

Tri-Valley Developmental Services, Inc.
Board of Director's Meeting
TVDS Administrative Office, 521 W. 35 CH Pkwy, Chanute, KS/Zoom
February 22, 2024

Present: John McRae, Susan Jones, Anna Methvin, Jim Hogan, Derrick Payne, Rita Cornett, Angie Morrison, Sharon Suske, Connie Hey, Randy Lemasters, Lindsay Madison

Not Present: Steve Sewell, Georgia Masterson, Devin Johnson, Matt Morgan, Janet Rash

Staff Present: Bill Fiscus, Melissa Cannon-Smith, Lea Chickadonz, Tricia Campbell

1. Call to Order

Chair John McRae called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion made to adopt agenda as presented (Susan Jones/Angie Morrison). Motion passed.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes from the December 7, 2023 meeting were presented. Motion made to accept minutes as presented (Angie/Susan). Motion passed.

4. Treasurer's Report

Lea Chickadonz, VP of Administration, presented the financial report for the period ending December 31, 2023. Motion made to accept financial report as presented (Anna Methvin/Susan). Motion passed.

5. Staff Reports

a. Program Report

- i. Melissa Cannon-Smith, VP of Programming, reported that Tri-Valley currently has 18 DSP vacancies across the service area; five in our day program and thirteen in our residential program. In programming, we had an opening for Assistant Director of Programming. The position was filled by Brandy Foster. Brandy had served as Day Services Coordinator in Chanute.
- ii. InterHab Advocacy Day for 2024 has been set for March 14th. Tri-Valley has 55 attending. Staff are setting up appointments to meet with our local legislators. Melissa is trying to schedule a time to meet with Lt. Governor David Toland.
- iii. At the December Board meeting, Melissa reported on the new DSP+ Apprenticeship program with InterHab, US Department of Labor, and the Kansas Department of Commerce. We are now officially a sponsor and four staff have been selected and are in the program. The program consist of on-the-job training and coursework through Wichita State University. We are excited about this opportunity.

b. Operations Report

- i. Bill Fiscus, CEO, gave the Operations report for Joe O'Rourke, VP of Operations. The prep work is completed for the roofs at Administration and Chanute Service Center. The final coat will be laid in late March or early April. We have seen a decrease in the number of leaks.
- ii. The sewer pipe at the Administration office has collapsed. We have lined up a contractor to repair it in March. It will be an extensive process and should cost a few \$1,000.
- iii. In Fort Scott, we had the overgrowth cleaned out south of the Service Center. With its removal, we have gained 20 additional feet of property. We will plant grass.
- iv. The Eureka Service Center roof has an issue. Boren Roofing are scheduled to work on the roof in the near future. We have this issue arise every few years.
- v. We are currently over-budget on vehicle repairs. Today, we discovered a blown engine in one of our KDOT vehicles. It has 80,000 miles and is a 2011. KDOT may not give permission to repair it. It will cost over \$10,000 to repair.

c. Administration Report

- i. Lea Chickadonz, VP of Administration, reported on the new staff evaluation process. Supervisors will be presented with the new process soon. We plan to start it in April.
- ii. We have submitted a vehicle grant to KDOT and are now waiting to hear back from them.
- iii. Today, Lea met with our worker's comp insurance agent. Based upon our claims, our experience mode has dropped this year, which is good news. The drop will affect our premiums.

d. CEO Report

- i. Effective March 1st, Tri-Valley Chanute Day Program will do away with their subminimum wage work. Our goal is for the remaining service centers to follow by July 1st. This change is a big move for us. Other providers in the state have started the process of moving away from subminimum wage/14c.
- ii. The Kansas State Legislature has begun session for 2024.
 1. InterHab was pushing the legislature for a 5 million transition fund to help providers move away from sub-minimum wage. The House included 5 million in their budget. The Senate also included money for the transition fund in their budget, but it was 2.5 million. They will discuss the differences during the omnibus session.
 2. For supported employment, the current rate for job coaches is \$17.88 per hour. InterHab requested that that rate increase to \$50 per hour. This item has not seen an increase in several years. The governor put in an increase of \$28 per hour. The Senate put in an increase of \$35 per hour. The House put in an increase of \$40 per hour. With this positive news, we should see an some type of increase. The legislature will work it out in the omnibus session.
 3. Over the last 15 years, the state has decreased state aid funding significantly; from \$19 million to \$5 million statewide. This funding was discretionary funds

that were used to offset transportation services and to provide day and residential services for those who did not qualify for HCBS funding. This year, the House has put \$1 million for state aid in their budget. This is the first increase in years.

4. InterHab had hoped to introduce a bill for an annual HCBS rate increase that would be tied to the cost of living. The idea would be for smaller incremental increases each year rather than the massive increases every few years. Last year, the HCBS rate increase was 25%. No bill was submitted.
 - iii. Last year at this time, we had twelve openings in the Foundation houses. This year, we have three openings and they are all in Moline. In the near future, we may need to start discussing additional housing options.
 - iv. Planning is underway for the 2024 Awards Ceremony. This year, we will hold one ceremony for all sites. Bill wanted to discuss the Winfred Jent Award; this award is decided by the Board of Directors. After a brief discussion, the board agreed to present the Winfred Jent Award to Barbara McCord for her years of service to Tri-Valley.
- e. Friends of Tri-Valley Foundation
- i. Currently, the Foundation has sold 484 tickets for the 24th Annual Truck Drawing Raffle. The raffle is set for June 21st at 1:30 pm.
 - ii. Due to a scheduling conflict, the dates for the Fredonia and Erie golf tournaments have changed. Erie's tournament will be May 17th. Fredonia's tournament is set for June 29th. Chanute's tournament will be held in August; no date has been set. The Fort Scott tournament will be September 14th.
 - iii. On April 16th, the Foundation will hold the 2024 Boardwalk BBQ fundraiser at the new SEK Impact Center at 6 pm. We currently have 11 corporate sponsors. Tri-Valley staff have been helping to collect baskets for the silent/stretch auctions.
 - iv. This winter was a busy time for fundraisers for Tri-Valley.
 1. The west side Service Centers (Eureka, Moline and Neodesha) made \$3,686.45 in their annual poinsettia fundraiser. Persons served will decide how they wish to spend the money. Each sales person received a gift card from Dollar General.
 2. Fort Scott also held a poinsettia fundraiser. The plants were grown in Fort Scott's Horticultural Program. Plants were sold to local vendors. The remaining plants were sold through the greenhouse. We are looking into similar plant fundraisers.
 3. For 2023, we sold 95 sets of holiday cards. We are down a slight bit from last year. Gift cards were given to the artist whose work was highlighted on the cards.
- f. CDDO Report
- i. For the past few years, the state extended the contracts with the CDDOs. This year, the state wants to go back to the negotiation table. The negotiations usually last two to three days.

- ii. This year, the state legislature has approved funds for 100 slots on the waiting list. Tri-Valley's CDDO has potentially one slot. The governor has amended her original budget to put in money for an additional 250 slots. The House also added an additional 250 slots. We now have the potential of 500 individuals coming off the state's waiting list in 2025. Within that 500 number, Tri-Valley CDDO will hopefully have 5 to 10 come off the list. Within our CDDO service area, there are 70 individuals on the waiting list.
- iii. The House has put a cap on the number of individuals that may be put on the state waiting list. Their cap number was 4,800. There are currently 7,000 on the list. Any number over the 4,800 would get automatic funding.

6. Old Business

6.1 Policy Approval

During the December 7th meeting, the board reviewed changes to Administration Policy 22 (Absences During Inclement Weather) as per the bylaws. Motion made to approve changes to Administration Policy 22 (Absences During Inclement Weather) (Sharon/Angie). Motion passed.

7. New Business

7.1 Policy Review

Bill presented changes to the Financial Policy 14 (Accounted Receivables Collection). The policy establishes guidelines for staff to follow in order to collect delinquent bills. The policy was split into two procedures: one for services and one for vendors. The policy was updated on January 23rd.

8. Comments from Groups or Individuals

We have received a resignation letter from Van Bettega, Woodson County Representative. He is moving out of the area and had to resign effective immediately.

Anna had a question regarding meeting times. Bill will send out a survey to the board for their thoughts on meeting times. He find out if there is a consensus to change the meeting times. It will be discussed at the April meeting.

9. Announcements

The next Board meeting will be April 25, 2024.

10. Adjournment

Motion made to adjourn meeting (Rita Cornett/Susan). Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Methvin

Secretary

3-7-2024

Date