

Board Members Present:

Cynthia Mueller, Committee Chairperson
Selena Washington
Delilah Sullivan

Board Members Absent:

Nina North-Murphy
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
Samantha Montgomery, Director of Service
Coordination


The meeting was called to order by Cynthia Mueller at 4:00 pm.

- Introductions were made as we welcomed new committee member, Delilah Sullivan.
- Mid-year funding requests, Nate Head, Director of Agency & Community Relations
 - a) Total amount requested was \$199,876.07 and staff is recommending \$69,703.30.
The following Funding Requests, provided in the packet, were discussed
 1. Funding Request from Easter Seals Midwest/ISLA – Requesting \$25,156.60 – Staff Supports this request
 2. Funding Request from AADD/ISLA – Requesting \$11,793.60 – Staff Supports this request
 - ❖ ISLA Services is a critical service that helps individuals live independently. We are recommending the additional units to support pulling consumers off of wait lists:
 3. Funding Request from St. Louis ARC – Requesting \$12,593.70 – Staff Supports this request
 4. Funding Request from UCP Heartland – Requesting \$20,160.00 – Staff Supports this request
 - ❖ Supported Employment. Both of these agencies are experiencing an increase in referrals from vocational rehabilitation. They are asking for more units to support those new individuals in that service.
 5. Funding Request from Artists First – Requesting \$51,069.00
 - ❖ Artists First states it is seeing an increase in attendance among its current participants and in the cost of professional art supplies. Artists First needs additional funding to finish the current year; the agency has also requested this increase to continue into FY27. - Staff does not support this request. Staff's recommendation is not based on quality but tied to our funding priorities; this service type is not eligible for expansion, in FY26 and FY27.
 6. Funding Request from Southside Wellness Center - Requesting \$43,800
 - ❖ Southside Wellness Center is requesting the funding to assist with its commercial vehicle insurance down payment. - Staff does not support this request. We supported this in the past as one-time emergency funding. The insurance down payment is a cost of doing business and the agency should include this in its budget. However, staff will recommend a 5% rate adjustment for all transportation providers in FY27 to support their rising operating costs.

Selena Washington moved to approve \$69,703.00 in funding requests. Delilah Sullivan seconded the motion. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion approved.

- FY27 program planning, Nate Head, Director of Agency & Community Relations
 - a) Our goal is to fund \$8,067,484. If we assume agencies will underutilize 3%, we can allocate \$8,320,000 (for currently funded projects and new projects). These amounts include approximately \$665,000 to cover the cost of providing TCM services not covered by the rate received from Medicaid. Additionally, there is approximately \$820,000 restricted by the board to fund housing solutions.
- We anticipate recommending \$8,163,000 to renew currently funded projects.
 - a) 64 projects will be submitted with no significant changes; staff is recommending a 2.5% annual rate adjustment for most of these projects and a 5% rate increase for transportation services.
 - b) 8 projects request an increase to support growth.
 1. Association on Aging with Developmental Disabilities- ISLA (add 6 people)
 2. Easterseals Midwest-ISLA (add 6 people)
 3. Heartland Industries-Sheltered Employment (add 5 people)
 4. Horizon Housing Development Company – partially fund a staff position
 5. Recreation Council – add 75 recreation vouchers
 6. St. Louis Arc - Supported Employment (continued support of the 7 new people added in FY26)
 7. Sunnyhill - ISLA (add 6 people)
 8. UCP Heartland – Supported Employment (continued support of the 2 new people added in FY26)
 - c) 10 projects will be recommended for funding reductions based on past usage.
 1. Association on Aging with Developmental Disabilities – Challenges Unlimited Transportation
 2. Industrial Aid – Sheltered Employment
 3. KVC MO – Facility Based Respite
 4. LifeBridge Partnership – Camp – They are the only camp we support directly - our recommendation is that we no longer fund camp directly but support it through the Recreation Council vouchers.
 5. Mercy – Employment Training
 6. MERS/Goodwill – Supported Employment
 7. St. Louis Arc – Launch
 8. St. Louis Arc- Family Navigator
 9. UCP Heartland- ABA Therapy
 10. Worth Industries – Sheltered Employment
 - d) 2 projects are not recommended for funding based on past usage.
 1. St. Louis Arc – Aging Navigator
 2. Rise Services, Inc- Adult Employment Training
- New funding requests to date, Nate Head, Director of Agency & Community Relations
 - a) We anticipate receiving the following requests for new projects:
 1. Easterseals Midwest – Transition to Employment, youth employment training (Replacement/change to its currently funded Project Search program)
 2. Southside Early Childhood Center – Full-time Early Intervention Coordinator
 3. Tabernacle Community Development Corporation – Install elevator at The Hub
 4. Peter and Paul Community Services, in collaboration with HHDC and Gateway 180 – Transitional Housing and Support Services (could be funded through the Board’s restricted funding for housing)
 5. Hyde Park – Housing Case Management (could be funded through the Board’s restricted funding for housing)
 6. Gateway Housing First in collaboration with HHDC – Housing support services for 15-20 units for 30+ people.
 7. Bridges Community Support Services looking to expand it’s SHADE program - prevention and positive relationship skills.

8. City Seniors - seeking funding for a parking lot repair to make the facility more accessible.
9. Gateway 180, in collaboration with Qualified Therapy Solutions, is looking for funding for their transitional living shelter.
 - ❖ The total that we received for new requests is 1.8 million. Housing related is 1.4 million. Our Max budget is 8.3 million. The total available for new projects is close to 200,000 and the amount available for housing is 820,000. We are still reviewing and will discuss as a team, as we will not have the funds to be able to fund all of them.
 - ❖ The Program Committee will be provided with full applications for new funding requests for review.
 - ❖ In March, the Program Committee will vote on the renewals and new projects that will then be taken to the full board in May.
- Funded agency updates, Nate Head, Director of Agency & Community Relations
 1. Tabernacle Community Development Company - We funded the renovation of three buildings, 4 apartments to bring them online and rent out to individuals with development disabilities. Three of the four are going to be fully accessible.
 2. Tabernacle is moving forward with its hub expansion, which will bring more space for community providers to set up and offer their services to the area there.
 3. Hyde Park Renovations are mostly completed.
 4. St. Louis Arc's Embedded Early Learning Program is experiencing success:
 - ❖ Through the second quarter, they've done 405 screenings, and 87 action plans (of which 38 kids have made progress in their goals and 6 have been determined to have a qualifying developmental disability which was found early!) 40 were referred for additional supports like First Steps, St. Louis Public Schools Special Ed, St. Louis SSD.
- TCM updates, Samantha Montgomery, Director of Service Coordination
 - a) We have hired Kelsi Davis as our new Service Advocate Mentor to replace James Hasty who resigned in January.
 - b) We are kicking off two new systems projects
 1. Setworks AI kickoff is on the 23rd of this month. We will be incorporating the new AI platform that Setworks has built internally.
 2. DMH has opted into the Health Information Exchange – If our consumers have already opted into that service, then we can see their medical information. Training will launch on the 3rd.
 - c) We met with our Technical Assistant Coordinators through DMH.
 1. Our trend report will be coming out at the end of March which will show us how we are doing with compliance.
 2. The TCM audit has been requested for the 2nd week of June. Board members are invited to attend the entry and exit meetings.
- Call for motion to adjourn – Cynthia Mueller, Committee Chair
Selena Washington moved to adjourn. Delilah Sullivan seconded the motion. All voted in favor. None opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 pm.


 Nina North Murphy (Mar 13, 2026 16:25:34 CDT)

Nina North Murphy, Secretary

03/13/2026

Date Approved