M.S.P.: Beckering/Schneider) – Motion passed.

Utilization is strong and sales tax revenue is up 5.3% year to date over 2023.

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

Report of Standing Committees:

- Finance: No report.
- Personnel: No report.
- Executive – Policies and Procedures: Bruce Sowatsky, Melinda McAliney, and Larry Marty will meet in early summer to work on the draft changes to the Governance policies and procedures to be presented to the committee.

Report of Executive Director: Bruce Sowatsky reported:

- **New Executive Director:** Bruce and Melinda have done some preliminary onboarding and will continue to do more before her start date of April 16, 2024.
- **Auditor Update:** The auditors at CliftonLarsonAllen have been working on ARPA funds audit and staff has been providing needed information.
- **Needs Assessment Update:** The needs assessment has begun. Bruce and Melinda will meet with Dr. Berry to make this a partnership moving forward.
- **Edits to the Application/Budget Spreadsheet:** Staff is editing the application and redoing the budget spreadsheet based on feedback from the agencies.
- **Feedback on Zengine and New Funding Process:** Agencies and staff provided feedback on Zengine and changes to the grant process. This will be used to prepare for the 2025 funding cycle. Feedback was positive overall on the process. The hearing and agency spotlights will be held on separate days in November.

Old Business: No Old Business.

New Business: No New Business.

Announcements:

- Katrina McDonald-Fuller (Compass Health Network) announced Compass is looking for participant tables for their Team Up for Mental Health event, to be held on May 3, 2024 at the Boys and Girls Club.
- Julie Seymore (The Child Advocacy Center) announced their Pinwheel Ceremony for Child Abuse Awareness to be held at the Child Advocacy Center offices in Wentzville on April 5, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.
- Denise Fondren (Our Lady's Inn) announced their facility for homeless mothers and children currently has openings. Referrals are accepted through Coordinated Entry.
- Melinda Monroe (Nurses for Newborns) announced their Annual Night for Newborns on April 4, 2024, at the Chase Park Plaza. Bruce will be honored at the event as the Champion for Families.
- Rachel Svejkosky (Family Advocacy and Community Training - F.A.C.T) announced the F.A.C.T. Gala with the theme of Prom on April 13, 2024, at the Ameristar Casino.
- Jeanne Spencer (CCRB) announced items donated from the Shower of Love are available for agencies.

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 a.m.
(M.S.P.: Williams/Beckering) – Motion passed.