



The McLean County Board of the Care and Treatment of Persons with a Developmental  
Disability (377)

September 20th, 2022

200 West Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois

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**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM

1. Roll Call

Present: President Vern McGinnis, Secretary Phylis VerSteegh, , Jan Hood, Becky Hines, Jen Ho

Absent: None

McLean County Health Department Staff Present: Amy Hancock, Behavioral Health Program Manager; Shannon Garlock, Behavioral Health Office Support Specialist II, Tasha Caudle, Behavioral Health Specialist

2. Public Participation: Community Agencies Presentation for CY23 Grant Funding-Part 1

Consent Agenda

3. Consent Agenda

A. Notification of Paid Allocations

4. Items for Information

5. Items for Discussion

A. 377 Board Presentations Facilitated by Applicants for CY23 Funding

**Marcfirst-Applied Behavior Analysis Therapy**

**Information from Written Application:**

ABA is a well-grounded, evidence-based approach known for success in helping those with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities. ABA therapy can help with a variety of skills such as communication, play, social, self-help, and daily living. Each child is assessed, and an intervention plan is developed.

**Note:** Marcfirst believes that no child or family should fall through the cracks of a system still in the process of improving access to treatment options. ABA improves quality of life and promotes community inclusion and aligns with health priority #2, Access to Care, in the Community Health Improvement Plan McLean County.

**Provided handout: What Makes ABA Effective for Children with Autism**

**Information from Presentation:**

ABA Program is an evidence-based program which looks at environmental behaviors addressing social and functional skills. Children with Autism are unable to communicate their needs and ABA program teaches the necessary skills to overcome obstacles. ABA Therapy starts with reducing bad behaviors before building up new behaviors and skills. ABA therapy increases life skills, functioning skills, motor skills, and fundamental skills to fill in the gaps. Public aid does not pay for ABA therapy services. The 377 grant funds fills that gap and provides services to these children and in turn has a great impact on our entire community. ABA therapy provides skills to children to better able them to engage with the community instead of being isolated.

**Q & A of Presentation:**

- CY23 grant funding would provide services to 3-5 children. Still assessing the children's areas of needs for CY23 and current f377 funded children are not requiring as many hours of services due to improvements and the hours are able to be spread out to new enrollments.
- The Hours being paid by the grant funding is for the Behavioral Technicians hours.
- Asking for less funding in CY23 due to progress with the current children is allowing the cost and amount of hours to be reduced.
- Children with ABA therapy may be able to attend school and may need fewer intensive services at schools. Investment in younger aged children requires less services later as they grow older.
- The ABA Program works with local schools and provide trainings as requested and attend IEP's meetings.
- ABA Program changed technological systems to Central Reach that is an all-encompassing data system with clinical notes, clinical billing hours and provides parents with real time note files of child.
- In CY23, ABA Program needs to upgrade or replace equipment.
- 1 ABA child can require up to 3-4 ABA staff members.

## **Marcfirst-Supported Employment Program**

**Information from Written Application:**

Serves adults with an intellectual/developmental disability in 24-hour residential home (CILA). Supported Living Program assists the local area by providing valuable housing

units for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities. This program allows residents to have increased access to appropriate care and provides connections to other relevant health and mental healthcare options.

**Note:** Marcfirst staff work with the person's Independent Service Coordinator for the annual person-centered planning process where the person's desired outcomes are determined for the year ahead.

**Information from Presentation:**

This program started in McLean County in 1991. Supported Employment Program focuses on: 1. Job development, job applications, and preparing for interviews, 2. Job Support Coaching, and 3. On the Job Coaching as necessary.

**Q & A of Presentation:**

- This program has undergone a complete reconstruction of the program and has gained State funding to rebuild the program.
- This program has regained accreditation with Rehabilitation Services.
- 3 of 11 agencies in Illinois have Sheltered workshop for Supported Employment and this is 1 of the 3 programs in Illinois.
- 29.76% of the program is funded by the 377 grant for CY23.
- Changes for CY23 compared to the past: Currently easier to find vacancies in employment positions due to the employee market has changed, the program concepts are stronger with new program plan and new staff. In the past a 2-hour group for clients with 1 staff member, now 1 hour client and staff meet for one on one with more support being provided to the client.
- This program is receiving State funding thru June 2024 to re-establish the program. This is a 1-time new grant funding opportunity.
- Marcfirst Supported Employment Program does not currently collaborate with Bridgeway. This program tried last fall to collaborate with Bridgeway and found it hard to coordinate.

## **Autism Collective-The Autism Collective Navigation and Care Coordination Services**

**Information from Written Application:**

Our care coordination team guides individuals and families through the complex web of care compassionately and efficiently. Our team is made up of nurse coordinator, 2 complex care social workers, and 2 family navigators. The range of services are from pediatric through adolescence, to adult care. Focus is placed on what is important to the individual or family unit.

**Note:** Access to services is simple and free. Anyone can call the hotline.

**Provided Handout: The Autism Collective-Experts United. Families Connected.**

Autism Collective main goal: No one should have to take the autism journey alone.

**Information from Presentation:**

Autism Collective helps navigate thru the autism journey with: Nurse coordination, complex care social worker, and family navigation. This program provides individuals and/or families with the resources the family or individual sees as being valuable and providing timely responses for coordination services. The community shows an increase of needs for navigation services due to an increase of barriers such as poor access to information, disconnection of services, funding challenges, locating services and education opportunities, and communication gaps with lack of available expertise. The program is asking for less funding for CY23 compared to CY22 due to budget cuts in marketing, in-kind contribution, and applying for other grant options.

**Q & A of Presentation:**

- Autism Collective collaborates with: Place for Children with Autism, The Butterfly Project, OSF, Carle Foundation, Hammett School-The Baby Fold, and much more.
- This program focuses on leveraging of services, not duplicating efforts of services.
- Autism Collective started ECHO Autism-an in-classroom model. Housed at 42 schools for 4 sessions of 4 hours. Everyone learns and brings case studies to the group meetings to share, learn, and gain advise, and lessons learned. This model equips educators, schools, and medical staff a combined efforts and sharing of resources. It is a real-case presentation of shared data and cases for the attendees to learn and share information and successes.

## **Marcfirst-Pediatric Therapy Early Intervention**

**Information from Written Application:**

Marcfirst is the only provider in McLean County that provides comprehensive Early Intervention services for all of McLean County and rural areas. This program will sustain and improve access to families for Early Intervention services. EI is from birth through 36 months of age. The main focus of EI is to support the entire family. Therapy and the development of skills impact the individual child and the parent/caregiver learn more how to support their child and how to access other community resources.

**Note:** Research shows that the sooner that delays or disabilities can be identified early in life, the better the outcomes of the child in key development milestones. Therapies offered through EI program include developmental therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language therapy, feeding therapy, and social-emotional therapy.

**Information from Presentation:**

Marcfirst-Pediatric Therapy Early Intervention Program is a birth to 3 years of age homebased services. Covered under the Part C of the Persons with Disability Act, providing a natural home environment to learn best through participation in the home environment. The state does not reimburse for travel expenses and McLean County is the largest county in Illinois and many

home trainings are in the rural areas of McLean. This program provides developmental screens and wraparound services to families. Early Intervention Program provides assessment looking into areas of delays and provides parent coaching for what works best for the child and family. The program provides parents with suggested activities and provides strategic tools to parents within their requests. The program also provides community screening events 4 times a year with 2 events in rural settings. The CY23 budget includes Service Pros for notes and billing hours, and documentation with a parental portal to view status of child and WIFI services to improve services being provided to families. The program provides a Loaner Library and locates necessary equipment for families, while also adapting what is already available in the home. After clients reach 3 years of age, the next program at Marcfirst is Transitions into Elementary Schools which provides services for school age children and can assist with IEP's.

#### **Q & A of Presentation:**

- The difference of SPICE and EI is the name. This program has been providing services but needs to search for additional funding to offset the cost of services already being provided to the community.
- 40% of cost is travel and 60% of time with clients.
- 112 clients served on application was estimated from the current monthly caseload unduplicated and a % average for a year.
- Yes, this population of clients are growing. In fact, Northern McLean County and the county above has the highest recorded numbers of IEP's in the State of Illinois.

### **Bridgeway Inc-Transforming Lives Through Work**

#### **Information from Written Application:**

Bridgeway is a comprehensive not-for-profit CARF accredited human service organization with a long and successful history of providing a diverse array of behavioral health and rehabilitation services including Vocational Rehabilitation for person with disabilities. Our program utilizes the evidence-based employment model: Individual Placement and Support, a practice that is 3 times more successful than any other supported employment model. Our program helps prepare persons with disabilities to thrive in today's marketplace by giving them the building blocks and fundamental tools that prepare them for meaningful jobs and future careers.

**Note:** This special population has long been underserved with an unemployment rate of 85%. The State is beginning to focus more assertively on this issue as our communities strive for a more inclusive society.

#### **Provided Handout: Bridgeway: Community Employment Services-Transforming Lives Through Work**

#### **Information from Presentation:**

During CY22, Bridgeway has been able to place 28 clients into hired positions with only 1 Employment Specialist. The goal of Bridgeway is to obtain people their dream jobs, with zero exclusion, and no money out of pocket for clients. Bridgeway uses an evidence based IPS model, 3 times more effective than any other employment model. Business contacts are

increased by the goal of 6 new business connections weekly for in person meetings to collaborate together and coordinate performance standards for the community marketplace of employees. Bridgeway prides themselves on quality excellence and has a Steering Committee meeting for employers to help guide the needs of the community and employers.

**Q & A of Presentation:**

- Current local employers of Bridgeway clients includes: Heartland, Meijer's, Dollar General, Kroger's, State Farm, and Premium Pet Supplies and many more.
- Bridgeway does not collaborate with Marcfirst Employment Program.
- This is a great opportune time for Bridgeway's clients, with so many job market opportunities available currently.
- Most clients are mild with Autism and the average age being 23 years old.
- Bridgeway can provide therapy services thru a SAMHSA grant for mental and emotions support services with a case manager/ therapists.
- At Bridgeway, no Job Coaching positions are necessary, as the Employment Specialists can handle all aspects for a client.
- Normal, Illinois is the toughest job market to hire into compared to other Bridgeway locations.
- Difference in CY23 for Bridgeway is: All Bridgeway employees gained \$1.00 salary increase, Bonus twice a year for job placements \$50.00 for 45-day placement and 90 days, and Training and mentorships for Bridgeway staff.

6. Items for Approval

7. Other Business

**Adjournment**

**Motion made to adjourn meeting by: Vern McGinnis Seconded by: Jan Hood**

**Meeting Adjourned at: 3:05 PM**