

Developmental Disabilities Resource Board of St. Charles County  
Agency Hearing  
May 27, 2021

The DDRB Agency Hearing meeting was held at the DDRB Office, 1025 Country Club Road, St. Charles, MO 63303. Bryon Hale, DDRB President, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Due to the closure of the DDRB office public access was granted via zoom, which was posted on the agenda.

**Members Present:**

Dan Dozier, Todd Gentry, Missy Fallert, Bryon Hale, Mike Mahoney, Angie Rhodes, Sue Sharp and Connie Tan

**Members Absent:**

Joe Barton

**Overview**

Kathy Robb gave an overview of expectations for the evening.

The following agencies underwent hearings and items of discussion were as follows:

**The Center for Head Injury Services**

Jay Smith, Interim Executive Director

Laura Washburn, Director of Finance

- **Adaptive Equipment** – The Center for Head Injury Services has seen a decrease in usage of the Adaptive Equipment project. To increase usage The Center has created an extended marketing plan to grow relationships with community partners such as school districts. The Board requested that The Center engage with all St. Charles County School Districts. The Center will provide quarterly updates to the Alliance throughout FY2022.

**Pathways to Independence**

Jodi Woessner, Executive Director

Jessi Hautly, Program Director

- **Skills Development** – Pathways to Independence is requesting growth for the Skills Development Project to serve more individuals. This is Pathways' second year requesting growth. The population that Pathways serves has been known to experience increased isolation and that is even more true during the pandemic. Pathways began outreach with local therapists and community colleges to grow the project according to their strategic plan. Pathways classifies this project as an essential need due to the effects the service has on the participants mental health and overall quality of life.

**Mercy**

Dana Brodeur, Talent Experience/Disability Inclusion Services

Paul Lenhart, Disability Inclusion Supervisor

- **Supported Employment** - Mercy is requesting to become a new provider for supported employment. Mercy has a 20-year history with the Productive Living Board. Their in-house project hires job coaches for the individuals working at Mercy facilities, this provides better and consistent access to job coaches for the individuals employed by Mercy. Currently there

are four individuals who qualify for this service working at Mercy. Mercy expects this number to increase.

## Orchard Farm

Melissa Daniel, Executive Director of Student Services

- **Bridge to Success** – Orchard Farm is requesting growth to serve more individuals in FY2022. Since the change of lead agency and structure of the project, the project has done well. Students now have multiple options for time spent in the project, which opens the project to more students. The school districts who are participating expect more students to utilize the project in FY2022 based on current IEP's. The project will be in three separate sites next year: Embassy Suites, Cintas and St. Charles Convention Center. The increase will allow the project to hire two job advisors and increase hours with The Center for Head Injury Services.

## Easterseals Midwest

Jeff Arledge, Executive Vice President Chief Financial Officer

Kelly McCombs, Vice President of Programs

- **STEP Summer Program** – The STEP Summer Program has been requested to be split into two separate projects, the summer program and program oversight. The STEP Summer Program, the increases anticipated for the program fall in the line items of transportation, fees to agencies and student salaries. These are the costs incurred during the summer program June-July and will require an annual carryover request.
- **STEP Administration** – The cost incurred to administer and plan the project from July-June will fall under STEP Administration project. This portion of the project will not require annual carryover.

## BCI

Troy Compardo, CEO

Todd Streff, Executive Director

- **Skills Center** – BCI is requesting an increase to the Skills Center project to increase the number of individuals served as well as cover the increase cost of tuition. The individual's tuition cost has also increased. The Skills Center is working on expanding its partners for job training and possible future employment for students. So far in this pilot project 17 students have fully completed the training, and of those 17, 12 have maintained full time employment at an average pay rate of \$13.25 per hour.
- **Supported Employment** – BCI is requesting an increase in supported employment. The increased request is directly related to the expected increase in the Skills Center usage.

## TREE House

Nate Harms, Executive Director

- **Equine Therapy** – Nate gave an update on the current status of Equine Therapy. Individuals are slowly beginning to reengage with therapy at the TREE House facility. Since the project depends on approximately 200 volunteers it has been difficult to navigate care for the horses and therapy needs while still maintaining CDC guidelines for COVID. TREE House expects to be

ramping up services through the summer and hopefully continue into winter now that a heater has been installed in the arena.

- **TH Admin** – Through the pandemic TREE House has lost several employees due to retirement. They recently were able to hire one individual to help with reengagement of in-person services. This grant is tied to employee healthcare benefits which was helpful to have for employees during this pandemic. TREE House will work on slowly replacing individuals as capacity increases in their facility.

### **Community Living, Inc.**

Barb Griffith, President/CEO

Sheri Wiltse, Chief Program Officer

- **In-Home Respite/Day Care** – Sheri gave an update on the status of the temporary project for In-Home Respite Day Care. Many families have utilized this project throughout the pandemic. Usage of the project has slowed down as CDC guidelines have lessened and the community has started to reopen. The Board wanted to know the impact on families should they decide to only fund the project for six more months.
- **Center Based Respite** – Community Living is requesting an increase in funds for Center Based Respite to support more individuals on more weekends throughout the year. The goal is to provide respite for five individuals for 49 weeks of the year. Many of the individuals that use Center Based Respite have no alternative respite options because they have severe behaviors. At this time Center Based Respite has a two-year waiting list. The Board asked Community Living to note the impact increased wages and/or more funding would have on the project and its waitlist.
- **ISLA** – Community Living updated the Board on their decision to close their ISLA project. Community Living was able use partnership to smoothly transition nine individuals to Willows Way's ISLA project and three to Easterseals Midwest's ISLA project. Three of Community Living's staff also transitioned to employment with these agencies.

### **Recreation Council**

Susan Fleming, Executive Director

Carol Callahan, St. Charles County Coordinator

- **Parks and Recreation Partnership** – Recreation Council was recently notified that St. Charles City Parks and Recreation Department will no longer participate in this program because they will be hiring their own Inclusion Coordinator for the department. This means that Recreation Council would need \$10,200 in addition to what was requested for FY2022 to cover the loss of St. Charles City's portion.

### **FACT**

Heather Lytle, Executive Director

- **Family Support Partner** - Heather updated the Board on the status of State funding for the project. The final approved State budget included \$250,000 of project funding included. It is not known yet whether the Governor will line item withhold this budget item or not. Heather and Peg Capo met with the State Budget Director to advocate for the budget item. If the State funds at

this level it is not expected for FACT to need additional support to cover the cut in the State budget. This may change if the Governor withholds the funds in the budget.

#### **DSP 4**

Peg Capo, DDRB Executive Director

Peg reviewed the Direct Support Crisis year four funding requests. The Board was concerned that the one-time funding is not impacting the direct support crisis that has confronted the agencies for the past four years. The Board encouraged agencies and DDRB staff to come up with innovative ways the Board could support agencies with staffing issues.

#### **Community Programs**

John Thaelke, DDRB Finance Director reviewed the Community Programs budget.

- **St. Charles County Coalition Budget** – The St. Charles County Coalition will now be funded out of Community Programs since the merged Coalitions will now be funded from multiple ERA Boards.
- **DSP Conference Budget** – St. Charles Community College will no longer be the lead agency for the DSP Conference. This has been moved to Community Programs as the Coalition decides how to host the conference.
- **ISLA** – John reviewed the ISLA budget, due to the ERA portal, ISLA will no longer be funded as a whole project but will be funded per agency request.
- **Supported Employment** - John reviewed the Supported Employment budget, due to the ERA portal, Supported Employment will no longer be funded as a whole project but will be funded per agency request.

#### **Agency Contracts – Conditions of Funding**

Kathy Robb, Agency & Community Relations Director, presented the Conditions of Funding which will be voted on at the June Board Meeting when the FY2022 Budget is approved.

#### **DDRB Operations**

Robyn Peyton, DDRB Case Management Director, reviewed the FY2022 Case Management Budget Request. The request looks like a decrease because the program will stay at its current level until it stabilizes. Typically, the budget includes any growth in teams.

Peg Capo reviewed the DDRB Administration Budget. For audit purposes the budget was restructured to include break out agency support and direct/indirect administrative support. The budget did not exceed the 2.5% market rate adjustment.

#### **Meeting Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Nikki Rogers \_\_\_\_\_