

**St. Charles County
Community Assistance Board**

Teams Virtual Meeting
Meeting Minutes

November 10, 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); Dottie Kastigar (Community Council); Cheryl Clerkley (NECAC); Kathy Henderson & Brittany Morgan (Sts. Joachim and Ann); Lindsay Kyonka (Crisis Nursery); Jessica Faltus (OLI); Kyra Betts; Dawn Tegeler (YIN); Karleen Rogers (Tri-county); Hannah Weber, LaKeysha Fields & Pierre Hampton (SA); Mary Jones; Karen Ehlmann (VIM), Robert Myers (St. Charles County); Don Brennan

- I. **Call to order** at 7:08 pm
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Public Comment** – Dottie noted that we are seeing the impact of COVID on destabilizing families, with a 40% increase in homelessness since August.
- IV. **Approval of October 8, 2020 Minutes** – A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Minutes were approved.
- V. **New Business – Agency Presentation**

Crisis Nursery- Lindsay Kyonka –Thanked the CAB board for support through the years. Crisis Nursery provides emergency 24 hr. intervention for families in crisis. Staff has seen a tremendous increase in calls in the last couple of months. Staffing resources have been consolidated to the Wentzville facility since COVID, to maintain staffing levels. Crisis Nursery is now doing phone-based intakes and discharges. Out of 300 admissions, over 20% are homeless, with many parents in a mental health crisis. The family empowerment team is provided a lot of support. They have hosted 19 days of basic needs giveaways, and provided virtual services. 202 medical exams have been provided since March, with 60% identifying an underlying health issue. 100% of kids have been able to go home with family empowerment services. Over 1500 virtual and telehealth sessions have been hosted, offering a lifeline to families. Isolation is taking a toll. Melinda commented that outcomes were good and strong – Mission Matters helped Crisis Nursery with new client database. Caty asked when other locations would re-open – planning to re-open in January., but watching the numbers and staffing.

Preferred Family Health-Mary Jones & Hannah Weber -The Women's Center has served 90 women and 58 kids, and responded to 1500 calls. Staff is seeing an increase in #s needing shelter. Recently they have been seeing an increase in calls and severity. Staff also provide sexual assault and DV domestic violence outreach teams to 6 hospitals for advocates provide victim support and safety planning at discharge. Outreach advocacy services are now being offered virtually, along with telehealth. Court advocacy is provided for criminal and civil cases; Mary Jones is one of the supervisors. COVID has provided challenges, with daily temperatures, strict cleaning schedule every hour, limited outings, and limited number of residents per room. Groups have gone virtual. Counselor also meets with clients virtually. Goal is to continue to provide services during COVID. The Sexual assault response team (SART) averages 2-3 calls per week, although calls have dropped and people are not going to hospitals as often. Staff follow-up within a week for persons seen in hospitals, with 3-6 month follow up. Carissa Figgins commended the application on strengths. Staff were asked why they do not address CoC priorities in the application— answer: grant writer did not consult with staff. However, persons fleeing domestic violence are considered homeless.

Youth in Need - Dawn Tegeler - 1 in 30 youth experience homelessness between ages of 13-17. Homelessness looks a little different in rural areas. Goal of shelter is to screen in, not screen out. YIN accepts youth ages 10-19 who are homeless or in foster care, in crisis. Crisis respite care is generally 7-10 days. Youth have a therapist assigned during their stay. Focus in shelter is on basic needs as well as relationships with family and friends to find stability. YIN operates the Regional SafePlace program also. YIN provides a lot of staff training on anti-bias, anti-racism, Crisis intervention, behavior management, and trauma informed care. They are LGBTQ friendly. YIN has developed protocols for Coronavirus safety in congregate care IFM (Institute for Family Medicine) provides COVID testing 3x per week, with a 24-hr. turn-around. All non-essential staff work from home. Limited youth per bedroom, no outside recreation, quarantining until negative test results. Fund raisers are cancelled. Hiring is more challenging. Volunteers have stopped. Staff have been out with quarantining. So far YIN has only had one COVID positive youth. Therapists continue to work on-site. YIN outcomes -86% left to safe environments with one- and three-month follow-ups; 75% improved mental health from intake to discharge. CAB Funding helps with staffing, therapists, basic needs, and immediate crisis work. Melinda thanked for the great presentation and heroic response. Listed really great outcomes and clarity.

Tri-County - Karleen Rogers- Thanked board for continued support. All board members of the Tri-county probation and parole are volunteers. All funds go to participants to keep them safe in the community. Tri-county probation and parole serves probation and parolees, to lessen their risk of re-offense by helping individuals get what they need to be successful. The CAB funding request is to help for indigent clients. \$600 per individual per year is maximum amount allowed. Funds assist with medical, counseling, mental health, housing, and utility assistance. Currently,

probation and parole has 1983 under supervision in St. Charles County. Of parolees, 47.2% had health issues, 47% had mental issues, and 80% had substance issues in prison. Tri-county probation and parole has been unable to have 3 fund raisers in 2020 due to COVID. Several new board members have been recruited to help with fund raising. The daily cost of incarceration in Missouri is \$58.85 daily; the daily cost of probation and parole supervision is \$5.30. Caty thanked Karleen for great presentation. On application, it doesn't indicate % of veterans serve. Answer - about 5%. Melinda mentioned that there was \$8,000 requested for counseling, how is it used? Answer -mostly for substance about and mental health evaluation and treatment. There has also been an increase in requests for batterers intervention and treatment.

Salvation Army – Pierre Hampton- regional shelter director. Salvation Army meet needs and change the lives of the people they serve. The Salvation Army operate 3 shelters regionally. Juanita, the O'Fallon shelter director addressed how Salvation Army was keeping families safe in shelter. COVID has been a big challenge. Services do not stop. Protocols include daily wellness and temp checks, daily cleaning and hand sanitizer. The shelter is cleaned 3x per day. Everyone wears masks in shelter, from ages 3 and up. Staff used to shelter 8 women in one room – now 4. Guests now eat in shifts. CIVID-19 screening is done during intake. Team comes from divisional headquarters to see that they are following COVID procedures. Salvation Army provides temporary lodging for families, by helping them to feel secure while they are in shelter and transition to independent living. Staff meet immediate needs and provide an internal network of support, offering additional services when families leave shelter. Services include case management, life skills, assistance with locating housing, linking with community support, pastoral care, and three meals a day. Recent trends include more chronic health problems and older persons. More have extensive housing issues and an increase in mental health issues. Targeted outcomes: meet within 48 hours to develop an individual housing plan- 75% entering are expected to achieve a long term housing solution; 75% are expected to increase their income; 100% of school aged children are expected to be enrolled in school within 1 week of entering shelter. Keys to success are partnerships, alleviate barriers, housing, pathway of hope (internal support for 6-month follow-up). John asked about admission testing for COVID. Staff were tested – none positive in St. Charles; Melinda – the Salvation Army safety officer helps with protocols. Drs. From infectious disease control from Wash U. also offered advice.

Sts. Joachim & Ann Care Service – Brittany Morgan is the new program services director since June. She has been with the Care Service for 5 1/2 years. The Care Service mission to serve those in crisis and prevent homelessness and hunger. Sts. Joachim and Ann Care service provides short & long-term housing and case management and wrap around services. They also provide street outreach for those who are homeless and not in shelter. Sts. Joachim & Ann receives most referrals through Coordinated Entry – receiving 40% of CoC referrals. Sts. Joachim & Ann serves households at or below 50% AMI in St. Charles, Lincoln, and Warren County. Families struggling

with poverty and a housing crisis makes stabilization more challenging. CAB funds are crucial to show other funders that the local community supports the services the Care Service provides in the community. Project CARE funds provided motel sheltering for COVID positive clients. Clients assisted included 476 Households provided financial assistance. 87% were safe and secure after 3 months. 100% did not become homeless after 3 months of assistance. Carissa wanted to thank Sts. Joachim & Ann for their work. Melinda wanted to know request from last year -\$54,000. Kathy responded that the request is higher because we see the need is higher.

VI. **Adjournment - Meeting adjourned 8:50pm**

VII. **Next Meeting Date: December 8, 2020**

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