

**Minutes of the Finance Committee of the
Developmental Disabilities Resource Board of Clay County**

November 3, 2014

The meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order by Bill Taylor, Chairman of the Board of Directors at 4:30pm. Present at the meeting was Steve Elliott, Treasurer, Gary Steinman, Bob Boydston, Alan Naylor, Tom Bradley and Brian O'Malley.

Guests included: Randy Hylton of VSI, Wenty Witcig of Easter Seals, Clay Berry of Alphapointe, Dale Herrick of Immacolata, Julie Grower of Immacolata, Mary Jill Webber of Northland Therapeutic Riding Center.

Bill asked Steve to take over as the Chair of the Finance Committee. Steve reviewed with the Board the process the Finance Committee had taken thus far. This included recommending to the Board applications from agencies that had remained within the 4% increase guideline for funding. These agencies were: Concerned Care, Truman Neurological Center, Vocational Services, Maplewood Community College. Two agencies corrected their applications to remain within the 4% guidelines, Della Lamb and Children's Center for the Visually Impaired. These two agencies were then accepted for recommendation to the full Board of Directors.

The Rehab Institute of Kansas City had prepared their application using the proposed budget from the previous year, not the actual figures. Brian had reached out to Alan Floyd, Assistant Director to review their application. Alan agreed that he had used an incorrect figure and agreed to accept the 4 % increase offered by the Board's original directive.

Steve then invited Clay Berry of Alphapointe to review his proposal. Steve noted that the funding request was essentially the same as the previous year but the numbers served went from 12 to 3. Clay reviewed the changes experienced by sheltered workshops during the year after it was declared workshops receiving federal funds were required to pay minimum wage. This directive had the effect of closing the supportive employment program.

Alphapointe will experience significant costs serving the 3 consumers in their community based office products program. These consumers will receive a salary along with benefits, health and retirement. While they are not certain what those costs will be, they created a unit costs based on their best guess. The funds from DDRB will not cover the entire costs for these consumers. Alan asked what other funds are applied to the total unit costs. Clay listed several other private sources such as United Way and fundraising. Gary asked what the percentage of funding for DDRB was and Clay replied 100% of DDRB funds would be for these consumers. After several questions for clarification Steve thanked Clay for his response. Clay emphasized Alphapointe's commitment to serving Clay County residents and no one will be denied service or ejected from the program.

Steve then invited Dale Herrick to address the proposal from Immacolata. Dale began by introducing the new executive director Julie Grower on her first day.

Dale then proceeded to review his request. Dale reflected back on the time when Immacolata accepted a \$97,000 decrease of DDRB funds in order to draw down state matching funds. Dale is looking to recoup these funds from funding by DDRB. The draw on state matching funds has not risen as high as anticipated. And, overall Immacolata never received the equivalent of \$97,000 from the matching dollar approach. Dale's argument then, is that since DDRB did not use as much to fund the match he should be allowed to claim those non spent funds for his operations. In this instance, he would like to direct the funds to the increasing costs of transportation as other agencies have. Dale reminded the Board that Della Lamb does not provide transportation for his program.

Steve inquired about the reduced dayhab costs. Dale suggested that funds for his request can come from the dayhab match. Alan said he cannot follow the allocation as the history does not correspond with the numbers before him. Dale stated the funds to create a higher reimbursement rate for the Immacolata Program never reached the level of \$97,000 and Immacolata has no way to recoup those funds except through the DDRB allocation such as it was several years before. Steve said that the Board is looking at allocations on a one year basis not going back through several years. Brian offered to gather more information for the Board. Steve then asked for a five year trend report that

shows funding for Immacolata. Dale agreed to work with the Board to develop the trend report.

Steve then asked Wendy to address the request from Easter Seals. Wendy then introduced a Ms. Julie Russel of Easter Seals, Vice President of Autism Services. She gave her background and spoke about the employment program that has been in place in Eastern Missouri for many years. The program includes training modules for individuals and families. Pat asked if the program is going into the home and the answer was yes. Steve asked how home based services makes a difference? The program really helps get everyone on the same page such as extended family and friends. There is also peer to peer discussions to support family members. Steve asked about the job retention coach. Wendy said with the merger with Easter Seals they are able to provide services under the contract Easter Seals already has in place. Funding would be for the staff on this side of the State. Bob asked about salaries and Wendy indicated the average would be about \$35,000. Brian asked about capacity to serve this number of people. Wendy indicated there was a waiting list and Julie thought the numbers would be great. Wendy said they would expect to grow steadily throughout the year. Steve asked if the ramping up process would include the job coach and Wendy said no, that person would be ready to go January 1. There followed several more questions about the program vis a vis the schools and the timetable involved. Tom asked how long this particular program has operated. The answer was 30 years but that it was not just St. Louis but in 96 counties throughout Missouri.

Steve asked how they interface with other agencies. Wendy talked about the advantage of merging with Easter Seals gives them an expertise with autism that they did not have before. Julie noted that they also provide training for other providers as well as for profits in the community who might consider hiring those with autism. There followed a discussion of partial funding. Wendy asked for a non-designated funding as the most flexible as there are still several factors to be worked out between each of the new programs. Steve asked if they could live with funding at the \$60,000 level instead of the requested \$125,000 as proposed. Wendy said that would work.

Next Steve asked Mary Jill Webber to describe her funding request. But first Steve asked Gary to discuss the concern of funding a program in light of SB 40 Rules and Regulations. Gary said that he saw no problem and that Clinton and Platte County had been providing funds for several years. Mary Jill said that she was aware of the previous lawsuit but had not had any problem. Mary Jill went on to describe how the program works and how families are expected to pay something toward the costs even though the County supports the program. Each family is expected to pay \$8.00 toward the costs of \$40.00 per session.

Bob asked what makes the program work? Mary Jill said the opportunity to be around horses gives the consumers the chance to learn social behaviors in a safe environment while learning horsemanship and etiquette. She does know that the Therapy has been around since the early 1950s and has proven to be successful. The program also relies on over a hundred volunteers. Brian asked about fundraising emphasizing the County did not want to be in the position of sole funder. Mary Jill talked about the constant effort to raise funds and that the program is growing as people learn of their success. Steve asked questions about the unit costs and Mary Jill confirmed the rate of \$40.00 per hour for which the DDRB is asked to pay \$32.00 per hour. Steve thanked Mary Jill for coming.

Steve then reviewed the results of the evening with the following recommendations to the full Board:

1. Alhaphointe	\$31,321
2. Maplewoods CC	\$51,737
3. CCVI	\$7,798
4. Concerned Care	\$899,007
5. Della Lamb	\$786,106
6. Immacolata	?
7. NEEC	\$350,756
8. RIKC	\$10,208
9. TNC Community Services	\$62,283
10. Easter Seals	\$294,000

11.VSI	\$1,569,434
12.<u>Northland Therapy Riding</u>	<u>\$23,000</u>
Sub-total	\$4,085,650

Following the discussion of the agency proposals Steve asked Brian to discuss the Targeted Case Management Proposed Budget. The DDRB is in a contract with Children’s Therapy Center of Sedalia to provide Targeted Case Management Services. Per the contract that began in July we are about \$80,000 behind in billing. In addition, we need to watch the ratio of non-medicaid cases we take to insure we have funds to cover those costs. So far, we are not at a level to be concerned. Steve suggested that Anita include a report on the TCM Medicaid ratio in her monthly report and that we monitor quarterly how the contract is progressing. Steve also reminded Board members we have start up costs that are not reimbursed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brian O’Malley