



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

October 5th, 2022

200 West Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM

1. Roll Call

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

Absent: Becky Hines

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

3. Consent Agenda

4. Items for Information

5. Items for Discussion

A. **Marcfirst-Partnerships in Health**

Information from Written Application:

Partnerships in Health is a collaborative program between Marcfirst and the Carle-BroMenn Wellness and Fitness Center. This program works on improving the physical and mental well-being of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. People with disabilities are more likely to have limited income, assets and resources and typically are unable to afford gym memberships on their own.

Note: This program aligns with the 3rd health priority in the Community health Improvement Plan for McLean County (2020-2022). This program goal is to have participants understand

more about issues of poor eating habits, stress, sedentary lifestyle, and biological predispositions.

Information from Presentation:

Partnerships in Health Program has been established for 6 years, working on physical and mental health for individuals with disabilities. Clients with disabilities may have limited income and this grant funding is important to their health and mental well-being. The program tracks biometrics each quarter and creates individualized workout plans with the option of group Zumba classes, swimming and/or the option of virtual classes. Exercise opportunities are scheduled throughout the day for a variety of times to choose from at all times of the day. The Program focuses on topics of stress, bad eating habits, and biometrics. The goal is to keep everyone healthy and active, while improving overall health improve or maintain biometrics, improve emotional/mental health, increase community social connections. College sports teams are a highlight for the clients to build confidence and social interactions and increase movement and exercise.

Q & A: Currently no waitlist. Requirement is to be a client of Marcfirst in some capacity. Socialization is improved for these clients over the past 6 years in this program and more noticeable social interactions from these clients have been observed. The benefit of this program is taking the clients less to medical appointments and the ER. The membership to the gym is a much less costs than medical appointments and an ER visit and much worthwhile.

The Baby Fold-Community Schools (Fairview and Cedar Ridge Elementary Schools)

Information from Written Application:

Community Schools is a partnership between The Baby Fold and McLean County Unit 5. Using the school as the hub, bringing together partners to offer a range of support and opportunities for children, families, and the community. Its integrated focus leads to improved student learning, build stronger families, and healthier communities. Focusing on the pillars of academic enrichments, family engagement, connection and linkage to community resources, and collaborative leadership, to increase opportunities for children and families.

Note: This program services students and families in the following categories: low-income households, children with Individualized Education Plans, and/or students enrolled in a bilingual program: English Language Learners.

Information from Presentation:

The program for these 2 schools is a truly blended partnership with The Baby Fold and Unit 5 and was conceptualized though the needs assessment. The funding requested would provide services to 700 students/families equaling about 30 cents a day for the 700 children. The program is based on a national accredited framework model. Both schools provide inclusivity; meaning the student is provided with what they need, and this may look different

for each student as the needs of each may vary; as not one size fits all. Each student gets what they need to succeed.

Q&A: What is the accessibility needs currently? Understanding obstacles for the parents and most of the times the parents not asking for help is a barrier. Completing applications, especially for parents that do not read English is a huge barrier, and not knowing where to ask for help. Another barrier is Medicaid has a lack of specialist for clients. Navigation of special unique needs is a barrier. The Baby Fold is currently working with Connect Transit System to establish routes in low-income areas, as Cedar Ridge is not on a bus route and a large population of the students have transportation barriers. The measure of parental engagement is obtained by attendance of events and from surveys.

Marcfirst-Supported Living Program

Information from Written Application:

Marcfirst Supportive Living Program serves adults with an intellectual or developmental disability in a 24-hour CILA. Clients develop or enhance skills in areas of personal care, community life, finances, communication, and other daily living skills like cooking and housekeeping.

Note: The Supported Living Program assists the local area by providing valuable housing units for people with IDD. This program allows residents to have increased access to appropriate care and provides connections to other relevant physical health and mental healthcare options. This is consistent with the top 3 significant health needs identified in the Community Health Improvement Plan.

Information from Presentation: This program provides adults with IDD living arrangements in a group home setting. Each home has an onsite supervisor. Each resident has a design meeting annually and set outcomes for the next year. The 377 funding would support the costs of the onsite supervisor costs.

Q&A: When asked about the most challenging objective for this program, health, as most things are controllable, but health is unpredictable. Staffing is still an obstacle and Marcfirst is trying to attract more employees with increased salaries. The focus is maintaining the current homes, with 33 clients currently. The closure of the 2 homes was due to staff shortages and for safety. No plans to close any further homes. When asked about the budget reduction from the prior year, it was stated some residents due to age had to make arrangements with nursing homes and student internships have saved the cost of staff salaries.

BCAI Cultural Arts & Humanities

Information from Written Application:

This program meets each student where they are. The program ensures that every child, regardless of level, age, and/or ability can either keep up or be at peace within their own

journey. The program utilizes various artforms as a catalyst for the students to safely access themselves, thereby increasing their natural levels of awareness and elevation. When one has been affected by any level of trauma, their ability to clearly communicate, to intake and process information, to focus, learn, create, and retain are all stunted.

Note: BCAI works with each student via art, music, and other media to help recognize triggers, learning styles, obtain access to resources and other community benefits and confidence in their mind and abilities.

Provided Handout About BCAI

Information from Presentation:

This program inspires action using innovative artistry to increase awareness of self, community, and culture. Every generation prospering in purpose, identity, and unity. Serving hundreds of marginalized, at-risk youths. Emphasis on team building, character focused, accountability driven group activities to improve mental health and self-image. Focus on diverse youth, trauma impacted youth, low-income homes, children with ADD, AD/HD Autism and having a history of difficulty in schools (IEPs).

Q&A: Program finds new enrollment from word of mouth and through meeting/greets from monthly performances. BCAI receives referrals from the Juvenile Justice Grant. IDD fits into BCAI, as most of the students have a history of trauma and behavioral issues or has not received a diagnosis. No child is turned away, with many children being the most difficult cases. All the staff is educated in arts with overlapping understanding of neurodivergent to train the children properly and meet them in their space. The goal of BCAI is to build better humans and increase who they are.

Marcfirst-High School Transition Program

Information from Written Application:

Marcfirst Transition Program provides activity support to students between the ages of 16-22 years of age and for their families to prepare the student for adult life. It is gratifying to see students become more integrated in the education system when they were previously excluded in part because of their disability. Students also become more familiar with technology. There is a lot of confidence building for our students and the development of their sense of self efficacy. Students also increase their knowledge on resources in the community as it relates to their disability.

Note: The overall goal of this program is to help facilitate personal growth as students become adults. Students are better able to communicate and advocate for themselves and their needs. They get to explore their disability, adapt materials, and tailor lesson planning around their challenges and successes.

Information from Presentation:

This program offers support, classes, IEP meeting assistance, information and connections with navigation and access to other Marcfirst services. The Transition Club focuses on all areas of independence. The Spring Break Program covers the same topics and constructive time to bridge gaps and build skills. The School to Work Program focuses on what it means to be a professional as an adult with interview skills, communications, resume and addressing independency to personal lives. The goal is to provide each high student with the tools to become independent and learn about community resources as they approach adulthood, support in IEP meetings, and provide caregiver support.

Q&A: Program has 32 clients and serves all high schools in McLean County including the rural high schools. Students are 16-22 years of age.

Easterseals Central Illinois-Timber Pointe Outdoor Center Campership (Scholarship Program)**Information from Written Application:**

Camp is a space for children to challenge themselves in a safe and supported environment; it is where milestones are achieved, and personal growth happens. Children and adults are able to have new experiences, meet new friends and develop problem-solving skills along with independence. Programming is adapted for every camper, regardless of ability.

Note: Many individuals who would benefit from camp may be unable to do so due to financial constraints. To meet that need, Timber Pointe created a Campership Program-scholarships for camp. Enabling children and adults with developmental delays, disabilities, challenging illnesses, or other special needs that have financial constraints to be able to participate and enjoy all that camp has to offer.

Handout provided about the program**Information from Presentation:**

Sharing of an imagination story of responsibility navigating COVID-19 and struggles with life as a parent of a child of developmental disability. This program focuses on empowerment through nature. The asking funding would provide fees for the camp due to financial restraints. This campership program is an investment in services provided to the individuals to feel included instead of being isolated and to experience freedom and independence outside of their parents/caregivers. To have the opportunity to make friends and to experience life's 'first' experiences without their parents/caregivers. This program provides the opportunity for individuals to live life to the fullest.

Q&A: The reason Easterseals changed their funding request of equipment in CY22 and Campership in CY23 is due the Equestrian has the fencing and appropriate equipment needed to support the Equestrian program, but the current need is for families to be able to afford the fees for their children to attend camp. The larger goal of empowerment and offering services

to families through registration fees is the major need in CY23, as families are experiencing financial barriers. Updates to cabins and paved road have been a focus to provide comfort. Operating costs have increased, with the largest impacts in food costs for the camp and staffing shortages have been challenging. When asked about the process of campership disbursement, first come first served with financial needs. There is a waitlist for attendance of camp.

6. Items for Approval
7. Other Business
8. Adjournment

Adjournment

Motion made to adjourn meeting by: Vern McGinnis Seconded by: Phylis VerSteegh

Meeting Adjourned at: 3:10 PM

Approved