

17:46:05 All right, everyone, we will now call to order this evening's study session of the Champaign County Mental Health Board, Wednesday, April 16th, 2025, 5.45 p.m. In the Shields Carter Room of the Brookings Administrative Building.

17:46:19 Urbana, Illinois may have a roll call, please.

17:46:23 Chris Minor. Elaine Palencia.

17:46:25 Here. Here.

17:46:29 Jane Sprandel. Anthony Nichols.

17:46:32 Here. Here.

17:46:36 John Paul Joachim. Kyle Patterson.

17:46:38 Here.

17:46:43 Joe Omo Isagi. Emily Rodriguez.

17:46:49 Virtually.

17:46:52 And Molly McLclay.

17:46:56 Here. Did we say Elaine?

17:46:59 Okay, sorry. Here's Joe. All right. And now Joe is here.

17:47:05 So we do have a member here virtually. Due to one of the approved reasons for virtual attendance. And since we have a quorum, we can vote to allow Emily Rodriguez to participate virtually. So with that, I move to permit Emily Rodriguez to participate in our meeting virtually. Can I have a second?

17:47:29 Seconded. Thank you very much. Any discussion?

17:47:36 Seeing none, all those in favor of allowing Emily Rodriguez to participate virtually say aye. Aye.

17:47:43 All those opposed, same sign. The eyes have it. Emily Rodriguez has been admitted virtually to the meeting.

17:47:51 Thank you.

17:47:53 Next, I guess I'm not sure if we were supposed to prove the agenda first but Oh, well.

17:47:59 Okay, next we have the agenda to approve any discussion or motions.

17:48:08 I'll move to approve the agenda. I'll second that. We have a motion and a second. Any further discussion?

17:48:17 Seeing none, all those in favor of approving the agenda as presented say aye. Aye.

17:48:22 All those opposed same sign. The ayes have it. The agenda is approved.

17:48:27 Next, we will move to the CCMHB acronyms and glossary section on pages two through 13.

17:48:34 Of your packet. This is here for your reference and may be particularly useful tonight because we will be discussing a lot of agencies and programs.

17:48:43 Any discussion?

17:48:49 All right, seeing none, we will next move to public participation agency input.

17:48:55 As always, members of the public are welcome to come to the Champaign County Mental Health Board to share their perspectives with us.

17:49:03 Public input may be given virtually or in person. We cannot respond directly to input, but we may use it to inform future decisions.

17:49:12 And any agency representatives who may be making public input, please be aware of the Illinois Lobbyists Registration Act and being in compliance with that act.

17:49:22 If you would like to share something with the board, please either come to the podium There's a little comment card you can fill out as well.

17:49:33 Or you can raise your hand on Zoom or put something in the chat. So given all of those options, is there anyone who would like to make public comments.

17:49:51 All right. There is no one in person or on the Zoom who's asking to make public comment.

17:49:56 So we will move on. There will be another point in the meeting where that can occur if you would like to make a comment later.

17:50:03 So next, we will move to chairperson's comments So I'm Molly McClay, the chair of the Champaign County Mental Health Board.

17:50:10 And this evening we will be doing having One of our most important meetings of the year, which is to discuss the applications for funding that we have received for this cycle.

17:50:21 I will... give a little overview soon of how we'll be walking through the applications.

17:50:28 But I just wanted to take a moment to thank everybody for their work in this process so far.

17:50:35 First of all, thank you to all of the agents who applied for funding and the hard work that you did on applications.

17:50:43 I next want to thank all of our staff for doing an incredible job creating program summaries for us.

17:50:50 Combing through the applications. Becoming extremely aware of all of the fine details.

17:50:56 And working incredibly hard since the date the applications came in and even before that.

17:51:01 To make sure that this process goes smoothly. And that the board has quality information to work with to make our decisions.

17:51:10 We won't be making decisions tonight, but we will be having robust discussion.

17:51:14 And I'd also like to thank all the board members for for your work preparing for this and having these discussions.

17:51:23 And I just want to acknowledge, especially right now more than ever, what a privilege it is to have this resource in our community to have this fund that our community taxpayers long ago set aside and said we want to fund mental health

17:51:42 Substance use and developmental disability services for our community. And we have a fund that is robust and has been here for a long time.

17:51:55 It can be taken away at any time and I don't want to lose sight of that.

17:51:59 And given all the changes happening at various levels of government, it's now more important than ever that we have this resource for our community.

17:52:08 And I just want to acknowledge what a privilege it is to have been chosen to be on this board to make these decisions.

17:52:17 Every single one of you that's on this board, you were chosen because of your hard work, your qualifications and your passion. And I don't want us to lose sight of that, even though this is stressful, even though this meeting

17:52:31 May be long. It is a privilege to be here to make these decisions and to steward this fund. So I just wanted to Make that known.

17:52:43 And when is running back here because it's time for her comments.

17:52:48 Because that is all I have to say for now. So I decided to defer my comments. So we're ready to go. Next thing.

17:52:57 All right. So Executive Director Lynn Canfield has deferred her comments for the evening.

17:53:02 So next we will move to the contents of our study session for the evening.

17:53:08 Which is to review the applications for PY 2026 funding. In your packet, these are on pages 14 through 118.

17:53:18 A list of applications for funding for PY26 is followed by draft staff reviews of each.

17:53:25 We do have the option to complete this discussion During our meeting in two weeks on February 3rd, or not february Going back in time, April 30th.

17:53:37 2025 is our next meeting. And I do think it would behoove us to hold the final five applications for that discussion as these are the applications where an audit is not present and we will be making some other decisions regarding

17:53:53 Those audits. As well.

17:53:57 We will move forward with the rest of applications this evening until we run out of energy.

17:54:05 So we may be able to get through all of them except those five. There are 15 other ones.

17:54:11 And I am going to keep a timer. To help us move along.

17:54:18 So just a brief overview of the process. New this year, we will start with having a staff member and in this case, it is our associate director leon bryson to share a brief overview of the details of the application.

17:54:34 And then once he has completed sharing that for each for the first application.

17:54:40 Then the reviewer team that was assigned to that application will have an opportunity to share their analysis.

17:54:47 Ask any questions, make any comments. As well, any other board member can comment on any application and I plan to probably comment on any of them where it is pertinent.

17:54:59 So before we start... Board members, any questions?

17:55:10 All right. Seeing none, I will go ahead and um kick things over to Leon Bryson to share our first application.

17:55:20 Thank you. I think they just cut the air on and it's Trying to freeze me out. But here we go.

17:55:28 The first one up is Champaign County Regional Planning Commission. Community services is applying for funding for Youth Assessment Center.

17:55:36 Which is a companion proposal, which is a continuation of a longstanding program with no increase over the current contract amount.

17:55:46 They selected their priority category safety and crisis stabilization And justified that choice as they had in the prior application.

17:55:56 The proposed services are For any YAC participants screening for needs, risk, protective factors, case management to support for meeting the expectations of station adjustment or engagement agreements.

17:56:14 Linkage and referral peer court. And for MHB funded participants, intensive weekly In-person counseling with case managers, group programming.

17:56:27 Skill building, stress management, problem solving. Goal setting, career planning, and more.

17:56:34 And the staff review, you will see that due to financial oversight by the Champaign County Auditor and inclusion in the county's combined audit.

17:56:44 A separate agency audit is not required. There are no compliance or eligibility concerns.

17:56:51 Service activity reports show different totals of people served in PY24 and the first half of PY25 than the demographic and residency reports show.

17:57:06 The former are most likely correct. Particular strengths of the program are the development of materials by case managers.

17:57:14 And convening of partners from other youth serving systems. A staff comment of possible interest is regarding the CLC plan.

17:57:25 Board reviewers were John Paul Joachim and Joe Omo Osaguet.

17:57:34 So I can start. You know, reviewing the application Again, this is going to serve children, so 10 to 17 year olds. It looks like there's a pretty good distribution of serving the entire county.

17:57:51 People are referred and the children are referred from police, schools, family members agencies And there's screening that's done to determine the service.

17:58:01 The great thing about it is they're you know diverting uh the goal is to divert 90% of kids uh from the juvenile court adjudication within one year of service. I think that's a good target.

17:58:15 You know, it seems like they're engaged in services for a substantial amount of time for three to six months, which would months, which makes sense and it seems like it's not just a quick turnaround of getting them in and getting them out.

17:58:25 So it seems like they're being thorough with with the clients that they're encountering and then they're It looks like they have a good amount of other funders. The only thing I would say is that you know we are paying for the request is for

17:58:42 Staff that exists, but there is one vacant position there.

17:58:48 And then there was one thing on. The budget and program connectedness where there was a question about maintaining agency-owned vehicle or reimbursing employees for use of personal vehicles and not knowing if the transportation cost was an agency vehicle or if they were just reimbursing people

17:59:09 Employees. That would be the main question that I have on that just for you know technicality sake but yeah I don't have much to add to that, but I think one of the things I I always will go back to is

17:59:27 Is it in minority males are over-identified or are they I mean, it just feels like an over-identification.

17:59:37 Because um in Champaign County, we still make up maybe 30% of the population.

17:59:43 And looking at the... break down at least close to 40 40 Plus percent.

17:59:52 How are we identifying these young people and I'm glad that there are services for them.

17:59:59 But let's... look at how we're getting how we identifying who comes into this program.

18:00:10 All right. Thank you very much. Any other um comments or questions from board members on this application.

18:00:29 I had a question. For whoever from the agency may be here this evening.

18:00:36 There was under the measures of client and participant outcomes, there's a mention that One of the outcomes and targets is that 10% of youth assessed at exit will have decreased from moderate high to low risk to reoffend.

18:00:52 And I was just wondering about that percentage because it is quite a bit different than most of the other outcomes and targets.

18:01:02 Especially the 90% of youth being diverted from juvenile court adjudication. I was just surprised that 10% was the number for the risk level.

18:01:12 So I was wondering if anybody could speak to why that was the case.

18:01:25 Please feel free to approach yes and turn on the microphone.

18:01:34 Do I have to hold it? Okay. Hi, everyone. My name is Carmen Doty. I'm the program manager for the Youth Assessment Center.

18:01:41 Thank you for your questions. As far as the 10% risk to reoffend, so we use the Yazi assessment to determine their risk and protective factors. Multiple things goes into the risk and protective factor such as their school, violent past.

18:02:02 Substance abuse, their legal history, their family, peer support, things of that nature.

18:02:07 So a lot of those factors we don't have control over, which is why that percentage may seem so low.

18:02:16 We are working with the youth on a variety of things to lower their risk in these areas.

18:02:23 However, if it just basically depends on how the risk and the protective factors balance out. So since we do not have as much control over all of the factors.

18:02:35 We are hoping to lower the risk of the reoffense from that moderate to the low or the high to the moderate.

18:02:44 Um... As far as identifying demographic information, once we receive an intake form from the community or from the law enforcement agencies They have the demographic information on there. Anything that is not on the initial intake form, then we do follow up with the family to gather that information. We keep track of it.

18:03:07 As you said, young black men are young men overrepresented in the system that is shown in our data, unfortunately.

18:03:17 We are fully staffed now, so that's a plus. And then I will have to follow up on the transportation question to see if it is a reimbursement for personal vehicle usage or agency vehicle. However, if the agency vehicle is available, then that is the

18:03:37 Dominant vehicle that we use. All right. Thank you very much. Any follow-up questions from the board?

18:03:47 I'm also talking like demographics, I was a little surprised that um the male to female ratio was closer because a lot of times I do think we hear in the media about especially the minority males you know but Females are kind of

18:04:08 Qualifying, unfortunately, for this this program and I'm glad we've got the program so definitely Thank you. Thank you very much.

18:04:20 Any other comments from board?

18:04:26 I just want to add, I appreciate that our fund is like a modest part of the overall like budget and funding picture and that there wasn't an increase.

18:04:36 Needed for this year. I just wanted to note if this might be something we might consider for a two-year contract, but I know that we may be talking about that more in May.

18:04:50 So given that there are no further comments from the board, we will move on to our next application.

18:04:56 So Leon, take it away. Thank you. Champaign County Children's Advocacy Center is applying for funding for the Children's Advocacy Center, which is a continuation of a longstanding program.

18:05:09 The amount of the request is the same as the current year.

18:05:13 Funding for this funding request, the applicant selected healing from interpersonal and interpersonal healing from interpersonal and justified that choice.

18:05:23 The program would also align with the priorities safety and crisis stabilization and thriving children.

18:05:30 Youth and families. The proposed services are coordinated response to allegations of sexual and serious physical abuse.

18:05:39 Mhb pays a portion of child forensic interviews, multidisciplinary team. Coordination, trauma.



18:05:48 Focused screenings, mental health assessments, and family advocacy. In the staff review, you will see that due to financial oversight by the Champaign County auditor and inclusion in the county's combined audit, a separate agency audit is not required.

18:06:08 There are no compliance or eligibility concerns. A few application form revisions are needed, especially to clarify the budget plan and justify the amount requested.

18:06:21 There appears to be a mismatch in the total numbers served as reported in the service activity reports and demographic and residency reports.

18:06:31 A particular strength of this program is that it is the only service of its kind in the area.

18:06:39 And a staff comment of possible interest is regarding utilization measures.

18:06:44 Which might be a clue to the mismatch. The board reviewers were Kyle Patterson and Tony Nichols.

18:06:55 What I liked is the... What you were saying as far as like there's no other programs in our area that do the work that they provide as far as interviewing and As far as the referrals exclusively from law enforcement, DCFS, FBI,

18:07:15 Homeland Security. And so I think it's important work that they provide.

18:07:23 Funds will be going towards staff. They have four four master's level counselors provide a lot of good work among other staff.

18:07:37 It looks like as far as their measures and outcomes. They provide evidence-based scales, measuring anxiety And even loneliness, the UCLA scale.

18:07:53 Every six months and then the loneliness scale every three months.

18:07:57 They've been able to serve 182 last year. And this quarter, they've already served

18:08:09 88 so far. This year.

18:08:15 So they're set to surpassed last year's surpassed.

18:08:19 Service numbers. As far as their ability, they're able to reach rural areas by doing a lot of like community service outreach.

18:08:31 Including sending packets to all rural schools and other rural organizations.

18:08:39 They have contracts with cab companies. To be able to bring... people to their center and also to their center making virtual available too.

18:09:02 That's all that I had. Thank you, Tony. And I know, unfortunately, Kyle Patterson is not here this evening to offer any further review.

18:09:15 Do any other board members have comments or questions? I think you said this already, but can you discuss the surplus?

18:09:25 Of the 28,708. To lower the contract amount that you've mentioned.

18:09:32 Yeah. Chris Wilson is on the Zoom. He might want to answer this too. We just... We suspect these are just errors in how the forms were filled out because this is the same. It's a very Maybe it's a similar amount to what they've asked for year after year. It might even be exactly the same.

18:09:49 So I think it was just some mistakes. They're really important. It's very hard for us to analyze the application without a budget plan that balances so i don't i don't know if Do you want Chris to speak to that?

18:10:04 I kind of believe this is how much they needed, but they didn't really justify it. So we would need to see some Do you want to add anything, Chris?

18:10:15 Sure. Yeah, based on their budget that they presented It shows that the program has a surplus of about \$35,000.

18:10:25 Now, we have a rule in our contracts that MHB funds are to be payer of last resort, which means if there's other funding available, those funds are expected to be used before our funds. So if there's other money on the table, then we need to ask the question, why isn't that fund being used instead of ours?

18:10:48 That's something that would make sense to and certain ask now or address more before May? Well, I'm not sure there's anyone here representing the organization. Is there?

18:11:03 On the Zoom, maybe? No.

18:11:07 So I would say that given what we saw, we would not be able to offer a contract until those issues are straightened out. So we would come back to you with that information.

18:11:18 Maybe in May. The surplus is like around half of the requested amount So that's important. I do appreciate that, you know, again, we're a modest part of the funding picture. They don't need an increase, but it is interesting.

18:11:37 That maybe hasn't you know that might be also part of why like if the surplus wasn't accounted for when they were deciding how much to ask for.

18:11:50 I guess did any of that show up in the audit?

18:11:55 This is a budget plan. So, no, we didn't have any money owed back according to the county's audit.

18:12:02 Last year, that's right, Chris, right? I'm not misspeaking, right?

18:12:12 Okay. I mean, we... usually document that in the program summaries. So I apologize if we missed it but I don't think there was unspent funding, but he will be able to find out. I mean, we don't need the answers.

18:12:26 Today, obviously, just follow up with the agency. We'll get the answers whenever we get them.

18:12:32 Yeah, in the program summary, it says there weren't any unspent funds. But I wondered if there was like anything else, but we can definitely get that information later.

18:12:44 I do want to just re-emphasize like this is a very vital service to the community.

18:12:53 In providing supports to youth who have gone through horrible things.

18:12:59 And they use a very evidence-based program called TFCBT to provide services which is basically the hallmark program for this area for this population.

18:13:14 I did want to acknowledge that. I hope we can figure something out. Any other comments or questions from the board?

18:13:27 All right, seeing none, we will move on. Leanne, let's hear the next one.

18:13:33 All right. Champagne healthcare consumers is applying for funding for the program community health worker outreach and benefits enrollment, which is a continuation of a current program.

18:13:48 The amount requested is greater than the than most recent funding amount.

18:13:54 For this funding request, the applicant selected closing the gaps in access and care and justified that choice.

18:14:01 The proposed services are assistance with enrolling in benefits such as Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance through the marketplace hospital or clinic financial assistance programs prescription assistance, SNAP, and more.

18:14:18 In the staff review, you will see that there were no compliance or eligibility concerns.

18:14:23 Board and staff members have lived experience which informs the services.

18:14:29 Some revisions to the application forms would clarify cost. A particular strength of this program is that it increases the number of insured people in Champaign County allowing them to access health and behavioral health care services.

18:14:47 And a staff comment of possible interest is regarding the location of services.

18:14:53 The board reviewers were Elaine Palencia and Emily Rodriguez. Yes. So I'll start. In my time on the time This board, this has always been a well-run program.

18:15:08 And one thing I always look at with these agencies are their websites.

18:15:15 To see just how accessible they are to just somebody who's you know starting out to look for services. And this is a website with one click of a button. You can change everything from English to Spanish.

18:15:29 There are archives so you can look at more information than most websites of this sort have.

18:15:39 I certainly like that. A question. I have for every one of these agencies because these were filed in in February is have cuts at the federal level impacted.

18:15:55 The budget today because i know of other agencies that this has happened to and i would like to to know that.

18:16:05 And I think this kind of linking people with services with that kind of confusion going on of big pots of money disappearing.

18:16:17 This kind of service is more necessary.

18:16:21 Than ever. And some other things I like, as I think Leon mentioned, is the number of service sites they have. So they're very accessible.

18:16:32 They have certified application counselors. Not every agency has that. And they mentioned providing emotional support.

18:16:42 While doing all of this. I think that's a very important mention. The wait times to get services are reasonable.

18:16:50 And the target numbers that they have are remarkably close to the actual number. So all of that suggests You know, things are well run. So I just have that question about the federal about what, if anything, has... trickle down that changes the budget.

18:17:10 There is a mention by staff that there was a surplus of 11,256 dollars maybe that needs to be addressed.

18:17:23 And our staff also wondered if there was some unexplored source for funding the the community health workers.

18:17:37 And Emily, do you have... questions and comments.

18:17:42 I sure do. So I just wanted to note this is as Steph already noted, right? So 13% increase in funding but if you look at the numbers of people that they serve, it certainly seems like a great value for our money.

18:17:56 I also want to underline that they seem to be providing service about everywhere.

18:18:03 So for example, daily bread, strides, libraries. Remote locations, depending on the situation and their offices and at Rosecrans. So again, they seem to be quite accessible. The other thing that I wanted to note is

18:18:25 I think so in my own work. Work with helping people apply for rental assistance.

18:18:34 And it seems really basic, right? Helping people walk through a process but it makes a difference between using a resource and not.

18:18:42 So to me, I think this is a great value I think it's certainly necessary. And again, I think the emotional aspect of this is really important as well. So I just want to affirm what Elaine noted there as well.

18:18:59 Thank you both very much. We do have an agency representative who can answer questions, so please please come forward and come forward.

18:19:09 Come to the podium.

18:19:21 Good evening. I'm Claudia Lenhof and I'm with the healthcare consumers Thank you. Thank you so much for your comments and thank you for supporting our work.

18:19:32 With regard to what looks like a budget surplus. I just wanted to explain, so I messaged Leon today that I would provide a written response by early next week, but just Real quick, the simplest answer is that we put the organizational budget together

18:19:53 In February to submit. Some of it very honestly is aspirational, right?

18:20:04 There's funding that we're hoping to get. But we don't know yet that we will get it.

18:20:10 If we have clarity on that before your May meeting, we will let you know.

18:20:17 The other thing that I just wanted to mention is that is that A lot of times when we're, so our organization provides these services and we get funding from different sources We view this as sort of kind of a sub program of some of the overall work.

18:20:42 Because the staff who work with this program are really dedicated to working with people who are identified to have behavioral health issues who need a little bit extra support to do these things. And as you were talking about applying for rental assistance.

18:21:05 Some people have, whether it's rental assistance or health insurance or SNAP, Some people have a lot of anxiety or other issues like that.

18:21:16 And an appointment that would normally be taken care of within 30 minutes might require four appointments for that person to be able to get through the process.

18:21:28 And sometimes it can involve things like We need to have copies of pay stubs or we have to have social security numbers.

18:21:38 And you sometimes have to overcome anxiety and fear about those things.

18:21:44 Especially in this climate right now. The other thing that I just wanted to mention too is that When people come to us for the first time for a service that's funded through the Mental Health Board.

18:22:00 They might end up getting services from multiple programs. For example, they might come to us for health insurance, but then we see that they need to apply for disability.

18:22:09 And you all fund our disability a part of our disability application services program but we don't um when we talk about new clients, we don't count them You know, twice.

18:22:23 Some of the folks who you see represented under this program might be getting other services as well.

18:22:30 The other thing that we're anticipating for later this year just is the Health Alliance issue.

18:22:38 And having a bigger influx of people who are struggling with that, including with the Medicare Advantage plans.

18:22:47 So... I'm sorry, I just realized I've been rambling and I think I answered one question but Any other questions from board members?

18:23:02 Oh, I'm sorry. With regard to the federal funding issue.

18:23:09 Oh man, I feel like I'm not jinxed. I hope I'm not jinxing us by saying this but I feel like we are okay as far as that goes because The federal funds that we have received actually have flowed down from the federal government down to

18:23:32 The cities and the county in the form of ARPA grants and HHI grants, which is for housing and homelessness innovations and um Those funds appear to have already been drawn down by the city of Urbana, City of Champaign, and so on.

18:23:50 So I think those funds live here. But we also... that some funds have been revoked.

18:24:02 Hopefully that doesn't happen. If that doesn't happen, I feel like we will be okay.

18:24:08 With that regard.

18:24:13 Should I just kind of stay for the next one? Okay.

18:24:18 Thank you very much. Any final comments or questions from the board?

18:24:26 I'll just add, I know... One thing that I say every year is about sort of like funding diversity. And I know that this request is for a very large percentage of the budget.

18:24:41 This is probably not the year to be asking about diversity of funding sources, but I would like to see other places step up and provide funding because this program is very important and it should be funded by more.

18:24:57 Thank you. Go ahead. It's a different topic.

18:25:02 Oh, okay. Can I address that real quick? So, yeah.

18:25:10 I just... I'm not clear that i'm not clear that presenting the presenting budget for this program very well because, again, our organization does this work on a much larger scale.

18:25:27 We get other sources of funding. We have been approved for the navigator grant.

18:25:35 So that allows us to to hire two people who will help with health insurance enrollment and all that.

18:25:44 But... Part of the reason that I don't reflect all the funding streams for this kind of work is because Those are... what what you're... board funds for the specific targeted population.

18:26:06 Who need that extra support. But I do want to make clear that There are other sources of funding.

18:26:14 That allow us to do our outreach and enrollment work and the SNAP enrollment and all that it's just that that's not necessarily for this population.

18:26:26 And we have continuity of staff who are really skilled and really capable for this program, but we do try to get some other sources of funding as well.

18:26:39 I wanted to follow up on a couple of things first chris did affirm that... Children's Advocacy Center did not return funding for PY24, so that was correct in the program summary.

18:26:50 Second, there are some comments in the chat that are lovely. There's another agency singing the praises of the healthcare consumers. So that's pretty cool. And then finally, the questions.

18:27:02 Not all of the staff questions are critiques. When we see surpluses, it could mean a lot of different things. This came up this morning as well. It could be very straightforward, but we don't always know what it means. And I would agree everybody's in a kind of an odd

18:27:19 The situation in January and February putting together a budget for a year that starts in July in a completely chaotic funding environment and also even with local funding.

18:27:29 I think this year United Way doesn't make their decisions until after you all do, or it's right around the same time. So just we do want to, I want to be very clear on behalf of our staff that we have a lot of grace around those budgets because they are people's best guess but we still have to ask, and I so appreciate the answers even if

18:27:52 It's weird to have to tell us that. I'm assuming that we're not unusual in what I explained. Budgeting is always Right. You know, I mean, you hope, but you don't And it's the same for us. Yeah.

18:28:10 Thank you very much. Your answer did clarify a lot for me, so thank you. We do need to move on to our next one. So feel free to stay if you wouldn't mind turning off the mic.

18:28:22 In case there's any, I don't quite understand how these mics work. So anyway, we will, Leon, if you would please present the next one.

18:28:31 Champaign Healthcare Consumers is applying for funding for the program Justice Involved CHW Services and Benefits.

18:28:38 Which is a continuation of a long-standing program which for many years had been provided through a subcontract with a larger funded agency.

18:28:49 The amount requested is greater than the most recent funding amount.

18:28:54 For this funding request, the applicant selected Safety and Crisis Stabilization and justified that choice.

18:29:01 The proposed services are benefits enrollment as in The other funding request, but focused on people who are at the county jail Or have other justice involvement.



18:29:13 In the staff review, you will see that there are no compliance or eligibility concerns Budget plan clarifications are requested.

18:29:23 Some input comes from focus groups held in the jail. A particular strength of this program is the primary staff person assigned has many years of experience, is bilingual.

18:29:36 And attends relevant collaboration meetings. And a staff comment of possible interest raises the question of whether the jail continues to do brief mental health screenings.

18:29:48 With all people who are booked there. The board reviewers were Jane Sprandel and Chris Miner.

18:29:57 Okay, I'll go first. And I want to start off by echoing what was in chat. You have a wonderful reputation, so does your organization. Thank you for that. And thank you for the work you do.

18:30:06 Nothing bad at all to say. We talked about, you know, 90% of funding. You explain that. Well, it's no big deal.

18:30:12 One thing I really liked is being a person who spent a couple of decades in and out of homelessness and then out of prisons.

18:30:19 Is you mentioned the daily bread is a thing. Informal places like that is where you're really going to make connections. Yes, I mean, the police can refer people to you, but people don't necessarily tell the truth when it comes to talking to the police.

18:30:29 You catch them at daily bread, they're going to tell you what's going on.

18:30:34 One question I do have. I'm doing my PhD in criminology, so I'm working at lived experience and stuff like that. Are you open to hiring people or do you have anyone on staff that's actually been to jail and been

18:30:51 We just lost a staff member who had lived experience. Currently, nobody on our staff has been to jail or prison, but they do have family members who have.

18:31:02 Cool. As long as you're open to it, because that's something I've really been pushing for on the board is if you're working with criminal justice, we want people that are directly impacted. But the fact that you have someone shows that you're open to it. Yeah. And actually, we've had two, as a matter of fact, in both have left to do something else. Awesome. Thank you so much.

18:31:23 Yeah, Chris and I are pretty much in and out on our talk and we have done some talking.

18:31:27 Again, you know that the Champaign County Health Care Consumers is a group I really believe in and support.

18:31:36 Being a rural resident myself Previously in Thomas Brow, now enroll homer it is very important to me to see that we are reaching the entire county.

18:31:46 And of course, the numbers are going to be higher in Champaign-Urbana because it's easier to get to your facilities and things like that. But I always appreciate um Again, I know you guys work well with other people, but up and ran tool, you know, I mean.

18:32:02 It's just, I love to see that kind of stuff um The numbers look, you know.

18:32:08 Just as I expected as far as the ages of people you're you're working with, things like that.

18:32:15 Yeah, I think there was a mention of doing a two-year contract and, you know, I would be fine with that. And again.

18:32:21 And the craziness of budgeting. You know, as long as people are forthcoming with the information, usually we get it. So thank you for all you do.

18:32:30 Thank you. Can I just mention something about, so looking at our at our numbers for our numbers for for this year or the first half of this year compared to last year.

18:32:46 Our numbers are picking up. You'll see that in our third quarter report. One of the things that happened is that The construction at the jail.

18:32:55 Precluded. People being able to precluded us being able to be in there. We still did get referrals. We work a lot with jail staff in Rosecrans staff.

18:33:07 To get those referrals. But anyway, you'll see those numbers really come up this third quarter because now that programs have resumed there. The other thing that we tried to do when the jail was not very accessible to us Chris, the main staff member who works on this.

18:33:29 He was reaching back out to people. He could see the list from IDOC who's getting discharged.

18:33:35 Who's coming back to the community and people who were especially former clients of ours He reached back out to them.

18:33:43 Engaged with the people and then a lot of times also serve their families as well.

18:33:50 So I just wanted to explain those numbers. If you look at that and you think.

18:33:54 Why is that lower than the previous fiscal year? Do you feel that you also sometimes get some like peer reviews? If Chris and I are friends, because we've had some lived experiences, if he says, you know what.

18:34:09 You can get health insurance. Let me hook you up with my caseworker. I mean, I think there's probably a positivity in that like he said, meeting someone at the soup kitchen but also just hey, they helped me. I have health insurance or I have health with my medication.

18:34:27 It's going to keep me from doing silly things that got me in jail the last time. Yes. Yeah, that word of mouth and then that trusted source, so the other person being the source saying these folks are good, they'll work with you.

18:34:42 That does help a lot. One of the other things, we've also been serving more women through this program, well, for the reasons y'all discussed earlier.

18:34:51 But also because we're teaching a pregnancy and parenting class in the jail.

18:34:56 Every Wednesday morning, my coworker Paulette Coleman and I And so we end up seeing women there and then helping to connect them with Chris, helping them connect them with our office when they're getting out.

18:35:11 And then that word of mouth also really happens that way as well.

18:35:19 Thank you. Any other comments or questions from the board?

18:35:27 I guess it was just a random question that last comment.

18:35:30 Do you guys partner with Healthy Beginnings for those pregnant clients that you have.

18:35:38 We facilitate some referrals. And I mean. I'll just say right now that Healthy Beginnings program is incredible.

18:35:47 And I wish the data were getting out to the community because that has really change the trajectory of people's lives.

18:35:55 It's not easy to bring people into the jail like we can't bring a guest person into the jail because you have to get background checks and fingerprinted and all that in order to be a volunteer in the jail.

18:36:07 But we facilitate those connections. And I know that there were a couple women who had infants while the women were incarcerated and their family members were finding it challenging. And so we helped do the connections with healthy beginnings And so that has helped a lot. And then we also work with public health as well.

18:36:32 And they do a lot of maternal health education and so on.

18:36:39 Thank you. Thank you. Yeah, I just wanted to add, I know Chris has a very He's been there a long time. He has a really strong reputation in the community. And I think it speaks a lot to like, I know that'll...

18:36:54 Many staff members have been there a long time and that longevity in the community and with the agency speaks to a lot of positive things, including that you're taking care of your staff and keeping them.

18:37:08 And also wishing them Well, to their new adventures for certain ones. So just wanted to note that.

18:37:14 Any final questions or comments from board?

18:37:22 All right, seeing none, thank you very much. And we will move on to the next one. Thank you all.

18:37:30 All right. Community Service Center of Northern Champaign County is applying for funding for the program Resource Connection, which is a continuation of a longstanding program The amount requested is greater than the most recent funding amount. For this funding request, the applicant selected closing the gaps and access and care and justified that choice.

18:37:52 They also mentioned safety and crisis stabilization and justified that as well.

18:37:59 The proposed services are food pantry and delivery, prescription and utility assistance.

18:38:04 Many other resources, translation, information. Case management for frequent users of these resources, referral and screening for other programs, and more.

18:38:16 That's a mouthful. The MHB contract would cover 24% of In the staff review, you will see that there are no compliance or eligibility concerns.

18:38:28 A particular strength of this agency is its history of providing space for agencies which don't have offices in the area to offer their services as well.

18:38:40 And a staff comment of possible interest is regarding the CLC plan and the agency's reach.

18:38:48 The board reviewers were John Paul Joachim and Joe Omo Osagi.

18:38:58 So, you know, just reviewing the application, it's very strong application from the ones I've had to review Basically, it's a one-stop shop for services, it seems like provides many a variety of services The money is for personnel costs.

18:39:17 Obviously, I think what Leon was saying and alluding to is that it mainly serves Rantoul area Just because of the location, it sounds like, you know, people You have to go to where the people are and that's where You know, people are less likely to come from outside to

18:39:37 Randool to access that service, which is not uncommon you know Just like when we have services here in Champaign, people are going to be mostly from Champaign.

18:39:45 Outside of location, outside of location demographic, the other demographics show a good variety.

18:39:52 Of people that are accessing this service. I do like that there are other funders, including United Way.

18:40:02 And... Basically everything I had to say.

18:40:05 I mean, I think... the northern... It has been a very effective use of money over the last that I've known about you for 35 plus years.

18:40:20 And um transport providing transportation for organizations that are not in Randu, but bringing young people to Champaign, Nevada.

18:40:29 To doing things in town here. It's been a well use of the money. I mean, now that I'm also in Northern Champaign County is becoming more of a hub for Spanish-speaking population.

18:40:42 Having bilingual speakers, bilingual educators and bilingual counselors and And also being an interagency collaborative space has always been a strength.

18:40:54 And I hope you keep using that as... a way to keep northern Champaign County together because I think... economy wise i mean they're Northern Champaign County is not for lack of a better word, not as wealthy as champagne.

18:41:13 And so you're dealing with a lot of people who are in difficult situations.

18:41:20 Financially, but thanks.

18:41:25 Did either of you have questions for agency representative.

18:41:32 Any other comments or questions from the board?

18:41:40 One thing I personally have noticed and I love is there are a few local churches who will also do like an additional like drive through food thing and so I just think that's obviously great that the community is also supporting

18:41:57 And that speaks volumes for the staff that you know they you know made those connections with the church churches, excuse me churches Whether it be City of Randool, whatnot. I think there's a lot of, you know, we always talk about where are some of your other funding, but that's

18:42:13 A wonderful asset that they've also gotten in the community.

18:42:20 Yeah, one other comment I wanted to note is, and I've noted this in a few applications, but where there was a kind of a discussion of the participation and the evaluation capacity building project, I could see kind of reflected in the outcomes, targets, assessment tools, data collection, kind of this

18:42:38 Like clear line across them that I think shows also the benefit of that evaluation capacity building program and how it is directly impacting some of the things that that this program is assessing.

18:42:56 I didn't have very many questions or concerns about this application. I agree with John. It is quite strong.

18:43:02 Any other comments or questions from board?

18:43:11 All right. Thank you very much. So we've done five applications. We have a range of how much time it is taking, but we are kind of in the eight-ish minutes mark. So I think we'll check in after the next five applications and see how many more we want to do.

18:43:31 This evening. So let's go ahead and move on to the next one. All right. Sounds like I need to speed up.

18:43:36 I think we all need to speed up. Crisis Nursery is applying for funding for the Beyond Blue Champaign County.

18:43:45 Which is a continuation of a longstanding program which initially responded to needs identified by both MHB and the County Board of Health. The amount of the request is the same as the current year.

18:43:59 For this funding request, the applicant selected Thriving Children, Youth, and families and justified that choice.

18:44:06 The proposed services include treatment using the mothers and babies curriculum Home visits for assessment and services, groups for new mothers, tracking of early child development.

18:44:19 And the staff review, you will see that there are no compliance or eligibility concerns.

18:44:25 The program has served more people in the first half of PY25 than it did the prior year.

18:44:32 And the agency is a partner in the Champaign County Home Visiting Consortium.

18:44:37 Particular strengths of the program are its alignment with the parents interacting with infant model and use of evidence-based screening for perinatal depression.

18:44:50 And a staff comment of possible interest is regarding the CLC plan and efforts to engage former clients and an advisory board.

18:45:00 The board reviewers were Kyle Patterson and Tony Nichols.

18:45:07 One thing I liked about the services here is that when So when someone is enrolled in services and counseling and The average stay is usually about 12 months and so they're Not just coming in and receiving triage, but they're coming in and working on

18:45:27 You know, receiving the support and going through the healing process.

18:45:35 And then, as you said, they've already met more services this year than they did all of last year.

18:45:43 So they're continuing to grow and providing even more services. They're reaching out. Champaign, Urbana, Randool.

18:45:54 Areas and their efforts and their efforts or trying to grow stronger as far as reaching the rural areas and providing more different kinds of campaigning efforts, getting the word out.

18:46:13 In 75 community service events. So they're really getting the word out in our area, providing that money.

18:46:20 Community service events.

18:46:30 And that's all that I have. Thank you very much. Any other questions or comments from the board?

18:46:48 I wanted to note there's this one is a longstanding program in our community I think when I moved here for my master's in social work, it's probably one of the first agencies I learned about.

18:47:02 And I appreciate the evidence base of the programming used. I think the assessment tools.

18:47:10 The way that families are engaged with parent-child interaction therapy I know is something that's very well-regarded the mothers and babies and baby talk programs as well.

18:47:25 I was curious if there is an agency representative here, and if so, I wanted to ask more about that advisory board that Leon mentioned that there's an attempt to engage former clients. Is there anybody here?

18:47:42 Okay.

18:47:51 Is there someone in the Zoom? Thank you so much.

18:47:52 Yeah, Aleah. Hi. Hi, everyone. Yeah, Aleah Forsyth. Nice to meet you. Yes. So, um.

18:48:01 There were parents lined up and then unfortunately with their schedules and not contacting, we weren't able to appropriately have them at the table so that is an effort. Our next advisory board meeting is scheduled for the fourth quarter. So we have a few parents identified who

18:48:18 Children have aged out who we would like to bring in to participate in that.

18:48:24 Thank you very much. I think that's a great way to engage folks with, you know, to focus on lived experience and also to just create this longevity regarding the program. I think it can be really meaningful for people who participated in a program to be able to come back and offer support and guidance. And so I

18:48:48 Really appreciate that. Are there any other questions or comments from the board?

18:49:05 Seeing none, we can go ahead and move on to our next application. Thank you very much.

18:49:12 Dsc is applying for funding for the family development program, which is a continuation of a longstanding program.

18:49:19 The amount requested is greater than the current amount. For this funding request, the applicant selected collaboration with CCDDb, young children and their families, and justified that choice.



18:49:32 The program is also aligned with thriving children, youth, and families.

18:49:38 The proposed services are free developmental screenings using the ages and stages questionnaire, referral to early intervention, Head Start.

18:49:49 The Home Visiting Consortium, etc, and support for families navigating these systems.

18:49:55 Developmental therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, playground. Plague groups i'm sorry Parent support groups and the evidence-based play project.

18:50:08 And the staff review, you will see that there are no compliance or eligibility concerns.

18:50:15 Particular strengths of DSS, DSC, Family Development. Our service to rural Champaign County residents and collaboration with providers of similar Service, early intervention providers.

18:50:31 And a staff comment of possible interest is on the first page regarding filling the gaps as children move in and out of eligibility for funding.

18:50:41 From other sources. This proposal was also reviewed by CCDDDB And all of its services are related to developmental delays, disability, so that It could be funded using the MHB set aside for DD services.

18:50:59 The board reviewers were Jane Sprandall and Chris Minor. Well, Chris claims he doesn't have anything. So we'll see if he jumps in. Thank you, Leon, for taking away some of my talking points.

18:51:13 It's all right. It's all right. A couple of things that I'm going to repeat that I liked was um filling in the gaps to serve clients who do not meet state funding requirements and services that are not billable.

18:51:26 Again, I've shared in the past, I wasn't in Champaign County, but Our family would have fallen into this my parents Had some funding, but they made too much to maybe get my sister some of the services she needed. So I love

18:51:39 That that's what this can do is help some of those that are kind of wieners, as my dad would refer to us.

18:51:45 Again, really looking at ages zero to six. I love the fact that they can go to people's homes, go to other locations, because again, we understand folks sometimes have

transportation issues. I personally have been very fortunate that I've never had to take my young children like on a bus.

18:52:03 Or have to call an Uber or a taxi to get them to an appointment. So I love the fact that they're able to go to the young child, especially where the child is comfortable in their own home with their toys and then someone can assess them that way.

18:52:18 They were asking for a 7% increase, which Again, I don't think is unreasonable.

18:52:26 As things are, I do notice that the staff had some concerns about some financial surplus and they did return a little bit of funding last year, I believe \$54,000.

18:52:39 91. So I would assume kind of like other agencies, they put a budget out and there might be some flux in that.

18:52:49 So that's all I had. Do we want to ask for well this morning the director gave us a really great simple answer to that question that So she practiced earlier.

18:53:03 Well, I just don't want to go through being like, they're holding money out on us. No, it's just, it's such a flux right now.

18:53:10 Yeah, no, this morning I just commented that one, it is a budget done very early.

18:53:15 So it's hard to understand, but similar to what Claudia was saying, I mean.

18:53:20 Their agency budgets. So every program is its own budget. And so we're reimbursement based. So we would give back to you any money that we do not spend. Typically, the paybacks are due to turnover and vacancies, but... But yes, and the increases for wages and

18:53:39 Staffing and occupancy costs.

18:53:44 I had a question. Well, actually, Chris, you... I was just about to say I have no questions.

18:53:53 Since you are walking away, I didn't want you to weave.

18:53:58 Now, am I blanking? Okay, I have my question back. I guess I'm going to go with a question that Elaine asked earlier to another agency. Are you anticipating any threats to the program from threats from potential federal issues.

18:54:18 We're kind of in, yes, I am anticipating some, but they're all unknown at this point. Obviously, Medicaid is a huge portion of what DSC does. 96% of the people we support receive Medicaid. So I think... This program, it would depend on

18:54:36 The mix of state funding versus not Obviously, your funding fills that gap as well for people who aren't state funded, but... we don't know if eligibility will change or if any of that criteria will change at this point.

18:54:51 It's kind of a waiting game at this point, but I do anticipate... some impact.

18:54:59 Thank you very much. Any other questions or comments from the board?

18:55:10 All right, seeing none, we can move on to the next one.

18:55:13 We've been averaging like averaging five and a half minutes for these last few. So good job, y'all.

18:55:20 East Central Illinois Refugee Mutual Assistance Center, the Refugee center is applying for funding for the family support and strengthening program Which is a continuation of a longstanding program for a greater amount than the current contract.

18:55:37 They selected the priority category thriving children, youth, and families, and justify that choice.

18:55:44 Along with closing the gaps in access and care. The proposed services are benefits, enrollment, case management, navigating resources.

18:55:54 Translation during mental health appointments, education, and more. The MHB would pay 5% of all services and the staff review, you'll see that although there are no current compliance or eligibility concerns. Annual audits have been delayed.

18:56:13 The agency is managing increased demand and related changes. Particular strengths of the agency are its long history of building social trust.

18:56:23 Unique staff credentials and recent and ongoing collaborative efforts on behalf of people served.

18:56:30 A staff comment of possible interest is on the first page.

18:56:34 Where data reported on people served relate to the total agency services.

18:56:40 The board reviewers were John Paul Uakim and Joe Omo Osagi.

18:56:49 I'll go ahead and get started. I think at this point in our communal history. This is a very necessary organization to fund.

18:57:03 Based on what I'm seeing, I just... this continued funding is there is a definite need and probably a lot more. I think there was a lot more stress about refugees and immigrants in today's in today's climate. And the young people that

18:57:24 That families that come in definitely need to find ways in which that children are not so stressed out and carry on a stress later on in life. But based on what I'm saying, I don't see anything where I have any major questions into how or what the monies are going to be used for.

18:57:46 Yeah, I mean, basically. This is a strong program that is vitally needed in this community where we have a large international population You know, being the son of immigrants I know growing up it's as a kid with parents, you know, trying their best to go to school and work.

18:58:12 It is very difficult when you don't have... that social support system here that you have when you're back home or where you where you were from originally and so from originally You know, having this you know uh life branch is really important for people who

18:58:33 Don't have other people to help guide them to make sure that they are on the path to thriving and having a strong well-being especially If we want the future of this community to be strong it is you know something that we need to really make sure that we invest in.

18:58:53 They do provide a lot of service to a lot of clients in the community.

18:58:58 I mean, if you look at the amount of non treatment plan clients, there's about 3000.

18:59:05 And true implant clients of about 100. So they reach a large portion of the community.

18:59:10 They also are vigorously applying for grants and other resources, which I really like.

18:59:17 You know, they're not just banking on us for keeping this program.

18:59:23 Going. So I really like this program. It's because it's 5% of revenue.

18:59:30 And I mean... You were saying something and I forgot what I was going to say.

18:59:36 My age is catching up with me. Any other comments or questions from the board?

18:59:49 I'm going to say something, Joe, so I'll give you like a minute or two to think about it. I just wanted to comment on the CLC work and the lived experience.

18:59:59 Response. This is a lived experience question is something we added this year and I really appreciate it.

19:00:06 The comments about the there is lived experience on the staff and i think like that capacity of trust building for the community is really, really important and I think vital with

this program especially and just acknowledging like a lot of good clc work and even the comment that, you know, this has been extraordinarily

19:00:32 Unprecedentedly difficult year and that that was commented on that there still is phenomenal CLC work happening.

19:00:42 I did want to acknowledge the comments about sort of late audits reports and things in the past and the kind of the comment from about potentially having Quarterly reports from the CPA firm, I do think that that would be a that was a

19:01:01 Potential note from staff that we might consider. And I think that that would be a good idea.

19:01:09 Joe, did you think of what you were going to say?

19:01:13 No, but kind of one of the things, I mean, a lot of times we're in this community, we think about um immigrants, we're sometimes just thinking about the university folks, what these are refugees and there's a different There's a different complexion to it.

19:01:28 And it's not people with PhDs that can be used in the United States, but sometimes some of these refugees do have PhDs, but do not have the credentials to work in this community.

19:01:40 I know a refugee from the ukraine who is Ukraine a PhD dentist who can't use it.

19:01:51 And so we need to be able to support those kinds of opportunities for people to thrive She's an artist, so she does some art, really good art.

19:02:06 Thank you so much. Any other questions or comments from the board?

19:02:13 This is Lisa Wilson from the Refugee Center. Can you hear me?

19:02:19 Yes, we can.

19:02:19 Hello? Oh, great. I just wanted to comment on And we did ask for an increase this year because our numbers have been climbing and that was even before the inauguration. If you look at our number of clients from FY24 versus the first half of FY25, we're already on a trajectory to

19:02:43 Well eclipse our numbers from FY24. And then, of course. After the inauguration, there's obviously just such a horribly anti-immigrant message from our current administration.

19:02:59 That we are already seeing many more clients coming through our door with questions about everything from if they're still eligible for benefits to, we've been really

hitting know your rights training hard because we know that our clients are really stressed about

19:03:21 Ice involvement and we're trying to equip them as best we can with information to protect themselves and as everything that's happening. There's a lot of court cases that still need to be settled, but we know that we're going to continue to see large numbers of people. And also, I think the state of Illinois is going to become a kind of a refuge for immigrants because of the

19:03:46 Progressive programs from state government. We've seen this with our Afghan clients We have had secondary migrants coming in because they've talked to their friends who live in Champaign and this seems to be a better place for them.

19:04:04 To land and thrive. So I just wanted to make that point that that's why we're asking for more funding this year. I also wanted to assure you that even though refugee resettlement has been terminated as of right now.

19:04:21 Fortunately, we are still in very good shape thanks to the fact that refugee services in the state of Illinois are administered by the state. So we are not one of those states that was totally dependent on their federal government contracts to help resettle refugees.

19:04:39 We don't think we'll have any new refugees coming in anytime soon.

19:04:43 However, we continue to get secondary migrants and also people are eligible for those specific refugee resettlement services if they are granted asylum, that makes you eligible for Office of Refugee Resettlement Services. So we continue just to see more of these people

19:05:04 The other thing we're seeing more of, unfortunately, is students that have a lot of questions. Normally the refugee center doesn't serve too many international students, they really they have their student visas, they're well taken care of by the university, but we are now fielding a lot of questions about

19:05:24 What happens next. So thank you for your comments and thank you for your continued support of the Refugee center.

19:05:32 Thank you very much. Any final comments from the board?

19:05:38 One quick comment. For the students and if you're eligible I mean, some of the students will become eligible for financial aid or things like that eventually.

19:05:50 And some of the students refused to use financial aid of the stigma attached to assistance. And so sometimes Lisa, talk to your students if they ever become eligible they shouldn't be afraid of you taking their assistance from the feds if they're eligible for it.

19:06:12 Thank you so much for that.

19:06:17 All right. Thank you very much. We will move on. So we have done nine applications in about an hour and 10 minutes, which I think is pretty We have three agencies left.

19:06:33 Aside from the agencies that we will be reviewing next time.

19:06:37 Three agencies left six applications total. Given the business that we have at the next meeting, I would like to encourage us to try to get through these next However, we can reevaluate after each agency to see if we want to keep going, but it's only 706. So I say, why not? We've been moving pretty speedily.

19:06:55 So with that. Let's move on to a family service, which is our next one. And I'll defer to Leon to share more.

19:07:04 All right, thank you. Family Service of Champaign County is applying for funding for counseling for the counseling program Which is a continuation and expansion of a longstanding program for a greater amount than the current contract.

19:07:19 They selected the priority category for closing the gaps in access and care and justified that as well as safety and crisis stabilization.

19:07:29 The proposed services are counseling, assessment, and treatment planning for seniors.

19:07:35 Other individuals, couples, and families. Relationship assessment for drug court clients and families, art therapy.

19:07:45 Which is a new component. In the staff review, you will see that there are no current compliance or eligibility concerns.

19:07:53 The requested amount is a great deal more than the prior years.

19:07:58 The number of people to be served will increase from 60 total to 85 total.

19:08:05 Many articles were cited supporting the treatment approaches. Particular strengths of the program are excellent outcomes and longstanding collaboration with the county specialty court team.

19:08:19 Courts team. A staff comment of possible interest relates to financial clarity. The board reviewers were Kyle Patterson and Tony Nichols.

19:08:32 This family service is a trauma-informed service and Now, more than any time we need counseling treatment that is going to be trauma informed.

19:08:43 I'm trying to close the gap on those who may not be able to afford counseling otherwise.

19:08:52 Serving. 30 in fiscal year 24.

19:08:57 11 and champagne, 11 Urbana, one in Muhammad, and 7 in other.

19:09:03 Communities. Serving people as young as five, elderly adults with autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders, people with chronic diseases, those with anxiety, depression.

19:09:18 Stress.

19:09:35 And a significant increase from last year. 370%.

19:09:49 So it looks like they will be planning on serving more clients end the next year.

19:09:57 Targeting, they're trying to target 60 treatment plans 25 non-treatment plan clients.

19:10:07 And that's all I have. Sure, then go ahead.

19:10:14 I know this is kind of weird. I don't think I'll have any comments for any others since Yeah, since I put the staff reviews together but Just during the last year, we've really gotten back together with our county partners, including the specialty courts.

19:10:29 And just to, I didn't ask for specific input from those partners on any of the applications.

19:10:36 Because I already know how they regard the services that the mental health board has been funding.

19:10:42 Related to drug court. And this one is held in quite high regard and they're also talking about adding more money to the program. So that would be Great, that would allow the program to reach more. But we did have a question because

19:10:57 The additional services, art therapy that might not account for the total increase in cost but that was... we weren't really totally sure.

19:11:08 I like the art therapy. So anyway, I just wanted to let you know that our partners at Specialty Courts do like working with family service and getting the relationship assessments.

19:11:18 Thank you. I did want to ask more about why such a large increase I was wondering if was any funding lost?



19:11:28 Or is this predominantly to predominantly meet a larger need. So I was wondering if there is a representative here from the agency who could answer that question.

19:11:38 Sure. It's Nicole Dowling. Joy Jones is also here, so I may ask her to reach out.

19:11:47 The increase in funding honestly is um we have we have The amount that we, so I came in in November of 23.

19:12:00 As the new executive director and the amount that are paying the therapist are quite substantially very low.

19:12:11 And it has caused us, it's been hard for us to find to find a staff.

19:12:20 We are looking to hire a full-time clinical therapists that would be the supervisor and therapist And so that would account for some of that increase.

19:12:35 And then also with the art piece of that. That is a program. We do another program.

19:12:45 Art. Therapy or more like creativity on wheels. It's a program that we do through reducing social isolation.

19:12:55 That we do in our counseling. And advocacy over on the senior side. And we have had a more of the community reaching out and wanting, we've seen such we've seen it's really been helpful, especially in our seniors. And so we've seen an increase in people within the community reaching out and asking for

19:13:20 Art therapy. And so that was one of the reasons in asking for some of the increase and joy um Please, if you have anything else to say.

19:13:32 Sure. Yeah. The art therapist would like to be able to do One group a week.

19:13:39 Focusing on different a different population throughout the month. So she would have four different groups and um you know so a lot of the money will go for that. And as Nicole said.

19:13:55 We have been underpaying our therapists for a long time and it has been very difficult we lost a therapist earlier this year and because she was able to go someplace where she could make a lot more money.

19:14:08 And so that is so that a huge reason why we're asking for a larger amount. And also we would like to be able to increase the hours that the therapist is there so that even more people can be seen because right now it's very limited.

19:14:25 With what we have. And I think by increasing the hours that we are available, we will be able to see more people But in order to do that, we need to get good quality therapists. And unfortunately, that costs money.

19:14:41 Thank you very much. So just to clarify, so part of the increase is to be able to pay higher salaries to the therapists.

19:14:53 Yes.

19:14:52 Yeah, to be, yes. To be able to be at least equal with other counseling agencies in the area?

19:15:02 The competitive is a good idea. I mean, I know family services, unfortunately.

19:15:08 One of the lower paid. Therapeutic agencies. So yeah, let them be competitive, please.

19:15:15 Yeah, I mean, and this aligns with our strengthening the behavioral health workforce priority for this year as well. There are a few agencies that noted that they were asking for increases because of wanting to pay more competitive salaries, which has been

19:15:31 Something I've wanted to see this community in for a long time. So I'm very glad that, you know, this is something that is being asked for. It's also nice to hear that the art therapy from The Creativity on Wheels program because I believe we have funded that at a point in time.

19:15:47 For seniors, yes. Right. A different contract. We funded that program and hearing that there's we still fund that program That is potentially going to be expanded into other areas is very cool that we were kind of, you know, a part of

19:16:08 Supporting that and seeing that grow in the community is very, very cool.

19:16:13 Any other comments or questions from the board? I guess my only question is.

19:16:20 Is any of this covered by health insurance at all? And if so, like.

19:16:27 Do you guys ever use it and why not?

19:16:32 We do bill insurance companies. However, the vast majority of our clients are on Medicaid and Unfortunately, our Medicaid reimbursement rates are all over the place and so because we try to be affordable.

19:16:49 Our session cost is not very high. And then Medicaid pays a portion of that so we're kind of like shooting ourselves in the foot because we don't charge a lot and then Medicaid reimburses us even less than what the actual

19:17:05 Session is. And there are some insurance companies that we are still having a difficult time getting reimbursed from, although we are credentialed with them and Insurance companies are, yeah.

19:17:20 Not a fun thing to deal with but Yes. So we do bill insurance companies, but our reimbursement rate is not all that great.

19:17:30 The reimbursement. For art therapy from insurance companies is minimal. And so that is something that we are not sure that we will be able to bill an insurance company for.

19:17:47 I don't think no one went to school to learn how to do billing from insurance company.

19:17:51 Right. True.

19:17:53 Talk about that. Yeah, and billing for art therapy, we have an art therapist intern over the last year and a half and I think you may want to try to focus more on some of the other modalities used in the R therapy group.

19:18:14 For instance, if CBT is used, then that would be more of a regular session.

19:18:20 Although group therapy is billed at a significantly lower rate than individual therapy for some crazy reason.

19:18:26 Right.

19:18:29 And I think it's great, though, that you're giving the therapist a raise in salary. We definitely need counselors in our community being able to make a living wage.

19:18:40 It's really hard work. The things that we help others process through in treatment are, you know, the worst days of their lives. And, you know, we're trying as counselors are trying to carry that not carry that as much as possible and we need to be able to have a living wage in doing that.

19:19:00 Art therapy is awesome. The intern that we've had have been able to share some training with our group a little bit and I've utilized art therapy a lot more in my sessions too.

19:19:12 And it really helps. Helps us to be able to kind of unload that more art side of our brain and rather than just the cognitive side.

19:19:23 There's a lot of emotional expression through art. And so allowing someone to be able to You know, draw, hey, how are you feeling? And let's go ahead and call her or draw this, I think is is really awesome. Some really deep and good work can be done through art therapy so

19:19:43 Excited to hear about the four groups that are going to be taking place.

19:19:49 Thank you.

19:19:47 So awesome work. Yeah, Lynn needs to make a comment. Just really quickly.

19:19:56 We ask that agencies be very careful not to supplement Medicaid rates using this money because Medicaid supplementation is actually illegal.

19:20:05 Despite what the state of illinois says to its providers it is federally illegal.

19:20:12 So we want to just be really careful that, and because this would be a grant based contract.

19:20:18 It is probably easier. To avoid supplementing Medicaid rates directly, but just to make sure that everybody understands that that is like a very fundamental rule of using these funds.

19:20:29 And we just say be really careful. Because everybody is in that same boat like Medicaid doesn't pay very well and we can do all the advocacy we want to on that, but we don't move the needle very far so we just

19:20:42 Have to be careful about where it goes. So anyway. Thank you very much.

19:20:48 Thank you.

19:20:50 Any other comments or questions from the board? I guess I have a comment and it's probably not going to be a popular one, but I feel like I have to say it. So I'll start with the Oh my gosh, I was so excited when we talked about raising

19:21:05 Therapists pay and things like that, because I think it's definitely something we as a board have talked about like how can we help with that?

19:21:12 So I think that that is fantastic. I'm thrilled that they're looking at that's how they're going to retain good employees.

19:21:21 Currently, I have a caseworker daughter who doesn't have much experience and she's already talked about other places hire more. And I'm like.

19:21:27 Stay where you are for right now. Get some tenure.

19:21:32 So I guess that leads me to the butt. Are we going to open ourselves up two more applications in the future who are asking for greater amount to supplement their payroll.

19:21:47 And I'm not saying that's a bad thing. I just, I want to put that caveat out there.

19:21:52 That a lot of times we talk about we want program dollars to go towards the participants maybe not supplies or whatever. So again, I'm not I'm not saying no to this. I just, I felt on my heart, I had to say, you know, I don't want us to open up that we're

19:22:11 Payroll and future years, even though I think it's necessity. I get... Oh, okay. This is a pretty big conversation that we could absolutely dive into. I think it is a good idea to pay people well enough to keep them.

19:22:27 Because the turnover is I mean, a lot of the services that you fund traditionally are like better because they're relational.

19:22:38 And relationships suffer from the turnover too so I mean, just to say this is a really long conversation. I'm sorry for throwing out the thing about Medicaid supplementation.

19:22:48 Something we would deal with with family service at a contractual level to make sure that everybody's protected.

19:22:55 I would just say that a lot of the things we do fund for agencies is personnel costs.

19:23:01 So, you know, as you know Cost of living goes up, funding reps will go up in line with that. Obviously, that's one of the reasons why we asked for agencies to have other funding sources. And that's one of the things we do look at is if they have other funding sources.

19:23:15 The other thing I would say is last year. There was a substantial cut for a lot of these programs and that is another reason why a lot of them are asking for a higher amount as well to kind of

19:23:27 Hopefully go back up to a level that they needed to sustain themselves. So obviously we're going to make some difficult decisions in the next few meetings, but That's just how to kind of give more context to everything.

19:23:38 Yeah, I want to add something else too. I've been trying to get in here. I mean, we voted on this strengthening the behavioral health workforce as a priority for our funding for this year back in the fall.

19:23:50 So I think that maybe was also part of the time to have this conversation.

19:23:56 But, you know. Quality care to participants involves like longevity of staff, too. If a person continues to lose their therapist.

19:24:08 I mean, I have people who see me for therapy who are still processing the fact that they have lost therapists.

19:24:16 That's, you know, it's a really... important part. And, you know, there are other applications that are going to involve this conversation too. So I agree it's a much bigger conversation.

19:24:28 Jane, did you, I thought I saw that you were lit up. Oh.

19:24:32 Oh, Emily, go ahead.

19:24:35 Oh, so I just wanted to underline i think it's a it's a tension that I've been thinking about for a minute. I just want to thank Jane for bringing it up. I think it's a Important question and a thread that I want to be following through. Because again, I'm new to this board, but I just want to thank Jane for

19:24:58 And truthfully, it probably would not have caught my eye if I didn't see the 378% increase. You know, if I went through each one of these applications and like you said, John.

19:25:09 If 92% of it goes to the administrator or whatever, then I'd be like, well, why am I bellyaching about this? But I think it just I wanted to put it out there because yes, it is one of our priorities.

19:25:20 But, you know, I'm always worried about that slippery slope. I don't want people next year being like, hey, we can give everyone a raise because the mental health board will support that. And again, I'm not saying that that is what Police service centers doing, but I just, I wanted to say it as a group

19:25:35 Because we do, we have a lot of decisions to make and there's going to be decisions We're not going to be able to fund everybody 100%.

19:25:43 Again, maybe it'll be 278, not a 370. So just, I wanted to share that.

19:25:48 Feeling I had. Thank you. I don't want to extend this much longer. I just wanted to say that I agree with you, Jane the fact that we... We do this to our society is supposed maybe that's the problem we don't.

19:26:06 How can we have a healthy community or society if this is how we fund it.

19:26:18 Any further comments or questions for this application?

19:26:25 All right, seeing none, we will move on to the next one.

19:26:29 Leon, take it away. Thank you. Family Service of Champaign County is applying for funding for the Self-Help Center Which is a continuation of a longstanding program for a greater amount than the current contract.

19:26:42 They selected the priority, closing the gaps in access and care and justified that choice.

19:26:48 The proposed services are database on self-help or support groups and their activities.

19:26:53 12 lists organized by theme on public bulletin boards. Quarterly newsletter and other support for group leaders and members and professionals.

19:27:04 Self-help conference every other year, not PY 26 but PY27.

19:27:13 In case this would be a two-year contract. Small grants for support groups, which is new.

19:27:19 And the staff review, you will see that compliance or eligibility concerns have been resolved.

19:27:26 The agency's CLC plan would benefit from review and update. Particular strengths of the program are its advisory council members with lived experience and acknowledgement of the powers of peers.

19:27:41 Staff comments of possible interests are in client outcomes. Measures of utilization and process considerations related to the proposed new subgranting.

19:27:54 The board reviewers were Elaine Palencia and Emily Rodriguez. Okay, this is... a unique program.

19:28:05 It helps people set up self-help groups if they can't find them.

19:28:11 And once that self-help group is set up, if it's not working right, they help with that.

19:28:18 And so... The advisory council, of course, is going to be people with lived experience because they're the ones who are leading the self-help help groups.

19:28:30 A couple of things that occurred to me is this application is very light on demographics. So I don't know who goes to the self-help groups by You know, demographically really But I did go to the website and it's very easy

19:28:48 To find... Among these self, there are 12 categories, you know, like grief or disability whatever My voice is terrible because I had a trach tube down at one eye had my wrist And my vocal cords are not good.

19:29:07 I hope they change back to where they were. Excuse me. But anyway.

19:29:11 So I would like to know about the demographics. Something that we might keep in mind is they have asked for more money this year.

19:29:19 And part of that is to bring speakers have grants to bring speakers to the different groups well We fund some of those groups. So I'm thinking You know, if we fund them and then we fund fund them this way too. I mean, it's just something to

19:29:37 To watch for okay but um One of the things that I'm pretty sure of that is that the federal cuts have had an effect because my husband drives for Meals on Wheels and has gotten a letter about some of this.

19:29:59 I don't know how how much that's been affected, but That'd be interesting to know. But that and then whether there will be demographic information taken or if that's not the right thing to do with self-help groups, I don't know.

19:30:16 Those are my main questions. Emily.

19:30:19 Thanks, Elaine. So I want to underline again, I'm new to this board and i'm especially new to new the approach that Family Service of Champaign County is taking here So again, I'm eager to hear from staff and filling in any gaps of information that I have.

19:30:44 I want to know, it seems like staff noted that revisions were needed to this and And maybe this is an error in my own understanding, but it seems to be serving a small group of people, but they have plans to enlarge their reach quite a bit.

19:31:00 I'm going to pause for somebody to correct me. Is that the right read?

19:31:05 I would say no. Because what we do, we're kind of like a clearing house for all the self-help groups in the area.

19:31:08 Okay.

19:31:14 And... Yeah. And so we do not.

19:31:13 I see Clearinghouse listed several times. Yeah.

19:31:19 Lead the lead support groups themselves.

19:31:22 Yes, I understand.

19:31:23 So we don't have the demographics on the support groups. We have demographics on the workshops that we put on. We have demographics on the conference, but those only, they don't happen every quarter And unfortunately, with the Yeah, sorry.

19:31:42 Yeah, sorry.

19:31:35 Okay. I can direct you real quick because I know that I know people are getting fatigued here. So two people served in 2024 and eight in the first half of 2025.



19:31:50 What does that refer to?

19:31:54 That was the workshops that we did. I know the ones in 2025.

19:31:57 Okay. Attended or? Two people attended or two people attended 10 people total attended.

19:31:59 Pardon?

19:32:06 Or I'm so sorry if this is a really basic question and somebody can please step in if I'm being goofy and not understanding this thing.

19:32:16 Okay.

19:32:12 Not basic. I think this is a really good question. Appreciate Joy being here to help us with there was a change in the way The agency was reporting data Last year, so it could be because of that but i think

19:32:27 Where what we have asked is for people to be reported, but they're reporting groups. It could be as simple as Is that all it is, Joy?

19:32:32 Okay.

19:32:36 I think it is a difference in the way that we are reporting things, yes.

19:32:41 Okay, will that be part of the revisions that you'd be issuing to to the report, I'm looking at... I think recommendations, process considerations and caveats.

19:32:49 So I think... Yeah, I think we didn't ask for a revision to that, but I think that If the agency can do that, they have changed the way they were collecting data So that's a good question for them.

19:33:03 Yeah.

19:33:08 And I had... I've got like the physical and then I've got the summary here um There's 10 people.

19:33:16 And again, I'm really happy to defer to Elaine here because I know she's served on this much longer than I have. Let me... I did have something else.

19:33:29 And also, another tension, I guess, maybe I just want to know maybe for everybody tracking how much I know, I'm still kind of following the thread of participation in Medicaid programs and like not doubling up on funds. And now we just

19:33:44 Talked about that a little bit in the last review. So I guess this is something that I'm paying attention to and trying to figure out. I just wanted to note that.

19:33:52 Okay, for the self-help center, the only other income is whatever we charge for workshops and conferences.

19:34:02 So there's no billing, any insurance whatsoever. And we try to keep that cost down to a minimum.

19:34:10 So pretty much we just charge enough to pay all the expenses.

19:34:18 And yeah.

19:34:17 Okay. Can I hear, again, I know we want to keep this moving along and i'm So sorry, Molly. I know you've got us on a five minute time, budget.

19:34:29 But because I'm new, hopefully you can give me just a little bit of time to adjust here. Joy, would you mind talking to me about your outreach efforts.

19:34:40 Okay, we go to a lot of different events as vendors. Just this last week, we were at University of Illinois.

19:34:49 McKinley Center, Special Populations Health Fair. We go to, well, we're a part of the um Ebert Fest, the AIRS, we work with errors with that.

19:35:05 And Disability Expo. And so we go around to a lot of different places to let As many people know about the different self-help groups that are available in the area.

19:35:16 Mm-hmm.

19:35:17 And just to help support the self-help groups the coordinator does her best to try to go to the different self-help groups and just talk with the people and let them know that her support and the support of the self-help center is there.

19:35:32 Okay, so you do have a program coordinator Okay, okay. And how long has she worked there

19:35:36 Yes. She started in July of last year and she is absolutely amazing. I am so excited for what she's going to be doing.

19:35:41 Okay. Okay, great. Oh, wonderful.

19:35:45 Okay, that concludes my questions. Thanks.

19:35:48 Okay.

19:35:51 Are there any other comments or questions?

19:35:58 I just, I guess this is not really, it's more of a comment than a question.

19:36:04 So like the Self-Help Center has been around for a long time. Like when social workers are getting trained And, you know, sometimes we... you know we want to learn about how to do social work with groups So like the number one place that social workers go to like learn about what are the groups in the community

19:36:26 Is the self-help center. I used to work for a university organization and we listed our support group for survivors of sexual violence.

19:36:36 In the self-help center and it was a major way that people found out that the group exists.

19:36:42 I think also like support or self-help groups are a way that really centers like individuals with lived experience leading their own support process.

19:36:55 So, and the self-help center provides resources on how to start a group. Like if somebody is like, we really need a group for individuals who have gone through this specific thing.

19:37:07 Then the self-help center can help them kind of get going and then advertise the group So that other people know about it. And I think, you know, a lot of our Best value considerations are around self-determination, service planning, and when individuals are able to lead their own support process and support each other and learn from each other, it's so powerful, I think.

19:37:32 You know, out of the many programs we're looking at, this is probably one that does that the most.

19:37:37 So I just wanted to comment kind of a little of my knowledge historically on the center.

19:37:45 Because, you know, it has been around for a long time and meets a very specific need.

19:37:50 Are there any other comments or questions?

19:37:58 All right. Seeing none, we do have one more application from family service. So Leanne, go ahead.

19:38:04 Alrighty. Family Service of Champaign County is applying for funding for senior counseling and advocacy, which is a continuation of a longstanding program for a greater amount than a current contract.

19:38:17 They selected the priority category, closing the gaps in access and care, and justified that choice.

19:38:23 The proposed services are assistance with benefits enrollment such as Medicare and financial assistance program.

19:38:32 Monthly follow-up calls and advocacy. Assessment for anxiety and loneliness with care planning for future needs.

19:38:40 In the SAF review, you will see that there are no current compliance or eligibility concerns.

19:38:46 Clarification of the funding increase is requested. The program also supports people who are seeking resources for seniors.

19:38:56 The application requests approval for use of this funding as a match for an East Central Illinois area on aging.

19:39:06 Senior Information Services Grant. A particular strength of the program is its referral network and collaborations.

19:39:15 A staff comment of possible interest relates to the consumer outcomes.

19:39:21 The board reviewers were Chris Miner and Jane Sprandel. Okay, this will be a simple one, hopefully. I'm looking at a 20% increase, which isn't really a concern since we're only funding 29%.

19:39:36 But staff did mention capacity for financial clarity. What's that increase exactly for?

19:39:44 Sure, it's Nicole. So again, the increase would be going to help towards wages.

19:39:54 Again, that is an area in the counseling, our caseworkers When I started, we're making \$16 an hour with the increase of minimum wage at 15.

19:40:08 So we are looking to raise that wage. The other thing is we... And I do want to just mention something really quickly because we were talking about federal funding We did learn that we lost federal funding for the retired senior and volunteer program, RSVP.

19:40:28 It's a grant that we've had for 52 years through AmeriCorps.

19:40:33 And so that was \$180,000 loss. And so In learning that, we've very quickly looked to doing some adapting Within our organization, recognizing that The community needs to have a volunteer program. Last year, we did over 60,000 volunteer hours in Champaign County.

19:41:02 To over 83 MOU partners. So we are looking to continue that. But one of the things that we are moving RSVP is going to be or a volunteer program because we can't call it

RSVP any longer That will be moving to family service. It's currently housed at the Stevick Center.

19:41:28 Located in another location. And so the Steve Center Board and the Family Service Board agreed, voted to move the Steve Center into family service.

19:41:43 What that's going to create is a one-stop shop for seniors in Champaign County, and it's going to really allow us to To be able to serve more people that come in the door, whether they're volunteering.

19:42:01 They're going to have access to more of the services that we're doing.

19:42:05 The other thing that I just would like to kind of explain towards that We, under the Area Agency on Aging, we are designated as the coordinated point of entry for Champaign County for seniors.

19:42:21 And we have very hefty goals that we are getting out. We do have an office. I know it was mentioned, rural communities, and that's one of the things Also working to spread to get out into the county to meet more people in their environments. So if that's in the rural communities we're up in

19:42:44 Ran tool at the community building our center once a week.

19:42:49 Would we travel down to Homer, Sydney, Philo so We are hoping, well, we need to hire more staff to be able to cover the entire county and to meet the projections that we that we've promised.

19:43:14 All good, all good. And I hear you... Social workers only make it about \$16 right now.

19:43:16 Okay. That was what they were doing. Yeah. So they, when I started, that is when I started, that's what the wage was. And so You know, with the increase in funding that we got through the area agency, we've been able to

19:43:35 You know, increase that.

19:43:39 Are we getting close to 25 an hour at least?

19:43:42 We, the board just voted on Monday for 23 and that's and recognizing, again, I think in like what you know, in working with we kind of already discussed about the budgeting, you know, having to budget out. But yeah, you know, 25 would be fantastic and that would be um

19:44:06 Really where we would love to be. And I agree it's it's um

19:44:07 I just want to... Putting the actual number out there makes it a lot different than just saying we need to pay people more because that really hit me knowing about social workers.

19:44:18 So, yeah. On it.

19:44:18 Exactly. It does. And it is a huge concern. And again, these are people that are doing a hard Meeting people oftentimes, you know, the people that come in to our agency for them to you know to get the courage to come in and ask for help, but also just because of physical limits

19:44:43 You know whether it's transportation or just illnesses and things to get into to come into the agency And they're dealing with that every day to help them when they're in crisis or whether it's traveling out.

19:44:59 Throughout the county to meet them in their home because they can't get to us at State Street.

19:45:06 Is this for a one year or two year? I only ask because... you probably want more money next year than you would want.

19:45:15 Okay, I just want to make, so it is a one year.

19:45:13 Yeah. No, this is our two year. This is for two years.

19:45:18 Can I...

19:45:22 I'm sorry.

19:45:23 Well, determine what it is. As staff in previous years, we've had a little more time.

19:45:29 To go and say, well, we'd like to offer a two-year contract. We just didn't do that this time.

19:45:30 Okay.

19:45:35 Okay.

19:45:35 So question I think we would like to ask probably all the applicants like would you be willing to do a two-year contract? I apologize to the board that we didn't provide you with that detail in advance. So it's good to hear that you might be interested in that. Okay.

19:45:55 All right. So really the only other comment I had. Was I know Nicole, like a couple months ago, we had a late audit and you are so wonderful and explained why the audit was late because you guys had kind of were in transition and this and that so um

19:46:16 Again, you know, we're not going to I'm not holding that against you. So it sounds like you've got a good... You know, CPA taking care of your audits and stuff now. So I don't foresee anything like that being a problem just

19:46:30 You know, you're a little bit on the radar a few months ago, but we remedied that so Moving forward. But other than that, thank you for all of your... Great responses because we don't know unless we ask. And I appreciate you are able to both you and Joy were on the ball and were able to answer our questions. Thank you.

19:46:49 Thank you for your support.

19:46:51 Any other questions or comments from the board?

19:46:58 I think like regarding the late audit, since there were two years in a row um like the caveat that was made for the refugee center regarding quarterly updates from CPA. I wonder if that might be something we could add.

19:47:12 Consider talking about. But this is a very strong program and I'm glad to see that Family Service has been recognized for their work with seniors to be this entry point.

19:47:28 For the area, that's really phenomenal. Any other comments or questions?

19:47:38 Seeing none, I do want to take a temperature check. We have two agencies and four applications left.

19:47:46 If we save them for next time, then we'll have nine applications and several other questions about audits.

19:47:54 So I just wondered where everybody stands on how you would proceed.

19:47:58 I want to ask, is anybody here from Promise Healthcare? Okay, so I'm... Okay, is anyone here from races?

19:48:09 So I propose we do promise and stop there since race has been waiting for I don't know if they're on the Zoom.

19:48:20 It's not Jay. Jaya? There are other people. We're going to figure out if anybody from races is on, but yes, we can move.

19:48:31 We can move to Promise Healthcare next and then we'll figure out that other question.

19:48:35 So Leon, take it away. All right. Promise Healthcare is applying for funding for mental health services, which is a continuation of a long-standing program for a greater amount than the current contract.

19:48:48 They selected the priority category, closing the gaps in access and care, and justified that choice.

19:48:55 The proposed services are psychiatric and counseling services for people with no other pay source.

19:49:02 And the staff review, you will see that although there are no current compliance or eligibility concerns, the annual audits have been delayed.

19:49:12 Some clarifications are requested in the financial forms. Service targets appear complex because they measure Because they measure use of both psychiatric and counseling programs.

19:49:25 And report on all people served. But MHB funds... 14% of this total A particular strength of the program is its status as a federally qualified health care center.

19:49:40 Which allows access to various sources of funding. Underinsured people and those with no insurance can receive integrated physical and behavioral health care as if they were insured.

19:49:55 A staff comment of possible interest is regarding the CLC plan.

19:50:00 The board reviewers were Elaine Palencia and Emily Rodriguez.

19:50:08 Your mic isn't on. Now it is. Okay.

19:50:13 So this... Promise program has a promise an interesting structure in that it's an integrated model for behavioral health and primary care.

19:50:28 So that... there's primary care patients can be screened at the risk of depression, as mentioned. I don't know if anything else.

19:50:42 Is screened for. But... that's kind of an a way of catching a way of catching the mental health issues that a lot of times you know don't don't get mentioned.

19:50:58 So that's so that's good part of this.

19:51:03 They're asking for 9% more than last time. And that will be... for increased salaries and an additional higher.

19:51:19 One of the things the staff asked about was the if the psych Excuse me, psychiatric and counseling numbers.

19:51:31 Have, you know, duplicate or duplicated like the same Some of the same people did both. So I would like to know that.



19:51:41 And... apparently... the referral time.

19:51:48 Is better than the community, you know, the general waiting three or four months.

19:51:55 So that's a good thing. Then in 14 days, 70% will be assessed and in 30 days, 70% will be engaged. I don't know if that is I would like to know if that is.

19:52:10 There's another 30% that haven't been dealt with or only 70%.

19:52:16 Kind of stay around, you know, we've had that conversation with some agencies people come for help.

19:52:25 But then they don't. Stay around.

19:52:29 To get it due to whatever their situation is. I'd like to know about that.

19:52:35 One of the things I really liked was I Again, went on a website and I looked at the website pictures of the staff.

19:52:44 And one of the things that We have talked about here is that people have talked about are more comfortable going for help to people who look like they look.

19:52:56 And so there's a wonderful diversity in the staff. That, you know, speaks to our diverse community. And I like that very much.

19:53:08 Um. The thing about the late audits This has been going on for years.

19:53:17 And there's always another reason why, but I hope that can be straightened out because it's i think been hard for everybody.

19:53:28 And that's And these services are so, so needed and they certainly do.

19:53:36 Close the gap in access and care. Emily, you want to take it?

19:53:42 I want to do something a little bit different and allow a little bit different Before I say anything For those present.

19:53:53 All right.

19:53:50 Leases available to answer your questions directly. Because again, Elaine's been here a lot longer than I have. And so I just want to make sure that immediacy is available. If you've got any of that jotted down, Lisa.

19:54:05 I wanted to address a few things we There was a comment about a lack of specificity in some of our costs, our CFO, who wasn't able to be here tonight, but he prepared um more detailed information. So we'll be submitting that. We also updated our CLC plans for both for the project and we'll be submitting

19:54:30 That as well. And I think Jim Hamilton, our senior director of behavioral health and integrated care is at your meeting and he can address the The program questions, we did add some data and outcome measures to try to get more at the qualitative aspects of the mental health project.

19:54:50 Jim, are you there?

19:54:56 I am now. So what?

19:54:59 Okay.

19:55:03 You had several questions. So I'm older and I don't remember so well Can you help me out? What did I say?

19:55:13 Is this on? I was forgetting. Okay.

19:55:15 I'm sorry to put you on the spot like that, but your questions did seem sharp and I wanted to hear your responses or their responses.

19:55:22 Oh. One of the things I asked, I think had been noted by our staff.

19:55:30 That the numbers that you gave for psychiatric and counseling whether there were some duplicates in that or not.

19:55:40 There are duplicates. We want that. We want to internally refer to our own healthcare providers. So you mentioned earlier that the program's integrated We right now are currently working on having some of our mental health staff work with our

19:56:00 Medical providers who are working with our dental providers to kind of address kids that are kindergarten age.

19:56:10 Six and each night. Is they have to have dental appointments for those appointments. We also want to assess them to kind of see how they're doing.

19:56:17 Based on bright futures, the developmental screening that they're doing and so We're doing a lot of work to fully integrate everything.

19:56:28 We don't refer every mental health counseling patient to psychiatry. But certainly if there's a certain amount of complexity, severity to what's going on, then we do.

19:56:39 Yeah, just made it hard to know, you know, how many were being served. I think another question I had was about And you said in 14 days, 70%.

19:56:53 Are assessed of the people who are assessed identified as needing care and then 30 per day, 70% are engaged.

19:57:03 And I just wondered if... that other 30% in each case You still had to get to them or they simply were not any longer in the path.

19:57:17 That's typically people that will show up. And only to do like one appointment. And then for whatever reasons won't come back.

19:57:25 Our wellness program, which is part of the grant application is in there. They'll reach out to them.

19:57:32 And, you know. There's a certain amount of population that says, yeah, I'll make my appointment and they don't. Okay, that's what I was thinking.

19:57:41 Numbers were about. Okay, Emily, you can go ahead now.

19:57:47 Okay, thanks, Elaine. A couple of things that I noted that I wanted to underline here.

19:57:56 Our first um so it was the first time that I really noticed on question 12 How detailed the question was again so like i'm learning not only about the answers but also our process and how we gather information.

19:58:08 So like just how specifically we get with rural areas, I thought was impressive I also thought it was impressive.

19:58:15 That y'all track it. The data and tie it to zip codes for quarterly reports. I thought that was impressive.

19:58:23 I also just want to underline to the large and growing population of Hispanic latino and Spanish-speaking residents.

19:58:32 And probably work in agricultural employers in the area We're everywhere. It's wonderful. So I was happy that you specifically highlighted there. I also thought it was impressive that more than 50% of the board of directors are patients of the health center

19:58:51 I thought that was interesting and a concept that I have been unfamiliar with.

19:58:56 I guess that people who are leading an organization can also participate in it.

19:59:01 Especially as a healthcare provider.

19:59:07 Other things, I think this is more or less of a comment specifically for

19:59:15 For this organization, I guess more of an overarching so not, again, I'm not saying laying out promise healthcare here. I think overall health So I'm also a program coordinator And I think we can get a lot more specific in what we expect.

19:59:33 Of from outreach efforts. So for example.

19:59:38 Going to meetings, specific meetings, requiring that folks go to community coalition meetings.

19:59:44 These are very basic things that we can ask of program coordinators.

19:59:49 And I've got a lot more than that. But I guess I'm noting a trend in responses from the responses from the applicants that we've looked at, I think we can get a lot more specific But what we expect from outreach.

20:00:05 So for example, number 19, I'm seeing like we're expecting things from word of mouth. I think that's wonderful small budget to purchase media outreach and conduct paid advertising to social media channels and print media.

20:00:18 And I also, I think it's great. You're awarded a Google ad grant But overall, I think that's just something I'm leaning into and I'm paying attention to. I do think this is a good value for our money.

20:00:33 I think that was my comments. Again, I'm keeping my eye on that clock. Sorry, Molly.

20:00:39 It's all right. Lynn, was there something you were going to say?

20:00:43 We do have a lot of specific special provisions about which meetings groups should attend.

20:00:50 I don't know that we have actually required this one to attend coalition.

20:00:50 Okay.

20:00:54 Well, I was at United Way yesterday morning and I was at the nonprofit committee roundtable this morning. United Way is a different requirement. That's their own requirement for directors to be over there. I don't get any money from them. I was just there to...

20:01:18 Yeah.

20:01:08 And again, I want to underline, I'm not targeting or like critiquing in any way. I guess I'm just noting Again, I'm new to this body and so I'm learning about, I guess, not only just what you all are doing and your wonderful efforts but also

20:01:27 Like what the trends are across other organizations. So I just want, I'm not being critical. I'm just learning.

20:01:31 See them in a lot of places that we didn't require them to be. Right.

20:01:35 Yes.

20:01:36 Yeah.

20:01:36 I'm trying to do a lot of outreach. And so I think there's some people here on the board that I was out. I was out from September till February. I had a medical emergency.

20:01:48 So I wasn't able to do that kind of stuff in the second and third quarter of the year.

20:01:54 We're kind of getting back out there. We're kind of getting connected to people. And we think outreach is a very important part of our program.

20:02:03 And we mostly talk about the outreach activities Well, we have some targeted things that we put in the mental health project, but in the wellness project is really where a lot of the outreach activities are.

20:02:19 We are about to discuss that application, so thank you. I did want to ask I was momentarily distracted, so I may have missed it. Did anybody ask about the audit?

20:02:35 No.

20:02:34 Stuff. Okay. So I have a question regarding audit. So there is a quite a long history of late audits.

20:02:45 And the last audit, I know you're on a different fiscal year.

20:02:49 So the last audit was turned in late, but before the end of the grace period by a couple of days.

20:02:57 In September. So I was wondering if this current, the next audit is on track to be delivered to us by the deadline of June 30th, 2025.

20:03:09 My understanding, and I will double check with our CFO, my understanding is barring anything cropping up that it will be.

20:03:18 Thank you very much. Any... Thank you. Any other questions or comments from the board?

20:03:20 But I will double check.

20:03:30 All right, we will move on to the next promise application. And some of our more systemic questions about the agency, we probably won't need to ask for this one. So Leon.

20:03:41 I think this may be our last one for the night, so take it away. Let's do it.

20:03:46 Promise Healthcare is applying for funding for PHC Wellness, which is a continuation of a long-standing program.

20:03:53 For a greater amount than the current contract. They selected the prior to category closing the gap in access and care and explained why.

20:04:04 The proposed services are assistance with medication access, social service needs.

20:04:09 Benefits enrollment and referrals to other services within the agency and to other agencies.

20:04:16 And the staff review, you will see that although there are no current compliance or eligibility concerns.

20:04:22 The annual audits have been delayed. The budget and program plans are clearly connected.

20:04:28 Particular strengths are the program's use of the community health worker approach and that a majority of board and staff members are agency patients.

20:04:41 A staff comment of possible interest relates to the client outcome measures.

20:04:46 The board reviewers were Joe Omo Osagi and John Paul Joachim.

20:04:56 So, you know, for me Obviously, this is basically getting a lot of patients in touch with the resources in the community Which is obviously really important also I think my question for promises is this is a majority of these clients

20:05:13 Getting enrolled into Medicaid that weren't on Medicaid coming to the clinic so that they can then come and get uh you know come and get come and get services and then also get them in in enlist in other programs obviously

20:05:28 Medicaid also helps with transportation costs and arranging transportation I was just wondering what the majority of these clients are because it says the treatment plan clients are ones who engage with more than one contact or assisted through several barriers i was just wondering

20:05:46 Are the NTPCs mainly just signing them up for Medicaid so they can get their services Or are they more are they more a different service than that.

20:05:58 Could you say that again, please? Could you say that again, please? Yeah, so, you know, you have... 350 patients who are engaged with more than one contact or assisted through several barriers.

20:06:08 Are the TPCs versus like the NTPCs are the non-treatment plan clients, which is like a over 1500, are those mainly signing them up for like medicaid or Or is the main resource that they are needing casework management for other services.

20:06:25 So a great deal of those would be people that have been assessed.

20:06:31 By the wellness group and we give our assessments just to kind of answer that question earlier is they do prepare, they do a PHQ-9. It's for depression. They do a G87, which is for anxiety. They do a DAS, which is a drug screening. They do an audit, which is alcohol screening.

20:06:52 They also assess for medical need and dental needs. So if our wellness groups assess those people.

20:07:01 And we schedule appointments for them and they don't come back, then they become non-treatment plan patients.

20:07:09 It can be because of the populations we're working with. Sometimes the people are homeless, sometimes low socioeconomic.

20:07:21 Reasons impact them. You know, which is what our wellness staff tries to do is to work on those social drivers of health.

20:07:28 But... Yeah, some of them just don't come back.

20:07:37 So, I mean...

20:07:37 In response, though, we did think that we could add a measure showing how many we thought we could start with how many um the clients actually had a Medicaid application submitted.

20:08:00 I have no further questions. Sure. I think I would just add that it looks like they're serving a pretty diverse.

20:08:12 Demographic in terms of locations of people where people are coming from to promise. So I do appreciate that.

20:08:20 Um and you know, obviously.

20:08:26 As we've talked about with other agencies, a lot of this even though if it could be covered by Medicaid, it wouldn't be viable, unfortunately, right now.

20:08:34 One thing I wanted to add about the other program, just one last thing was I do have a lot of patients that I end up sending to promise for mental health and psychiatric services because of the lack of access

20:08:47 Anywhere else, even those with private insurance, just because the wait is so long to go to get psychiatric services and, you know.

20:08:57 Some patients do not have the luxury of time to wait. So I appreciate all your services.

20:09:03 You know the other thing I would say is over the years like Since this program has been funded.

20:09:08 I have gotten more and more positive feedback from families and children.

20:09:13 From Promise Healthcare than I've ever had. So you guys are doing a really good job over the last couple of years. And I want to tell you that you are doing a good job and keep doing what you're doing right now because it is working. Very awesome to hear it. Thank you.

20:09:27 I mean, you're filling the gap. Yes, yes, we're trying. I mean, and that's really what I... When I worked at Parkland, you guys were filling up that gap that we did not have.

20:09:38 There was one questionnaire in there about outcome measures for our wellness group and so we might be able to pull together the prepare assessments that have been done because that would that gives a... a screening rating on social drivers of health and then at six months or a year

20:09:59 Reassess. I'm using the prepare and see You know, because I think, you know, we're helping people get access to food. We're helping people pay their utilities. We're helping people We work with transportation to make sure people get to appointments and things like that. So we would expect

20:10:16 That group that that group that group of patients, we would expect them to have lower numbers in regards to that.

20:10:28 I do want to say too about I've been with Promise three years and years Jim has assumed a leadership role in that time and he has done a wonderful job.

20:10:43 Of kind of, you know, changing things from being top down to bottom up.

20:10:48 And super involved in our projects and leading them. And I think it's made the results better so

20:10:58 Thank you very much. Are there any other questions or comments from the board?

20:11:08 All right. Seeing none, thank you very much. So... We have determined it does not appear that anyone from races is here.

20:11:19 Now, there were other agencies earlier this evening where there was no representative here, so we could review those two applications.



20:11:27 They may go quickly or we can hold them to next time with our other kind of more complicated business.

20:11:34 Comments from board on what you would like to do? No.

20:11:39 Complicated is fine. Any other comments? I'm sleepy. I think we can stop. Sorry.

20:11:51 So I think some of the things that you all have raised and it's very helpful for us as staff to hear what the board is interested in.

20:11:57 And there's a little bit of an intersection with what happened this morning. Some of the things that you want to know are things that we know, but we haven't been as explicit within the application, I think this is really supporting my thought that

20:12:12 We can adjust the questions a little bit next year and get closer to what you're looking for. And Emily, thank you for the questions around process because your questions fit into this category as well.

20:12:23 And just real quick, moving forward, can we like, if people are here or on Zoom, can we move their organization up so like this gentleman doesn't have to sit here for like two hours and 20 minutes before?

20:12:33 He can talk? Or do we have to do it in a certain order?

20:12:36 We've listed it in a specific order. Okay. Go ahead, Len.

20:12:41 Well, it's like, I love being flexible. I think that's great, but I have caught a lot of hell for that in the past.

20:12:42 So, excuse me.

20:12:50 Yeah.

20:12:47 Okay. I mean, I will... I'm so sorry. For process, it is possible to amend the agenda at the start of a meeting.

20:12:58 And again, it seems to be a constant thread of communication that we've or of critique that we've had. We want to reward people for showing up to these meetings.

20:13:10 Thank you. Like that.

20:13:12 So I think we can even amend something. Somebody can ask to amend the agenda at the start of the meeting, for example, and move certain portions above. And I understand that organizations might not like that. But again, like there is

20:13:27 Certainly like a more material element to showing up to something rather than virtual, and I say this as somebody who's sick and participating virtually so

20:13:37 Yeah, I think, you know, if I would say if there's a maybe if there's a specific request to be seen earlier in the meeting.

20:13:47 You know, that's something we could... I think we have done that in the past.

20:13:51 But we could consider talking about anybody in person going before people on Zoom, but I think there's, you know.

20:13:58 Pros and cons to that approach, because at the end of the day, to get through the applications, anybody who's at the end, like.

20:14:05 Has, you know, has to wait till the end Or can come late in the meeting. You know, that's also why we published the order that we are doing them in so people can attend later if necessary.

20:14:15 I mean, our county board meeting went until 10 30 last night I just, for context. Yeah.

20:14:21 Why are they paying \$8? Yes. Well, so with that, we will be waiting on the applications from races and then the five other applications until next meeting. So we'll have seven applications to discuss.

20:14:38 The time thing was more of a seeing how long we were taking and then trying to move us along if we were taking a really long time.

20:14:46 I can figure out the averages of how long this actually took. But, you know, we got a lot of more discussion kind of going in the later applications, which is understandable.

20:14:57 So with that, we can move on to public participation agency input.

20:15:04 As earlier, anybody can come and speak to the board. You can approach the podium in person or make a comment or raise your hand on Zoom. Is there anybody who would like to speak?

20:15:25 It does not appear so. Next.

20:15:29 Second to last item is board announcements and input does any Board member have announcements or input?

20:15:39 I did just want to thank, you know, there are several people still in the room and several people on the Zoom agency representatives who stayed with us the whole time. That was very thoughtful of you.

20:15:50 So thank you for doing that. Any other announcements or input?

20:15:57 All right, seeing none, we can adjourn. Our next meeting of the Mental Health Board will be Wednesday, April 30th, 2025, 545 p.m. In the Shields Carter Room of the Brookings Administrative Building.