

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MONDAY, JULY 16, 2012**

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was convened by Chair. Martin at 7:37 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Chair. Martin, Ald. Monken, Carrignan, Payleitner, Turner, Rogina, Krieger, and Bessner

Members Absent: Ald. Stellato and Lewis

Others Present: Chris Aiston, Mark Koenen, Chris Minick, Chief Mullen, Peggy Forster, Kathy Livernois, and Chief Lamkin

3. Omnibus Vote

Budget Revisions – June 2012

Motion by Ald. Krieger, second by Rogina to approve the omnibus vote as presented.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays: None; Absent: Stellato and Lewis. Chair. Martin did not vote as Chair. **Motion carried.**

4. Finance Department

a. Presentation of St. Charles Mental Health Board agencies:

i. Association Individual Development

ii. Ecker Center for Mental Health

iii. Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice

iv. Lazarus House

v. Renz Addiction Counseling Center

vi. Tri City Family Services

and recommend approval of the St. Charles 708 Mental Health Board funding allocation for FY12/13 in the amount of \$588,100.

Chris Minick: As a result of a referendum that was passed many years ago by the residents of the City, every year we set aside a portion of 4 cents out of every year's tax levy for funding and support of agencies that provide mental health services for the City's residents. For fiscal year 2012/13 those allocations total \$588,100. Each year the City's 708 Mental Health Board meets, accepts applications, and makes recommendations of allocations of how to allocate that funding on an annual basis. They have proposed allocations as detailed within the packet this evening. Also groups that receive \$25K or more a year in funding must make a presentation before the City Council to outline the

plan use of those funds. Six groups are making presentations tonight: Association for Individual Development, Ecker Center for Mental Health, Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice, Lazarus House, Renz Addiction Counseling Center, and TriCity Family Services. At the conclusion of the presentations tonight, staff will be seeking a recommendation of approval of the proposals detailed in your packets.

Association for Individual Development – Lynn O’Shea, Executive Director: We are extremely pleased and delighted to have continued support from the City of St. Charles. AID was organized back in 1961 to provide services to children with disabilities. We were the first special education program back 52 years ago. Over the course of these 52 years we have expanded our services to include vocational training, job placement, group homes, apartment living, children therapy services, respite care, and community living for individuals with behavioral challenges. I am pleased to report that last year we provided 213,837 hours of service to St. Charles’ residents at a cost of \$1,458,015. The services we provide are critical to families of St. Charles who have children and young adults with disabilities. You’ve probably seen results of our work if you shop at Jewel. They have been an excellent employer of children with disabilities and one of our best customers. Walgreens is planning to go that same route and we are working with them now. Essentially our goal is to keep people with disabilities living in their home community, in their homes, and become adults with a place to live here in town rather than have to be placed in an institution at dramatically higher costs than what we are able to provide the service for. One bit of information I would like to share with you is as a result of the significant cuts in state funding over the last couple of years, we currently have 25 St. Charles’ residents who are funded almost exclusively from the Mental Health Board funds because there is no other source of funding for them. Times have really been difficult. As we look to the future, our primary source of referrals for individuals coming in on the waiting list is our special education program. Here in St. Charles’ District 303 they currently have 1,948 special Ed students. We now know the demand of services that we provide is here to stay for the next 10-12 years. Currently we have 125 St. Charles’ residents on the waiting list from 60174 and 49 from 60175. With your continued support we hope over time that we will be able to increase services, meet some of the individual needs on the waiting list, and continue to provide a high quality of service to St. Charles’ residents.

Ald. Carrigan: We appreciate all the work you do for the City and the services you bring.

Ecker Center for Mental Health – Karen Beyer, Executive Director: We provide crisis intervention services for people of all ages who have mental health issues and we also provide a wide array of mental health services to adults with serious mental health illnesses. 229 St. Charles’ residents received 1,680 hours of service from Ecker Center in FY2011. These services were provided in our St. Charles and Elgin offices. The services included psychiatry, nursing, case management, therapy, rehabilitation services and residential programs. Our psychiatrists provide prescriptions and diagnoses, our nurses help people obtain their medications and understand how to take them. Case managers

provide access to food, housing, clothing, entitlement programs, medical, and dental care. They also provide supervision for people who are living in the community. We provide individual and group therapies. Our rehabilitation staff helps people with mental illnesses and increases their functioning ability in the community. We also provide four levels of residential care. Short term care for people in severe crises to keep them from having to go to a hospital or more recently because hospitalization in private and the state hospitals have become so short, we're finding ourselves caring for people post-hospitalization who are not really ready to go back to their homes and live independently (that's a 2-week program). We also have group homes where people receive supervision 24 hours a day and then we have quite a number of apartments where people receive just day time supervision from morning medication to evening medication as well as we have scattered site residents in apartments in the community where people live with some subsidies that we are able to provide through HUD and then come to our offices for case management services.

As Lynn talked about earlier wrt developmental disability services, the state of Illinois is cutting back their funding drastically in terms of mental health services, they still fund all emergency services which is basically our psychiatric emergency program, but they do really little else. We are becoming a system state-wide that is spending money only on people who have Medicaid. As was said before, people with mental health problems who don't have Medicaid or insurance are the people we use your money primarily to serve. Those people don't really have any other source and I want to reassure you that the funding we receive from St. Charles 708 Mental Health Board is spent on St. Charles' residents.

In spite of these challenges we have recently been able to add one group home and an on-site independent pharmacy has located within our Elgin office. That is becoming a great help to people who come to see us and get their psychiatric medications from us. The pharmacy is providing some services for free because they are apparently able to do this and make enough money to support that kind of thing.

Ald. Carrignan: Once again thank you for your services. Our citizens need your services and we appreciate it very much.

Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice – Greg Wider, Executive Director: For over 31 years Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice has served the St. Charles community. FVVH has worked to enhance the quality of life by providing the best in compassionate services for life threatening illnesses and the bereaved. Also all services are provided free of charge. FVVH directly impacts the mental health of those we serve by providing both practical and emotional support. We offer a philosophy of care to put control back into the individual's life by providing support and assistance for immediate needs. Anyone who has experienced a death/loss in their family can understand the important needs of bereavement services. Last year Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice served 158 St. Charles' residents providing almost 6000 hours of service at a value of over \$200K. City of St. Charles is used to support our extensive youth and adult bereavement programs, provide

professional patient and family assessments, bereavement and counseling, hospice, care by our staff, volunteer training, education outreach, free equipment loans (wheel chairs, walkers), community resource library available free to the community, and ongoing workshops and continuing education.

Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice hopes to expand our youth program ASAP to develop a participatory grief program to meet the needs of the community to continue to seek collaborative partners to enhance program services such as pet therapy and continue the mission of Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice in this community.

Lazarus House – Liz Eakins, Director: It's a great privilege to come before you after serving the community for the past 15 years. Last year Lazarus served 172 individuals from the City of St. Charles in our homeless shelter, transitional living center, and outreach programs. That is 172 people that 15 years ago when our founding Director, Darlene Marcusson came before this body, none of us really understood or knew that they were there. Of those 172 that we served as of our ending fiscal year on June 30, 2012, we saw an increase in "nights in service" and of our children being served we saw a 40% increase in this past fiscal year. Women had a 33% increase over this same period. We understand now the impact and long term effects of the downturn of the economy is having on the families that live here in the Fox Valley. The folks that are served by our outreach program – today we have 31 households that are receiving ongoing rent subsidies through our programs; and of those 31 households, 55% of them are from St. Charles. Some of them have always had St. Charles as their home address, but we were able to find homes for them in our neighboring communities, but 55% of them were or are in the City of St. Charles.

TriCity, Renz, Ecker, Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice, AID, all these organizations are great partners in service in what we do in these communities. None of us duplicate services that the other does, but we support the families that we serve all in our unique ways. Lazarus House greatly thanks the City for their continued support and encouragement for all the efforts that we do and also the support of the Mental Health funds that we couldn't do the things we do as well without this funding.

Chrmn. Martin: We greatly appreciate your services. It surpasses any of our dreams – congratulations and thank you.

Ald. Payleitner: Thank you for tying the other partners in on how you all complement each other.

Renz Addiction Counseling Center, Jerry Skogma, Executive Director: Like AID we have been around for 51 years providing alcohol and drug abuse prevention, treatment of problem gambling, and HIV prevention. One of the main reasons that Renz exists is because of drug and alcohol effects on society and communities. It is highly correlated with delinquency, crime, domestic violence, and all kinds of health problems; so our mission is – if we can prevent substance abuse or treat it when it occurs, the communities

we serve are going to be healthier and safer. In fiscal year 2012 Renz Center saw 125 residents of St. Charles, about 4,500 hours of service and 36 hours of service per patient/client. Alcohol abuse continues to be a major problem in this area as it is in many of the communities we serve. There is also chronic marijuana use and recently there has been uptake in cocaine and heroin use, as well as some synthetic marijuana. Of course many of the people we see abuse many of the substances. Renz Center collaborates with a number of agencies as you heard. Ecker Center and Lazarus House are partners with a federal grant targeted for the homeless, mentally ill, and substance abuse population. We also work with TriCity Family Services and other agencies. Funds from the city go to subsidize treatment for the 125 residents that we saw this past year. I want to thank you for your continued support.

Ald. Carrigan: I think the point brought out just now about the inter agency collaboration makes every dollar go just a little bit farther. We appreciate all of you working on that collaboration.

TriCity Family Services, Jim Otepka, Director: On behalf of our board and staff I would like to express our greatest appreciation for your continued support of our efforts. I would also like to acknowledge the time and effort the members of the Mental Health Board invest in the allocation process. I can assure that they are excellent stewards of the mental health tax dollars. We were founded in 1967 and are appropriately known in this area as a counseling agency that provides family center counseling on a sliding fee scale basis to residents of the TriCity community and five townships to our west and south and over 3,000 individuals are served by one or more of our programs. Pretty consistently about a third of those every year come from the City of St. Charles due to the fact that we have some deep roots in St. Charles. The City has been a major source of referrals through the years. We serve all ages and deal with issues that span the family life cycle from post-pardon depression, anxiety to marital conflict, to a wide range of child and adolescent focused issues including acting behaviors, in school and the community peer and sibling conflict, self-destructive behaviors at times, and at times more serious manifestations of mental illness to problems related to aging and lost, the challenges of grandparents raising grandchildren. Approximately 85% of our clients come through our doors seeking help with three or more primary problems and many of our families have been impacted at one time or another by substance abuse and domestic violence. In addition to counseling and psychotherapy we also provide youth crisis intervention, stabilization to youth followed by psychiatric hospitalization. Prevention programs like our Single Mom Support Group, Bridges group for children – these families are going through separation and divorce, and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group. We also provide early intervention programs including a full range of anger management programs. We serve kids as young as kindergarten through adult in anger management groups. We continue to be active with our Wilderness Challenge Program, Post-Pardon Anxiety Support Group offered in collaboration with Cadence Health, and a broader range of services of support teams that go through our Wilderness program.

As part of the broader network of human services providers, we are active in networking efforts like the St. Charles Youth Commission, we present workshops in the community such as those we've done in D303 through their Parent University, we convene area school personnel periodically for round table discussions around topics like school avoidance and bullying, and our staff do collaborate with other providers in the service areas to provide more sensible services.

These days we never know when reimbursement for services will come through our door. Our Medicaid eligible families are increasing in number and now account for half of all the services we provide children and adolescents. Payments and reimbursement for those services can be delayed 6-12 months. Just as important 708 funding helps us to continue serving those that have always been at the core of our service population. The growing number of financially stressed, uninsured, or under insured individuals and families, sometimes referred to as the working poor, do not qualify for public aid services and lack the means to obtain the services they need in the private practice marketplace. As you can appreciate that the recession has been declared to be officially over, the forecast hasn't changed much significantly for many of the families we serve. If you talk with the therapist they can tell you the impact it is having on some of these families. Families and marriages that were vulnerable before the recession, many of them have broken as a result of the rate of unemployment. The other side of that same coin, families that are falling apart sometimes find it necessary to financially stay together and that can be devastating to all members of the family and certainly the children. We see more grandparents coming out of retirement to care for their grandchildren while the mom and dad try to piece together several part-time jobs and every day we see more kids exhibiting more severe symptoms of anxiety and depression. Jerry mentioned we are seeing a greater use of synthetic marijuana and its true. It certainly does complicate our counseling services as does increase selling and sharing of psycho stimulant medications in school settings. All those really combine to make our work much more challenging and important.

With the bottom falling out state funded mental health services the community mental health board really is a shining light in the City of St. Charles in supporting human service organizations who serve those in need. Your Mental Health Board demonstrates everyday what community is really all about and in a powerful way enriches the quality of life for all of us. Thank you again for all your support.

Ald. Rogina: I would like to summarize my feelings by simply paraphrasing a great author "Whenever we give to least of our brethren, give to each other." These six organizations that have come before us tonight exemplify this tremendously.

Ald. Carrigan: John Rabchuk who is sitting here tonight and chairs the committee – I had a chance to sit on the committee with him for a little while – and John has been very instrumental in reorganizing this board and making sure that impactful dollars get to the right people. When John and I were first on the board together we had 30/40 organizations and what John did was to recognize that this is a mental health board and

let's focus on how we can help people with mental health. He put the laser on it and did a great job so that impactful dollars are there not just token dollars. So John, I thank you and your board for your service – great job!

John: I appreciate the opportunity very much to serve the City and get to know all these agencies and the people who they serve. They're the ones that do the good work and we try to secure the money for the citizens of St. Charles and I think we do a good job of it. We always are trying ways to improve it and it's been my pleasure to serve on the board.

Chris Minick: As I mentioned we are seeking a motion to approve the funding allocations contained in the packet tonight pending any further questions you may have.

Motion by Ald. Carrignan, second by Krieger to recommend approval of the St. Charles 708 Mental Health Board funding allocation for FY12/13 in the amount of \$588,100.

Roll Call: Ayes: Monken, Carrignan, Payleitner, Turner, Rogina, Krieger, Bessner; Nays: None; Absent: Stellato, Lewis. Chair. Martin did not vote as Chair. **Motion carried.**

b. Monthly Update regarding City's Financial Results for April 2012 – Information Only.

Chris Minick: The report was included in the packet this evening. The unaudited results for the end of April are much the same as I've been reporting to you for the last several months. The General Fund is essentially in a break even position. The Electric Fund non-operating revenues (those are revenues other than from the sales of electricity) are slightly lower than anticipated, therefore the Electric Fund is slightly worse than we anticipated on an unaudited basis. The Water Fund is better off than we anticipated due to their expenditures. Unless the committee has any specific questions, this concludes my report.

5. Additional Items
None.

6. Adjournment

Motion by Carrignan second by Krieger to adjourn meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays: None; Absent: Carrignan. Chair. Martin did not vote as Chair. **Motion carried.**

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