



St. Louis Office for Developmental Disability Resources
Minutes of the Program Committee
October 12, 2023

Board Members Present:

Ken Franklin
 Cynthia Mueller, Committee Chairperson
 Sherry Wibbenmeyer

Board Members Absent:

Nina North-Murphy

Staff Members Present:

Shaelene Plank, Executive Director
 Nate (Nathaniel) Head, Director of Agency &
 Community Relations

Samantha Montgomery, Director of Service
 Coordination
 Ebony Young, Agency Relations Representative
 Rachel Shapiro, Executive Assistant

Guests Present: None

The meeting was called to order by Cynthia Mueller at 4:07 pm.

- Approval of Funding Manual
 - a. Funding manual was sent as a separate attachment. Nate and Ebony reviewed the changes made in a total of seven sections, a summary of which was included on page 2 of the packet.
 - b. No questions or comments.
 - c. **Ken Franklin moved to approve the funding manual. Sherry Wibbenmeyer seconded the motion. All voted in favor. None opposed. The motion passed.**
- Performance Portfolio Report
 - a. Gives the board a deeper look at year-end data and a better understanding of portfolio performance, the movement of programs, their impact, and the return on our investment. We know that the services we fund have a positive impact, that people are progressing in their goals to be included in the community, are living on their own, are employed, and that families are developing skills to care for individuals with IDD. We hope to look deeper into this and see those returns.
 - b. Highlights
 - i. 89% of the program budget was used.
 - ii. 1,327 unduplicated individuals participated in programs (an 18% increase from FY22).
 - iii. 1,265 people benefited from the support of System Navigators and/or developmental disability-themed community education.
 - iv. 6 new programs were added to the portfolio based on FY23 funding priorities of Employment Training, Aging Services, and Adaptive Equipment and exceeded their targets.
 - v. Support Systems was the heaviest invested service category at \$2,071,146 and showed the largest increase in the number served, from 695 to 1,298.
 - vi. Community Integration and Employment Services saw a notable increase in outcome achievement, both up 7%, due to increased participant engagement.
 - vii. \$552,275 was returned to DD Resources from the sale of The Center for Specialized Services' Morganford property; funds are restricted for future housing-related projects.
 - c. Nate shared data and went into more detail in each of the following categories: Community Living, Support Systems, Community Integration, Professional Services, Employment Training, Employment Services, and Agency Supports. The details were included in the packet.

- d. Committee members were impressed with the report; however, they were concerned about underutilization. Asked if agencies are getting more efficient and innovative. When we have our peer review meetings with agencies, we are starting to push back a little more, homing in on collaboration and brainstorming on creative avenues to take (e.g., being more creative with recruitment efforts, and trying employee sharing). Most tell us there is a staffing shortage, and even though transportation providers increased wages, they have not seen as much of an improvement as we would like. They are seeing improvements in their ability to hire staff but are not where they want to be yet. Efficiencies are playing a part. Adding the virtual component helps reduce staff travel time.
- e. Shaelene will include this report in the November board packet. Nate will do a five-minute verbal summary report with them too. Gives us and the agencies a good snapshot.
- Funding Announcement / Priorities
 - a. Not much changed from FY24. Priorities are the same (included in the packet, page 9). We have kept in touch with potential partners who hopefully have had more time to get their proposals together. Want to allow existing partners the option to expand their services for growth (invitation only – those that use at least 90% of their award, 80% of target served, and didn't receive reductions in the previous year). Looking at all service categories except community integration and family navigation. There may be eleven projects eligible for expansion.
 - b. New projects – keeping funding priorities the same as last year. Wanted to give them more time. Have been communicating periodically throughout the year so they will be prepared for February.
 - c. No questions. Announcement looks good.
- City Seniors' Request
 - a. Senior Fund approached us with the opportunity to partner with and assist City Seniors with their required 20% match to secure their MODot 5310 vehicle. In 2019 Senior Fund agreed to match funding for a vehicle, but vehicle delivery was delayed, and the costs nearly doubled. They desperately need new vehicles, but the increased cost and match are prohibitive. Senior Fund will increase their match but that amount will not secure all needed vehicles. Asking us to provide the 20% match for one of the vehicles, for a total of \$16,846.20.
 - b. Background - City Seniors provide transportation to seniors and individuals with IDD to get to the senior center, neighborhood food pantry, to work, and other community services. They have a long partnership with AADD, and help seniors travel to AADD's conference as well as their holiday party. DDR has approved match funding in similar situations (Southside Wellness). Staff is recommending approving \$16,846.20 to be paid from the contingency funds to provide City Seniors with the 20% match of the one vehicle. Approving the request will help ensure the continuation of essential community city services for seniors and individuals with developmental disabilities between the ages of 18-59. This partnership will help us reach our strategic goals and will open the door for future partnerships with City Seniors and the Senior Fund. Spoke to Lisa, and she said it would be fine to come out of that fund. The packet includes their request and email exchanges.
 - c. **Ken Franklin moved to approve a grant of \$16,846.20 to be paid from contingency funds to provide City Seniors with the 20% match of one vehicle. Sherry Wibbenmeyer seconded the motion. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion carries.**
- The Center – adaptive equipment request
 - a. The Center is merging with an organization called Rise. They had been struggling with a change in leadership, financially, and how to move forward. They ended up partnering with Rise (from AZ). Rise runs Acumen Services and works with the Department of Mental Health in several states. Three partners of The Alliance (DDR, PLB, and DDR) fund The Center. We met with the CEO of Rise and the VP of Programs during this process. The Center's relationship with Rise went from client/consultant to a full

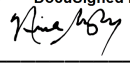
merger that their board has approved. We requested an audit from Rise and they provided it. Lisa looked at their 990 as well. There is nothing we must approve; however, we need to review everything related to Rise and the merger and decide if we will continue funding with them. In our conversations, we have not encountered anything concerning. The ED they had in place resigned yesterday.

- b. The Center is doing well with their adaptive equipment program. This program has exhausted the equipment budget for the fiscal year (the \$32K we allocated). They supported several individuals and families with home modification projects. Still have two additional home modifications to do and ten pending evaluations. They requested an additional \$15K to address these projects. We seek approval to increase their grant by \$15K. This project would be eligible to expand in FY25. Lisa has okayed this.
- c. **Ken Franklin moved to increase The Center's grant by \$15,000 for their adaptive equipment project. Sherry Wibbenmeyer seconded the motion. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion carries.**

- TCM updates

- a. DMH is still going through organizational efficiencies. Attempting to move around some South County teams to St. Charles. Once done, they will return to the city – there is a higher need in the city now. They were considering starting a 4th team and were potentially going to talk to us to take consumers from them. They also had a reduction in staff.
- b. HRST Value-Based-Payments – We submitted everything we completed. We are supposed to receive payment back. There are some discrepancies with DMH. We have received payment for quarter three in the amount of \$505.00. Quarter four will be a much larger payment.
- c. ConneXion will not roll out this calendar year.
- d. They have been administering MAAS (new MOCABI) to get people into waiver and TCM services. The scheduling system is not working. DMH does not have the capacity to do all the assessments. They have come up with a bridge plan to get TCM agencies involved in assisting them. Not sure if it would be a short-term or long-term solution.
- e. We have a new Service Advocate, Amanda Simpkins, starting Monday. We are still interviewing for some vacancies.
- f. Outreach efforts are still going strong. Meeting with many school administrators and attending lots of open houses and PTA meetings. Samantha was recently invited to Yeatman Middle School. Met for lunch with the vice principal. Wants to connect Samantha with the Special School District. Having a community chat on the 19th –parents, community members, and SSD staff will be there. Nottingham High School is also having a PTA meeting on the 19th.
- g. Our TCM department is experiencing many more referrals, intakes, and transfers to our office - 16 in the first quarter. Hoping to have more.
- h. Service Deserts – at the MACDDS meeting, other attendees agreed they have service deserts as well. Either they cannot get providers to come to parts of town or they do not exist. DMH has contracts with providers who refuse to go to certain areas. Would like to meet with DMH as a MAC group about what we need in these areas and what we can do to bridge the gaps.

Call for a motion to adjourn (Cynthia Mueller) – Cynthia Mueller moved to adjourn. Sherry Wibbenmeyer seconded the motion. All voted in favor. None opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 pm.

DocuSigned by:

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Nina North Murphy, Secretary

11/30/2023

Date Approved