FSR Board Consent Agenda

1-25-23

*Mission: Family Service Rochester will provide community based social services of the highest quality and maintain a commitment to excellence in all operational areas.*

*Brand Message: Family Service Rochester is a community-based organization providing mental health, senior independence, child wellbeing, and family stability services. We listen to what people need and together, we build better lives.*

Executive Director’s Report:

**Programming Updates:**

Legislative Effort: We have received a “Live Well at Home” grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services for many years. This grant supports our senior independence efforts. We have long been concerned the dollar amount allocated by the legislature has not kept up with statewide needs, particularly with the unprecedented demographic shifts our state is seeing with the growth of the aging population. We have also been concerned because this grant is typically awarded annually for a one-year period. If you recall, this grant sometimes has not been awarded to FSR until we are months into the fiscal year. We are concerned about the sustainability of our senior independence efforts and the potential impacts on seniors statewide. We have built a contingent of supporters including, Senator Carla Nelson, Olmsted County Human Services, County Commissioner Gregg Wright, County Commissioner Sheila Kiscaden, Representative Tina Liebling, Representative Kim Hicks, AARP, Minnesota Department of Human Services, and the Alzheimer’s Association. Together we are working towards a bill that would allocate additional funding for these efforts and change the structure of the grant.

Opioid Epidemic: We are in the process of organizing an event to promote the awareness of drug overdoses in our community. The date of the event has not yet to be determined. The event will include a presentation and a panel discussion. Following the event will be an opportunity for attendees to be trained to provide and receive Narcan. Narcan is a drug that reverses the effects of an opioid overdose. Many other organizations have been asked to participate and have expressed interest in doing so. More information will be provided in the near future.

GPS: Our GPS program has a social worker positioned at the Rochester Public Library. There was a recent article in the Rochester Post Bulletin highlighting these efforts. Unfortunately, the city of Rochester and the Rochester Public Library do not have solid plans on how to continue funding this position after June 30th. We are in continued discussions with the Public Library and Olmsted County to find a way to staff this role more permanently.

Meals on Wheels Expansion: Olmsted County provides a daily meal to about 30 homeless individuals they are sheltering on a temporary basis. Recently, their contracted caterer quit with little notice. Olmsted County approached us to provide these meals and we agreed to do so under an additional contract with Olmsted County.

Mental Health Bill: There is a bill proposed to the state legislature to increase Medical Assistance reimbursement rates by 35% for mental health services. This would likely significantly influence the revenue generated from our clinical services. We will be collaborating with a number of other organizations to push for passage of this bill.

Clothing Donation: Hope Summit Church in the Meadow Park neighborhood received a rather large donation of new children’s clothing from Walmart. Hope Summit asked if we would help to disperse the clothing to those in need. We agreed and have all of the clothing this week in our north conference room. All of our staff and some of our partners have been notified that we have clothing to give to community members in need. Whatever clothing remains after this week, we will provide to Rochester Community Schools and other places that accept clothing donations.

**Operations Update**:

# Training: This week we are providing three one-day training options for all staff to attend. The training is titled “Principles of Partnership: Nice idea, now how do we really do it?” provided by Dan Comer. Dan comes from the Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect in Colorado. Dan had previously provided a similar training to all FSR staff in 2014. Our Principles of Partnership are displayed in our lobby for your reference.

2023 Goals: I have put forth the following goals for FSR in 2023 and discussed with the Executive Committee of the Board. These will be further refined with the leadership team at FSR.

* Cloud Migration
* Senior Independence Legislative Efforts
* Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
* Increase Fundraising, Donations, and Grants
* Employee physical and emotional wellbeing:
  + Work/life balance
  + Feeling supported
  + Well Being Incentives
  + Mental Health Support
  + Benefits:
  + Workplace Culture

Public Relations Committee: Our Public Relations Committee of the board continues to meet to discuss our public messaging. We have another meeting scheduled in February and will likely bring a report to the board at our March board meeting.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Efforts: Our internal workgroup continues to meet to refine our 2023 action plan. This plan will be shared at our March board meeting.

**Grant/Contract Updates**:

Olmsted County: All of our contracts with Olmsted County have been executed. Overall, we negotiated favorable contract increases ranging from 5% to 11%. Olmsted County also increased their financial support for our Senior Independence efforts from $25,000 annually to $50,000 annually. County leadership recognized our increased business costs, wages, and health insurance premiums. Some of the contracts we have agreed to revise further this summer if Olmsted County has additional dollars. Over the past three years, our increases have averaged around 3 %. This lower amount was due in part to Olmsted County’s financial challenges arising from the pandemic.

United Way of Olmsted County (UWOC): UWOC had issued a request for proposals to support services that address the access to health care. We had submitted a proposal to support our outpatient mental health services and had submitted a proposal to support our senior independence activities. We were notified we will not be receiving support for either proposal. UWOC has not announced what organizations and initiatives they are funding.

United Way of Olmsted County: United Way of Olmsted County announced they will be merging with United Way of Dodge County. We have been notified we will continue to see our same annual commitment from Dodge County (Under $4000 annually) through 2025.

Southeast Minnesota Area Agency on Aging (SEMAAA): We will receive approximately $135,000 for our Senior Independence Efforts in Olmsted and Rice Counties. This funding is to be used to support our chore, transportation, visiting, home modification, and mental health services. This is more than the amount we included in our preliminary budget we presented to the board in November.

Rural Senior Independence Grant: We are applying for a grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Service to support our efforts toward aging in place in rural communities. If awarded we are hoping to receive around $100,000 annually.

Age Friendly Communities Initiative: We are applying for a grant to from the Minnesota Department of Human Services to support our Age Friendly Olmsted efforts. If awarded we are hoping to receive around $100,000 annually.

Otto Bremer Trust: We submitted a grant request to the Otto Bremer Trust requesting general operating funds to support our senior independence efforts and our mental health services. We have requested $150,000. We have a virtual site visit and discussion scheduled with the representative from the Trust in early February. I expect we will receive some funding support though it may not be the full amount. Less than this amount has been included in our budget.

**Marketing/Fundraising/Volunteer Updates:**

Denim and Diamonds: Our fundraiser to support Meals on Wheels will be held on March 25th. More details will be provided at this board meeting.

Donation for Green Efforts: We recently received a donation of approximately $10,000 from one of our employees, April Sutor. April had previously giving a similar amount that was to be used for our solar panels at our south office building. However, we did not use her previous donation due to a grant we received from the city of Rochester to support the full cost of our solar panels. At this board meeting, our Manager of Operations, Terry Eich, will give a brief overview of the cost savings we have realized.

Volunteer of the Month: Our November Volunteer of the month is Lon Buss. Lon has served in many volunteer roles prior to Family Service Rochester. After retiring as an IT Programmer/Analyst and moving to Rochester with his wife in 2017, Lon met neighbors who are staff at FSR. They told him about opportunities to volunteer and he has been doing so since 2018. Lon has donated not only his time and talents, but also his truck to help move clients, haul leaves and brush, and pick up food donations for FSR Fresh. Lon has coordinated Meals on Wheel cooler loading at Shorewood and helps mow multiple lawns in the summer. Lon says the most rewarding part of volunteering is, “assisting staff in helping member of the community through a wide variety of programs.” He went on to say, “I volunteer because I have been blessed in many ways and to try to be God’s hands and feet in this world. My motto is: I will do what I can, where I can, when I can for as long as I can. When I can no longer, I hope and pray someone who can will be there for my family, friend, and neighbors.”

Approval of the minutes from the November 23rd, 2022 board meeting.