FSR Board Consent Agenda

5-24-23

*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:**

Senior Independence Legislative Efforts: This bill continues to move through the legislative process. We will know more at the end of May.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Legislative Efforts: This bill continues to move through the legislative process. We will know more at the end of May.

Father Project Legislative Efforts: This bill continue to move through the legislative process. We will know more at the end of May.

Family Resource Centers: There is a bill in the legislature to support Family Resource Centers across Minnesota. Family Resource Centers are a central place for services and navigation specifically to address early parenting needs to minimize abuse and neglect. Olmsted County has an interest in having such a center in our community and has asked FSR to lead these efforts. Our Director of Child Welfare, Kelli DeCook, along with staff from Olmsted County recently toured a center in Wisconsin. Both she and I are scheduled to tour an additional center in Wisconsin to learn more. More details will be provided to this board at this board meeting.

The Domestic Violence Response Team: Our team that provides a child protection response to families where a child has been within sight and sound of a domestic violence situation recently provided educated Olmsted County Child & Family Services staff

Rochester Public Schools In-Service Training: Members of our clinical team recently provided a training focused on mental health to the staff at Sunset Terrace School.

Olmsted County’s Advanced Best Practices in Child Welfare Services Training Series: Eight of our staff attended recently graduated from this class. The curriculum is delivered over 6 weeks. These individuals participated in 33 hours of instructor led training; read approximately 300 pages of selected research and theory relevant to child maltreatment, child and family well-being, culture and disproportionality; studied 200+ pages of instructor developed session guides; viewed almost 30 video clips of relevant evidence based thinking; and presented to their peers a comprehensive understanding of their learning through a department training.

Parents as Teachers – Parent Group Facilitation Training. Four of our Father Project staff recently completed this training to build their skills in leading our weekly parent education and support group for fathers. Three of these staff are previous graduates of the program.

The Parents & Children Excel (PACE) team honored 23 high school students at a year-end banquet. These high school students participated in the LEAD mentorship program this school year where they mentored youth of color who have struggled with school attendance.

**Operations Update**:

Nothing at this time

**Grant/Contract Updates**:

Dementia Grant: We have submitted a grant to support work with seniors (and their caregivers) diagnosed with Dementia. This is a grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services. If awarded this grant, we will partner with Olmsted Medical Center on these efforts. We have requested approximately $150,000.

Rural Senior Independence Grant: We had applied for a grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Service to support our efforts toward aging in place in rural communities. We Have been awarded this grant and will receive approximately $100,000

Age Friendly Communities Initiative: We had applied for a grant to from the Minnesota Department of Human Services to support our Age Friendly Olmsted efforts. We have been awarded this grant and will receive approximately $25,000.

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 been awarded this grant and will receive $120,000.

Think Bank: We have received funding support from Think Bank annually to support our Meals on Wheels Program for many years. This year we have requested additional dollars to support our mental health efforts. We have been awarded this grant and will receive $35,000.

United Way of Olmsted County: We requested continued support for the Meadow Park Initiative from United Way. We have been awarded $30,000 annually for two years.

AARP Minnesota: We had applied for grant to support the completion of 12 “walk audits” to assess the city of Rochester’s Community Development’s Active Transportation Plan. Essentially, bringing to the table input from seniors. This will be done in partnership Age-Friendly Olmsted County (AFOC), Rochester Community Development & Public Works, RNeighbors Neighborhood Resource Center, and the Slatterly Park Neighborhood Association. We were awarded this grant and will be receiving $2500.

UCare Foundation: We submitted a grant request of $30,000 to the UCare Foundation to support training some of our clinical staff in trauma informed interventions and to subsidize some of our clients on a sliding fee scale.

Live Well at Home Grant: We submitted both a grant request and a grant extension request to the Minnesota Department of Human Services to support our senior independence effort. We understand we will likely receive an extension and will receive roughly the same dollar amount we are receiving this year for one additional year.

**Marketing/Fundraising/Volunteer Updates:**

Volunteer of the Month: Our May Volunteer of the Month is Greg Hurlebus. After more than 30 years at IBM in software development, Greg retired in 2021. Greg and his wife, Sue, enjoy spending their free time with their four grandchildren, doing outdoor activities, and travelling domestically and internationally. Both Greg and Sue also donate their time with Family Service Rochester. “My wife Sue has volunteered for a while and pulled me in the fall of 2020 to help shovel snow.” When asked why he volunteers, Greg answered honestly, “My wife told me to.” After receiving a small portable snow blower from his father, Greg put it to good use, volunteering to tackle multiple driveways for the past three winters. Greg states, “I love it when the homeowners look out their front door and say Thank You.”

Approval of the minutes from the March 22nd, 2023 board meeting.