

**St. Charles County
Community Assistance Board**

St. Charles County Library – Spencer Road Branch – Room 240

**Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2022**

Meeting Facilitator: Melinda McAliney, Chair

Attendance: David Bardgett; Cindy Syberg; Pat Leone; John Glenn;

Guests: Pinar Turker (St. Charles County); Dottie Kastigar (Community Council); Robin Bell (YIN); Maddie Fisher (Habitat) Carrie Dina (NECAC); Kathy Thompson (LINC); Esther Angelos; Esther Coates (Tri-County Probation & Parole); Brittany Morgan and Kathy Henderson (J&A); Sarah Gramanzini (Turning Point); Kathleen Thompson (City of St. Charles)

- I. Call to order at 6:30p
 - a. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Public Comment – Dottie shared results of CoC work. 410 homeless households were rehoused in the past year. Over 17M in rent and mortgage assistance has helped stabilize 3500 households and prevent them from becoming homeless.
- IV. Approval of October 11, 2022 Minutes. Motion to approve made by John seconded by Cynthia. Motion approved.
- V. New Business
 - a. Agency presentations
 - 1) Youth In Need (6:45)-** Pam Bell, Housing director. Established 1974. Serve 10,000 per year. house 12 kids, take kids from all situations. Families in crisis has increased. Homeless youth, age 17-19. Also help youth with family time out. Therapist and case manager. Discharge to safe and stable environment. Hands off facility. Serve ages 10-19. 2019 served 201 youth. Low barrier. Not homicidal or suicidal. Starts with a phone call. 750 safe place sites. Lots of challenges, staffing challenges this year. Had to close one shelter for several months due to staffing. Pam share that the bright side of her day is having dinner with the children around the dining room table, sharing stories and amazing moments of their day. Q. Explain the \$50,000 request for shelter provisions. A. The shelter often needs to purchase of extra items like food, appliances, clothing, etc. Q. How do youth get to the shelter? A. YIN provides transportation. Q. How long can they stay? A. Maximum of 30 days; prefer 7 days if they have a home to return to.

2) LINC SCC (7:00 pm) -Kathy Thompson, Executive Director. Emergency Warming Cards are on the table. Kathy explained that LINC staff meet people with job loss, deaths, COVID, etc. They help with homeless prevention by providing affordable childcare, food assistance, rental assistance, etc. With case management, LINC helps with life skill mentoring and job skill community training programs. LINC operates an 18-year-old childcare program. They offer licensed crisis counseling. It has been a busy year. Over 200 households have been helped with rent, mortgage, case management. LINC met their CAB goals. Kathy shared a story of a woman with stage 4 lung cancer, where Grandmother raising the 7-year-old grandson. Grandma has lupus and other health issues. LINC loves to celebrate with clients. The trends and concerns they are seeing include longer term hotel stay due to the lack of affordable housing, and much greater need with car repairs and transportation. There is a trend of grandparents raising children. They are seeing a larger number of single parents., where moms leaving husband and children behind. LINC helps with financial management of the EWR program. LINC's administrative costs are about 4%. They have served the community since 1992. Q. About outcomes A. The outcome for preventing homelessness is the percent of persons helped with homeless prevention funding that stayed in their homes at least 30 days after assistance.

3) Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County (7:15 pm) – Maddie Fischer, development director. Mission of Habitat is to provide safe, decent, affordable housing. Habitat St. Charles was founded in 1997. They have served the community for 25 years. During that time, 93 families have received homeownership housing. To qualify for a Habitat home, a household must live or work in St. Charles County and live in substandard housing. Households are required to provide sweat equity and sign 30-40-year affordable loan. Families take classes in financial literacy. Habitat builds 3 days per week. They had issues with COVID; they were only able to build one house, and donations decreased. Habitat is requesting -\$35,000 to support home builds in St. Charles. Home prices are now \$170,000. Habitat is building three homes this year. Q. How will the funds be spent? A. Funds will be used for building supplies. Habitat did deconstruct one house. Q. Have you been able to get supplies for building? A. Habitat has had some supply issues, but they are getting back on track. Q. Do you have difficulty recruiting veterans to help? A. In the past, we have had difficulty getting veterans to apply. We have one veteran build home in St. Peters. Vets have VA loan option, so many Vets prefer this option. Habitat is both the builder and the bank.

4)Tri-County Board of Probation and Parole (7:30 pm) Esther Angelos. The board began in 1993 to support probation and parolees of District 17 to successfully stabilize in their community re-entry. There is no overhead or administration, no salaries or paid staff. All grant funding goes directly to probation and parolees. The board meets one time per month to approve grant requests submitted through probation officers. Temporary assistance is provided to address homelessness, utility arrearages, state IDs, treatment, and evaluation. Assistance helps reduce crime and recidivism and keeps parolees productive. MO has 8th largest prison pop. In US. 2021, 2300 persons were in prison, 12,000 in jails. The tri-county board made 79 grants in 2021. Most were for treatment grants. This year, they have

made 81 grants to date. 72 (89%) have been for substance abuse treatment. There is increased requests for temporary housing. Community safety is the #1 issue. Courts make assignments, but services are not free, and not cheap. 1 of every 9 children has a parent who has spent time in jail. The board measures success by persons completing their program and staying in their homes. The board only pays up to \$600 per person per grant. Q. Is the 1 in 9 statistic a local one? A. No, it is a Nationwide statistic. Q. Are judges are requiring evaluations as part of probation and parole? A. Yes.

5) NECAC (7:45 pm) – Applying and presenting on both CAB and CDBG requests. Carrie Dena, St. Charles director. Carrie started in housing department. She is now the County director. NECAC partners with all agencies to help clients. They make referrals to OASIS and FISH. NECAC was founded in 1965. They are one of the biggest Community Action agencies, serving 13 counties. They work with low income, elderly, and disabled households. They help with water, utilities, rent, mortgage, etc., administering several federal funding programs including LIHEAP and ECIP utility assistance programs. They also administer Skill up- a program that helps people go to school. NECAC is starting a food pantry to help people when they are between funds and is also starting a clothing closet. They made the lobby more kid friendly. NECAC administers a program that provides in-home services for elderly and disabled, as well as a weatherization program to increase energy efficiency. NECAC manages the public housing program for St. Charles County; over 5000 people applied the last time the housing list was open. NECAC is requesting \$34,000 to help with rent, mortgage, etc. They are seeing more people seeking electric assistance, often with \$1000 - \$3,300 in electric bills. Q. Where is the food pantry? A. at the NECAC office – it will open middle of December.

6) Sts. Joachim & Ann Care Service (J&A) (8:00 pm) Brittany Morgan, Director of program services. Sts. Joachim and Ann Care Service has a new Logo! They have been serving the community for 41 years. They manage integrative programs. The Housing program is key to integrated services which also include the food pantry, case management, adopt-a-family, disaster recovery, and street outreach. J&A now has an Elsberry pantry. Their mobile pantry visits specific locations. this helps with low access areas. The food pantry is “client choice”. Street outreach reaches out those who are unsheltered, providing basic survival items including food, tent, warm clothing, medic, etc. Street outreach staff work with homeless individuals until they are ready for case management. Case management is an integral part of services. Staff first complete a comprehensive assessment and identify individual strengths. They work with clients to establish short- and long-term goals. They meet families where they are at. Households must be under 50% Area Median Income (AMI). J&A serves the tri-county area. Anyone can request case management, utility assistance or food. J&A sees a lot of families. CAB funds help “fill the gap” in providing services including emergency shelter, transportation, and gas cards. CAB funds are used for leverage and matching funds. It costs \$894 to stabilize a household if they are at risk for homelessness. If a household is homeless, it costs \$1917 to move them into Permanent Housing. J&A also provides a housing locator to work with landlords in identifying vacant units. Outcomes from clients

served include (1) 83% are in stable housing 3 months later. (2) 91% did not become homeless again within 1 year. Q. Explain the street outreach program. A. Staff meet homeless on the streets and in the community three days per week. They make sure that homeless individuals have their basic needs met. They provide tents, sleeping bags, etc. They receive referrals from CE, and word of mouth. Q. Mobile Food pantry – will this continue? A. Yes. It was a donor's dream!

7) Turning Point (8:15 pm) – Sarah Gramanzini, new Executive Director. Turning Point has been providing services in the community since 1994. Turning Point works with survivors of domestic violence, family violence, sexual assault, trafficking. Services are survivor defined. Clients identify what they need. Some folks stay a couple of nights, others much longer. A counselor works with survivors; there is no waiting list. Staff help with court advocacy and provide Substance abuse advocacy on-site. The shelter recently expanded to 36 beds. Turning Point is focused on breaking the cycle of generational violence. Q. Avg. length of stay? A. 3 months for most; some up to 1 year. Q. Do you educate families who come to you re: resources for family violence? A. Yes, a lot of education is provided. Q. Range of children served? A. Recently Turning Point has had a major influx of little children. In the summer, there was more school aged children. Q. Are women in hiding? A. Some are, but some are just needing shelter. There is a lot of security at the facility. They served a family with 9 children and was able to accommodate them. All the family is in the same room, a larger room. There are bathrooms in each room. Q. Impact of COVID – what are you seeing? A. Numbers have skyrocketed. Court advocates are busy. Major influx of people needing outreach services.

VI. Adjournment – **8:20pm**

Next Meeting Date: **Tuesday, December 13, 2022**

Location: **St. Charles County Library – Spencer Road Branch**