

Developmental Disabilities Resource Board of St. Charles County  
Board Meeting Minutes  
February 16, 2023

The Board meeting was held at the DDRB Office, 1025 Country Club Road, St. Charles, MO 63303. The public was able to access the meeting in person or through the video conference link and conference call numbers provided on the agenda. The agenda was posted to the DDRB website in accordance with Missouri Sunshine Laws.

Connie Tan, DDRB President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with a moment of silent reflection.

**Members Physically Present:**

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

**Members Absent:**

Joe Barton

**Mission Moment: Easterseals Midwest**

Keri Riley, DDRB Agency Relations Specialist introduced Melanie Mills, Autism Services Director St. Louis for Easterseals Midwest. Melanie gave an overview of Easterseals Midwest's PEERS project and introduced Audrey, PEERS participant and her mother Emily. Emily shared her perspective of their experience participating in the PEERS project. Emily and Audrey would participate in separate classes on the same nights. Audrey was in the peer group while Emily was in the parent group. The classes would discuss the same topics, during the same weeks so they understood the same key training words which made implementation of the training more successful at home. Emily revealed to the Board that as a mother she often struggled to help Audrey in social situations, but both feel more confident about their skills now. The classes Audrey and Emily participated in consisted of eight families, who since then have become good friends. Audrey has continued to build peer relationships and enjoys gaming with her friends as well as going out to do fun things with them. Emily found this project very beneficial to her family and hope it continues to be available for other families.

Audrey spoke to the Board about her time participating in the PEERS project. The party at the end of all the classes was one of her favorite parts. Audrey continues to go out with her friends she made at the PEER project and enjoys spending time with them.

**FY2022 Annual Report**

Karen Craven presented the FY2022 Annual Report.

**Public Comments and Announcements:**

Cindy Clark, President/CEO, Emmaus Homes made the following public comment:

"Good evening, I'm Cindy Clark the President and CEO of Emmaus Homes. First and foremost, I want to thank the board for their investment in the Residential DSP Crisis for the past five years. When we first embarked on this project five years ago, we believed we were making an extra ordinary investment in our workforce by moving starting wages from \$10.50 to \$12. Five years later, we have endured a global pandemic and a workforce crisis that we could not have imagined in 2018.

The Board never intended to continue this investment for 5 years and it seems there is a restlessness to move away from this issue and reinvest in other issues facing the county. Other services funded by the Board also need rate increases to remain competitive and the lack of reliable

transportation is prohibiting access to basic services and employment. At the same time, the Board is facing the threat of the elimination of personal property taxes as a revenue source. I simply want to remind the Board that these services are all inter-related and that the threats to residential services are not over.

While most organizations were forced by the market to raise starting wages to \$18/hour. Missouri is still only funding \$15/hour. The most recent actuarial study projects a base wage of \$21/hour and the Governor neglected to provide for ANY rate increase in his recommendations. While the increase to \$18 has thankfully provided a steady stream of candidates and reduced our open hours, turnover of DSP's continues at a staggering high rate and the workforce is far from stabilized.

We have projected the increase to \$18 will cost Emmaus more than \$8 million over 3 years. We believe we have enough operating reserves from one-time funding to pay for this, but residential services certainly are not out of the woods. In a perfect world the DDRB would not need to contribute to services that are funded by other sources, but if we applied that logic to all services, the Board would not fund sheltered workshops, transportation, employment services and perhaps others.

The Board has difficult decisions to make during this funding cycle. Thank you for your thoughtful discernment about these issues."

#### **Finance Director's Report:**

Ginger Spallek's Finance Director Report included the following:

#### **Included Reports**

The following reports were included: January Financials with variance explanations and January Bank Activity.

#### **Finance Department Projects**

- **FY2024 Funding Agency Meetings** – Funding Season is officially open. Ginger will be working closely with Kathy Robb on reviewing agency funding applications, as this is her first funding cycle.
- **FY2024 DDRB Budget** – Work has begun on the DDRB budget with goal of having a working copy of the budget by early March.
- **ARPA Projects** – The ARPA financial statement format was shared with the Finance Committee. ARPA payments to agencies have begun.

**Missy Fallert motioned to accept the January 2022 Financial Statements as presented. Angie Rhodes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Executive Director Report**

Peg Capo's Executive Director Report included the following:

#### **Legislative Update**

Personal Property Tax Reform continues to be considered by the Missouri General Assembly. Senate Bill 8(Eigel), the bill to eliminate Personal Property taxes in the state over time, did not receive support from the Senate Economic Development and Tax Policy Committee. A substitute was offered (included with the report) and received approval to move out of the committee. It reduces the assessed valuation

of personal property from 33% to 31% of its 'true money value' Additionally, for vehicles, the valuation will be the MSRP of the vehicle for the year of manufacture of the vehicle. The value will be depreciated over 10 years. This Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 8 is available for full consideration but is not scheduled at this time.

House and Senate Budget hearing are underway for the FY2024 budget. There are no provider rate increases including in the Governor's recommendation. Given that the Governor has requested an 8.7% wage increase for all state employees, advocates are strongly encouraging the legislature to add funding for service rate increases on all DMH/DD funded services (including case management) to reflect the unprecedented increase in costs.

### **FY2024 New Projects**

The Program and Finance Committees reviewed the summary of new project requests for FY2024 and agreed with the staff assessment that two met the FY2024 Funding Priorities - BCI's Transportation Model project and The Child Advocacy Center of Northeast Missouri's Child Abuse Prevention for Special Education Classrooms project. Both agencies will submit a full application for consideration. Given the urgent priority for transportation services, the committees agreed to consider the BCI request at the March 16 Board meeting.

### **FY2024 DDRB Funding Cycle**

Applications are due February 17. The DDRB Program and Finance Teams are very busy reviewing applications to ensure they are complete and accurate. Since it is expected that several projects will be requesting rate adjustments exceeding the 6% Market Rate Adjustment, staff will be recommending a consistent review approach that will fairly and equitably evaluate all such adjustments. The Finance Committee may be tasked with completing the initial review.

### **Case Management Director Report**

Laura Taylor's Case Management Director Report, included the following:

- The DDRB Case Management Program is currently serving 1,320 individuals. Intakes continue to show an upward trend. A delayed start of one month has been implemented. Laura is working with Peg to identify the program's needs to structurally support this growth in FY2024.
- There are currently three Case Manager positions to be filled. There was one open position remaining from several months ago. Another Case Manager resigned in January. In addition, Case Manager Teresa Howell-Akins announced her retirement. Her last day will be February 28, 2023. Teresa has been a Case Manager at DDRB since 2007.
- The Case Management Program is reinstating the annual Provider Fair. The event will occur on May 3, 2023. This will be DDRB's first time hosting the event since 2019. This year, all of the Assistive Technology providers will be invited as well and will have a separate area in the gym for their displays.
- On March 31, 2023, The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 ends the Medicaid continuous coverage guarantee that was in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. This means Medicaid will be reinstating annual renewals as a condition to retain active Medicaid. The annual renewals are sent to the individuals' home address on file. The Case Management Team has been reminding customers and families to update their address on the Family Support Division website to ensure they receive the annual paperwork.
- General Division Updates: The ConneXion system remains on track to launch in July 2023. An in depth online "walk through" of the system is scheduled for February 8. Laura continues to explore Value Based

Payment (VBP) options through the Division with the Health Risk Screening Tool being the only eligible item for VBP for TCM's.

### **Gateway Coalition Report**

Suzanne Yardley, Gateway Coalition President, reported the following:

January Meeting Presentation: Financial Planning – Holly Lane, Financial Advisor with Northwestern Mutual

#### **Reports:**

1. Legislative Committee: Over 20 Coalition members spent the day at the Capitol on February 2 and met with over 15 legislators to educate them on our Coalition priorities.
2. Activities Committee: The DSP Conference planning is still underway. Presenter scheduling is being wrapped up, and food and registration plans are in the works. The plan is to charge \$50 per attendee for registration to help cover food and beverage costs. Registration will open February 20.
3. Governance Committee: No report.
4. Business:
  - a. DSP Conference attendance prizes - As has been done for past conferences, Coalition member agencies are asked to each donate a gift card or basket for attendance prizes. Please see any Board of Directors member to donate.
  - b. Board of Directors nominations – As current Board of Directors members' terms are ending at the end of FY2023, the collation is seeking nominations for candidates interested in serving as a Board member FY2024-FY2025. Elections will be held in May. Please contact Suzanne to make a nomination.
  - c. Next Meeting: March 2, 8:30am at Family Advocacy and Community Training (FACT)

### **Committee Appointments**

Connie Tan appointed the following Board members to the below listed Committees:

- Finance Committee
  - Bryon Hale, Treasurer
  - Dan Dozier
  - Mike Mahoney
  - Sue Sharp
  - Angie Rhodes
- Human Resource Committee
  - Dan Dozier
  - Missy Fallert
  - Bryon Hale
  - Sue Sharp
  - Connie Tan
- Program Committee
  - Missy Fallert
  - Todd Gentry
  - Connie Tan

**Bryon Hale motioned to table the Board Meeting minutes until the March meeting and add ARPA – Willows Way Contract Revision to New Business. Sue Sharp seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **Consent Agenda**

1. Minutes of Board Meeting – January, 2022 (Tabled)
2. Minutes of Finance Committee – February 7, 2023
3. Minutes of Program Committee – February 2, 2023
4. 2023 By-Laws Approval
5. 2023 Accessibility Plan Approval
6. 2023 Community Relations Plan Approval
7. 2023 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Plan Approval
8. 2023 Human Resource Plan Approval
9. 2023 Risk Management Plan Approval
10. 2023 Succession Plan Approval
11. FY2022 Annual Report Approval
12. ARPA - Willows Way Contract Revision (moved to New Business)

**Bryon Hale motioned to approve the consent agenda as changed. Missy Fallert seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **Old Business:**

None

### **New Business:**

#### **1. ARPA – Willows Way Contract Revision**

Willows Way has revised their budget request for their Mental Health Services ARPA request that was approved by the Board on December 15, 2022. Overall, the request will be slightly reduced to \$205,803.00. Both the Program and Finance Committees reviewed this change and support the revision.

**Todd Gentry motioned to approve ARPA – Willows Way Contract Revision as presented. Angie Rhodes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **Closed Session**

**Bryon Hale motioned to go into closed session, announcing the intent to discuss Personnel (S.B., Section 610.021 (3) RSMo), Technology, (S.B. 2, Section 610.021 (21) RSMo), Property: (S.B. 2, Section 610.021 (2) RSMo) and Legal: (S.B. 1, Section 610.021 (1) RSMo) as presented. Missy Fallert seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. A roll call of members present was taken: Dan Dozier, yes; Bryon Hale, yes; Missy Fallert, yes; Todd Gentry, yes; Mike Mahoney, yes; Sue Sharp, yes; Angie Rhodes, yes; and Connie Tan, yes.**

### **Open Session**

**Bryon Hale motioned to end the closed session and return to open session. Missy Fallert seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Roll call of the members present was taken: Dan Dozier, yes; Bryon Hale, yes; Missy Fallert, yes; Todd Gentry, yes; Mike Mahoney, yes; Sue Sharp, yes; Angie Rhodes, yes; and Connie Tan, yes.**

### **Adjournment**

**Bryon Hale motioned to adjourn. Angie Rhodes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted: *Nikki Rogers*