

Cape County Board for the Developmentally Disabled

Regular Meeting/ Closed Session

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Cape Girardeau Public Library, Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Members Present: Bill Ramsey, Debra Followell, and Beth Emmendorfer, Karen Fornkahl, and Julie Metzger

Members Absent: Steve Naeter, Dixie McCollum, Tameika Morris, Traci Ritter

Meeting was called to order at 6:34 by Vice Chairperson Beth Emmendorfer.

Karen Fornkahl made motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Bill Ramsey. All approved.

Approve minutes:

Bill Ramsey made motion to approve January 2023 meeting minutes; seconded by Julie Metzger. All approved.

Public Comment: Representative of Grace Café gave an update on progress regarding building renovations and stated they hope to be opening in a month.

Treasurer Report:

Dixie McCollum emailed report to members of the board prior to meeting. Steve Naeter submitted completed contact form to county per request. Karen Fornkahl moved to approve Treasurer's Report; Debra Followell seconded. All approved.

Update from Community Resources Committee:

Beth Emmendorfer reported committee met to discuss ideas and brainstorm ways to identify needs in our community as well as address apparent difficulty for individuals and families in gaining access to services. The committee discussed communication, timeline delays, data base for services, how to reach the population of Developmental Disabled (DD) in our county, etc. The committee discussed an estimated 600 DD in our community are not accessing services available and are being missed, especially older DD individuals. They talked about ways to get the word out -making better connections with schools and encouraging families to start early in planning access to post-High School programs and providers. A new state data base program through the state will show DMH contracted providers. This may help to inform people that do not know about the different kind of waivers and eligibility requirements for services. Catholic Charities representatives stated that they are trying to attend all community meetings, such as VIP and Systems of Care, to share and gain more information to share with families. Parents are encouraged to keep asking questions and continue contacting agencies for updates so the process doesn't go on hold indefinitely. The Lynwood Academy representative informed the board that they would be hosting a Transition Fair in September that will be open to the public to assist parents in obtaining information. Committee discussed ways to help parents to be more prepared such as informing them to keep most recent copy of school evaluation report, and IEP, and medical records, etc. The committee talked about ways the SB40 could help support families through agencies such as Catholic Charities, encouraging parents to share their needs and the creation of a support group that could help families learn about supports available, what to ask for, who to ask. etc. The committee will meet again to determine suggestions to bring to the board.

Update from MACDDS:

Beth Emmendorfer presented information MACDDS is sharing regarding Senate Bill 8. This legislation, if passed, could reduce personal property tax (property assessed at 31%) in the state which would adversely impact schools and boards such as SB40 by a reduction in tax dollars coming in. MAACDDS is encouraging communication with legislators. A loss of our funding dollar amount received that is used to disperse funds to support programs would negatively affect us in our efforts to help the developmental disabled population in our county.

Motion to adjourn to go into executive closed session made by Karen Fornkahl to discuss correspondence received from board attorney, Emily Solum; seconded by Julie Metzger. Roll call vote taken, all affirmative, 7:15 p.m.

Motion to adjourn closed Session made by Julie Metzger at 8:33; seconded by Bill Ramsey. Roll call vote taken, all affirmative.

Beth Emmendorfer reconvened open session, calling regular meeting back to order.

Next Meeting Date: Regular Meeting – April 11, 2023

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Julie Metzger; seconded by Bill Ramsey. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

_____ Date _____

Debra Followell, Secretary

_____ Date _____

Steve Naeter, Chairperson

*CCBDD original signed documents are retained on file.