

**St. Charles County
Community Assistance Board**

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2021

Meeting Facilitator: Caty Beilsmith, chair

Attendance: Christy Weber; David Bardgett; Carissa Figgins; Cindy Syberg; Pat Leone; Melinda McAliney;

Guests: Pinar Turker (St. Charles County); Dottie Kastigar (Community Council); Dawn Tegeler (YIN); Kathy Thompson (LINC); Lauren Muehling (Habitat); Karen Ford (NECAC); LaKeysha Fields (Sal Army); Jen Weber (Turning Point); Lynda Keeton (Connections to Success); Jenna Conley; Denise Fondren (OLI); Karen Ehlmann (VIM); Kathy Henderson (J&A); Mary Jones (Bridgeway);

- I. **Call to order** at 7:02 am
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Public Comment** – None.
- IV. **Approval of May 11, 2021 Minutes** – A motion was made by Dave, and seconded by Christy to approve the minutes. Minutes were approved.
- V. **New Business**

Budget revision request for Sts. Joachim & Ann – to allocate move from rent to utilities– Motion made to approve revision made by Melinda, seconded by Dave, motion approved.

Agency Presentations -

1) Youth In Need – Dawn Tegeler, regional homeless director; house 10-19 kids, now shelter 8 due to COVID; take kids from all situations. Families in crisis has increased. Homeless youth, age 17-19. Stay max of 30 days; prefer 7 days if they have a home to return to. Get a case manager and assistance with working on their next steps housing plan. Receive counseling. Three COVID cases at the shelter; includes quarantining etc. Lots of protocols in place. Staff are required now to be vaccinated. Story of an 18-year-old in shelter-mother died. She is in college now. Young professional group has been sending care packages. Story of Mike; working with for four months. Multiple shelter stays. Mom now in the hospital, has had a stroke. Dad has also had a stroke. Overdosed at shelter; staff was great. Staff saved his life. Do all kinds of training and supervision with staff. Staff did CPR and called 911. Mike survived. Dawn said they have never had an overdose since 2009. Question re: outcome #2 – 90% participants will achieve safe and stable housing. Follow up done at 1 month and 3 months. We usually meet 90% outcome. We tell youth that we want them to be safe and want to work the program. We help them leave to a place that is safe.

2) Our Lady's Inn- Denise Fondren, Program Director; shelter for homeless pregnant women. Can be there up to one year. Assessment with case manager, nurse, counselor, and child advocate. Mental health and substance use is common. Work to set their goals and track goals they are achieving. Children are also tracked to catch up on health and educational goals. With pandemic, lost clients who struggled to be sheltered in place; some were rehoused. Housing is important, but they also need to be stable in the community after they leave. When families leave, they have access to community resources. Aftercare is offered for up to two years; case management continues. Transportation and other supports are offered. Housed 31 in 2021. Set goals for birthing outcomes – birth weights and gestational age. Great outcomes for successful births. Dave asked if ladies are able to get vaccinated. Moms talk with doctors and decide vaccination status, but offer vaccinations. Moms are quarantined for a period of time and COVID tested. Everyone wears masks in community area.

3) Turning Point Advocacy Services – Jen Weber, advocacy services; services begin with hotline call; staff provide crisis services and assist with safety planning. Agency offers to shelter. Men are offered comparable services in motels. Bed space will increase to 36. Now down to 10 with COVID. Peer life support groups offered daily. Life advocates meet with clients weekly to focus on client directed goals. Help them with job search, budget, life planning, court advocacy, etc. Services are available to shelter and community clients. Substance use recovery program. Child care advocacy program is new as well as rapid rehousing program. Counseling program, etc. Gave shelter statistics. Served domestic violence and human trafficking victims from St. Charles County. Calls in 2020 were a bit of a decrease. Q- how long do we track/follow up with clients? What were some of outcomes? Once someone leaves shelter, staff do not maintain contact unless they request it. In shelter for 60 days, opportunity for extension every 30 days as needed. Outcomes – exits to more permanent housing; if clients feel less isolated; strategies for safety; critical thinking and decision making, etc. Developing coping, stress management skills.

4) Volunteers in Medicine – Karen Ehlmann; presentation shared. Serving for 25 years. Serve adults not eligible for any other medical insurance. Patients have chronic issues. Open 2 days per week by appointment only. Referral network for medical specialties, hospital testing. Statistics of contributed services – decreased due to COVID. 4295 patient visits (up 20% - due to Rx pickups); dispensed \$804,259 in pharmaceuticals. Gave \$1,599,240 of services - \$20 in services for each \$1 investment. Help with pharmaceuticals from companies – these are delivered directly to people's homes, so we can't track refill costs. Telemedicine continued through Spring 2021. SSM Pharmacy helps with outside scripts. Full time counselor; 392 appointments so far in 2021. Tracking outcomes – A1C; LDL and blood pressure will be tracked as a group. Significant improvements have been made over the years to decrease clinic paid medications. Q – Congratulations on identifying outcomes and tracking them! Also, creativity in decreasing costs without reducing outcomes and services! Q – Does VIM have a policy toward vaccination? We are asking if they have been vaccinated – only about 20% have been vaccinated; don't give at the clinic because it is readily available. St. Charles County nursing and medical staff have been great.

5) Connections to Success – Lynda Keeton; headquarters in St. Charles but multiple locations. Working with holistic model – Pathways to success. Goal is to impact each person on their journey to economic success. People in all different housing situations. Strong emphasis on employment. Immediate basic needs are assessed, then they go through personal and professional development

program. Strongest focus is on employability-job that pays a livable wage. Three-week training – now back in person (since July). Voluntary program. Identify needs and long-term goals, after three weeks they have an individualized development program. Work with companies who do second chance hiring. Determine if person needs certificate training or further education. COVID has impacted programming and services; trying to get back to supports that were offered previously like career workshops, financial literacy, etc. Focus on re-entry population. Doing pro-active programming in prisons; continuing alternative high school in Wentzville. Outcomes – secure employment within 6 months – 70%; reduce recidivism – 10% or lower (at 8%) – Missouri is about 28%; Six-month participants -\$14.51 starting wage; 74% employment.

6) Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County -Lauren Muehling; grants and development. Provide safe, decent and affordable housing; 25th year; 92 family served. Mostly new construction but some rehab. Financial education. Families go through class re: homeownership, closing documents, etc. Families don't pay more than 30% for their mortgage payment. Broke ground on two family homes. Had to close down for a couple months. Construction staff continued home build, only slower. One family has closed on the home a couple months ago. 25% of homeowners saw a decrease in income during COVID. All homeowners are able to retain their homes throughout COVID. Requesting assistance –breaking ground on 3 homes. New family will be a family of 5. Family selection for the other two homes will begin in January. Hope to break ground in April on the other two homes. Q.- What does housing affordability look like in the tri-county area? Home prices has been increasing substantially, including building materials. Started partnership with prisons to build cabinets. Family moved in last Habitat home last August.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.

Next Meeting Date: Tues. Nov. 9th, 2021

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting (Remote)/TBD