FSR Board Consent Agenda

9-26-23

*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:**

Governor Appointee: Governor Walz appointed our Outpatient Clinical Program Manager, Dr. Jessica Garcia, to serve on the Council of LGBTQIA2S+ Minnesotans.

Family Resource Centers: The Sauer Family Foundation has invited FSR to apply for funding to further assess the feasibility and need for a Family Resource Center in Rochester. A Family Resource Center is a community-welcoming hub of support, services, and opportunities for families with the overarching goal to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Father Project: We have received additional funding to support the expansion of the Father Project. We will be hiring additional staff who will focus their efforts in Dodge County.

Back to School Block Party: Our PACE Program, serving children of color with school attendance and/or behavior issues, collaborated with the Community Engagement Response Team to host the third annual Back to School Block Party and Parade on August 19, 2023.  Over 1000 kids and parents attended the event to enjoy food, learn about community resources, get haircuts/braids, and receive backpacks full of school supplies.

Caregiver Forums: FSR is providing forums for caregivers in Rochester (November 9th), Byron (October 4th), and Faribault (September 29th). These forums provided to the community bring a panel of experts to share their lived and/or professional experiences.

Mini Health Clinics: FSR is collaborating with Winona State University to provide mini health clinics to our consumers in Rochester, Byron, and Stewartville. These health clinics will bring education, exercise, and health screenings.

Local Advisory Council (LAC) on Mental Health: Our Director of Clinical Services, Ashleigh Dowis, will be co-chairing (along with NAMI staff) a new iteration of this council. A Local Advisory Council is made up of diverse groups of individuals that are representative of the community they serve. LACs provide recommendations specific to changes, additions, and improvements to the local mental health delivery system.

Suicide Awareness and Prevention: FSR is collaborating with a number of other organizations to provide a forum on suicide awareness and prevention. This forum will be held at Prairie Care on October 17th from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Please see flier in this board packet.

Age Friendly Communities: As part of our Age Friendly Olmsted efforts, we recently organized a walk audit in the Slatterly Park Neighborhood. A walk audit is a fun, interactive way to assess the pedestrian experience in our neighborhoods. This was a well-attended and well-received event.

**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 (please see the flier included in this board packet).

Accounting and Business Management Software: We are updating our financial software package to modernize and meet our growing needs. This will help with the management of grants and streamlines some processes. This will also eliminate some of our other software needs.

Office 365: We are transitioning to become a cloud-based organization. Our plan is to eliminate our on premise servers prior to the end of their warranty in 2025. Our first phase of this transition will take place in October when we transition to the cloud based Microsoft office suite of applications.

Penetration Testing: We are having penetration testing completed to assess the security of our IT network.

Legislative Advocacy Training: We engaged AARP-Minnesota to provide Legislative advocacy training for our management and senior leaders. It our hope to become more engaged and influential in state policy and practices on a more regular basis. This comes after initiating a bill to support senior independence efforts statewide while also testifying on behalf of other bills affecting the work that we do.

Nonprofit Shared Space: Our group of nonprofits considering the concept of shared space is exploring potential opportunities within the DMC footprint and at RCTC.

**Grant/Contract Updates**:

Meals on Wheels Grant for Senior Connections: We have submitted a grant to support the social connection of seniors. We had requested $10,000. We did not receive this grant.

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 had requested $25,000. We did not receive this grant.

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. We did not receive this grant.

Proof Alliance Grant: We are submitting a grant to support our FARR program that provides services and support to pregnant or recent mothers with a history of substance use. If awarded this grant we are intending to expand these services into Goodhue County.

Associated Bank: We recently submitted a grant request to Associated Bank to support our mental health services. We have asked for $5000.

Minnesota Department of Human Services: We recently submitted a grant request to the Minnesota DHS to support our Dialectical Behavioral Therapy Program. This grant support would provide additional training for our staff. We have asked for $5000.

**Marketing/Fundraising/Volunteer Updates:**

Volunteer of the Month: Our Volunteer of the Month for September is Greg Parker. Greg is a Rochester native who had worked for the Rochester Public Schools for 18 years and has been involved with Friendship Place for 20+ years. Greg’s love for cultures and people from different backgrounds and countries shows in his volunteering. He gives from the heart. Greg states, “Through this partnership (with FSR) we are able to open up the rest of the world (for youth and families) with amazing activities. FSR has brought incredible resources to Meadow Park.” While he shies away from attention, Mr. Parker plays a key role in opening the world to Meadow Park Learning Center youth and families.

AARP Minnesota: AARP Minnesota, after being impressed with the work we are doing to support seniors to live independently, has asked to interview one of our consumers for an article they intend to publish.

Approval of the minutes from the July 26th, 2023 board meeting.