

00:49:07.291 --> 00:49:11.999

Or highlights, presentation, and I wish you all success, and I know it will be very successful.

00:49:11.999 --> 00:49:14.317

It was last year, and I expect it'll be even better this year.

00:49:14.317 --> 00:49:17.754

Thank you. I hope so.

00:49:17.754 --> 00:49:19.817

Okay.

00:49:19.817 --> 00:49:24.133

Any other questions or comments from the board?

00:49:24.133 --> 00:49:27.665

Thank you very much.

00:49:27.665 --> 00:49:32.203

Thank you. It's very nice to see all of you.

00:49:32.203 --> 00:49:34.952

And I'm glad we got zoom to work.

00:49:34.952 --> 00:49:44.287

That was excellent.

00:49:44.287 --> 00:49:46.040

Okay, there is one other presentation which is really something that when I looked at this it was new to me.

00:49:46.040 --> 00:49:52.161

And then when Lynn and I talked, she said, Well, the DD

00:49:52.161 --> 00:50:06.793

Board wasn't really that involved in it, but the Mental Health Board was very involved in it.

00:50:06.793 --> 00:50:09.790

But it is for our information, it was a student project about financial management support for agencies, and it is on pages 24 to 46.

00:50:09.790 --> 00:50:20.494

And again, I think it's well written and informative.

00:50:20.494 --> 00:50:24.610

Is there anyone that wants to speak to this? We have - Chris is in the room, and Leon is on the zoom, and I didn't ask Chris in advance.

00:50:24.610 --> 00:50:27.677

But I did ask Leon. So these guys got it started,

00:50:27.677 --> 00:50:28.800

And then Leon wrote it up and worked with the students.

00:50:28.800 --> 00:50:38.228

So!

00:50:38.228 --> 00:50:43.578

Here, I can add just a little bit. So yes, we met with the college students, for I think a business

00:50:43.578 --> 00:50:47.824

301 class, and you, you know they, you know, wanted to.

00:50:47.824 --> 00:50:59.082

Yeah, have a community project with this. And so we presented it to them.

00:50:59.082 --> 00:51:09.084

A couple of issues that we've noticed over the over the past few months with some of our agencies struggling with bookkeeping.

00:51:09.084 --> 00:51:12.337

And so they conducted their research. They met with, developed a survey, conducted focus group.

00:51:12.337 --> 00:51:20.452

That was a couple of our agencies, one DD.

00:51:20.452 --> 00:51:41.972

The agency, and I believe it was 3 other Uhh agencies, and they just kind of ironed out what you know.

00:51:41.972 --> 00:52:01.685

So the agencies notices some of the issues that were going on with meeting deadlines and getting audits in, and so, you know, some of the agencies were, you know, they mentioned that their issues were not that they didn't wanna do the work their issues.

00:52:01.685 --> 00:52:08.446

Were, you know, finding an auditor who was responsive. The cost of rising audits, and then there would be issues of having just one or 2 staff to manage the the bookkeeping component.

00:52:08.446 --> 00:52:17.531

While also trying to take on other duties. And so that was a big issue.

00:52:17.531 --> 00:52:24.813

The students mentioned that they give us a couple of recommendations, and one was for MHB

00:52:24.813 --> 00:52:47.080

And DDB staff to be a little more responsive to the agencies that needed our attention

00:52:47.080 --> 00:53:08.526

With their financials, and then the other issue was, for a recommendation was for some of the agencies to continue to communicate with their CPA firms early and continue to communicate with staff early in the process.

00:53:08.526 --> 00:53:16.659

The issue - I just feel like maybe Lynn or Chris can jump on in here, but I think we do a pretty decent job with being responsive, being receptive to the agencies when they have issues or concerns regarding reports deadlines.

00:53:16.659 --> 00:53:28.783

You name it, I think we're good with the phone and email so I'm not so sure that recommendation was, I mean, it's what they notice with the Stat.

00:53:28.783 --> 00:53:47.159

What the agencies suggested, but I think we're doing a pretty good job with that, and we'll continue to do a good job with that. So it was interesting.

00:53:47.159 --> 00:53:53.784

It was a 3 month project, and they reached out to us again just the other day about wanting to conduct another student project with us, and so I think we're kinda kinda overwhelmed with other things going on.

00:53:53.784 --> 00:54:05.466

I would say that what continues to come out of these projects, these student projects, are things such as you know.

00:54:05.466 --> 00:54:08.030

The agencies are still struggling with, you know the shortage of staffing, and being able to focus their attention on the financials.

00:54:08.030 --> 00:54:13.965

That's a difficult thing, and it's mainly our MH

00:54:13.965 --> 00:54:22.629

Agencies. I haven't heard a whole lot on the DD

00:54:22.629 --> 00:54:28.259

Side about that. The other thing is, you know, finding a receptive, a responsive CPA

00:54:28.259 --> 00:54:49.771

Firm to assist them, who, to a system with the work that's being done to?

00:54:49.771 --> 00:54:54.335

Appreciate the work that our agencies are doing, and, you know, provide outstanding reports or results for those agencies so there's a couple of of, I would say issues or flags that continue to be raised as we work with the student

00:54:54.335 --> 00:54:56.758

projects. I'll pause there. They've included their report.

00:54:56.758 --> 00:55:03.225

Final report package.

00:55:03.225 --> 00:55:07.595

I'll take any questions or concerns that you all may have, or advice.

00:55:07.595 --> 00:55:25.165

Cause we do need help on the MH side.

00:55:25.165 --> 00:55:31.791

Oh, I have a suggestion. The young people that may be assigned to this survey or study that they're doing.

00:55:31.791 --> 00:55:36.607

Perhaps, instead of studying, you know, and pointing out to us what the problem is,

00:55:36.607 --> 00:55:45.729

Maybe they could step in and take over the duties of some of these,

00:55:45.729 --> 00:55:50.732

At some of these agencies for the semester that they're in the class.

00:55:50.732 --> 00:56:00.497

Love it love it!

00:56:00.497 --> 00:56:06.811

Yeah, I think that when I read this I can see it's really it's a system problem.

00:56:06.811 --> 00:56:15.883

It's not a people problem that people are doing a good as good a job as they can.

00:56:15.883 --> 00:56:42.561

But the system is different. There's a lack of availability of CPAs and too expensive.

00:56:42.561 --> 00:56:51.314

So I would suggest looking at it from the system point of view is to how can we organize things so that it's easier for agencies to meet the requirement, and getting volunteer help for doing financials is a tricky business because it's very it's legally very important so

00:56:51.314 --> 00:57:12.036

we'd have to make sure that that was done properly, and I would really want legal advice before we had volunteers dealing with financials.

00:57:12.036 --> 00:57:17.427

But it's a good idea, and other good ideas may come forward. So, looking at how we can organize systems, mobilize resources would be the way to go forward from the study, I agree thank you.

00:57:17.427 --> 00:57:28.865

I know. Personally, I reached out to other CPA

00:57:28.865 --> 00:57:38.868

firms, and what I got back was just simple. It cost us 15 to \$20,000 to have the financial review, and of course we can't afford that.

00:57:38.868 --> 00:57:48.209

So just yeah. So you know, it's not like we haven't tried to find different places or engage with others.

00:57:48.209 --> 00:57:54.823

But I'll send her the firm that we're working with is going through a major change over themselves with personnel and what they're doing with their.

00:57:54.823 --> 00:58:06.152

So it definitely continues to be a struggle. But I'm I'm really positive for this next year.

00:58:06.152 --> 00:58:16.097

I think hopefully, hopefully. And it's gonna get better. I think the cost is what hurts us the most, you know, being able to reach out to others.

00:58:16.097 --> 00:58:30.048

Thank you. Brenda. Oh, Chris, you wanna yeah. Just a couple of things to add in there.

00:58:30.048 --> 00:58:48.174

So first off I wasn't able to participate in this project as much as I wanted to over the last couple months. So, Leon, thank you for spearheading this and working with the students.

00:58:48.174 --> 00:58:56.923

I can tell you, as an accountant, I've seen first hand that there is a direct correlation between the strength of an organization's books and the strength of the organization as a whole, and we've seen time and time again the agencies that struggle with their reports the agencies

00:58:56.923 --> 00:59:08.237

that fail to submit audits on time. Those are the agencies that end up closing their doors shortly thereafter.

00:59:08.237 --> 00:59:14.235

Unfortunately, and, as Leon said, the final results from the students project or is in the report, and they were able to uncover a few, a few resources.

00:59:14.235 --> 00:59:18.331

But ultimately it comes down to the agencies need to invest in their own infrastructure.

00:59:18.331 --> 00:59:23.016

You know, there's really not much that we can do as staff.



00:59:23.016 --> 00:59:32.156

It becomes a conflict of interest at a certain point.

00:59:32.156 --> 00:59:44.166

If we get too involved, and then, you know some of these smaller agencies where it's one or 2 people running the show.

00:59:44.166 --> 00:59:47.458

You know they have their hearts in the right place, but maybe they don't have the technical skills to really do to do the heavy lifting when it comes to accounting that really needs to be done.

00:59:47.458 --> 00:59:55.574

And that's where that's where the agencies need to invest in their own infrastructure.

00:59:55.574 --> 01:00:01.529

And whether that's hiring a bookkeeper on staff, or going out and hiring one as a as an independent contractor from from a CPA

01:00:01.529 --> 01:00:09.828

Firm, and again that comes with a bill that comes with dollar signs attached to it.

01:00:09.828 --> 01:00:12.947

So, you know, personally, I encourage agencies, you know, if they're gonna do that, you know we'll pay for it.

01:00:12.947 --> 01:00:16.886

Ask it, you know, make it part of your proposal.

01:00:16.886 --> 01:00:18.331

You know, if you're asking for an extra \$20k than you did last year.

01:00:18.331 --> 01:00:22.948

But it's because you're hiring a bookkeeper.

01:00:22.948 --> 01:00:28.510

I think that's a great thing. I can't speak for the board, but anyways, that's yeah.

01:00:28.510 --> 01:00:38.153

I don't want to drag this out too long, but I absolutely agree with Chris.

01:00:38.153 --> 01:00:44.049

This is the agencies that this Board and the Mental Health Board are funding are do not have to operate in a Champaign County vacuum.

01:00:44.049 --> 01:00:59.391

It's better for all of us if there're connected to the larger system, and the only way they can be is if they have,

01:00:59.391 --> 01:01:04.776

You know, high quality, financial reporting and good lawyers and good insurance, and that's a whole bunch of stuff that costs money that doesn't have to do like immediately with the with people getting served.

01:01:04.776 --> 01:01:10.920

So I think the both of the boards have shown a lot of a lot of grace around like.

01:01:10.920 --> 01:01:17.622

Yes, let's spend more money on the infrastructure that's necessary for us to have services in operation.  
High quality

01:01:17.622 --> 01:01:22.586

Services and operation, and these are pieces of it. So I absolutely - Brenda,

01:01:22.586 --> 01:01:25.774

I love working with you, and we've talked about these issues for the last year.

01:01:25.774 --> 01:01:32.295

You have a great bookkeeper right now, so I know you're on the track right now, so I know you're on the track.

01:01:32.295 --> 01:01:38.885

But I would say, this is a value that local funders like the Mental Health Board and the DDB

01:01:38.885 --> 01:01:43.560

Can offer, which is to strengthen local organizations so that they can be competitive for the bigger dollar items,

01:01:43.560 --> 01:01:47.252

And you can't do it without an audit, and you can't do it without liability insurance.

01:01:47.252 --> 01:01:52.524

And all this kind of stuff around the edges that we don't talk a lot about.

01:01:52.524 --> 01:02:04.274

So I appreciate Chris and Leon taking this on, and what a great memo!

01:02:04.274 --> 01:02:05.787

Thank you, Leon. I just you know I don't know if I'm I don't we don't know if we're accurately representing the Board's values, but it is my opinion that this is a high value.

01:02:05.787 --> 01:02:13.472

So anyway.

01:02:13.472 --> 01:02:23.873

Any comments from the Board, any more questions or comments from the Board?

01:02:23.873 --> 01:02:25.420

Turn it on again. I agree that it is extremely important to have financial accountability.

01:02:25.420 --> 01:02:33.258

Yes.

01:02:33.258 --> 01:02:42.991

Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much for that, Leon, and to the students.

01:02:42.991 --> 01:02:57.980

Okay. The next item is a decision item. It is the draft fiscal year 2024 budgets,

01:02:57.980 --> 01:03:01.865

And there is a decision memo included for board action regarding initial budget plans, and it is on page 47 or page 62.

01:03:01.865 --> 01:03:07.196

It looks like 48 48. Okay?

01:03:07.196 --> 01:03:16.584

I didn't flag it so thank you for that.

01:03:16.584 --> 01:03:22.021

Okay, I will. I accept a motion, as on page 48, and there are 2 motions.

01:03:22.021 --> 01:03:34.498

So let's do one first. I'll move to approve the attached draft

01:03:34.498 --> 01:03:43.009

2024 CCDDDB Budget, with anticipated revenues and expenditures of \$5,244,011. And I'll second that.

01:03:43.009 --> 01:03:47.762

So here it is. Okay, any discussion? That's the next one that we talked about.

01:03:47.762 --> 01:03:51.387

Yeah, I mean what you and I talked about is the next one.

01:03:51.387 --> 01:04:04.105

But you can say whatever you want.

01:04:04.105 --> 01:04:06.955

I do have a couple of questions. First of all, I want to be clear that the budgets are for the fiscal year 24.

01:04:06.955 --> 01:04:13.828

That starts January first through December thirty-first.

01:04:13.828 --> 01:04:18.082

Not this, not the program year that we go on correct? Well, we don't go on the- the program

01:04:18.082 --> 01:04:20.345

Year is what we've been talking about since maybe last year, October.

01:04:20.345 --> 01:04:24.290

But that's the that's the agency contract

01:04:24.290 --> 01:04:26.901

Year, and that's July first. So you're absolutely right.

01:04:26.901 --> 01:04:34.377

This is actually our fiscal year, January one

01:04:34.377 --> 01:04:41.631

Through December 31, because we're on, because we're a unit of county government and the county's fiscal year is January 1

01:04:41.631 --> 01:04:52.928

Through December 31. So thank you. Okay. And I had another question.

01:04:52.928 --> 01:05:02.783

And I think it's about this this budget. But are there in our statutes that establish the CCDDDB Board,

01:05:02.783 --> 01:05:09.689

Is there anything that says how much of the revenue that comes in must be spent on agencies or given to agencies?

01:05:09.689 --> 01:05:16.215

There is not. The statute simply says you have total authority over your budget.

01:05:16.215 --> 01:05:36.385

That's all. It talks a lot about purchasing buildings, using buildings for services,

01:05:36.385 --> 01:05:47.651

And we've we've done that. And it didn't work out very well, so that the main activity for these funds would be to to fund agencies to provide services to adults and then to children for things that they're not eligible through school. Okay, and so I a comment that I

01:05:47.651 --> 01:05:55.498

have, I'm kind of a numbers person, and I went through and looked at these budgets, and and I wanted to comment that both the Mental Health Board and the the DD

01:05:55.498 --> 01:06:08.036

Board. They spend that line item called Contributions and Grants.

01:06:08.036 --> 01:06:17.840

The Mental Health Board spends 84% on contributions and grants, which is a really high percentage of the total budget.

01:06:17.840 --> 01:06:25.692

And and the DD spends 91, almost 92% on its contributions and grants.

01:06:25.692 --> 01:06:39.390

So that means the leftover, the 9% leftover is overhead, which is a really good percentage.

01:06:39.390 --> 01:06:47.900

You know, to be spending 90% of your money on giving to the community as opposed to, you know, 80% of your money or 75% of your money.

01:06:47.900 --> 01:07:08.723

I think I think it needs to be pointed out that both boards do a really good job of of handing out taxpayers money.

01:07:08.723 --> 01:07:14.338

Lynn. So so after today, whatever you approve, and then, whatever the Mental Health Board approves, I then I get to shift and enter into the county system, and I've gotten since I did this a little bit, and this is one of those like - text Chris anytime day or night with

01:07:14.338 --> 01:07:17.180

emergency questions about what are we gonna spend on paper next year -

01:07:17.180 --> 01:07:30.248

And he's very accommodating during this period.

01:07:30.248 --> 01:07:39.190

But we'll go back into that phase in order to set everything up into the county... And one of the things that I have to do is a narrative description, and if you don't mind, I'd like to use your comment because a lot of times I'm just putting stuff that You've

01:07:39.190 --> 01:07:53.187

talked about all year. But that's a special highlight that I might add to the budget narratives that we present to the.. Good.

01:07:53.187 --> 01:08:00.033

For some reason your thing is still on. Okay. One more question, how much is spent for our 2 1 1 services each year.

01:08:00.033 --> 01:08:04.598

How much do we spend? Is it one of the it's incorporated in one of these line items?

01:08:04.598 --> 01:08:11.033

You're right, it's not pulled out. You looked at it last year - we don't bring it every year,

01:08:11.033 --> 01:08:19.746



Just every 2 or 3 years, but it's like it's around 20,000 now, isn't it, Chris?

01:08:19.746 --> 01:08:22.620

Or 21,000, and you might have noticed some language about that amount being reduced, and maybe even eliminated,

01:08:22.620 --> 01:08:26.459

But that's based on a promise from the State of Illinois.

01:08:26.459 --> 01:08:39.423

So take it, or leave it alright.

01:08:39.423 --> 01:08:46.426

Thank you. Georgiana. Those are very good, helpful comments, and thank you for being a numbers

01:08:46.426 --> 01:08:50.419

Person. Any more discussion about the first motion on page 48?

01:08:50.419 --> 01:08:54.381

Okay, it's money. So we have to do roll call.

01:08:54.381 --> 01:09:01.754

Georgiana Shuster.

01:09:01.754 --> 01:09:07.576

Vicki Niswander? Yes, Deb Ruesch yes, Anne Robin.

01:09:07.576 --> 01:09:11.323

Yes, okay. There is a second motion. Would someone like to make that motion?

01:09:11.323 --> 01:09:21.408

I will make a motion to approve the attached draft

01:09:21.408 --> 01:09:27.754

2024 I/DD Special initiatives fund budget with anticipated revenues and expenditures of \$406k.

01:09:27.754 --> 01:09:34.464

Use of this fund is consistent with the terms of the intergovernmental agreement between the CCDDB

01:09:34.464 --> 01:09:45.388

And CCMHB. And full approval is contingent on CCMHB action.

01:09:45.388 --> 01:09:48.396

I'll second. Okay, any discussion about this one. This is a special initiatives that we have

01:09:48.396 --> 01:09:59.838

Talked about.

01:09:59.838 --> 01:10:10.163

Okay. Hearing no discussion, Shandra.

01:10:10.163 --> 01:10:26.089

Georgiana Schuster. Yes, Vicki Niswander?

01:10:26.089 --> 01:10:39.738

Yes, Deb Ruesch. Anne Robin yes. Okay, both of those items are approved, and we are now going to the second page of the agenda.

01:10:39.738 --> 01:10:43.606

We have an information page. Let's see, we have still one more thing that we have to vote on this information page is very interesting.

01:10:43.606 --> 01:10:48.929

It is just one page, and it's a fact

01:10:48.929 --> 01:10:59.005

Sheet developed by something called the Institute Online, which I had never even heard of.

01:10:59.005 --> 01:11:02.934

But there's a lot of things I haven't heard of, Lynn assures me that this is a reputable source of information.

01:11:02.934 --> 01:11:08.243

Lynn, do you want to make a brief comment about this?

01:11:08.243 --> 01:11:12.773

Well, this I don't know, Kim Bowdry, if you're in the mood to talk.

01:11:12.773 --> 01:11:21.922

No, but this is Kathy Carmody is at this organization.

01:11:21.922 --> 01:11:31.675

I folks might remember Kathy from other areas of work in the State which is to me that was that made it a credible source.

01:11:31.675 --> 01:11:49.431

I thought it was interesting too because it's data that we are often asked about and do not know. We don't have easy access to these numbers.

01:11:49.431 --> 01:11:55.317

So I thought it might be nice to include it. There may be other people in the room who know a whole lot more about this or how this might be about to change I don't really know enough to comment other than I thought it was shock so anyway.

01:11:55.317 --> 01:12:06.013

I was just gonna say, appalling - so similar to shocking. Yeah.

01:12:06.013 --> 01:12:16.000

Well, this is what we're dealing with folks. We do the best we can, and

01:12:16.000 --> 01:12:27.302

We'll keep that in mind any other comments, Vicki. Yeah, I just wanna clarify that.

01:12:27.302 --> 01:12:37.180

The number that you see that's that first and second highlighted number, the third- 347,000 plus a year - is per person who lives in an institutional setting.

01:12:37.180 --> 01:12:47.464

It's not of total cost, and that is absolutely insane that we spend that much money for services that are so poor.

01:12:47.464 --> 01:12:49.781

Thank you, Vicki, there's a reason they were highlighted.

01:12:49.781 --> 01:12:54.213

Lot of work needed to do.

01:12:54.213 --> 01:13:04.520

Any more comments from the Board.

01:13:04.520 --> 01:13:13.473

Thank you, Lynn, for including this. The next item is old business.

01:13:13.473 --> 01:13:20.527

And it's program year 24 funding decisions, information only charts.

01:13:20.527 --> 01:13:25.275

Pages 64 to 67. There's no decision item.

01:13:25.275 --> 01:13:29.351

This is for information only. Any comments.

01:13:29.351 --> 01:13:40.547

Questions.

01:13:40.547 --> 01:13:47.416

Okay. The next item is a decision item, and it is the addendum, and it's an agency request.

01:13:47.416 --> 01:13:55.760

And I don't know if we have a motion written.

01:13:55.760 --> 01:14:06.897

Apologies, we did not. This is something... this goes back to April,

01:14:06.897 --> 01:14:12.829

When I think in the program summary, we had a staff a recommendation that this contract might be appropriate for 2 Year funding because it's it's the workforce recruitment.

01:14:12.829 --> 01:14:32.288

It's very similar to the workforce recruitment contract that we have with DSC

01:14:32.288 --> 01:14:42.944

Do you? Wanna I keep putting you guys on the spot. I don't know what you want me to say - we offered it as a 2 year contract, and in April we mentioned it, and then it kinda got lost in the weeds, and so in discussion with Becca from Community Choices during May it was

01:14:42.944 --> 01:14:54.657

brought up again, and she checked with her board, and she was eager to do this, and so now we're bringing it to you all for approval to do it as a 2 year contract.

01:14:54.657 --> 01:15:02.470

Okay, I'm I'm gonna just make it into a motion, and I will move that we approve the staff recruitment and retention

01:15:02.470 --> 01:15:09.779

Grant as a 2 year contract for Community Choices.

01:15:09.779 --> 01:15:10.977

And I add something to it. Could you add, for the annual amount of 34,000?

01:15:10.977 --> 01:15:17.687

Okay. Okay.

01:15:17.687 --> 01:15:29.407

I move that we approve the staff recruitment and retention

01:15:29.407 --> 01:15:38.098

Grant for the amount of \$34,000 to be a two-year contract with the second year also being the same amount.

01:15:38.098 --> 01:15:45.726

I'll second, okay, any discussion I just wanna say, I think that makes perfect sense.

01:15:45.726 --> 01:15:52.590

And I have no problem with that motion. Okay? And thank you, Becca, for coming forward with this.

01:15:52.590 --> 01:15:59.739

Appreciate it. Okay, it's money. So we've gotta have a roll call.

01:15:59.739 --> 01:16:04.978

Vicki Niswander? Yes, yes, Georgiana Schuster.

01:16:04.978 --> 01:16:07.486

Yes, Anne Robin, the motion passes.

01:16:07.486 --> 01:16:16.606

Alright!

01:16:16.606 --> 01:16:24.169

And that is the end of our decision items. We've got schedules.

01:16:24.169 --> 01:16:27.987

We are meeting in person, the next meeting will be in this room in person.

01:16:27.987 --> 01:16:33.229

Champaign County Mental Health Board. Any reports?

01:16:33.229 --> 01:16:39.169

Lynn they'll meet this evening for similar.

01:16:39.169 --> 01:16:43.919

They have similar business. They have an agency request, and then it's also like kind of wrapping up this.

01:16:43.919 --> 01:16:53.470

This last the funding allocation decision season that you've just gone through.

01:16:53.470 --> 01:16:58.151

And looking at the same budget documents which will allow us to start entering into the county system so we can bring you back more budget information.

01:16:58.151 --> 01:17:04.667

Maybe in September, maybe in October.

01:17:04.667 --> 01:17:21.196

The Mental Health Board and the DD Board have joint full authority over that

01:17:21.196 --> 01:17:25.935

Special Initiatives fund. And because we didn't get a lot of applications into the according to the priorities that you'll set last fall, we'll kinda some of what you'll be doing in the next few months is to set the stage for that so we'll have a presentation at your

01:17:25.935 --> 01:17:30.872

meeting next month, and then also in the evening for the Mental Health Board.

01:17:30.872 --> 01:17:35.700

It's the same presentation, but it's about smart home technology.



01:17:35.700 --> 01:17:41.103

I don't know if that's a direction that we could go in this community, but it's really interesting.

01:17:41.103 --> 01:17:49.094

So anyway, we're about to sort of move into a season of looking at ideas.

01:17:49.094 --> 01:17:56.029

Maybe some study sessions on topics around successful implementation of interesting ideas.

01:17:56.029 --> 01:17:59.562

And anyway, that's - the Mental Health Board will join you for some of that, and then for some of it, you'll just have like identical meetings.

01:17:59.562 --> 01:18:07.822

So that's the that's the whole thing. I'm sorry.

01:18:07.822 --> 01:18:10.941

Thank you, Lynn. Staff reports are included.

01:18:10.941 --> 01:18:16.521

Pages 82 to 110. Again,

01:18:16.521 --> 01:18:27.909

Thank you to staff for your excellent reports, and y'all been busy.

01:18:27.909 --> 01:18:32.350

Shandra. Yes, I just wanted to remind everyone that we're doing Youth Mental Health First Aid.

01:18:32.350 --> 01:18:41.133

And the Adult Mental Health First Aid will be scheduled out.

01:18:41.133 --> 01:18:46.717

Starting in the end of in August, and then go through September.

01:18:46.717 --> 01:18:50.452

So we're doing 3 youth mental health First aid - one in person.

01:18:50.452 --> 01:18:59.837

There's still room for people to sign up this week.

01:18:59.837 --> 01:19:02.664

If you want to take the youth, and then the adult, then it will be one that's virtual, one

01:19:02.664 --> 01:19:08.538

That's a blended where you do in-person, and learning.

01:19:08.538 --> 01:19:22.428

And then it's 2 h preset pre self paced

01:19:22.428 --> 01:19:27.182

Course. And so those dates are June 23rd and the June 30th, where we're doing half one day, half the next day. The others will be done in one day.

01:19:27.182 --> 01:19:45.401

July 18

01:19:45.401 --> 01:19:49.705

Thank you. That sounds excellent. Yes, I just wanna say thank you to the staff for the reports, and I am just amazed at the number of connections that are being made in the community in the State and nationally, it's just incredible.

01:19:49.705 --> 01:20:00.707

The resources that you all bring to this organization.

01:20:00.707 --> 01:20:07.217

So I don't know. Kim's not gonna say anything, so I'm gonna say it cause, Shandra reminded me, there are - some of these

01:20:07.217 --> 01:20:14.229

Opportunities that we're hosting are open to board members and anyone that they think should get there.

01:20:14.229 --> 01:20:19.484

And they're also open to the public. So in Kim's Staff report is a note about another upcoming training.

01:20:19.484 --> 01:20:24.046

There's a little bit more time to register for that one, because it's June 29th instead of next week.

01:20:24.046 --> 01:20:40.686

Oh, wait! June 23rd is this week. That's like 2 days from now.

01:20:40.686 --> 01:20:45.258

Thank you. Shandra. Super important. Anyway, this session that Kim is that writes about in her staff report is, oh, that's an in person opportunity at the Champaign Public Library, and it's a Resiliency Refresher and it's kind of you know.

01:20:45.258 --> 01:20:57.648

Maybe it's important to check in on agency staff every once in a while and make sure they're okay.

01:20:57.648 --> 01:21:01.261

So it's kind of focused on them. But maybe everyone could use a resiliency touchup, and Karen Simms is so good at it, so I just wanna let everybody know that it's free, just register and go.

01:21:01.261 --> 01:21:04.261

And we'll provide, I think, coffee and some donuts right.

01:21:04.261 --> 01:21:22.810

The pastries.

01:21:22.810 --> 01:21:25.114

Alright. Thank you for all of that sounds very good. We're ready for successes and agency information.

01:21:25.114 --> 01:21:39.876

Who wants to go first?

01:21:39.876 --> 01:21:43.120

Good morning, Patty Walters, DSC. I think we all know each other.

01:21:43.120 --> 01:21:47.932

Il wanted to give just a brief update on the workforce retention

01:21:47.932 --> 01:21:49.534

Grant. We just finished the first year I'm not gonna be able to give you numbers.

01:21:49.534 --> 01:22:09.670

I think that'll be in our fourth quarter report next month.

01:22:09.670 --> 01:22:18.043

But last or last Friday was the third payout for our staff, for the retention bonuses, and just to share how well received those are the way that it's working is that people that are newly hired into the organization once they complete training, they are eligible

01:22:18.043 --> 01:22:24.507

for the hiring bonus, which was \$500, and then they would be eligible for 2 of the 3 retention bonuses during the year.

01:22:24.507 --> 01:22:27.817

If they stay the full year. Other staff that have been, you know, on staff for the full year

01:22:27.817 --> 01:22:38.757

Then get the retention bonuses. So it's up to \$1,500 per person.

01:22:38.757 --> 01:22:42.892

It's been a great recruiting tool, but the retention bonuses, I think, mean the most to people, and it was very well received last year last week.

01:22:42.892 --> 01:22:47.522

The other piece of that is our membership to the National Alliance for Direct Support

01:22:47.522 --> 01:22:50.038

Professionals. If you have not visited that website, I would encourage you to take a look at that.

01:22:50.038 --> 01:22:54.218

We had some training sessions. It's called NADS

01:22:54.218 --> 01:23:00.330

P. Or the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals.

01:23:00.330 --> 01:23:12.277

The membership is for the agency, but every staff person is also considered a member.

01:23:12.277 --> 01:23:31.846

So they can go on and use the resources independently, or we can collectively do some trainings and things as a provider, and May hosted a number of trainings.

01:23:31.846 --> 01:23:37.364

John Raphael is the educator for that huge, hugely motivating, very gregarious speaker, very well received by Staff, and I think that the main reason I wanted to stress it is that I think all of the providers focus on the people that we support and not as much on the

01:23:37.364 --> 01:23:49.168

staff, who support them, and that's been the value of this grant.

01:23:49.168 --> 01:23:56.622

The biggest takeaway for me - and I sat in on all of the sessions - was people recognizing their own value I think that we can all recognize their work, and that needs to happen more.

01:23:56.622 --> 01:24:01.373

You know, at a state level and a national level. But for them to be actively participating in these trainings and for him to validate their contributions.

01:24:01.373 --> 01:24:18.191

Sometimes, when that happens externally and and it means a lot more.

01:24:18.191 --> 01:24:20.134

So having an external trainer having somebody recognize their work, comparing and being able to bring inspiration and experience from other organizations across the State, was really meaningful to staff, so year 2, we're looking forward to some additional trainings.

01:24:20.134 --> 01:24:23.888

We want to send a couple of the DSPs to their conference.

01:24:23.888 --> 01:24:30.170

You know, people that don't always get that opportunity.

01:24:30.170 --> 01:24:35.240

So it's I just want to thank you guys for investing in that.

01:24:35.240 --> 01:24:36.046

It's been really meaningful for our team. I think people kind of get in,

01:24:36.046 --> 01:24:41.558

I don't know that it's ruts,

01:24:41.558 --> 01:24:48.501

I think they recognize that they're making a difference, Day-to-day,

01:24:48.501 --> 01:24:53.383

But to really be able to share examples and walk away feeling like it wasn't just,

01:24:53.383 --> 01:25:01.119

I didn't just help them do this. This is how it can be generalized, and this is how it can help them.

01:25:01.119 --> 01:25:18.015

On a larger scale in their lives. So it was very reflective for me as somebody that's been in the field for a long time.

01:25:18.015 --> 01:25:19.398

But to see our staff participate and kind of recognize their own value was huge, and I think it also sparked some enthusiasm for some of the things that we have coming up, and that then leads to the 2 new positions that you funded for fy24 which

01:25:19.398 --> 01:25:24.165

is the resource coordinator and the DSP

01:25:24.165 --> 01:25:29.657

Staff support specialist in the grant. We called it a staff support specialist.

01:25:29.657 --> 01:25:34.972

We realized when we were advertising that that sounded a little more like an administrative,

01:25:34.972 --> 01:25:46.463

And we weren't getting the you know, the interest that we wanted as far as really somebody as a DSP

01:25:46.463 --> 01:25:49.538

Support specialist that's going to be able to model and coach and really help our staff provide better services to individuals who are struggling either with mental health or behavioral support needs.

01:25:49.538 --> 01:25:55.417

There's a lot of context and a lot of information at the front end.

01:25:55.417 --> 01:26:07.998

Once somebody's hired, but that ongoing training is really important.

01:26:07.998 --> 01:26:11.378



Once they've gotten up and running and we've you know, we've got a lot of a lot of people that need support and wanna make sure that Staff recognize that that support looks different for every person and new staff don't always know that.

01:26:11.378 --> 01:26:14.319

So those positions are going to be incredibly valuable.

01:26:14.319 --> 01:26:16.749

We are making an offer to someone today on on one of the 2 positions.

01:26:16.749 --> 01:26:21.496

And we've got other interviews scheduled this week.

01:26:21.496 --> 01:26:28.121

So we're very hopeful to have those hired by July 1.

01:26:28.121 --> 01:26:38.003

The other thing just because of page 63, which is the information that came from the Institute on Public Policy for IDD. DSC

01:26:38.003 --> 01:26:42.355

Is a member of this State organization. Kathy is a wonderful resource and part of what she brings

01:26:42.355 --> 01:26:50.706

Is she really dives into what's happening at a national level which helps elevate information

01:26:50.706 --> 01:26:57.581

That's available in Illinois, because, as we know, we know where we fall as a State, so she's a huge resource.

01:26:57.581 --> 01:27:00.833

There's information that is shared that we're not able to share as members that that comes directly from her, and other information that we can.

01:27:00.833 --> 01:27:16.454

So if that's something that we can help bring to the board or something, then let us know.

01:27:16.454 --> 01:27:23.215

I think this and that "they deserve more" are both really good resources for they really do a nice job of summarizing things that we all know in a way that we can share it either with families or individuals, or when we're you know, kind of advocating for different things.

01:27:23.215 --> 01:27:25.213

So if there's something that we can share with the Institute information, just ask, or we can be more forthcoming with that.

01:27:25.213 --> 01:27:28.213

So thank you.

01:27:28.213 --> 01:27:47.380

Thank you for that.

01:27:47.380 --> 01:27:55.001

With Community Choices. I just wanted to talk about a couple successes, or just sort of things that are going on with us over at Community Choices.

01:27:55.001 --> 01:28:00.632

One is that we had a number of months ago agreed to be a partner on a international research project.

01:28:00.632 --> 01:28:03.374

That's called like it's called the Balancing Act Project, and it's through Queens University in Canada.

01:28:03.374 --> 01:28:06.434

And it's about how families leverage natural supports.

01:28:06.434 --> 01:28:28.123

And so they're doing sort of a participatory research

01:28:28.123 --> 01:28:36.634

Model, and looking at how how different agencies, how families independently are sort of using services and natural supports sort of collaboratively. Megan Burke, from the University of Illinois at the time, had suggested us as being part of that, and we just found out a few weeks ago, that their

01:28:36.634 --> 01:28:45.430

funding was granted, and so we had the first sort of meaning of all the agencies and different sort of collaborators in a grant

01:28:45.430 --> 01:28:49.495

Yesterday morning, and there was people from all over the world. So they had people from Africa, Asia, Canada, the UK, and probably missing a couple.

01:28:49.495 --> 01:28:54.517

So I'm really excited to be part of that. It's going to involve some interviews with Staff.

01:28:54.517 --> 01:29:13.085

I think maybe a few interviews with families. They're still kind of putting all of those pieces together.

01:29:13.085 --> 01:29:21.516

But I just wanted to mention it, because the fact that Community Choices has been able to sort of be able to figure out how to leverage some of that natural support with families' support, and how we've

been able to support families, is a lot because of the funding that this board has been able to offer to allow us

01:29:21.516 --> 01:29:27.664

to grow over the years. And so I just wanted to kind of bring that to your attention that your support has been able to sort of help us be recognized.

01:29:27.664 --> 01:29:32.910

And hopefully add to the knowledge that exists about how to support families and how to support inclusive communities across the world.

01:29:32.910 --> 01:29:48.298

And hopefully, we'll learn a few things, too, from what other people are doing.

01:29:48.298 --> 01:29:58.799

It was just we did - Most of the meeting yesterday was introductions, as these meetings can be, with large groups, but it was really interesting to hear just the breadth of different types of organizations and providers and other researchers that exist. I think we are definitely one of the smallest organizations

01:29:58.799 --> 01:30:08.631

that's part of the project. Most of them are large international service providers and advocacy organizations, and so I think it'll be really interesting to see what other people are doing.

01:30:08.631 --> 01:30:11.520

And I just wanted to like, you all know that it's it's a 5 year project, so I think it'll be some time before we have any big conclusions from it.

01:30:11.520 --> 01:30:19.451

But I will certainly let you all know when that does happen.

01:30:19.451 --> 01:30:28.710

So the other thing is just just a success that we've had in the last couple of weeks. A young woman that we've been working with for Gosh!

01:30:28.710 --> 01:30:38.659

Over a year and a half. We helped her recently found a job at at Big Grove Tavern, which is going great.

01:30:38.659 --> 01:30:45.036

It's still early days, but so far her employment specialist, Marissa, has just been raving about how supportive the restaurant has been and how it's part of the staff has been.

01:30:45.036 --> 01:30:51.969

And I think that's also important to mention that they were one of the first businesses, or a very early business, to become LEAP certified.

01:30:51.969 --> 01:31:06.683

And so it's been really nice to see that even though they went through that training a number of years ago, that seems to have been part of their culture,

01:31:06.683 --> 01:31:17.257

As to be an inclusive workplace and make her feel welcome and find a role there that really fit her interest in her skills and made her feel part of the group. So we're hopeful and feeling really good about that. So far.

01:31:17.257 --> 01:31:29.088

And we have someone who is going to do. We have another one in person.

01:31:29.088 --> 01:31:46.272

Hello! Good morning, everybody. This a couple of things I just wanna share with everyone that

01:31:46.272 --> 01:32:02.851

Hey, PACE - finish up our art, that Instagram from this University of Illinois has come over to pay, and had art classes, we have a few of consumers that attended that, and stuff.

01:32:02.851 --> 01:32:10.544

So we will be showing those pretty soon. And what kind of wonderful project may finish and stuff. Another thing is on the - I just wanna announce that we have a collaboration with NAMI on the 26th there will be we'll copy the community.

01:32:10.544 --> 01:32:18.101

It would be a community bit. So if anyone wants to attend, it'd be at a Champaign Library at 7 o'clock on the 26th.

01:32:18.101 --> 01:32:25.228

PACE is a guest speaker to kind of let everyone know what services we offer in the community.

01:32:25.228 --> 01:32:34.343

I'm hoping that you guys could share to everyone possible anyone that would like to attend the NAMI meeting and stuff.

01:32:34.343 --> 01:32:39.781

And lastly, is that we will be having a, PACE will be having a fundraiser community event at Monical's on July 11th.

01:32:39.781 --> 01:32:43.659

So it will be for the Rantoul, Urbana, and Champaign locations.

01:32:43.659 --> 01:32:49.165

Monicals, so I will be Lynn and Kim

01:32:49.165 --> 01:33:06.225

I'll we sharing that flyer. If you guys could pass along then, that's that.

01:33:06.225 --> 01:33:16.351

Good morning. Last month. I shared that a group of people went to Comic-con, and I wanted to give that a little more context.

01:33:16.351 --> 01:33:21.285

This month. The scope of what the Community First program does really can't be summarized

01:33:21.285 --> 01:33:35.818

In quarterly reports, or what I share on a monthly basis.

01:33:35.818 --> 01:34:01.455

You fund us to, on paper, promote community connection through recreational activity, social events, educational groups, volunteering and other areas of entry to enhance personal fulfillment in practice.

01:34:01.455 --> 01:34:11.325

What that means is staff inspire people to be curious. The program is driven by the participants, and the way we do that every 4 months group cycle - halfway through that cycle, we survey every single person in every single group that they participate in - so we want to know what's working what isn't

01:34:11.325 --> 01:34:18.140

working? What are you interested in learning more about? So that's about a 150 surveys that were then trying to get through

01:34:18.140 --> 01:34:23.846

And then establish the framework and curriculum for the next series of groups.

01:34:23.846 --> 01:34:25.968

So the fact that the group went to Comic-con is kind of a ripple effect.

01:34:25.968 --> 01:34:44.678

It's one thing that's happened because of the group.

01:34:44.678 --> 01:34:54.418

And so what we found the ripple effect of the roleplay and Fan Club group, which is the group that went students that have that were affected by covid and isolation when they are coming in with them.

01:34:54.418 --> 01:34:57.812

And we're talking to them about opportunities in the program when they meet other young people who share those same common interests.

01:34:57.812 --> 01:35:08.899

They're like, I wanna do that. And then they start participating

01:35:08.899 --> 01:35:16.846

One day, and then their participation expands. The other thing we want to do with the program is we want people to connect with their community outside of their time with us,

01:35:16.846 --> 01:35:21.402

And 2 participants in this group now hang out together on weekends.

01:35:21.402 --> 01:35:26.474

They go to movies together. There are a lot of action hero movies.

01:35:26.474 --> 01:35:44.925

They do those together, and so they've developed a connection.

01:35:44.925 --> 01:35:55.734



We've been embraced by Enchantment Alley when they did some kind of renovating, they had us in mind when they did that, and we're trying to get some people interested in some of the events that happen on the weekend that happen on weekends and we now have

01:35:55.734 --> 01:36:13.469

2 groups, role-playing groups. Because of the interest, we're trying to figure out how to start a third just because of the level of interest.

01:36:13.469 --> 01:36:15.332

And one father, whose daughter has participated in this for the last 2 sessions, called one day and said, I have never heard her engage in conversation as much as she does now, and he was just very very moved by that.

01:36:15.332 --> 01:36:31.775

And this is a woman who's in her 30s.

01:36:31.775 --> 01:36:36.905

And kind of interestingly at the Clark Road is kind of a hub for communication at the end of the day, and you know, so Staff go out there and touch base with people, and a lot of times the focus

01:36:36.905 --> 01:36:40.338

Then kind of becomes, you know the attention is on staff, and I went out

01:36:40.338 --> 01:36:45.502

Recently, and just said Hi to the group, and they said, Hi!

01:36:45.502 --> 01:36:48.996

And then they just continued talking with each other. It's like I didn't even exist.

01:36:48.996 --> 01:36:53.057

So might have been a little harmful to the Ego.

01:36:53.057 --> 01:37:02.332

But no, it was, it was great. So, and then the trip to Comic-con.

01:37:02.332 --> 01:37:09.136

So those are the ripple effects of just that one group out of the 35 to 40 groups that happen every week.

01:37:09.136 --> 01:37:16.033

Thank you. Can I make a comment on that? Yes, that'd be alright.

01:37:16.033 --> 01:37:21.526

Thank you for that, but I think that it has several effects in that.

01:37:21.526 --> 01:37:37.735

It impacts, I think, what we're asking for from agencies.

01:37:37.735 --> 01:38:00.086

And I think that as an as a group, we need to figure out how to gather that qualitative data and on a regular basis, understand what it means and how it's indicating change from what used to be isolated services.

01:38:00.086 --> 01:38:12.032

Now is moving toward more into community. It also is important, I think, for other agencies to be able to share those kinds of successes on a regular basis, so that people have better ideas on how they can connect folks to their community. And lastly, it's better for the people that we serve.

01:38:12.032 --> 01:38:20.532

Expand on that a little bit, because I think that last month, too, that made. Can you come to the mic so that the recording can pick you up? Please?

01:38:20.532 --> 01:38:39.343

Trying to avoid that... I think it's gonna be really quick.

01:38:39.343 --> 01:38:42.591

3 is a charm. Last month you had made a comment that made me really kind of question how we're sharing information and I think there's a lot of detail in the fourth quarter report, in the Quarterly reports,

01:38:42.591 --> 01:38:59.136

But I don't necessarily know that it's what you're wanting.

01:38:59.136 --> 01:39:03.025

And so I think it would be really helpful to consider that before we get to October, when we do the first quarterly report if there's another way to share information, because I think this is a snippet which is really valuable kind of the highlight sometimes for me

01:39:03.025 --> 01:39:13.144

and the meetings, is to hear what what get shared.

01:39:13.144 --> 01:39:15.646

During this time I do think there's a lot going on that I don't know how to share it, and so I appreciate your comments, and would like to look at that.

01:39:15.646 --> 01:39:25.781

So thank you.

01:39:25.781 --> 01:39:29.279

And I'm Laura Bennett from DSC.

01:39:29.279 --> 01:39:42.900

And I wanted to let you guys know about another positive outcome.

01:39:42.900 --> 01:39:50.511

For the first time since Covid, we've been able to reinstate a program we have with some of the local schools where individuals who are nearing exiting school can spend time at DSC

01:39:50.511 --> 01:39:58.014

In our day program participating in our community activities as well as some of the incentive activities with the support of their aid from school.

01:39:58.014 --> 01:40:12.418

And we collaborate with the schools to get this to happen, and this past April we had 2 students from St.

01:40:12.418 --> 01:40:15.613

Joseph Ogden High School, who joined us - one at our Philo location, and one at our Bradley location, and they were both were able to participate in a couple of days a week and join us on several of our community activities.

01:40:15.613 --> 01:40:20.921

We also were able to. We also volunteer at Salt and Light.

01:40:20.921 --> 01:40:25.123

One of the young men volunteers at Salt Salt and Light through school - he was able to be to maintain that.

01:40:25.123 --> 01:40:40.081

So it was a very successful collaboration. We worked really well with the teacher.

01:40:40.081 --> 01:40:44.335

Beth Beckett at St. Joe Ogden. The coordinated transportation, each of the aides was very helpful to our staff, and very supportive of the individuals, and it was an opportunity for each individual to get what they like about what we're doing.

01:40:44.335 --> 01:41:04.861

And we got to get to know them, and both of those young men have joined us.

01:41:04.861 --> 01:41:24.005

Now, since they exited school in June, they began receiving services, and it was a very positive outcome. So it was just nice to have that opportunity to do a little bit of getting to know you and them getting to know what our day programs services were like before they actually exited school so want to let you know that.

01:41:24.005 --> 01:41:35.001

Anybody else want to come forward. Those are all excellent. Thank you very much.

01:41:35.001 --> 01:41:39.249

Lynn is whispering my ear that there was something we forgot.

01:41:39.249 --> 01:41:47.644

That's what I forgot. When we were talking about staff reports.

01:41:47.644 --> 01:42:01.789

I just can. I just show you real quick, yeah, cause it looks so much cooler in color, which is only available to in the online version.

01:42:01.789 --> 01:42:19.433

But the County has a social media - there's like a whole person doing this stuff now, and during May, for Mental Health Awareness Month, they featured 3 of our people, and it's kind of nice.

01:42:19.433 --> 01:42:28.644

It's sort of the beginning of a good collaboration, too, since Allison, who you heard from earlier, is our social media person, and she posts all kinds of stuff on behalf of the Expo and Alliance for Inclusion and Respect, and now the County can share that stuff, and so we have Allison, and then we

01:42:28.644 --> 01:42:34.718

have Miss Stephanie, who has long been the organizer of the art shows and of, you know, communicating with the artists about what they might want to do.

01:42:34.718 --> 01:42:41.477

So that was the focus of hers, even though she's done millions of other things for the Mental Health Board.

01:42:41.477 --> 01:42:44.916

And then Shandra. And here's another way that we will be able to better promote the Mental Health

01:42:44.916 --> 01:42:57.317

First Aid Trainings is using the county's social media too.

01:42:57.317 --> 01:43:00.750

So I was just. I know these folks are kind of shy, and maybe don't like it, but they all did a great job of interviewing, and that these were on Facebook, and we tried to share them widely.

01:43:00.750 --> 01:43:04.759

Anyway, I'm sorry I didn't mention it before with the staff reports, but.

01:43:04.759 --> 01:43:12.202

Thank you, Lynn.

01:43:12.202 --> 01:43:14.276

Well, that was another success in agency information. So that was good.

01:43:14.276 --> 01:43:31.030

Board Announcements?

01:43:31.030 --> 01:43:36.664

Well, I want to thank everybody for being here in person and online, and wish everybody a good month ahead, and we'll see you all in July.

01:43:36.664 --> 01:43:41.664

Thank you all. Bye!