

Minutes
Board Meeting
Developmental Disabilities Resource Board
June 10, 2015

This meeting of the Board was intended to be an informal conversation about developing a new group home and developing a funding method for capital projects of the funded agencies.

Present at the meeting were Steve Elliott, Gary Steinman, Tom Bradley, Alan Naylor, Pat Schoenrade, Bob Boydston, James Gottstein and Brian O'Malley. Guests included: Randy Hylton of Vocational Services, Barbara Griggs of Concerned Care, Holly Wilmes of Easter Seal Midwest, Andrea McKowan of Northland Early Education Center, and Julie Grower of Immacolata.

Steve introduced the topic of developing a new group home by reflecting on the efforts of the past two years to find a solution to the costs and changes in funding for group homes. Steve indicated that he was putting the subject forward now just to explore the possibility. Steve felt a new group home developed to blend with a neighborhood but interior similar to Immacolata's group homes could be developed.

Barbara said she would be all for such a plan but the Department of Mental Health would need to be brought into the conversation. Alan offered to invite a developer from the St. Louis area to meet with us to discuss their approach to group homes. Julie pointed out that group homes are not the only option and funding should be considered to funding ILAP apartments within the community as the State has emphasized community based living and service integration. With that Steve asked who would like to participate in a discussion of all the issues involved and who should be invited to join.

Again, Alan offered to invite the people from St. Louis if a day and time could be set. He also raised the question if the Board could pay for his travel cost. Steve thought that would be acceptable. Barbara said she would get with her Board to see who else would be interested. She also offered to invite someone from the Department of Mental Health. Julie Grower said she also would like to

participate. Brian suggested asking someone from TNC as well. With that Steve made a motion to form a committee to explore the concept of a new group home. Pat seconded the motion and it passed. Alan offered to chair the committee that would be called the Group Home Replacement Committee. Steve asked Brian to help put this committee together.

Steve then introduced the next topic for discussion: Funding of Capital Grants for the agencies funded by DDRB. Steve said there are funds available to fund capital and recognized the agencies had needs the fund could help address. Steve reminded everyone that the bylaws require maintaining a 2/3rd funds reserved. At the moment the DDRB has more than that on reserves. Steve suggested that a percentage of those funds could be used based on the same percent of funds the agencies currently use. Steve asked for any thoughts those in the meeting have. Randy reminded the group that a similar plan was implemented several years ago but became a lot of labor for the agencies. Having said that he would support the notion depending on the requirements and would suggest keeping the process simple.

Brian said there had not been enough discussion but that parameters were needed to develop. Brian reminded the group that the agencies submit a capital budget now but it is not even considered during the budget process. Randy reminded the Board that things broke down about the purchase of equipment and who owned the equipment and the Board asked for monitoring of the purchasing and then depreciation reports were required by the Board. Fear over faulty equipment and being sued led to more confusion so it got to be a ridiculous situation. So, Randy said that as this goes forward the agency should buy and own the equipment. Steve agreed we do not need to be micromanaging the agency.

Steve said the simple truth was the Finance Committee realizes the needs of the agency are there and the Board has the funds. Andrea McKowan asked if these funds could be used for the expansion of the Center. Steve said this is just the discussion phase. Brian suggested another committee be formed to explore how to go forward. Alan reminded everyone this is a one-time shot and not to expect it to be tied into an annual request. Steve said there is no guarantee

how much money could be available each year so it becomes a one-time event. Tom Bradley offered to chair the committee and asked Brian to pull some items together to look at the work the committee needs to address. Steve asked Brian to pull together a percentage of budget as a base of funding. Randy raised again the previous methods that required 3 bids on every project which caused delays. Again, it was noted that would be the Board managing your business. Tom suggested that he would call together a meeting in 3 weeks and they would begin by reviewing the current policy. Alan then summed up the conversation by saying the agencies would present an annual capital request. If DDRB has the funds and agrees to how those funds will be used it will make the grant. While the Board may ask for verification that the funds were used as proposed it is up to the agencies to use the funds how they see fit. Brian asked for clarification of what stage of the process the Board felt they had achieved. Tom said that he would make the motion that a committee be formed to explore the possibility of capital funding and the process needed. Steve seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian O'Malley, Administrative Director