

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT, The Board of Commissioners of the County of St. Joseph met in a regular session in the County City Building on February 23, 2021 at the hour of 10:00 a.m. (EST) at which time in the following members were present: Andrew Kostielney, Derick Dieter, and Dr. Deborah Fleming D.M.D. were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER

The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved.

REPORTS AND REQUESTS FROM:

COMMISSIONERS

A)
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE DOCKETS

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the Accounts Payable Docket as read and outlined.
Motion seconded by Mr. Dieter.
Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

AUDITOR

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
COVID-19 RESPONSE PROGRAM:
PHASE 3 A CDBG PROGRAM

Corey Szczyпка, Auditors office on the 2nd floor.

We are trying to create a mobile crisis intervention team in connection with Oaklawn and the Health Department. The aim of this proposal is to create a mobile crisis intervention team to respond to and manage the growing number of social, behavioral, and mental health crises in St. Joseph County caused by the COVID 19 pandemic. This team will provide more effective and compassionate care for individuals in crisis, reduce the financial burden on hospitals and emergency departments, and free up public safety personnel to respond to other types of calls. This team will consist of experts in mental health and trauma-informed care. One member of the team will be embedded within the St. Joseph County 911 dispatch call center, and two members of the team will be dispatched to the scene of selected non-violent acute crises. Oaklawn Psychiatric Center will run the day-to-day operations, as a sub-recipient of this grant. In addition, Oaklawn will collaborate with the St. Joseph County Department of Health for data analytics and joint personnel efforts. The requested grant amount is for \$250,000.

Mr. Kostielney. This has come out of the CARES Act group that we formed to help administer the CARES Act funding that the County received. Corey has done a great job of exploring funding options for other programs. Public comments are open.

John Horsley, 52644 Brandel Ave., South Bend, IN.

I am the Vice President at Oaklawn. We are absolutely excited to be a part of the project. We have experience working with mobile units. Our community-based teams have been working out in the community for several years. In the past couple of years, we have worked with various partners, including the Health Department. To have a mobile Opioid response unit. That has also been very helpful trying to get heroin and other opioids out of their life. It is a unit that gives them quick access to recovery coaching as well as therapy and medications for treatment. It has prevented a lot of deaths and helped people get their lives back on track. We are glad to be a part of this and expand it.

Ronda Hughes, Broadway Christian parish, 1029 Riverside Dr., South Bend, In.

We heartily support this grant. Crisis intervention is sorely needed and being in the midst of this pandemic and have some funds that afford us the possibility of moving on this now and growing into it being a full time part of local response is a really helpful thing. We work especially with people that are homeless or semi-homeless and know the value of this sort of approach.

Ray Schultz, PSAP Director, 58266 Downey Ave.

I whole heartedly support this project. Especially now in time of COVID being so prevalent. The need for mental health resources has increased dramatically. I think this is an incredible next step building onto the Sheriffs plan. I think this project will greatly affect the majority of the citizens of St. Joseph County. Having someone in the 911 Center to help during a mental health crisis is an invaluable resource and is very forward thinking. There are very few 911 Centers in the country that operate at this level. I look forward to being a part of this project.

Sheriff Redman, 401 West Sample.

I whole heartedly support this program. We have started mental health talks before COVID 19. We implemented a mental health officer to work with our partners at Oaklawn and our jail to help people with a mental health crisis. I think this will expand on those services and partner with local services that will be very helpful to us, especially in law enforcement. One of my main goals as Sheriff is to help keep mental health patients out of our jails and getting the treatment they need.

Margaret Pfeil, representing Our Lady of the Road and Motels for Now.

I affirm what has been said. In our experience many people in crisis evoke a response on law enforcement that isn't necessary, and I think represents an extra burden for law enforcement. I really affirm the Sheriffs vision of treatment instead of incarceration.

Thank you for your time in investing in this matter. I would recommend this.

Dan Banicki, St. Joseph County Police Department, Mental Health Liaison.

I am behind this. Since I started my position, I have worked with Oaklawn and we have been trying to find more resources and this will get us to that step to further it. This is something our community needs. We can not incarcerate our way out of a mental health issue in our community.

Kimberley Green Reeves, Beacon Health Systems.

Our priority as a health system is on mental health and substance abuse. This is a wonderful opportunity. Again, like many have said, to focus on providing mental health services as well as anything we can do to address substance use in lieu of incarceration. Based on my understanding we are going to put an emphasis on communities of color. I want to highlight that it is great to hear and very much appreciated.

Mr. Kostielney. Seeing no more public comments this portion is closed.

I think this is a great step. I was in Sheriff Redman's conference room about two years ago talking about this very thing. About how we can adequately provide resources for an area that we know is of great need. I would like to move forward and provide this very vital service to everyone in St. Joseph County.

Mr. Dieter. Thank you to everyone that called in. this is very important to me for my 39 years of driving around South Bend and taking thousands of people to jail. I think this is a necessity for everyone in the field especially in the police department. You get tied up on issues where this is going to help the officers on the streets within the county and the City of South Bend and everybody else. I commend everybody and all the hard work being done. I think this is a very good thing for the community.

Dr. Fleming. I would again like to thank Corey for applying for this grant. I support this and am glad that we can move forward in the right direction.

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above resolution as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Mr. Dieter.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

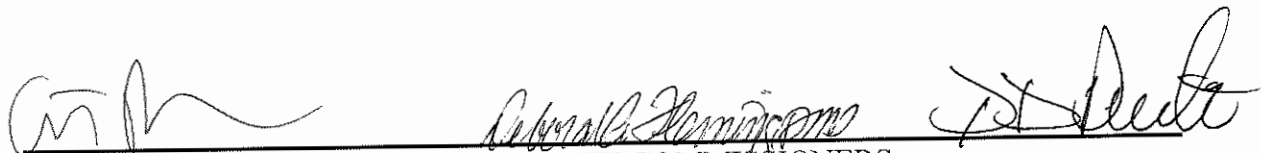
OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

NONE

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Mr. Kostielney asked for a motion to recess, Dr. Fleming so moved, seconded by Mr. Dieter. Meeting recessed by a 3-0 vote.


ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*Please refer to the St. Joseph County website for the full audio and visual of the St. Joseph County Commissioners meeting if needed.