

Tri-Valley Developmental Services, Inc.
Board of Director's Virtual Meeting
March 15, 2022

Present: John McRae, Susan Jones, Steve Sewell, Anna Methvin, Van Bettega, Connie Hey, Rita Cornett, Sharon Suske, Mark Ward, Lindsay Madison, Angie Morrison, Jim Hogan, Janet Rash

Not Present: Devin Johnson, Derrick Payne, Nikki Jacobs, Karen Vallier

Staff Present: Bill Fiscus, Joe O'Rourke, Rachel Crigger, Tricia Campbell, Lea Chickadonz

Guest Present: Tara Cunningham, Matt Fletcher

1. Call to Order

Chair John McRae called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

An amended agenda was presented. Motion made to adopt amended agenda (Anna Methvin/Mark Ward). Motion passed.

3. Introductions

Bill Fiscus, CEO, introduced two guests: Matt Fletcher, Executive Director of InterHab; and Tara Cunningham, Executive Director of New Beginnings Enterprises CDDO.

4. Legislative Update

- A. Matt thanked the Tri-Valley board and staff for our long association with InterHab. The InterHab staff appreciates the support and expertise that Tri-Valley brings to the table.
- B. Matt gave the board an update to the 2022 Legislative session. Thanks to surplus funds in the state coffers, the IDD field may see anywhere from a 14% to 30% rate increase in FY23. The board will be kept in the loop.
- C. There are two other budget items under legislative consideration that will have an impact on the I/DD field. The first item will give a \$2 million reimbursement increase to the Tiny K program. Both chambers agreed on this amount; so it is a done deal. The second area is in regard to CDDO administrative funds. There are 27 CDDOs across the state that serve as the gatekeeper for I/DD services in the state. It has been over a decade since they have received an increase. The House has added \$2.5 million in new funds for CDDO Administrative funding. The senate has not. In order for this additional to come to fruition, the Senate needs to accept it. It is a good possibility that they will do so.
- D. InterHab is tracking a few other bills. The first is a bill that will introduce a mobile crisis initiative for I/DD services. This bill would create a program to help with de-escalation in the community settings. The bill has some initiative and a funding source. Interhab staff will continue to watch the bill.
- E. The second bill on the InterHab radar is one that is one step away from the Governor's desk. This bill would create a tax credit for businesses that wish to employ persons with disabilities. The house has passed the bill and we are now waiting on passage through the Senate.
- F. The legislature is looking to expand the ABLE act provisions. Currently, families are able to create a special needs trust on behalf of individuals with I/DD who are up to their mid-20s.

The legislature would like to expand the age limit to 45. By doing so, the door would open wide for a number of Kansans with I/DD. It should pass this session.

- G. It has been a great session so far. A large number of legislators have tuned in and want to help out. A lot of this is thanks to grassroots advocacy and provider relationships with legislators.
- H. Steve Sewell asked about the waiting list. Matt gave an update on the list. Currently, there are 4,600 individuals waiting for services. The average wait time is over 8 years. Some good news is that there is talk of the legislators to put together a task force, I/DD Modernization Task-Force. Their goal will be to create a strategic road map to eliminate the waiting list in a recognized time frame. They will look at services, employment opportunities, and staffing.
- I. Steve also asked for a list of committee members be sent to the board when time comes. The board would also voice their support.

5. CDDO Update

On Thursday, March 10th, CDDO responsibilities transferred from Prairie Ridge to New Beginnings Enterprises CDDO. The agreement for New Beginnings Enterprises CDDO to start providing CDDO services for the Tri-Valley service area has been signed. Tri-Valley retained the attorney who managed the merger with New Beginnings CSP to review the agreement. With the transfer, two positions were eliminated. The CDDO Director had tendered her resignation previously and will receive and pay and benefits until March 16th, which was to have been her last day. The Eligibility Specialist will stay on payroll for an additional 30 days with benefits continuing through the end of April.

Along with New Beginnings, Tri-Valley CDDO also signed an agreement with the Disability Planning Organization of Kansas (DPOK) to answer phone calls and conduct basis assessments. As of Monday, DPOK had taken over both duties. The plan is for Tara and staff from DPOK to use the CDDO office located in downtown Chanute as needed. Affiliates have been notified of the change. A few responded with questions. KDADS has been made aware of the change as well.

Bill turned the floor over to Tara Cunningham. Tara gave a brief introduction and spoke to what her role would consist of as well as that of DPOK. Tara will meet with affiliates this week to discuss the change. DPOK will attend the meeting via Zoom. She plans to walk through immediate concerns and then schedule follow-up meetings to discuss changes providers would like to see. We want to ensure that the person serve remains at the center of all we do and that providers are not harmed. Nothing will change at this time.

DPOK currently works with 10 CDDOs. They only handle assessments and will share information and resources. It will be interesting to hear how other CDDOs and providers are held accountable. There are a number of inconsistencies across the state. The plan is to prevent that going forward.

6. Licensing Review

Motion made for the Board to move into Executive Session for 20 minutes to discuss licensing review to include Matt Fletcher, Bill Fiscus, Rachel Crigger, and Joe O'Rourke (Susan Jones/Steve). Motion passed. The board returned to regular session with no action taken.

7. Personnel

Motion made for the Board to move into Executive Session for 15 minutes to discuss personnel matters to include Bill Fiscus, Rachel Crigger, and Lea Chickadonz (Susan/Anna). Motion passed. The board returned to regular session. Motion made to return to Executive Session for an additional 10 minutes (Susan/Janet Rash). Motion passed. The board returned to regular session with no action taken.

John stated that Tri-Valley was fortunate to have Bill as the CEO. The board appreciates his work and the staff that he has put together. Bill gave kudos to staff.

8. Announcements

The next Board meeting will be April 28th at 6 pm and will be a Zoom meeting.

9. Adjournment

Motion made to adjourn meeting (Connie Hey/Susan). Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

<u>John McRae</u>	<u>4/28/22</u>
Chair	Date