

Friends of Tri-Valley Foundation  
Board of Director's Meeting  
TVDS Administrative Office, 521 W. 35<sup>th</sup> CH Pkwy, Chanute, KS 66720/Zoom  
September 23, 2025

Present: Judy Brigham, Mike Hofer, Sandra Eggers, Phil Newkirk, Lynette Emmerson, Joel Porter, Shana Forsyth, Lary Coleman Bill Fiscus

Not Present: Steve Sewell, Mike Reid, Vic Anderson, Joel Norris

Staff Present: Melissa Cannon-Smith, Joe O'Rourke, Lea Chickadonz, Tricia Campbell

1. Call to Order

Chair Judy Brigham called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm

2. Introductions

Shana Forsyth was introduced as the newest Board representative for Woodson County. Earlier today, Bill Fiscus and Tricia Campbell spoke to Jeff Ports as a potential board representative for Neosho County. Mr. Ports was going to consider the offer and respond back in a few days.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The action for item 8.2 Residential Lease was changed from Approval to Information. Motion made to adopt the agenda as amended (Mike Hofer/Joel Porter). Motion passed.

4. Minutes

The minutes from the June 24, 2025 meeting were presented. Motion made to accept minutes as presented (Joel/Mike). Motion passed.

5. Treasurer's Report

Lea Chickadonz, VP of Administration, presented the financial report for the period ending August 31<sup>st</sup>. Lea reported that the FY25 Financial Audit is underway; the auditors were on site for onsite earlier in the month. Lea gave kudos to Michelle Reddick, Director of Finance, for her work on the audit. She did an amazing job. Motion made to accept treasurer's report (Sandra Eggers/Lynette Emmerson). Motion passed.

6. Staff Reports

6.1 Program Report

- Melissa Cannon-Smith, VP of Programming, reported that Tri-Valley has been granted a one-year full license for day and residential services. This is the third consecutive year we have received a full license.
- We have started a new cohort class of DSP+ apprentices. Eight staff are signed up; it is the largest co-hort group for this session. All eight DSPs are enrolled at Wichita State University and began their badge work on August 18<sup>th</sup>. They have also begun on-the-job training with Melissa.

- After 35 years of employment, Brenda Harrison, Director of Programming, retired on September 4th. A retirement celebration was held on September 2<sup>nd</sup> at Central Park Pavilion in Chanute. It was well attended.
- Melissa was pleased to announce that we have hired Kat Lorenz-Moore as the new Director of Programming. Kat has worked with Brenda over this past month.
- The week of September 7<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup> was designated as DSP Recognition week. This week was established to highlight dedicated DSP staff nationwide. Tri-Valley held daily activities during the week. The week wrapped up with a pizza lunch for all DSS staff.

#### 6.2 Operations Report

- Joe O'Rourke, VP of Operations, reported that he is working on our fleet vehicles. We plan to replace several vehicles. On Thursday, Joe and Bill will meet with a representative from Enterprise.
- Roof projects are underway at the Fort Scott and Neodesha Service Centers.
- The cooling and heating systems at the Iola Service Center, Briarwood, and Fairway have been replaced.
- The Moline Service Center's renovation is completed; the building looks great.
- With several of our appliances reaching the end of their lifecycle, Joe purchased four washer/dryer sets through Metro Appliance's Labor Day sale. The sets will go to Chanute, Fort Scott, and Neodesha.
  - Judy inquired if memos are sent out to staff when issues arise with appliances. Melissa stated that memos are sent out to staff whenever we run into an issue regarding the proper use of these appliances.
- Moline's new wheelchair accessible bus is almost ready.
- Thanks to a grant from KDADS, Tri-Valley has several projects underway.
  - An automated door opener was installed at the Moline Service Center.
  - Work is underway on a sensory room at the Chanute Service Center. Right now, we are waiting on the window.
  - We are replacing tires and windshields on company vehicles as needed.

#### 6.3 Administration Report

- Lea reported that the HUD review went well. The reviewer looked at the original documentation. Lea sent in our response today.

#### 6.4 CEO

- Bill updated the board on county funding. We received word that Woodson County has significantly cut our allocation to \$10,000. Tri-Valley receives funding from all eight counties.
- KDADS plans to unbundle day services. Originally they had planned to have seven categories; they have narrowed the number of services down to three. These three categories are: Employment, Center Based Habilitation, and Community Based Habilitation. Their target start date is July 1, 2026. The state is considering that each service will have a different rate.

- The legislature has allocated money for 200 individuals to come off the waiting list. From those 200, eight individuals are in the Tri-Valley CDDO Service Area and four are in the New Beginnings CDDO Service Area.
- For the past three and a half years, Tri-Valley CDDO services have been managed by the Disability Planning Organization of Kansas (DPOK). DPOK manages CDDO services for ten CDDOs in the state. Along with unbundling day services, the state is looking at an inherent conflict of interest for providers who are both CDDO and CSP. Originally, both the state and federal government felt that DPOK's model was not a valid response to the CDDO conflict of interest. They have since reversed their decision and now say the DPOK's model will work. That being said, the state and federal government remain steadfast on their guidance for entities that provide both services and case management. They believe that these providers have an inherent conflict of interest. The state must resolve conflict of interest by July 1, 2026.

## 7. Old Business

### 7.1 Fundraiser Update

- 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Raffle Drawing  
Bid letters were sent to four local car dealerships. We have received one bid from Shields Motors. Jeff Lassman from Steve Faulkner Ford has been in contact. They should have information on the 2026 models this week. We have nine entries for the 26<sup>th</sup> drawing. The date of the drawing is June 26<sup>th</sup>.
- 2025 Golf Tournaments
  - The Fredonia Golf Tournament was held Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> with ten teams. Prizes were awarded in two flights. The event had nineteen hole/door prize sponsors and two corporate sponsors. The tournament made a profit of \$2,679.60
  - The Erie Golf Tournament was held on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Seventeen teams played in the scramble. Prizes were awarded in two flights. The tournament had fifteen hole/door prize sponsors and eight corporate sponsors. The tournament made a profit of \$5,792.12.
  - The Fort Scott Golf Tournament was held on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Seventeen teams participated in the tournament. The event had sixteen hole/door prize sponsors. Prizes were handed out to two flights. For the third year, a raffle drawing was held. The tournament made a profit of \$2,679.60.
- Mum Sale  
In August, a mum fundraiser was held in Chanute, Iola, and Neodesha. Five varieties of plants (yellow, white, scarlet, orange, and pink) were grown in the Fort Scott Greenhouse. We sold 120 plants plus a few winter pansies. The plants were available for pick-up this week. All funds raised will go directly to the persons served. They will decide how the funds are spent.
- There is a new board member page on the website.

8. New Business

8.1 2026 Fundraiser Dates

The following dates were proposed for FY26 board meetings and events.

- 12/2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Board Meeting - Audit
- 3/24 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Board Meeting
- 6/30 – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Board Meeting – Budget
- Fundraisers
  - April 10<sup>th</sup> – Boardwalk BBq
  - June 13<sup>th</sup> – Fredonia Golf Tournament - Tentative
  - June 26<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Raffle Drawing
  - August 1<sup>st</sup> – Erie Golf Tournament – Tentative
  - September 12<sup>th</sup> – Fort Scott Golf Tournament - Tentative

8.2 Residential Lease

Kurt Kluin, attorney for the Foundation, recommended that we remove a section under the eviction clause in the residential lease. Upon review, Tri-Valley staff felt that the section is necessary and falls under the Final Settings Rule from CMS. Bill has emailed Kurt for his thoughts. This topic will be added to old business for the December board meeting.

9. Board Member Reports

None

10. Acceptance of All Donations

For the period from June 1<sup>st</sup> through August 31st, the Foundation received \$38,433.50 in donations. Motion made to accept donations as presented (Joel /Sandra). Motion passed.

11. Announcements

The next meeting will be December 2, 2025.

12. Adjournment

Motion made to adjourn the meeting (Mike/Joel). Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

10-6-25  
Sandi Eggers, Secretary      Date