

**St. Charles County
Community Assistance Board**

Teams Virtual Meeting

Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2020

Meeting Facilitator: Caty Beilsmith, chair

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

Guests: Pinar Turker (St. Charles County); Robert Myers (St. Charles County); Cheryl Clerkley (NECAC); Kathy Henderson & Brittany Morgan (Sts. Joachim and Ann); Dottie Kastigar (Community Council); Lauren Muehling (Habitat); Kathy Thompson (LINC); Karen Ehlmann (Volunteers in Medicine), Lindsay Kyonka (Crisis Nursery); Linda Buschman (Turning Point); Brad Lambert (Connections to Success); Denise Fondren, Jessica Faltus & Amy Rager (OLI); Kyra Betts.

- I. **Call to order** at 7:02pm
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Public Comment** – no comments
- IV. **Approval of September 8, 2020 Minutes** – A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Minutes were approved.
- V. **New Business**
 - Budget Revision from SJA – request to move \$6000 from rental assistance to utility assistance. Motion to approve by Cindy, Christy seconded. Motion approved.
 - Agency Presentations

LINC- Kathy Thompson-LINC has been serving the community for over 28 years, with a Prevention & Crisis intervention focus. LINC works with Coordinated Entry, providing case management and financial support. Families have barriers to survival; child care is crucial. Children are assisted with play therapy and developmental learning. Some children come to child care with developmental delays. LINC also has a counseling program, sports program, latchkey program, and summer meals programs. This summer LINC served children at Hidden Valley. LINC manages the community foster grandparent program. They are planning to open tutoring stations across the county and in public libraries. They will have their Christmas store again this year. In 2019, 194 families received homeless prevention funds; 24 received motel stays. LINC also was the fiscal agent and managed the EWR program.

Habitat-Lauren Muehling – Habitat has been building homes in St. Charles county for 23 years; they have just finished their 90th home. Habitat partner families do pay mortgage for their homes; families also put in sweat equity. Families are offered financial education & budgeting, and homeowner insurance. There were 52 applicants this year. In August, two families were selected by the selection team. Habitat has broken ground on both homes for two single women, one raising granddaughters. Habitat is also planning two homes for next year – 1 new home and 1 rehab in spring 2021. CAB has helped provide homes for 15 families in partnership with Habitat.

Turning Point-Linda Buschman – Linda is new to the agency, but not new to homelessness. The population Turning Point serves has experienced a lot of trauma from violent and abusive situations. The main goal for families is safety, security, and stabilization to work them toward permanent housing. Turning Point works as part the coalition of agencies working to provide housing for survivors of domestic violence. Many families have experienced financial abuse. Wrap around services are provided to address basic needs including ID, SS card, and court advocacy. Counseling and substance abuse treatment is provided in house. This year Turning Point has seen an increase in requests for rental assistance, temporary housing, and utility assistance. Melinda asked about the request for \$5,000 for food. The food is both for shelter clients and people in the community. Melinda commented that the application was really well written, especially around community needs and strengths.

Connections to Success-Brad Lambert – Connections had an enrollment goal of 50; currently they have enrolled 20. Connections is behind in their goals, but expect to reach them. For outcome 1: persons employed – 22% actual due to COVID-19. Goal was 70%; employment is starting to pick up, however, a huge number of employed clients lost their job. Recidivism is 0, goal is 10%. Connections has been impacted by COVID, with several staff have testing positive. Most services have gone virtual. The Wentzville partnership was suspended due to COVID. In July, new partnership was initiated with MO Dept of Corrections to train corrections officers to work with felons while in prison. Establishing an E-learning portal was advanced as a goal; Connections hopes to have a portal in place by the end of the year. 2021 application is about the same in goals and amount requested. Connections expects a multi-year effort to bring workforce to where it was before. Dave asked if Brad was planning to retire in 1st quarter of 2021. Brad said yes.

Our Lady's Inn (OLI)-Denise Fondren – OLI serves dependent pregnant women and their children. COVID has changed how services are provided. OLI is now providing services to a lower number of woman and their children. There is a child advocate and nurse on staff. Clients develop a person-centered plan with goals to gain self-sufficiency. A counselor works with the women on substance use and mental health issues. Women attend treatment with community partners. Some women come from a domestic violence background. Women are sheltered in place; they have not been

going out to work in the community during COVID. Now they are gently going back into the community. A staff person transports women to doctor's appointments and other appointments with appropriate protocols. Numbers served are down. There is a quarantine period for new women before they are allowed to integrate with other residents. Positive outcomes: Birthweights are higher and gestations have also gone higher. Several moms were able to purchase cars, move out and obtain self-sufficiency. Melinda suggested a stronger outcome statement, rather than output statement. Select a different statement reflecting knowledge or behavioral change in client as a result of their stay at OLI.

Volunteers in Medicine (VIM)-Karen Ehlmann – VIM has been serving the community for 24 years. They see adult patients not eligible for other medical insurance. They are open 2 days per week by apt. only, and have a strong network of hospitals and specialists for referrals. Staff is all volunteer professionals. In 2019, for every \$1 spent, \$14.70 of services were provided. VIM started dispensary of Hope in June 2019; this has tremendously helped save drug costs. VIM provided limited telemedicine in late March through early June. They began seeing limited patients in June; this number has been increasing weekly. They instituted a doorbell system for picking up medications. Volunteer staff is currently about ½ of what they have done in the past. CVS took over Schnucks pharmacy, and VIM saw 50-100% increase in costs. They switched to SSM health pharmacy to keep costs in line and this has been working well. VIM has continuously strategized ways to reduce clinic-paid medication costs, and has gone from paying \$115,000 in 2015 to \$59,000 in 2020 for medications. There was a discussion around wellness education; VIM mostly provides diabetic education. Melinda thanked VIM and all agencies with their extreme creativity. Melinda asked about patient outcomes and success. VIM does a patient satisfaction survey, but doesn't really track outcomes.

NECAC-Cheryl Clerkley – NECAC is 54 years old. NECAC provides services from contracts with federal, state, and local governments. NECAC has a strong reputation for clean financial audits. NECAC's mission is to empower those they serve to rise above poverty and build stability as well as strong communities. Staff give clients the assistance they need, as well as case management, to help clients discover their strengths. Referrals are received from Coordinated Entry. They do have some walk-in clients; they then call 211 with the clients. Affordable housing is not there, so clients might be displaced if they miss 1 or 2 months of rent. 58% of the clients they serve are literally homeless. NECAC was closed for 3 weeks with COVID, but reopened in May. It was slow around May-June, after clients got stimulus money. Client volume picked up tremendously in July. Community partners have helped with masks for clients and staff. NECAC works with clients to minimize or end their housing crisis by bundling services with other programs like weatherization, job training (skill up), utility assistance, etc. NECAC has many community partners. They have volunteers from the Community alternative sentencing program. They also work with re-employability to get people job ready. NECAC is asking for \$5,000 from CARES funds for additional assistance like car repairs or

health, and \$35,000 in CAB funding. Section 8 waitlist is now closed. Robert asked if Cheryl heard that people had difficulty getting through 211. Cheryl commented that the CEntry email helps. Calls have nearly tripled. Christy Weber commented that CE call volume has increased 20% since July.

VI. **Adjournment - Christy motioned to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 8:41 pm**

VII. **Next Meeting Date:** Tuesday, November 10, 2020

Location: Meeting will be held virtually. A link will be sent out prior to the meeting.