

**St. Charles County  
Community Assistance Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**October 10, 2023**

**Meeting Facilitator:** Melinda McAliney

**Attendance:** David Bardgett; Cindy Syberg

**Guests:** Pinar Turker (St. Charles County); Dottie Kastigar (Community Council); Michelle Woods, Dominic Groaning, and Jacquie Vick (Habitat); Karen Ford (NECAC); Anthony Cole and Pierre Hampton (Salvation Army); Denise Fondren & Katrina Becker(OLI); Brittany Morgan (J&A); Mallory Jones & Mary Jones (Bridgeway); Kathy Thompson (LINC); Esther Angelos (Tri-County Probation &Parole); Adam Rollins (St. Charles County Govt.)

- I. **Call to order** at 7:00pm
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Public Comment**
- IV. **Approval of September 12, 2023 Minutes** – A motion was made by Dave, and seconded by Cindy to approve the minutes. Minutes were approved.
- V. **New Business**

Agency Presentations -

**7:15p-Bridgeway Women’s center** --*Mallory & Mary Jones* – Bridgeway operates 2 shelters. Mary & Mallory are representing the Women’s Center, the only DV shelter in St. Charles County. The Women’s Center is focused on healing mind, body and spirit, as well as legal advocacy. Shelter should be a place where they can heal. Shelter has had assistance in making rooms more hospitable. Holly is a new supervisor. She was previously with ALIVE. The Women’s Center is now at pre-covid staffing levels. Advocates have completed Safe at Home training and other training. SART program is up and running again. New EHR program for domestic violence advocates. Bridgeway statistics – 68 women in shelter, 33 from St. Charles County. Sexual Assault center served 268 clients. Turned away 555 people from shelter. 147 Children were turned away. 954 hotline calls from St. Charles County. Outreach services have expanded; case management, counseling, etc. Court advocacy is provided upon request. Bridgeway provides support groups for women and can partner with SUD services. First DV shelter in 1974; MO opened Bridgeway in 1979. Requested \$25,000 for shelter provision – groceries, office supplies, day to day costs of maintaining shelter.

**7:30p-Our Lady's Inn (OLI)** – *Denise Fondren and Katrina Becker*. Our Lady's Inn mission to provide women a hope for a better future. They opened in 1982 in St. Louis and can serve up to 28 families between their two sites. They operate Twice Blessed, a resale shop that is a social enterprise. Women participate in the Pay it forward program by learning professional jewelry making. Our Lady's provides nursing services and a child advocate. They work on women delivering with a healthy birth weight. Many women have a history of DV, incarceration, SA, etc. Early births and underweight are common. Shelter outcomes show raised birthweight and longer gestational period. Illegal drug use contributes to low birthweight and short gestational age. OLI staff insure women go to OB apts., and work on special instructions for mom. Campus is non-smoking – looking at pros and cons. OLI connects women with lots of supportive services in the community. Success story of a mom who was not wanted by her family. Concerns about Mom's ability to take care of her child. Explored adoption. Emmaus house hosts moms and will take them with children. This mom will be with a host family. OLI is requesting \$30,000 for shelter provision – funding helps with transportation and household expenses. Average stay in shelter is 84 days. Moms come at all stages in their pregnancy. Mom came in Friday, labor on Saturday, then left. Can house up to 12 moms and their kids at a time. Some moms transition to stable housing. Not many go to unsafe locations, but some do. Aftercare can include up to 2 years of support.

**7:45p-Habitat for Humanity** – *Michelle Woods*. *Dominic Groaning* is the new grant writer. Habitat has operated for 26 years. The local affiliate has housed 97 families. They build an average of 4 homes each year. Home values across the county are up 7.2%, with \$330,000 as the median home value. 59.3% of St. Charles County homes are sold above listing price. 23,000 households in St. Charles County are cost burdened – they pay greater than 30% of their income toward housing costs. Habitat teaches Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University to help families prepare for homeownership. The average Habitat mortgage payment is \$800. Habitat is creating a whole new neighborhood in Wentzville. City council and mayor in Wentzville were great through the process. Forty-six homes will be built in the new subdivision will build 46 homes – next year will build 5 homes. Habitat homeowners must contribute 300-450 hours of sweat equity toward their new home. They also must live or work in St. Charles County and have substandard housing. Families sign a 30-year affordable mortgage. This year Habitat is building 2 homes – 1 new, and 1 rehab. Melissa Dalton worked for 3 years to be financially ready. Next year, Habitat will build homes for 5 families in Haven Pointe, the new Habitat subdivision. Each home will cost \$166,000 to build. Total 2024 cost for building homes is \$830,000. Habitat is requesting homebuilding costs of \$30,000 for materials for homebuilding.

**8:00p-LINC**- *Kathy Thompson, Executive Director*. LINC is located in Wentzville. It was great to do the SWAT analysis together with the CAB board. LINC is a triage spot in Wentzville. Staff and Board at LINC believe in prevention. They have been in operation in Wentzville for 31 years. LINC, along with other organizations, are seeing an increase in calls. LINC is seeing up to 160 calls of "I need" in a week. Unless neighbors in need were impacted by COVID or have children, LINC is out of funds for assistance. Prevention is cheaper, but everyone is out of funds. LINC provided 16,000 hrs. of case management in 2023. Success stories: Michelle is a nurse. She was at Sal. Army; within 10 days she got a housing voucher and was housed; she is now working with LINC. Another family had a 17-year-old who was an abuser in the home. Mom got assistance with groceries, week of motel, respite care, etc. She ended up relocating to North St. Louis but did find housing. LINC is seeing increased need for

motel stays, and more households with transportation issues. More families are getting evicted. LINC operates the HOPE learning center and has 11 acres of property, debt free. LINC provides temporary housing – hotel sheltering & mortgage assistance. Western St. Charles county is growing, and neighbors depend on NECAC or LINC. LINC also operates the Foster Grandparent program, which places low-income seniors to work in day care and tutoring, as well as summer program.

**8:15p-Salvation Army O’Fallon Lodge** – *Pierre Hampton & Anthony Cole*. Pierre reviewed Salvation Army mission statement and history. They have community programs, emergency assistance, housing for vets and seniors, etc. The O’Fallon shelter takes families of all compositions. The Pathway to Hope program provides transitional exit services for those exiting shelter. CAB continues to provide vital services for the shelter. Neighbors can stay in shelter for up to 120 days. The Shelter manager does a dual role of management and counseling employees. In 2022 Salvation Army O’Fallon shelter served 198 individuals in shelter. 27% reported having a mental health disorder, and 16% reported a chronic health disorder. 9% reported having a substance use disorder. Several youth in shelter have behavioral concerns. An 11-year-old child was destructive in the shelter. Shelter residents have multiple issues and evictions. A board member commented that Salvation Army has a great mission statement and clear projected and actual outcomes.

**8:30p-Tri-County Probation & Parole** – *Esther Angelos*. Ester has been with the Tri-county Advisory Board for Probation and Parole for 32 years. The board is made up of all volunteers. They meet once a month. Probation and Parolees are the clients. About 2000 people under supervision. Parolees go to court and the court gives mandated requirements but doesn’t consider how parolees are going to pay for it. It is hard for them to go to treatment and get evaluations when they are not working. Tri-County averaged 45-53 grants with CAB funds. \$600 is the amount a parolee can apply for. SA Evaluations are generally \$125 or \$325. Three were assisted with housing. The rest of the grants were for SA treatment or evaluations or the Batterers intervention program. There is an increase in women coming into P&P. P&P brings folks who are working the program and really need assistance. Children of people who have been in prison have 6x the chance of going to prison. Goal is community safety. Money is scarce, so it is difficult to get resources. CAB funds are used for treatment & temporary housing. We make a life by what we give – Winston Churchill.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

**Next Meeting Date:** Tues. Nov. 14th at 6:30p

**Location:** Spencer Road Library  
427 Spencer Road  
St. Peters, MO 63376