FSR Board Consent Agenda

7-26-23

*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: We were successful in lobbying the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the state legislature to provide a more sustainable funding model for Home and Community Based Services. We are hopeful this will provide us access to longer term funding to support our senior independence efforts.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Legislative Efforts: This bill was passed by the state legislature. Additional funding will be provided across the state. We will apply for additional funding to expand our FARR (Family Advocacy in Recovery and Restoration) that provides recovery support for women who are pregnant and/or parenting with a history of substance use.

Father Project Legislative Efforts: This bill was passed by the state legislature. Additional funding will be provides across the state. It is likely that we will receive some of this funding to support efforts to expand the Father Project. We are likely to expand these efforts into Dodge County.

School Based Mental Health Grant: We are a sub-recipient of a grant that supports our School Based Mental Health work. This grant has been renewed. We will receive approximately $11,000 per therapist placed in a school. An increase of about $3000 per therapist. In addition, we are intending to expand these efforts within the Rochester School District by adding a therapist into the Sunset Terrance elementary school.

Educational Advocates: Our social work staff that provide our community’s response to truancy have been working with the Olmsted County Attorney’s office and the Rochester Public School District to refine the practices to address truancy in our community.

Family Involvement Strategies: Our Training and Development Manager, Renaux Swancutt, recently provided training to Carleton County staff on facilitating conferences that involve extended family networks to develop plans to mitigate safety concerns after a child has been abused or neglected.

**Operations Update**:

Fall Retreat: As part of our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts, we are hosting an all-day training for all of our staff on September 26th. This training will focus on creating an inclusive workspace and employee well-being. As part of our DEI work plan we have decided to invite all board members to our relevant trainings. If any of board members have an interest in attending, please let me know.

Parking Lot maintenance: We are securing bids to repair an area of our North building’s parking lot that has potholes. Assuming the cost is reasonable, we will look to have this area fixed prior to the fall.

MANDT Training: Our Training and Development Manager, Renaux Swancutt, recently attended a training in Iowa to become certified to provide de-escalation in the workplace training on an annual basis for all of our staff. This training is specific to any crisis situation we may have in the workplace specific to the populations we serve.

**Grant/Contract Updates**:

Dementia Grant: We had 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. We were awarded approximately $150,000.

Meals on Wheels/Home Depot Grant: We submitted grant to enhance our effort to support veterans to modify their homes to allow for greater independence. We have been awarded this grant and will receive approximately $20,000.

Meals on Wheels Grant for Senior Connections: We have submitted a grant to support the social connection of seniors. We have requested $10,000

Meals on Wheels Grant for Underserved Populations: We have submitted a grant to provide meals to underserved populations. It would be our hope to provide Meals on Wheels to additional low income senior and expand our fresh food boxes to existing consumers. We have requested $25,000.

UCare Foundation: We submitted a grant request for $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.

National Community Care Corps Grant: We have submitted a grant request for $190,000 to expand our senior independence efforts in Olmsted and Rice Counties. If we receive this grant we are also hoping to expand Meals on Wheels to Oronoco.

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 have been awarded an extension and will receive roughly the same dollar amount we are receiving this year for two additional years.

**Marketing/Fundraising/Volunteer Updates:**

Volunteer of the Month: Our May Volunteer of the Month is Mary Fay. In 2020, looking for a volunteer opportunity after retiring, **Mary Fay** joined Family Service Rochester’s volunteer team. “Our agency worked closely with FSR, so I was familiar with many of their programs,” Mary explained. Working with children and families for many years as a social worker,
Mary switched gears and volunteers with older adults assisting with Meals on Wheels, transportation, grocery shopping, and FSR FRESH delivery. “I wanted to keep busy and do something related to the work I did for so many years. FSR is very inclusive and provides services to a wide range of people, children to seniors. FSR has been around a long time and continues to find and fill the needs of the community,” commented Mary.

Once Upon a Playhouse Fundraiser: Jennifer Pinske will provide updates on the status of this fundraiser at this board meeting.

Approval of the minutes from the May 24th, 2023 board meeting.