

Friends of Tri-Valley Foundation
Board of Director's Meeting
Allen Community College Stadler Conference Room, 1801 N. Cottonwood, Iola, KS 66749
March 12, 2019

Present: Mike Reid, Mike Hofer, Ruth Spangler, Don Koester, Steve Sewell, Lynette Emmerson, Max McReynolds, Sandi Eggers, Tim Cunningham

Not Present: Dwayne Umbarger, Judy Brigham, Shane Schauf, Vic Anderson

Staff Present: Bill Fiscus, Tricia Campbell

1. Call to Order

Chairman Mike Reid called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion made to accept agenda as presented (Max McReynolds/Lynette Emmerson). Motion passed.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes from the December 4, 2018 board meeting were presented. Motion made to accept the minutes (Mike Hofer/Sandi Eggers). Motion passed.

4. Treasurer's Report

Bill Fiscus presented the financial report for the period ending January 31, 2019. Motion made to accept financial report (Steve Sewell/Max). Motion passed.

5. Board Member Reports

None

6. Director's Report

- a. This time of year is always busy with the start of the legislative session. Over the last two years, we have received raises in our rates. The increase was passed onto employees. This year, a bill was put together to ask for a 7% rate increase. The bill probably won't go anywhere; it still has not had a hearing. We worked with a legislator to increase all HCBS waivers by 2%. This bill went through to committee but the committee voted to pull out all increases. So, as of this time, it is not looking good for a rate increase this year.
- b. Currently, all Tri-Valley employees are members of KPERS (Kansas Public Employee Retirement System). As soon as a new hire begins, they start paying 6% into the system with the employer paying in 10%. With our high turnover rate, the money goes directly into the system and the employee does not see it back unless they are vested in KPERS. 46% of new hires have quit after six months; some agencies see 60%. A bill has been written that

would exempt new hires from joining KPERS for their first two years of employment. Once an employee has been with an agency for two years, they become a member and can buy back those two years if they wish. Tim suggested that if the bill goes through that Tri-Valley buy back 1 year for the employee. This bill is intended for direct support staff only. KPERS has thrown their support behind the bill. The question is do we have enough support from the legislature. We are talking about less than ½ % of the KPERS annual budget.

- c. On March 30th, the Fort Scott Horticultural Program will hold its bi-annual Gardener's Christmas fundraiser. This year, we are running a little short on donations. If any board member has a garden type item they would like to donate, please let Tim know. Mike Reid suggested that we contact the county extension office, the Chanute Master Gardener's Group, or Sandy Warren.

7. Old Business

7.1 Duplex Update

Tim gave an update on the bathroom remodels at the duplex. Both bathrooms are almost completed; we are waiting on doors. Both sides of the duplex have been completed remodeled in the last three years.

7.2 Building Renovation

At the December meeting, there was a discussion on the Foundation covering half of the cost to renovate bathrooms at the Chanute Service Center. Mike Hofer presented blueprints with the proposed changes. The bid from Hofer & Hofer was \$68,000; the foundation's portion would run around \$34,250. Mike mentioned that we still need to find a plumber. Motion made to approve the project and pay for half of the renovation's total cost (Steve/Max). Motion passed with Mike Hofer abstaining.

7.3 Fundraisers

- a. Tricia gave an update on the 19th Annual Raffle Drawing. This year is off to a slow start. We have 515 entrants with \$24,150 brought in. We are running an ad on the electronic billboard and in the spring Southeast Kansas Living Magazine.
- b. Cruise Night is fast approaching. It will be April 16th at Central Park Pavilion in Chanute. We have sold 114 tickets and have 12 sponsors so far. Invitations went out earlier in the month.
- c. Immediately following Cruise Night is the 2019 Golf Tournament. It will be May 18th at the Horizons at Prairie Ridge Golf Course in Erie. Save the date cards will go out soon.
- d. We have set the date for a second golf tournament for 2019. It will be held on September 14th at the Woodland Hills Golf Course in Fort Scott. More details will be coming soon.

8. New Business

8.1 New Home Discussion

We have begun to see a rush of new individuals coming into the I/DD system recently. Two individuals from the Kansas School of the Blind have chosen Tri-Valley for services.

Since we have no openings in our residential sites, Tri-Valley residential staff are working to find rentals. Tim met with Darin Luebbering to discuss an idea for something a little different. Rather than build a house, we would build a house with six little apartments. Each unit would be a studio apartment with a living space, kitchenette, closet, bedroom and bathroom. In the middle of the units would be a common area. With this idea, everyone would have privacy but access to staff on site. The exterior would look like a house.

Square footage for the house would run around 5,000; which is a little bigger than the Denman house. This idea may cost a little more than a home and we haven't put out for bids yet. Residential staff actually suggested this idea. The cost would possibly run around \$400,000. The last home was under \$300,000. Problem is that we do not have the money at the moment. Advanced Systems was willing to do a 0% loan once again. We would look at starting construction next year if everyone liked the concept. But first, we will find some rentals and see if the number of individuals in services grows.

8.2 Consolidation

While nothing is final, Tri-Valley CSP is in talks with New Beginnings CSP in Neodesha to merge. Both boards have given approval to move forward with the talks. New Beginnings covers the counties of Wilson, Chautauqua, Elk and Greenwood. They have three service centers which are located in Neodesha, Moline, and Eureka. They have around 18 individuals in residential services. New Beginnings owns two homes and a FEMA trailer. By joining with these additional four counties, we will have an area to expand our fundraising. The area is home to Cobalt Boats as well as several other nice size businesses; it has a lot of potential.

We would keep the Tri-Valley name; New Beginnings would become Tri-Valley East with Joe O'Rourke as director. Joe is the current New Beginnings Executive Director. Bill would be director of Tri-Valley West; which would include the current Tri-Valley area. Prairie Ridge CDDO would stay the same. New Beginnings is also a CDDO and would become an independent.

There is nothing legally or financially preventing the two CSPs to merge. We are looking at having a July 1st start date, if possible. If not, the merger could be moved to January 1st or July 1st of 2020. But first, the boards of both New Beginnings and Tri-Valley must approve the merger. New Beginnings board meets on March 25th with Tri-Valley board following on the 26th.

This merger may affect the Foundation. New Beginnings currently owns two homes; one of which is a HUD house. A HUD house requires a separate board of directors. The plan, if the Foundation board approves, is to have the Foundation take over ownership of the home. We would have paperwork to fill out to make the switch.

If the Foundation board agrees to take over the two homes, we might also want to add a few new board members from the New Beginnings' counties. Currently, New Beginnings holds an annual golf tournament fundraiser. If the Foundation does not wish to take over these four counties, we will remain the same; the Foundation does not have serve those counties. If both New Beginnings and Tri-Valley boards approve the merger, the Foundation may meet in late April or early May to discuss these ideas.

The merger is a good opportunity for growth; there are only benefits, no negatives. The individuals served by both New Beginnings and Tri-Valley will see no change in their services.

9. Acceptance of All Donations

For the period from September 1st through February 28th, the Foundation has received \$32,109.96. Motion made to accept donations (Lynette Emmerson/Sandi). Motion passed.

Tri-Valley did receive a donation from the Kansas City Chiefs ticket fundraiser in the amount of \$160.00.

10. Announcement

- Cruise Night 2019 is April 16th at Central Park Pavilion in Chanute, KS
- 2019 Golf Tournament will be May 18th at Horizons at Prairie Ridge Golf Course in Erie, KS
- The next board meeting will be June 25, 2019 at the Allen Community College Board Room, 1801 N. Cottonwood, Iola, KS 66749.

11. Adjournment

Motion made to adjourn meeting (Sandi/Lynette). Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

<u>Ruth Spangler</u>	<u>4/3/19</u>
Secretary	Date