

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MONDAY, JULY 15, 2013**

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was convened by Chair. Turner at 7:40 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Chair. Turner, Ald. Stellato, Silkaitis, Payleitner, Lemke, Bancroft, Martin, Krieger, Bessner, and Lewis

Absent: None

Others Present: Brian Townsend, Chris Aiston, Peggy Forster, Chief Lamkin, Chris Minick, Chief Schelstreet

3. Omnibus Vote

Budget Revisions – May 2013

Budget Revisions – June 2013

Motion by Ald. Stellato, second by Silkaitis to approve omnibus vote as presented.

Voice Vote: Unanimous; Nays: None; Chrmn. Turner did not vote as Chairman. **Motion Carried.**

4. Finance Department

a. Recommendation to approve funding requests for St. Charles 708 Mental Health Board for FY13/14.

Chris Minick: For a number of years the City has set aside a portion of its tax levy on an annual basis to provide mental health support to agencies that support St. Charles residents. The mental health levy is 4 cents per \$100 of EAV that was approved by referendum many years ago and funding allocations are recommended on an annual basis by the Mental Health Board. Proceeds from the levy are to support the activities and functions of agencies that provide mental health support services regardless of their ability to pay. Enclosed tonight is a proposed funding allocation for FY13/14 in an amount of \$584,100. City policy requires that any outside agency who receives \$25K or more in funding from the City make a presentation on an annual basis updating the committee on its activities as well as any future plans for funding. Six agencies on the allocation schedule meet that threshold and representatives of these agencies will be making presentations this evening. At the conclusion of the presentations, staff will request a recommendation of approval of the funding allocation schedule in the amount of \$584,100. Tonight Barb Gacic is here, a member of the 708 Mental Health Board as well.

Chrmn. Turner: So anyone who receives over \$25K makes a short presentation tonight.

Association for Individual Development – Lynn O’Shea, President/CEO: We’ve been serving the St. Charles community since 1961 and we celebrated our 50th anniversary two years ago and are very pleased to be able to continue service to St. Charles. We started as a school for children who weren’t eligible for public school services because of their disabilities which didn’t change until 1975. As the school was phased out we began serving adults in our shelter work program, employment programs, and also started housing residential services because parents were afraid their children wouldn’t have good alternatives when they weren’t around anymore to care for them. The past 52 years we have grown from a small one room school to a very large organization serving all of Kane County. Last year we served over 5,000 children and adults with disabilities. St. Charles has always had a very active group of families who take advantage of the services through AID and this past year we served 101 individuals from St. Charles in a variety of programs. We began live-in house services in addition to our development disability services back in 1982. So we do provide some behavior outpatient services, as well as supported living house services with drop in support for individuals with serious mental illness. We continue to have a children’s program and provide therapy both onsite and interim in families’ homes and have a full extensive at home support program for youngsters who need help and whose parents want help in supporting their children at home. We also provide crisis intervention. By large our most expensive program is our housing program. Over half of our operation budget is for housing and we do have housing right here in St. Charles. In addition we have home based therapy for young adults. Those families want to keep them at home. Graduates from our job training placement in addition to the shelter work programs are being given jobs at Jewel and Walgreens. Services to St. Charles residents last year cost AID just under \$1.5M. Of the 101 individuals we serve we have 10 individuals who had no funding and they are supported by the funds of your 708 Board and for that I know their families are very grateful. The sad fact that even though we have over 100 people that we are serving, the waiting list is pretty substantial. As of yesterday there are 125 St. Charles families waiting for service. The needs are great and St. Charles has been terrific in your support and very much appreciate everything you do.

Ald. Bessner: How long are these folks or individual families waiting?

Lynn: The average wait time is about 10 years. The way people get approved for funding is through a lottery system. The last lottery draw was about a month ago and of the 15 names drawn, two had already passed away. Situations are very dire and St. Charles has stepped up and has gotten 10 people off of the waiting through your funding.

Chrmn. Turner: It’s good that you are getting people out in jobs. I have seen several of them. Good work.

Ecker Center for Mental Health – Karen Beyer, Executive Director: Ecker Center has been serving this area for 58 years and we provide a number of services for people with mental illnesses. We have a psychiatric emergency program that is available 24/7 for people of all ages. It’s located at Sherman Hospital. For adults we have a Crisis Residential Program that helps

people to avoid hospitalization if at all possible. We have psychiatry and nursing services, case management, traditional talk therapy, rehabilitation services and a number of residential options, 24-hour supervised residences, and residences that are only supervised during the day. Our specialty is working with people with severe mental illnesses who tend to need medication and tend to have an illness for the most part life-long. It usually develops in adolescence or early adulthood.

During this last year we've served 279 St. Charles residences which is 22% more than we have served in the previous year. We also provided 2,529 hours of service which was a big increase (50%) over the previous year. In this last year we have done a number of things. We've partnered with the VNA Healthcare to provide primary healthcare at our facility in Elgin for our clients and have partnered with a private pharmacy at our location in Elgin to provide pharmacy services for the people who come to us. We have continued to partner with Lazarus House and we do have an office here in St. Charles which we share with the Renz Center. Once again thank you for the support you have given us over the years.

Chrmn. Turner: So we are seeing an increase in demand for your services now in St. Charles?

Karen: Yes there is an increase.

Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice, Greg Weider, Executive Director: Thank you for your past support. We are grateful for your partnership as we strive to provide the best compassionate services to those that are dealing with a death lost and life threatening illnesses. For more than 32 years we have provided services to individuals and families. We work to alleviate the suffering and isolation associated with dying and grieving. We served more than 19,000 individuals since 1981 and all those services we provide are free of charge to those in the community. The funds we receive from the City of St. Charles are used to support our Hospice programs, our youth and adults bereavement programs, and many others all of which were spelled out in our application. Last year Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice served 201 clients from St. Charles, providing 2,756 days of hospice care and 1,845 direct service hours of bereavement care. Additional services we provide to the community are free equipment loans, community learning library, community education and continuous education in-services, and volunteer training programs. Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice receives no Federal or State funding, Medicaid or insurance payments. We are able to provide our important services to the community due to the generous support of individuals, businesses, foundations, and entities like the City of St. Charles 708 Mental Health Board.

Lazarus House, Liz Eakins, Executive Director: As the other partnering agencies has all said we couldn't be more grateful than we are to the City of St. Charles and this extends more than just the 708 funding we receive. Every time we have an opportunity to tell our story we are always telling people what a great privilege it is to be located in the heart of downtown St. Charles where we know we have the support and admiration of our entire community; and that is exhibited through our relationships with City Council, the Fire and Police Departments and the list goes on and on.

Told a story of a family with a myriad of needs that the City of St. Charles has impacted with the City's funding. Had she not come through the doors of Lazarus House she would not of known what kinds of help and support she was able to received. There is no greater pride and privilege than Lazarus House watching this evolution that occurs over time and that would not happen without the support and funding that the City provides us.

Chrmn. Turner: You do a great job in the City and do a lot of your education teaching after school also.

Renz Addiction Counseling Center, Jerry Skogma, Executive Director: Renz Center, like AID, has been celebrating 52 years of service incorporated in 1961 and we've had an office in St. Charles for 33 years. We provide to the city residents individual and group family counseling, outpatient program and intensive outpatient programing which is programing for up to 12 hours a week for those that are severely addicted. To give you a snapshot of the type of people who come to us from the City, we saw 177 residents, 126 males, 51 females, 75 of those were seen for primarily alcohol abuse, 47 for marijuana abuse, 17 each for heroin and cocaine use, and various other categories. As far as age we are seeing an older population. Forty-six of the 177 were over age 50, 97 between 21-49, and 34 under the age of 20. 90% of the people we see have family incomes under \$21,000, so the support from the City is really very critical for us.

TriCity Family Services, Jim Otepka, Director: I too, like my colleagues, want to thank the City Council for its sustaining support of services and want to commend the Mental Health Board for their efforts. They are wonderful stewards of the mental health tax dollars that they distribute. We were founded in 1967. TriCity Family Services is known by most as a counseling agency that provides a range of family centered psychotherapy counseling services to individuals on a sliding scale fee base to residents of the TriCities and four townships to our west and south. Annually over 3,000 individuals are served across our programs, more than a third who are residents of St. Charles. Counseling and psychotherapy, case management , consultation, client advocacy, and social work that supports much of our clinical work continues to be the cornerstone of the agency accounting about 2/3 of our service delivery. We deal with all ages and work with issues that span the family life cycle from post pardon depression, anxiety, marital conflict, a wide range of child/adolescent focused issues such as acting out behaviors in school and community, and more to problems related to aging and loss within the family, to challenges of grandparents raising grandchildren. Approximately 80% seek help with three or more presenting issues and many of our families have been affected with issues of substance abuse and domestic violence. We provide a range of support counseling and prevention programs, early intervention, and youth crisis intervention services to residents of the TriCity area and surrounding communities.

For our last full fiscal year June 30, 2012, we served 1,359 St. Charles residents which compare to 907 served the previous year. We were very active in the community and with the schools doing health fairs which is one factor. The growth factor is still spreading into this year. At the midpoint of the year (12/31) we show a 41% increase for residents of St. Charles all across our programs as the same time last year. We are seeing a 77% increase in our counseling program and we attribute that from school referrals. This is good, strong support from the school district.

Counseling is the cornerstone of our work and many other counseling services are integrated together. We don't bill for these services and we couldn't provide them if not for organizations like yours. Many are still dealing with residual affections of the recession. Last year 49% of the families reported of living on less the \$30K a year which is tough to do in the tri-city area. We see the continuing effect of the depression with increasing numbers of Medicaid eligible families that are coming to us for services. Reimbursements from the State fall 6-12 months behind.

As we look ahead into 2014 we are excited about further developing a new initiative. It is a family based outpatient program for the treatment of eating disorders. It is the first of its kind in this area, in fact the only program like it exists in Chicago. Untreated eating disorders have the highest mortality rate among all major mental illnesses.

As always our highest priority remains in finding ways to address our waiting lists. At times they exist 6 to 8 weeks which is too long for making that initial call. In order for us to continue on our mission in the future we will need the continue support of grand base funders like our mental health boards to assist those that may have given up hope of being able to attain mental health services. We also need your help in changing attitudes and misconceptions of mental health in helping our community to embrace the belief of ensuring that our fellow citizens have good affordable mental health care which is not only the humane and moral thing to do but given the very real cost of not providing that care it makes great economic sense to do so.

Chrmn. Turner: It is very pleasing that a lot of your groups work together, share and recommend your services to each other. It just multiplies the money we do give you.

Motion by Ald. Martin, second by Krieger to recommend approval of funding requests for St. Charles 708 Mental Health Board for FY13/14.

Roll Call: Ayes: Stellato, Silkaitis, Payleitner, Lemke, Bancroft, Martin, Krieger, Bessner, Lewis; Nays: None. Chrmn. Turner did not vote as chairman. **Motion carried.**

b. Recommendation to approve funding allocation schedule of the Visitors Cultural Commission for FY13/14 and the related funding agreements.

Ald. Stellato: Two of the groups listed on here, the company that employs me does donate some portion of their space so I will be abstaining from voting on this.

Chris Minick: Annually a portion of the hotel/motel tax revenue stream is set aside for the promotion of arts and culture within the City of St. Charles. The Cultural Commission recommends allocation of this funding on an annual basis. The Cultural Commission goes through a process where they receive applications from groups who would like to receive funding to help promote arts and culture within the City. They have presentations from these groups at their meetings and then they recommend an allocation of funding to the City Council. Enclosed in your packets is the proposed allocation for FY13/14 in \$89,400. This is a consistent level of the same amount that was allocated and expended FY12/13. This amount is budgeted. Some of the highlights of this year funding is that the Heritage Center was removed from the

Cultural Commission allocation and are being funded separately through a motion and agreement that was approved at the Council meeting earlier tonight. The Norris Center for Cultural Arts did not apply for funding this year, and the Cultural Commission received two new allocations for funding: one from Water Street Studios and the other from St. Charles Arts Council. Dr. Anne Becker is here to make a brief presentation along with Jim Kirkoff from Water Street Studios. We will be seeking a recommendation at the conclusion of this presentation for approval of the funding allocation for FY13/14 in the amount of \$89,400.

Dr. Anne Becker, Chairperson of Cultural Commission: Thank you so much for continuing to support the arts in St. Charles, that adds to all the well-being of our community. Thank you for your commitment to the Heritage Center. This museum has provided a lot of wonderful historical information for our students and the community and thanks to Chris for serving on our committee. He has a grounded sense of finance that guides us and we do appreciate him. Tonight I am introducing Jim Kirkoff who will talk about an art venue that will be taking place in St. Charles called the Print Lab.

Jim Kirkoff, Co-founder of Water Street Studios and Board President, 117 W Main Street: You are being handed examples of some of the work that is going to be done at the Print Lab facility. When you hear print some think of a Kinko's or some commercial printing center, but what we've done through our projects is received a great deal of funding for different types of equipment to produce fine art prints that are etchings. We are making this facility available to members at a very low cost so that they can use professional equipment, do fine art printing, and we also have space there to set up classes. Right now we are just getting off the ground with this facility. We currently have eight members who come from DeKalb, Batavia, Naperville, and North Aurora and right now students come from Carol Stream and St. Charles for Relief Print classes and Linoleum Print classes. We are also going to be using this facility for special events. Every Sunday we'll be doing a free family art activity called "Awesome Art Afternoon" between 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. which will be a variety of different types of artistic media not just print making. During Riverfest we made many different types of prints for handouts. On November 18 we are working with the Wayne Art League to put on some demonstrations and bring some of their members in to look at this type of technology. Another big thing we want to do with this program is to use the center as a way to draw people downtown, not just through the arts but also in collaborative efforts. Part of our outreach art flow is working monthly at Lazarus House doing art activities with some of the residents. We are working to put on a program this year with TriCity Family Services doing ceramics and welding programs for students at the Water Street location in Batavia. We are also looking forward in working with the other art groups in this community to come up with programming that we can work on together and better increase the visibility of St. Charles in this region as an artistic center.

Chrmn. Turner: I am very pleased to see that you are here and Anne I think it's great to bring on two new cultural additions to the City. The St. Charles Arts Council has been around for a few years and they are eligible for funding but I am also very pleased that you increased the funding for the other groups as well.

Motion by Ald. Bancroft, second by Krieger to recommend approval of the funding allocation schedule of the Visitors Cultural Commission for FY13/14 and the related funding agreements.

Roll Call: Ayes: Silkaitis, Payleitner, Lemke, Bancroft, Martin, Krieger, Bessner, Lewis; Nays: None; Abstain: Stellato. Chrmn. Turner did not vote as Chairman. **Motion carried.**

5. Executive Session

- Personnel
- Pending Litigation
- Probable or Imminent Litigation
- Property Acquisition
- Collective Bargaining
- Review of Minutes of Executive Sessions

Motion by Ald. Stellato, second by Bessner to enter into Executive Session to discuss Land Acquisition at 8:17 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes: Stellato, Silkaitis, Payleitner, Lemke, Bancroft, Martin, Krieger, Bessner, Lewis; Nays: None. Chrmn. Turner did not vote as Chairman. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Ald. Stellato, second by Silkaitis to return from Executive Session at 8:40 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes: Stellato, Silkaitis, Payleitner, Lemke, Bancroft, Martin, Krieger, Bessner, Lewis; Nays: None. Chrmn. Turner did not vote as Chairman. **Motion carried.**

6. Additional Items

None.

7. Adjournment

Motion by Ald. Martin, second by Bancroft to adjourn meeting at 8:41p.m.

Voice Vote: Unanimous; Nays: None. Chrmn. Turner did not vote as Chairman. **Motion Carried.**