

**ST. CHARLES COUNTY
COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE BOARD**

Meeting Site:

Connections to Success

3000 Little Hills Expressway #102, St. Charles, MO 63301

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

7:00 p.m.

Meeting Facilitator: John Glenn, Chair; Cynthia Syberg, Katy Beilsmith, Bob Schnur, Timothy Meyer, Dave Bardgett, Melinda McAliney, Catherine Williams, Melissa Hollander

Guests: Dawn Hiatt (YIN), Jack Lipin (Sts. Joachim & Ann), Pinar Turker (St. Charles Co. government); Dottie Kastigar (Community Council); Nancy Cope (Habitat); Maggie Middleton (Crisis Nursery); Brad Lambert (Connections to Success)

Public Comment: Brad introduced the group to the Connections to Success facility. Connections has been in this space for 4 years. Men and women in the Connections program are generally coming from generational poverty. They begin with a 3 week personal and professional development class. They have options for education, skills training, or assistance with resume writing and gaining employment. Success begins with a paycheck. Connections began receiving CAB funding in 1999 for their Wheels to Success program. Launched Connections with Dress for Success. Sweet Success, their social enterprise program now operates out of Ferguson.

Nancy Cope thanked the group for the discussion and video around tiny homes in Detroit. Habitat has tried to acquire property referenced in the discussion, but could not build affordable housing without increasing the density from single family to duplexes. City Council officials were not supportive of increased density housing at that location. The group had a lot of conversation around local zoning ordinances which don't account for newer housing trends like smaller homes with lower square footage, tiny homes, modular housing, etc. We need a discussion around housing affordability and support of changing demographics of our community. Seniors are downsizing, and millennials and generation X are interested in minimalist housing, smaller footprint housing, tiny houses, and other affordable options. Many new jobs in the community are not paying the salaries to support high end single family housing required under current zoning.

Approval of April 10, 2018 minutes: Dave motioned to approve minutes. Cynthia seconded, motion was approved.

Old Business:

Project Care Contribution Process – A discussion was held around county promotion of Project Care. Communications department is willing to produce a video to promote and explain the fund. Questions were raised about how to make donating easier for community residents -paying with credit card, easier linkage to a donate button on the website. County website is being redesigned. It will be more dynamic and user friendly. Will launch in September. However, donation function is available now on the website. There are small fees for credit card donations. Credit card fees cannot be waived because the county contracts with a 3rd party processor. County staff should not wait to promote Project Care until new website is complete, as it would be too late to get the word out. We can continue to explore how to promote Project Care and make it easier to donate. Dawn noted that Project Care could fund one entity that serves everyone, like Coordinated Entry. For example, for more Coordinated Entry phone support. This assistance serves every one. Total amount of money might be better served by one donation rather than breaking it out to groups. Right now, Project Care goes to one group. However, looking forward, the CAB board needs to address it in the 5 year plan. The fund might generate more support if it is going to an organization that serves everyone. John Glenn noted that United Way funding was seeing the opposite trend, with people wanting to donate to specific organizations.

Agency Reports Extension Requests – A motion was made by Dave, seconded by Bob, to approve an audit extension request for Youth in Need and Volunteers in Medicine, until June 30th.

Reminder for Recommendations for the 5 Year Plan Update – The five year plan will be worked on over the summer. The board decided that an unmet needs survey was not needed. Unmet need data will be collected from Agency service reports, Coordinated Entry data, and CoC meeting conversation around unmet needs.

New business:

CDBG Homeless Prevention Program – Pinar explained that there was 2017 CDBG funding returned from Our Lady's Inn. Homeless Prevention funds are currently designated for rent and utility assistance. It is anticipated that with returned funding, there may be up to \$50,000 in the fund for homeless prevention. This is about double the usual allocation amount. Currently the language in the 5 year plan is very specific. The CAB board needs to be clear about the goal of CDBG funding in the 5 year plan. There was a discussion on why there were not more applications for CDBG. Dottie explained that since these are federal funds, there is a high amount of documentation and compliance required to manage the funding. The CoC is willing to invite Anita Telcamp and Pinar to have an application training & discussion for agencies interested in applying for funding, before applications are due, to allow agencies understand grant management expectations. A motion was made by Melinda to limit funding distributions for CDBG funding to three agencies or less. Motion seconded. Motion approved.

Adjournment: Motion was by Dave to adjourn. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm. Dave thanked community partners who have faithfully attended the CAB meetings throughout the year for their commitment and input.

Tour: Brad Lambert gave a tour of the Connections to Success facility and program after the meeting.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 11, 2018; Location to Be Determined