

Friends of Tri-Valley Foundation
Board of Director's Meeting
TVDS Administrative Office, 521 W. 35th CH Pkwy, Chanute, KS 66720/Zoom
March 26, 2024

Present: Judy Bringham, Mike Hofer, Sandi Eggers, Vic Anderson, Mike Reid, Joel Norris, Joel Porter, Terry Harper, Bill Fiscus

Not Present: Steve Sewell, Larry Coleman, Lynette Emmerson, Phil Newkirk,

Staff Present: Melissa Cannon-Smith, Joe O'Rourke, Lea Chickadonz, Tricia Campbell

1. Call to Order

Chair Judy Bringham called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion made to adopt the agenda as presented (Sandi Eggers/Joel Porter). Motion passed.

3. Minutes

The minutes from the December 5, 2023 meeting were presented. Motion made to accept minutes as presented (Mike Reid/Vic Anderson). Motion passed.

4. Treasurer's Report

Lea Chickadonz, VP of Administration, presented the financial report for the period ending February 28, 2024. Motion made to accept report as presented (Joel P./Sandi). Motion passed.

5. Old Business

5.1 Program Report

- a. Melissa Cannon-Smith, VP of Programming, reported that our vacancies have dropped by 22% from the December meeting. We currently have 14 DSP vacancies: two for day and twelve for residential.
- b. In December, Melissa reported that Tri-Valley had plans to join a registered DSP+ apprenticeship program offered through InterHab. We have done so. Three staff applied and are now enrolled in the program. These three staff are taking classes through Wichita State University and leaning other skills through on-the-job training. Melissa meets with them bi-weekly just to touch base and see how things are going.
- c. Tri-Valley is contracted with the Kansas Rehabilitation Services for pre-employment transition services for high school students. We are on track to accept two students in the program. We have one referral from Bourbon County and are hoping to accept one from Neosho County. Job coaches will work with students on job skills.

5.2 Operations

- a. Joe O'Rourke, VP of Operations, reported on the various work projects underway at the sites.
 - i. Work on the Administration office and Chanute Service Center roofs will be finished by mid-May.
 - ii. The sewer line issue was resolved at the Administrative offices. It was a partial collapse.
 - iii. Active shooter alarms were installed at the Chanute and Fort Scott Service Centers. These sites have started conducting drills.
 - iv. The walk-in shower at Fairway was replaced with a zero-entry shower. The doorway was widened to 32".
 - v. In Fort Scott, trees and overgrowth were removed south of the Service Center. As a result, 15' of lawn was reclaimed.
 - vi. Boren Roofing came to repair the roof issue at the Eureka Service Center.
 - vii. We need to remove the storm shelter concrete pads at Pecan and Mulberry in Humboldt.
 - viii. Flooring tiles were replaced at the Fort Scott Service Center.
 - ix. Carpet has been removed from the Oak Street living room area and bedrooms.
 - x. The kitchen floor was replaced and the popcorn ceiling was removed at Jent in Fort Scott.
 - xi. During the cooler weather, we had water lines burst at both the Moline Service Center and at the Fort Scott Greenhouse. Both lines have been repaired.
- b. With the end of the fiscal year is approaching, we are in line to purchase vehicles. Joe is going through the fleet to see which vehicles need to be replaced.
- c. Joe has done a survey of the appliances; most are 20 to 22 years old.
- d. We continue to maintain our fire equipment to keep our properties safe.
- e. We continue to have ramp issues on our KDOT vehicles.

5.3 CEO Report

- a. Bill Fiscus, CEO, reported on Tri-Valley's 14c subminimum wage certificate. Both the state and federal governments are pushing to eliminate this certificate. The 14c certificate allows providers to pay less than minimum wage; job wage is based upon productivity instead. Tri-Valley has eliminated sub minimum wage at the Chanute Day Program. We are in the process of eliminating it at the other day programs; our target date is July 1st. The goal is work on community employment.
- b. The state legislature is working on several issues that may affect DD services.
 - i. The legislature has included in the FY25 budget a transition fund to help agencies eliminate their subminimum wage. As was reported above, Tri-Valley has already begun transitioning away from subminimum wage and we should be transitioned before funding will be available.

- ii. The legislature would like to increase the rate for supported employment from \$17 an hour to \$40 an hour. Currently, we are not enrolled in the waiver program. We do provide community employment under day services. If things work out, we will enroll in the waiver. The money is available any time an individual works. The funding will help support other aspects of supported employment, such as helping with resumes and developing job skills.
- iii. Currently, there is over 7,000 persons on the waiting list. The Tri-Valley CDDO service area has seventy-three individuals. The legislature and governor agree that we need to eliminate the waiting list. For the FY25 budget, the legislature has included funds to remove five hundred individuals from the waiting list. Within those five hundred, we project that there should be two individuals within our service area that comes off the list. Some individuals have been on the list for over 10 years. There was a push to include an additional five hundred in the budget, but it did not go forward.
- c. The past few months have been a very active period.
 - i. On January 17th, Bill, Lea, and Joe attended a legislative reception put on by InterHab. Out of our nine legislators, one made an appearance.
 - ii. On March 14th, several staff and persons served attended the annual InterHab Advocacy Day at the state Capitol. Over eight hundred people were in attendance. Tri-Valley staff and persons served were able to speak with six of our nine legislators. The legislators were very receptive, more so than in the past. The talks were good.

6. Old Business

6.1 Drawing Update

We currently have 767 entries. The drawing date is June 21st at 1:30 pm. The truck has been ordered from Steve Faulkner Ford and should be here in April.

6.2 Fundraisers

a. Boardwalk BBQ –

The annual spring fundraiser will be held on April 16th at the SEK Impact Center. We have fourteen sponsors. Tri-Valley staff have been busy collecting auction items from local businesses and as a result we have some very unique baskets for our auctions. Tickets are \$35 a person; \$60 a couple; or \$225 for a table of 8.

b. Golf Tournaments

We have changed the date of two of our tournaments due to scheduling conflicts. Erie's tournament is now set for May 18th and Fredonia's tournament is set for June 29th. Tentative dates for the other two tournaments are August 10th at Chanute and September 14th at Fort Scott.

c. Persons Served Fundraisers

i. Poinsettia Sale

- The 2023 West Side Poinsettia fundraiser was a success. We made a profit of \$3,686.45. Our expenses were a little higher this year. Even though our supplier raised their prices, we kept the order price the same as previous years. Each person who sold poinsettias received a gift card from Dollar General. The money raised will be spent on items chosen from the persons served.
- Fort Scott also held a poinsettia fundraiser in December. Austin sold plants to the local vendors. The left-over plants were then sold out of the greenhouse. Austin is looking into other plant fundraisers, such as a mum's sale.

ii. Holiday Cards

Our holiday card sales were down a bit from last year. We sold ninety-five sets. Gift cards were given to the artists. Based upon the trending data, the decision was made to cancel our holiday cards.

7. New Business

7.1 Awards Ceremony

Tri-Valley will hold the annual awards ceremony on Wednesday, May 1st at the Central Park Pavilion at 1 pm. One of the awards, Friends of Tri-Valley Visionary Award, is given by the Foundation. Staff recommended Max McReynolds as the nominee. Motion made to approve Max McReynolds as recipient of the Friends of Tri-Valley Visionary Award (Mike Hofer/Mike R). Motion passed.

8. Board Member Reports

None

9. Donations

For the period from December 1st through February 28th, the Foundation has brought in \$21.150. Motion made to accept donations (Joel P./Sandi). Motion passed.

10. Announcements

On May 1st, the awards ceremony will be at Central Park Pavilion at 1 pm.

The next board meeting will be June 25th.

11. Adjournment

Motion made to adjourn meeting (Mike R./Joel P.). Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Eggers 6-21-24
Secretary Date