

**Board Members Present:**

Cynthia Mueller, Committee Chairperson  
Nina North-Murphy

Selena Washington  
Sherry Wibbenmeyer

**Staff Members Present:**

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

Ebony Young, Agency Relations Representative  
Kelly Head, Executive Assistant

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The meeting was called to order by Cynthia Mueller at 4:05 pm.

- Agency funding requests, Nate Head, Director of Agency & Community Relations
  - Funding Request from Easter Seals, Nate Head
    - Easterseals notified us that they no longer need this funding.
  - Funding Request from Artist First
    - Artist first is requesting an increase of \$51,069 to finish out this current fiscal year.
      - They are seeing several individuals attend their program nearly every day, which drives up their program supplies cost, which is their biggest cost.  
Being a fee for service program, they bill units for every hour a consumer attends. Because of that high participation they're using all of their units at a rate that will exhaust their reward around March 2026.
  - Staff does not recommend funding at this time. Some more data is needed, and would like to review again in February.
    - **Nina North-Murphy moved to postpone the request and review again in February. Selena seconded the motion. Sherry Wibbenmeyer abstained due to conflict of interest.**
    - **All voted in favor. None opposed.**  
**Motion approved.**
- Review and approve the FY27 Partner Funding Manual, Nate Head, Director of Agency & Community Relations
  - This funding manual is created for all partners within the Eastern Region Alliance.
    - We added the new Capital Policy, which was previously approved by the board, and a change to how we will fund the independent Living Assistance Fund. Both changes are located in the appendices.
    - **Selena Washington moved to approve the FY27 Partner Funding Manual.**  
**Sherry Wibbenmeyer seconded the motion. All voted in favor. None opposed.**  
**Motion approved.**
- Review and approve FY27 Funding Announcement, Nate Head, Director of Agency & Community Relations – **Action Needed**

- We are proposing to use the same funding priorities as the past few fiscal years. We will accept applications for the renewal of currently funded projects as well as open the cycle to new projects. Those priorities will be the same as last year - the collaboration between two or more organizations, employment training projects, and capital projects.
- **Nina North-Murphy moved to approve the FY27 funding announcement. Sherry Wibbenmeyer seconded the motion. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.**
- Review of the FY25 Performance Portfolio Report draft, Nate Head, Director of Agency & Community Relations
  - Nate shared highlights of the report with the committee
    - 98% of the program budget, was used
    - 1,596 unduplicated individuals participated in programs, a 6% increase from FY24.
    - 3 new programs and 7 one-time capital projects were added to the portfolio.
    - Agency Supports funding used \$540,203 to support 10 projects that increased or enhanced existing accessible and inclusive housing options for 84 individuals, built caregiver capacity for over 600 people, and increased access to 5 program and community spaces, having a wide-reaching impact on our city.
    - Professional Services reported 100% of individuals who received adaptive equipment to improve physical well-being demonstrated that the equipment improved either their strength, stability, or motor skills; this is up 20% from FY24.
    - Support Systems projects reported a 21% increase in their success in helping people gain skills to pursue their academic and professional interests.
    - Employment projects reported an 8% increase in individuals building the capacity to accept and manage increasing job responsibilities as they work toward their career development and/or advancement goals.
- FY27 funding planning, Nate Head, Director of Agency & Community Relations
  - There are several organizations and service types that use less than 90% of their allocation, and it's not their first time. We will be looking further into that as we plan for next fiscal year and most likely make some reductions.
  - We will need to make some funding adjustments for ISLA services.
    - There is an increased demand for independent living service, but the current ISLA providers do not use all of their funding, so we will look into that as well. As we have heard from some of our current partners, with added funding, they would be able to support more consumers.
- Targeted Case Management update, Shaelene Plank, Executive Director
  - MACDDS
    - Samantha received the Bill Knittig TCM Award at MACDDS
    - Samantha and her team presented on health literacy in the linkage project that is part of the grant that we receive.
    - Samantha and her team also presented at a Brag and Steal session
  - Intake Changes at DMH
    - DMH is no longer honoring consumer choice form.
      - DDR has been told that DMH will honor our outreach work and let us have the consumers who we have a relationship with.
  - We are currently serving 541 individuals in TCM, 9 away from our strategic goal for this year.

- Outreach
  - We have participated in quite a few events this year – Festability, Nottingham CAJT PTO meeting, All Hands On Deck resource fair, and YWCA resource fair.
  - Samantha will be presenting to the Continuum of care about Social Security and how we help maintain that benefit for our consumers and how we serve the unhouse population in Saint Louis City who have developmental disabilities.
  - We're also going to be presenting at the Albert Pujols Down Syndrome Association for families to learn more about the Medicaid waiver and the processes and services.
- We have one opening for a Service Advocate and will be posting that within the next week. Depending on caseloads, we may hire two.
- Jenny Thompson is leaving her role as St. Louis County Regional Office director.
- Funding for SNAP ends November 1<sup>st</sup>, so we are gathering resources for families, and looking for other solutions as well.
- Strategic Priorities
  - Our current strategic plan is coming to an end in December
    - We are gathering data and will have a report for the board in February that looks at the last year.
    - We will then meet to talk about the strategic priorities moving forward.
- Lafayette Hab centers
  - They have sold their building. DDR will need to send a payoff letter to them to receive money back.

Call for motion to adjourn – Cynthia Mueller, Committee Chair

**Nina Murphy moved to adjourn. Sherry Wibbenmeyer seconded the motion. All voted in favor. None opposed.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 pm.**

Nina North Murphy

Nina North Murphy (Dec 1, 2025 20:26:32 CST)

Nina North Murphy, Secretary

12/01/2025

Date Approved