FSR Board Consent Agenda

5-22-24

*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’s Appointment #1: Dave Beal, our Communication Manager, who also leads our Age Friendly Olmsted efforts was recently appointed by Governor Walz to serve on the Minnesota Board on Aging. This is direct testament to Dave’s commitment to the aging population while also an indirect testament to the work FSR does and the reputation we have built throughout the state.

Governor’s Appointment #2: Katherine Driskell, our Manger of School Based Mental Health Services was recently appointed by Governor Walz to serve on the Minnesota Board of Social Work. This is direct testament to Katherine’s commitment to the field of social work while an indirect testament to the work FSR does and the reputation we have built throughout the state.

EMDR Training: Katherine Driskel recently co-led EMDR training at Family Service Rochester over 4 days. This training was supported financially by the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Participants attended from throughout Minnesota. EMDR stands for Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) and is a psychotherapy treatment that is designed to alleviate the distress associated with traumatic memories.

Family Involvement Strategies (FIS): The Minnesota Department of Human Services has requested that we provide facilitated learning opportunities for practitioners around the state who coordinate and facilitate family led meetings when children are at risk of abuse and neglect. We have decided to do so and will be receiving $5000 to do so. Renaux Swancutt, will lead these efforts.

Community Education Partnership: Family Service Rochester partnered with Rochester Community Education to help support LGBTQ+ youth. Kate Perry, Family & Community Based Program Manager and Cole Schmit, Family Based Therapist, provided information about the services FSR provides, taught mindfulness practices, and demonstrated to LGBTQ+ youth that there are supportive adults in our community.

Rochester Area Foundation (RAF): The RAF has approached us to discuss FSR delivering a funded pilot project to address living transitions for the aging, recognizing that some seniors may have an interest in downsizing their living arrangements and selling their existing homes. This may create more home ownership opportunities for the community. We expressed interest in learning more. There are likely other organizations interested in this opportunity as well.

Housing: We have been invited to a discussion in early August with Olmsted County leaders about our interest in being involved in some capacity with a new lower income housing project Olmsted County intends to build for seniors. We may be presented with an opportunity to manage the housing project or be a service provider of choice for those individuals residing there. If there is an opportunity to consider FSR as an organization that might manage the property, I would bring this to the board for further discussion.

**Operations Update**:

Fall Retreat: For many years we have provided a full day training/retreat for staff in the fall. We are doing this activity on September 30th at the Oxbow Park learning center. This year’s training will be focused on one’s well-being and leadership. The training is being provided by Dr. Andrea Hollingsworth. Dr Hollingsworth is Founder and CEO of Hollingsworth Consulting, author of the bestselling book *The Compassion Advantage* (2024), and one of today’s leading global experts on compassionate leadership. Since 2008, she has been studying, speaking, and writing about the science and spirituality of human emotions and relationships. Her articles have been published more than a dozen times in peer-reviewed journals, and she has taught at prestigious institutions like Princeton, Boston University, and Loyola University Chicago. If any board members have an interest in attending, please let me know.

Annual Salary Increases: Salary increases consistent with our board approved budget went into effect for employees eligible on July 1st.

Flooding: With the recent significant rains we had a few weeks ago, we ended up with about ¾ of an inch of water in our basement at our north location. We believe this was ground water seeping up rather than rainwater coming from above. We are having a sump pump installed in the basement of the building to address this issue into the future. In the 8 years that we have had the north building we have had a small amount of water in the basement one other time.

Health Insurance: Health insurance claims in June were $109,999.54. There are 3 plan members who have incurred claims that have exceeded the stop loss of $40,000, 1 of these members are no longer covered on the plan. There are 15 members with claims above $10,000, 5 of them are no longer covered on the plan.  The plan ran at 208% of expected compared to May which ran a 49% of expected. Policy YTD (October – September) is running at 60% of expected and FSR Fiscal YTD is running at 88%. Overall plan performance is good. I expect a favorable renewal in the coming months. (see attachment in board packet).

**Grant/Contract Updates**:

FARR: The FARR program serving mothers with a history of substance abuse applied for a grant from the PROOF Alliance to support our efforts. We will receive approximately $380,000 in year one of this grant and approximately $360,000 in year two. This is more money than requested. The PROOF Alliance asked if we could add additional staff and serve more individuals.

SMIF Grant: We applied for a grant from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation to support our mental health services for children. We have been awarded $15,000.

Sauer Family Foundation: We submitted a grant to be used for the development of our Family Resource Center. We previously received funding from the Sauer Family Foundation for the assessment phase of this project. With this funding we’ll be able to train our staff to train others in the community on protective factors that prevent child abuse and neglect. We have been notified we will be receiving $36,000 for these efforts.

Otto Bremer Trust: We submitted a grant to the Otto Bremer Trusts to support our overall operations. We have received annual funding support from the Otto Bremer Trust for several years. We have requested $120,000. We have not yet been notified of the decision.

Family Resource Center Grant: We submitted a grant to the Minnesota Department of Human Services to support our Family Resource Center efforts. This grant would provide funding over a three-year period. If awarded the full grant it could mean adding 4-5 new staff members. We have not yet been notified of the decision.

Dementia Grant: We have formed a partnership with Olmsted Medical Center to provide services to support those with Dementia (and their caregivers). We pursued a grant opportunity that will support these efforts. We have been awarded $150,000 over two years.

Office of Justice Grant: Our grant that supports supervised visitation and safe exchanges for children has been renewed. Additionally, we will receive approximately $16,000 more than requested.

Family Involvement Strategies: Our state grant that allows us to coordinate and facilitate family-led meetings when children are at risk of abuse and neglect has been renewed without completing a new application. We provide this service in 12 different counties.

**Marketing/Fundraising/Volunteer Updates:**

Volunteer of the Month: Our Volunteer of the Month is John Eischen. At Family Service Rochester, John plays a key part in many projects and events and he personally takes on fundraising challenges. Over the years, he has connected the Rochester Area Builders to FSR programs. John has been a crucial part of the Once Upon a Playhouse fundraiser, contributing not only to the overall partnership with the Rochester Area Builders, but personally as a builder. Most recently he created a unique program connecting the Rochester Area Builders Association with Kellog Middle School and FSR. This program has had an incredible impact on middle school students and builders and produced a playhouse donated to FSR to raise money to support our mental health services for youth.

John is also a favorite dealer at our Denim, Diamond, and Dice fundraiser with his quick wit and fun banter. He actively raises funds with his partner dealer both online and in person to support Meals on Wheels.

When called upon for help or leadership, John steps up. He is an incredibly valuable volunteer to FSR and our community.

Attached: Board Minutes from May 22, 2024.