

Cape County Board for the Developmentally Disabled
Regular Meeting/ Closed Session
6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 9, 2023
Cape Girardeau Public Library, Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Members Present: Steve Naeter, Bill Ramsey, Debra Followell, Dixie McCollum, Traci Ritter, Beth Emmendorfer, Karen Fornkahl, and Julie Metzger. Members Absent: Tameika Morris. Tameika requested for Julie Metzger to serve as her proxy for the meeting tonight.

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Chairperson Steve Naeter.

Dixie McCollum made motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Karen Fornkahl. All approved.

Karen Fornkahl made motion to approve April 2023 meeting minutes; seconded by Beth Emmendorfer. All approved.

Public Comment: Representative Nancy Robertson of Mississippi Valley Therapeutic Horsemanship informed the board their new pilot program has begun with 40 individuals enrolled.

Samuel Duer, representing Graceful Café, stated contractors have given them upcoming date to begin moving inside. Finishes on the outside are underway. Samuel stated they are planning soft openings now and the hard opening by end of June. They plan to do campaign to educate public how to interact with workers. He shared they have hired 15 developmentally disabled (DD) employees who will each work 4-15 hours per week. Coffee shop will be open 6 a.m.- 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

Carissa Tracy, representing Tailor Institute, shared about a new program they are offering and open to any atypical neuro individual in our area. The Work It program's focus is to help individuals learn skills to retain jobs. They also started a program to help clients develop relationship skills, Love Across the Spectrum; clients are learning conversation and social skills which also helps them to be successful in their work places. They are also offering Saturday Club House, another chance for DD clients to explore a social outlet. Overall, 40-50 clients are getting involved monthly in group or one-on-one activities.

Nancy Robertson concluded the public comments by stating with all of the new agencies adding programs, it has really opened up opportunities for the DD in our community. Groups are all supporting each other and making a difference in the lives of our developmental disabled.

Treasurer Report: Steve reiterated a summary of the discussion from our last meeting regarding the SB40 numbers on reports are behind from actual in the county reports; this being the reason behind the board electing to not approve reports received last month. Dixie stated she has plans to set up a meeting with Pete Frazier to address this concern. Dixie stated the February and March reports from accountant were received with the April report which contributed to varying balances showing on our reporting sources: county report, auditor report, and CCBDD grant ledger. Steve proposed to Dixie to set up a meeting with Pete Frazier for Steve, the new incoming treasurer, and for herself to attend. The board agreed to table the treasurer's report again until after this meeting is held.

Consider Grant Applications: The board received a grant request from Graceful Opportunities for funds to purchase two full cab driving simulators and curriculum binders needed to use in training DD individuals in the county who desire to obtain a driver's license. Representatives were present at the meeting to discuss their proposal, the need for specialized training, the benefit for DD in our county to gain more independence, and answer questions. Dixie McCollum made a motion to approve the grant

request for \$40,000. Beth Emmendorfer seconded. Members of the board voted in approval with the exception of Karen Fornkohl voting against the motion. The grant will be funded in the second funding cycle, beginning July 1, 2023.

Update from Community Resource Committee: Traci Ritter shared the committee had met with Missouri Family to Family regarding a family advocate/peer mentor program they offer to families. They also met with Employment First Missouri regarding training and information sharing they can offer to service providers. Traci stated the committee continues to gather information regarding improvements needed to enhance access to services and how to successfully navigate through the disability system. Traci stated the Governor’s Council on Disability shared passage of HB970/971 as House Amendment 4 to SB 106; this legislation is aimed at improving oversight and job opportunities for DD in our state. The committee reviewed a study from the Dept. of Labor and understand a desire for competitive employment continues to rise among our DD. The committee will continue to work toward ensuring there is local support for a continuum of employment services in our area to meet needs of all Developmental Disabled that desire employment options.

Election of Officers: Debra Followell was nominated to continue as Secretary of the board. Dixie McCollum made motion nomination cease. All approved. Steve Naeter was nominated to continue as Chairperson of the board and motion made for nomination to cease by Karen Fornkahl. All approved. Beth Emmendorfer nominated Traci Ritter for Treasurer and Dixie McCollum as Deputy Treasurer. All approved. Traci Ritter nominated Beth Emmendorfer as Vice Chairperson of the board. All approved. Steve called for a vote to accept all nominees proposed for the new slate of officers. All approved.

Misc. discussion near end of meeting included Beth Emmendorfer asking should we assign a member of the board to respond to email of inquiry directed to the board. The board decided the Vice Chairperson of the board would respond through the Director email so all members are kept abreast of the correspondence. Beth also asked if any other board member wanted to be the MACDDS representative for the next year. Karen Fornkahl nominated Beth to continue as the board’s MACDDS representative. All approved. The July board meeting date must be changed due to conflict with the meeting room at the library. The board discussed alternative date of July 10th. Traci Ritter will confirm and change the meeting date on the SB40 website. Traci will also try to schedule the next year meeting dates with library personnel.

Next Meeting Date: Regular Meeting – June 13, 2023

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Beth Emmendorfer; seconded by Dixie McCollum. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

_____ Date _____

Debra Followell, Secretary

_____ Date _____

Steve Naeter, Chairperson

*CCBDD original signed documents are retained on file.