

Cape County Board for the Developmentally Disabled

Regular Meeting

6:30 p.m. January 9, 2024

Cape Girardeau Public Library, Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Members Present: Beth Emmendorfer, Bill Ramsey, Debra Followell, Steve Naeter, Dixie McCollum, Traci Ritter (by phone for part of meeting 6:45-6:50).

Members Absent: Tameika Morris, Julie Metzger, and Karen Fornkahl

Meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM by Chairperson Steve Naeter.

Bill Ramsey made motion to approve agenda; seconded by Beth Emmendorfer. All approved.

Approve minutes: Dixie McCollum made motion to approve both November 14, 2023 and December 5, 2023 meeting minutes; seconded by Bill Ramsey. All approved.

Public Comment:

Serita Long, Trendline Difference, shared a success story of one client who has been receiving their services.

Andrea Roseman, Access Ministry, provided information about a Mom's retreat in March and shared about a June summer workshop that will be held 3 mornings a week. They are still accepting sign ups.

Jeremy Rowland, Catholic Charities, presented update on community meetings coming up and invited everyone to join in on these meetings designed to share ideas about serving the DD in our community.

Nancy Robinson, MVTH, gave brief update on construction completed at their facility and recent newsletter sent out.

Treasurer Report:

Traci Ritter, Treasurer, emailed report to board members prior to meeting. Traci was unable to attend meeting in person. Dixie McCollum moved that we accept the treasurer's report. Beth Emmendorfer seconded. All approved.

Grant Proposals:

Meredith Pobst, Heather Miller, and Christi Shinn, representing Jackson R-2 School District Foundation, presented information about two sensory areas, one indoor and one outdoor, they requested funding to create on their high school campus. These areas will give the students a needed sensory break and provide a place for students to go and learn how to regulate their emotions as needed during the school day. The Adaptive Music teacher will also utilize these spaces with students. Up to 275 students will benefit by sensory areas available on campus to use on a regular basis with estimated 40 students utilizing the areas every day. Dixie McCollum made a motion to approve the grant request; Bill Ramsey seconded the motion. Steve Naeter abstained from voting. Traci Ritter voted by phone participation in meeting. All other board members present approved the funding request of \$49,298.46.

Representative Maria Marzucio of Downs Syndrome Association of Greater St. Louis (DSAGSL) spoke to board about the funding her organization requested to start various programming in Southeast Missouri for Down's Syndrome individuals and their families such as Mom's Night Out, Music Therapy, Funding Events, Gross Motor Play and Circle of Friends. Maria discussed ongoing collaborative efforts with volunteer based Heartland Down Syndrome Association in Cape Girardeau and DSAGSL's intent to continue partnering with this organization for events and providing services. The board discussed details of the grant request that may not meet criteria for funding and concern that any funds granted by our board would only be applied to fund services for individuals living in Cape County. The board tabled the grant request and will ask representatives from DSAGSL to modify application to resubmit for consideration at the February meeting.

Nancy Robinson, representing Mississippi Valley Therapeutic Horsemanship (MVTH) discussed the grant request submitted to replace fencing of the dry lot for their horses that was recently damaged beyond repair. Beth Emmendorfer made motion to approve the grant request; Dixie McCollum seconded. All approved the funding request of \$20,547.

Representatives Serita Long and Eric Henderson, The Trendline Difference, discussed proposed grant details to expand employment support to individuals with disabilities in Cape County. Erik stated the funds granted by the CCBDD board will stay in the county to assist Trendline in their work with the Department of Mental Health and Vocational Rehab to serve individuals as they work toward their vision of being successfully employed. The funds requested will add office space and equipment in Cape Girardeau to help DD individuals develop skills through visual sequences for consumers, interactive lessons, POS system simulators, etc., as well as provide funds to obtain Benefits Planning Certification and CARF Accreditation. Beth Emmendorfer moved to approve the grant request; Dixie McCollum seconded. All approved funding request of \$28,553.79.

Request for MOUs:

Jeremy Rowland and Caitlyn Sparkman of Catholic Charities (CC) discussed benefits and success of the previously funded programs provided and explained MOUs proposed to continue funding of the CCSOMO Home Modification (\$110,935) and Employment Coordinator (\$93,790) programs CC began last year in Cape County. Caitlyn updated the board of plan to continue collaborating with Vocational Rehab and additional ways she is reaching out to the community to recruit new employers and DD individuals to participate in the employment program. Dixie McCollum made motion to approve MOU for Home Modification program; Beth Emmendorfer seconded. All approved. Beth Emmendorfer moved to approve MOU for Employment Coordinator program; Bill Ramsey seconded. All approved.

Debbie Leoni, representing My Team Triumph, discussed the details of needs that are ongoing to promote and fund all of the events, activities, equipment, etc. that My Team Triumph facilitates through the year to support and provide opportunities for DD outings in our community. The MOU request for \$9,920 will be spend on registration fees for events, storage and maintenance/repair of equipment. Debra Followell made motion to approve MOU request; Dixie McCollum seconded. All approved.

Representative of Tailor Institute, Angela Graviett, spoke to the board about the various events and programs the Tailor Institute continues to provide for individuals with Autism. Their ongoing services include focus on programming to provide social opportunities, communication/social cognition therapy, mental health supports, independent living skills training, employment/transition, group and 1:1 consumer services and more. Dixie McCollum made a motion to approve the MOU fund request of \$125,000; seconded by Bill Ramsey. All approved.

Nancy Robinson, representing MVTH, discussed the MOU request to continue financial support of ongoing equine facilitated learning programs Mississippi Valley Therapeutic Horsemanship provides for the DD in our county. Dixie McCollum made a motion to approve request for \$71,850; Beth Emmendorfer seconded. All approved.

Beth Emmendorfer informed board the MACDDS statement for annual dues was received. Beth stated membership in MACDDS has been beneficial for CCBDD. Our membership in this organization is very worthwhile for our board to be connecting with other boards and learning about services that are being provided for individuals with developmental disabilities in other counties. Membership also provides valuable legislative supports. Beth informed board MACDDS is starting a subgroup for county boards that do not have hired employees, such as CCBDD. Dixie McCollum made a motion to continue our membership in MACDDS organization. Bill Ramsey seconded the motion. All approved.

Next Meeting Date: Regular Meeting – February 13, 2024

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Beth Emmendorfer and seconded by Dixie McCollum. All approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

_____ Date _____

Debra Followell, Secretary

_____ Date _____

Steve Naeter, Chairperson

*CCBDD original signed documents are retained on file.