

WEBVTT

00:00:06.113 --> 00:00:08.113

Um, enter something into the chat, or...

00:00:08.347 --> 00:00:10.347

um, raise your hand in Zoom.

00:00:10.349 --> 00:00:12.349

Um, and we will, you know,

00:00:12.504 --> 00:00:14.504

designate you to speak.

00:00:14.903 --> 00:00:22.903

Um, if you are an agency representative or others providing input, you may... you should be aware of the Illinois Lobbyist Registration Act

00:00:22.903 --> 00:00:25.975

And take appropriate steps to be in compliance if you're speaking.

00:00:26.392 --> 00:00:30.392

Um, I may limit individual time to 5 minutes and total time to 20 minutes.

00:00:31.318 --> 00:00:34.318

With that, is there anyone who would like to make public comment?

00:00:41.715 --> 00:00:47.715

I had failed to hit record on either the audio in the room or the Zoom, so just to recap,

00:00:48.302 --> 00:00:54.302

Um, President McLay called the meeting to order at 5.52. There's not a quorum.

00:00:54.002 --> 00:00:59.002

Those present are Elaine Palencia, Jane Sprandel, and Molly McLay, so...

00:00:59.457 --> 00:01:06.457

Then, Molly called for... we can't approve the agenda, but she called for agency input, or public participation, which is where we are now.

00:01:07.283 --> 00:01:10.283

Apologies for not turning on the hit record, it's...

00:01:10.283 --> 00:01:12.768

Sometimes escapes me at the top of the meeting.

00:01:14.415 --> 00:01:18.415

That is no problem. Thank you for summarizing it for the recording.

00:01:19.237 --> 00:01:23.237

So, back to public participation agency input, is there anyone who'd like to make

00:01:23.156 --> 00:01:25.156
comment.

00:01:35.059 --> 00:01:42.059
All right, there will be other... another time in the, um, discussion this evening for public comment, so we will move on.

00:01:42.060 --> 00:01:44.057
So next is Chairperson's comments.

00:01:44.375 --> 00:01:51.375
So, I'm Molly McLay, the Chair of the Champaign County Mental Health Board, and I'm excited to welcome everyone who's here to our

00:01:52.159 --> 00:01:58.159
Um, not formally, but, um, uh, planned study session that we will be conducting as planned.

00:01:58.780 --> 00:02:02.780
Um, we are very excited to hear some mid-year reports.

00:02:02.780 --> 00:02:06.772
Um, from some, um, of our programs, um,

00:02:07.232 --> 00:02:16.232
It'll... we will have kind of the, um, bulk of the evening will be led by Mr. Leon Bryson, so he'll introduce each of our speakers.

00:02:16.554 --> 00:02:18.554
Um, but very excited to...

00:02:19.208 --> 00:02:28.208
hear about these programs, you know, as condition of contracts in some cases, um, having these, um, presentations gives us a sense of,

00:02:27.861 --> 00:02:35.861
how things are going. Um, so we are excited for that, um, and thank you for coming in this very frigid weather.

00:02:36.448 --> 00:02:38.448
Uh, because it is not pleasant out.

00:02:38.470 --> 00:02:40.470
And that concludes my comments.

00:02:42.255 --> 00:02:46.255
So next, we will move to Associate Director Leon Bryson's comments.

00:02:46.361 --> 00:02:53.361
Thank you, Molly. Tonight, we will hear from two agencies that are doing really great work in our community.

00:02:54.311 --> 00:02:58.311

Thank you to both teams for sharing your PowerPoint materials.

00:02:59.402 --> 00:03:06.402

Ahead of time, uh, they are included in the board's packets. Um, we'll start with Joy Jones.

00:03:06.322 --> 00:03:12.322

Uh, from Family Service, who will talk with us about the Counseling Center's expanded counseling services.

00:03:16.622 --> 00:03:18.622

Joy, you're up first.

00:03:21.943 --> 00:03:26.943

Well, thank you for having me, and I'm very excited to share with you what we are doing at Family Service.

00:03:26.943 --> 00:03:29.490

Um, just our...

00:03:30.069 --> 00:03:32.069

Overview... oh, you can't see the whole thing.

00:03:32.277 --> 00:03:34.277

Um, okay.

00:03:37.058 --> 00:03:40.058

That's okay, I'll just... I'll go on with the overview.

00:03:40.410 --> 00:03:48.410

Um, the purpose of the counseling program is to improve and enhance the daily functioning of individuals and families

00:03:50.131 --> 00:03:57.131

By providing alternatives in order to reduce the distress caused by their issues, and to maximize opportunities for growth,

00:03:57.131 --> 00:04:02.487

To help with the understanding of personal and interpersonal problems, and to choose appropriate problem-solving techniques.

00:04:02.480 --> 00:04:04.480

So pretty much...

00:04:05.035 --> 00:04:09.035

We want to help people live their best lives.

00:04:11.486 --> 00:04:13.486

That's what counseling does. Um...

00:04:13.486 --> 00:04:17.358

And... getting... oh, is it possible to go to the very first slide?

00:04:21.979 --> 00:04:23.979

Yes, that went perfect. Um...

00:04:24.762 --> 00:04:31.762

And doing the research for this, I found out that we are just a few years away from providing counseling services and Champaign County

00:04:31.762 --> 00:04:37.916

for 100 years. Um, our counseling services started in 19...

00:04:37.917 --> 00:04:41.575

Teen 30. So, we are almost there. That's very exciting.

00:04:42.326 --> 00:04:47.326

Um, we accept many commercial insurances, and all Medicaid plans.

00:04:47.985 --> 00:04:50.985

We also accept private pay and have a sliding fee scale.

00:04:50.986 --> 00:04:58.227

Our goal is that there are no barriers to accessing mental health services.

00:04:58.227 --> 00:05:02.286

And unfortunately, finances typically are a barrier, um,

00:05:03.171 --> 00:05:06.171

And so we try to eliminate that as much as possible.

00:05:06.874 --> 00:05:13.874

Um, late in 2023, we began using the Counseling Center at Family Service

00:05:16.372 --> 00:05:22.372

Which is the logo that's up there, to differentiate us from the mental health

00:05:22.185 --> 00:05:27.185

to different... to help differentiate the mental health counseling that we offer at Family Service,

00:05:28.186 --> 00:05:32.186

From the counseling and Advocacy Program that the Senior Resource Center offers.

00:05:33.013 --> 00:05:35.013

Because I've been at Family Service for...

00:05:36.272 --> 00:05:39.272

Oh, about 7 years now, and...

00:05:39.018 --> 00:05:44.018

All the time, I hear people, oh, we didn't know you had mental health counseling there.

00:05:44.776 --> 00:05:49.776

Um, they always just assumed that what... everything that we did was for seniors, but no!

00:05:50.571 --> 00:05:55.571

counseling is for everybody age 5 on up through the ages.

00:05:55.572 --> 00:06:03.262

And so, we tried to do something to help differentiate ourselves,

00:06:03.263 --> 00:06:04.400

And so we are the counseling center at Family Service.

00:06:05.415 --> 00:06:09.415

Um, we have not really promoted that name, um, extensively.

00:06:09.920 --> 00:06:14.920

Because since that time, we have had difficulty recruiting and keeping therapists, um, par...

00:06:15.701 --> 00:06:17.701

primarily due to the salary that we could offer at that time.

00:06:19.123 --> 00:06:24.123

We chose to not extensively promote our services until we had quality services in place,

00:06:24.394 --> 00:06:29.394

We always had quality services, but just not a lot of them, because we couldn't keep our therapists.

00:06:30.132 --> 00:06:38.132

We are now at a point where we will be advertising extensively as soon as our newest therapist is fully credentialed, just halfway there.

00:06:40.064 --> 00:06:43.064

So, the services offered, now we can move on to the next slide.

00:06:42.976 --> 00:06:44.976

Um, we perf...

00:06:44.962 --> 00:06:49.962

provide trauma-informed, culturally competent mental health counseling to individuals,

00:06:50.440 --> 00:06:52.440

Couples and families.

00:06:53.652 --> 00:06:57.652

We provide therapy to individuals aged 8 on up to older adults.

00:06:57.652 --> 00:06:59.869

And the issues for which therapy prov...

00:07:01.500 --> 00:07:05.500

is provided, typically, are anger, stress management,

00:07:05.500 --> 00:07:07.550

Grief, depression, and anxiety disorders.

00:07:08.033 --> 00:07:14.033

Survivors of abuse, substance abuse, trauma, and marital issues, and that's just a few. I mean, the list...

00:07:14.033 --> 00:07:18.226

can go on. So we offer a lot of different things.

00:07:18.298 --> 00:07:20.298

Um...

00:07:22.225 --> 00:07:27.225

We now have a new Expressive Art Therapy Groups that we're offering.

00:07:27.224 --> 00:07:31.508

And, um, those are also going to be available to individual clients.

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So it's a group thing, but...

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um, individual clients.

00:07:37.962 --> 00:07:42.962

Um, who are interested in that and would benefit from that type of therapy can also access that.

00:07:42.962 --> 00:07:49.728

Um, we provide relationship assessments for all drug court clients who are going from Level 3 to level 4.

00:07:50.629 --> 00:07:59.629

Some drug court clients are referred to the counseling center at Family Service for a variety of issues, primarily trauma, relationship issues, grief, and anxiety.

00:07:59.627 --> 00:08:07.959

We also provide two different groups for Champaign County Drug Court clients, which are 12 weeks in length.

00:08:07.960 --> 00:08:10.286

They are learning healthy boundaries and seeking safety.

00:08:10.756 --> 00:08:12.756

Um...

00:08:14.484 --> 00:08:18.484

And results for 26 so far.

00:08:19.286 --> 00:08:24.286

With the Expressive Arts groups, 90% of participants that we've had so far

00:08:26.054 --> 00:08:30.054

We haven't had a lot yet, but 90% of the participants completed both a pre

00:08:30.053 --> 00:08:30.956

And a post-group survey.

00:08:31.364 --> 00:08:35.364

And 100% of the participants who completed both surveys

00:08:35.411 --> 00:08:39.411

indicated that participation in the group

00:08:39.497 --> 00:08:43.497

increased their feelings of connection to themselves and to others.

00:08:45.263 --> 00:08:48.263

100% also indicated that after the group,

00:08:48.262 --> 00:08:52.399

They had a clearer idea of what they needed for themselves for the holiday season.

00:08:52.794 --> 00:08:55.794

Because the focus of that one was self-care over the holidays.

00:08:56.898 --> 00:08:58.898

Um, for counseling,

00:08:59.411 --> 00:09:03.411

of the cases closed in fiscal year... in this fiscal year so far,

00:09:04.620 --> 00:09:10.620

63% of goals were met, and 37% of goals had progress made on them.

00:09:10.619 --> 00:09:15.797

The open cases that we have currently, no one has met any goals, but 100% of the clients

00:09:15.797 --> 00:09:20.285

Um, who have had their treatment plan reviewed have made progress on their goals.

00:09:22.123 --> 00:09:28.123

And we use, um, two different, um, rating scales. One of them is an...

00:09:28.123 --> 00:09:29.289

A self-report rating scale,

00:09:29.946 --> 00:09:32.946

The, um, outcome rating scale is a self-reporting one.

00:09:32.946 --> 00:09:38.356

So the client does that, and um... 100% of the people who

00:09:38.841 --> 00:09:41.841

um, have taken that, which everybody does,

00:09:42.374 --> 00:09:44.374

reported improvement in their functioning.

00:09:46.911 --> 00:09:53.911

Um, two clients who we no longer see reached the benchmark score of 35 to 40, so they have

00:09:53.912 --> 00:09:55.429

finished their therapy with us for now.

00:09:56.078 --> 00:10:03.078

Um, and for clients who have had a treatment plan review, 100% reported some improvement in their functioning.

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Um, and we also use...

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Another, um, assessment tool which the therapist uses

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And 100% of the clients, um, saw an increase in their score.

00:10:15.704 --> 00:10:17.704

So, we're very happy with that.

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And now for our highlights and accomplishments.

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Um, after cleaning surveys to determine the interest in expressive arts groups,

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We were able to have the first group in December, and beginning January 15, we are holding one group each week.

00:10:37.201 --> 00:10:41.091

currently, the group is on Thursday evenings, just for continuity, for people to get used to it.

00:10:41.092 --> 00:10:44.495

In a few months, we're going to be moving the day and time.

00:10:44.889 --> 00:10:48.889

based on the needs of the group and the therapist. And the group is different.

00:10:50.731 --> 00:10:55.731

Um, it all depends upon what the focus of the group is, who wants to come.

00:10:55.730 --> 00:11:03.006

Um, so we're doing a lot of, um, networking and advertising and trying to get the word out there about what it is that we're offering, and I...

00:11:03.007 --> 00:11:05.376

Have some for all of you.

00:11:06.362 --> 00:11:08.362

So that you know exactly what we're offering there.

00:11:09.539 --> 00:11:15.539

Um, we currently have groups right now that are going on for Envisioning the Year.

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Grieving the loss of a loved one, and self-love.

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Um, we're collaborating with the Community Learning Lab at the University of Illinois.

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Um, to cross-promote each other's expressive arts activities.

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In March and April, the groups will be on Friday morning.

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Except the second week of the month, then it will be on Thursday evening.

00:11:37.476 --> 00:11:42.009

And March is going to focus on mindfulness, and April will focus on renewal and rejuvenation.

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Another highlight and accomplishment is hiring a clinical supervisor.

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Um, it was a long and frustrating process.

00:11:50.671 --> 00:11:57.670

Our last clinical supervisor stated that while she enjoyed working at Family Service,

00:11:57.670 --> 00:12:01.073

She was offered a position with fewer hours and more money that she felt she couldn't pass up.

00:12:02.566 --> 00:12:08.566

Um, so when we received an increase in our grant from Champaign County Mental Health Board for compensation for therapists,

00:12:08.566 --> 00:12:11.562

That helped in the recruiting process.

00:12:12.660 --> 00:12:16.660

But even then, it took time to find a qualified candidate.

00:12:16.659 --> 00:12:21.063

Now, we have that qualified candidate, Carissa Yu started in December.

00:12:21.733 --> 00:12:24.733

And, um, yeah, we're very excited about that.

00:12:25.465 --> 00:12:34.465

Um, we will soon be working at having the Counseling Center at Family Service become a highly visible and recognized mental health provider in Champaign County.

00:12:37.750 --> 00:12:39.750

And client satisfaction.

00:12:40.901 --> 00:12:45.901

100% of current clients who completed a survey strongly agree or agree

00:12:45.902 --> 00:12:49.398

that they are satisfied with the clinical care provided by their therapist.

00:12:50.546 --> 00:12:54.546

They feel their therapist collaborates with them regarding their therapy, and they feel helped.

00:12:56.133 --> 00:13:02.133

The Expressive Arts Group participants have expressed appreciation for the group and are very satisfied with that group also.

00:13:02.133 --> 00:13:05.768

And on the screen are just some of the comments that we received.

00:13:05.878 --> 00:13:07.878

Um...

00:13:07.879 --> 00:13:09.818

in the surveys?

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Unfortunately, we also have obstacles and constraints.

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Um, the majority of our clients are Medicaid clients,

00:13:21.597 --> 00:13:22.891
Um, or have no insurance at all.

00:13:22.892 --> 00:13:31.060
at least one Medicaid payer reimburses at or close to 100%, which is amazing. Unfortunately, we don't have many of those clients.

00:13:31.719 --> 00:13:36.719
Um, at least one Medicaid payer reimburses at about 50% of the session rate.

00:13:36.720 --> 00:13:44.239
Yes, that is true. The others are somewhere in between, but can be inconsistent in the reimbursements.

00:13:44.238 --> 00:13:53.070
Since hiring an outside agency, we have seen our reimbursement rates increase above those from when we had in-house billing, so we're very happy with that.

00:13:53.227 --> 00:13:55.227
Um...

00:13:56.033 --> 00:13:59.033
Hiring a therapist has also been an obstacle.

00:13:59.033 --> 00:14:06.192
Um, but we are confident that with our new identity as the Counseling Center at Family Service,

00:14:06.192 --> 00:14:10.882
And with the new services being offered, we will have greater name recognition, which aids in hiring.

00:14:10.882 --> 00:14:18.436
Also, once we're able to have mental health interns, that too helps with a positive reputation and name recognition.

00:14:20.656 --> 00:14:25.656
Another constraint for the counseling center at Family Service is we're hoping once

00:14:25.656 --> 00:14:30.266
Um, we get to capacity that we'll have to hire a part-time...

00:14:30.266 --> 00:14:33.153
Therapist, um, our building,

00:14:33.994 --> 00:14:38.994
just doesn't have the availability of counseling spaces currently,

00:14:38.994 --> 00:14:44.809

And so we're just gonna have to be very creative to find or build trauma-informed spaces

00:14:44.808 --> 00:14:47.356

that are conducive to individual and group therapy sessions.

00:14:49.076 --> 00:14:55.076

Um, credentialing new therapists, unfortunately, has been a long and expensive journey.

00:14:55.759 --> 00:15:00.759

Our new clinical supervisor began working for us... oh, actually, she started in early November, I forgot.

00:15:00.760 --> 00:15:08.555

And we began the credentialing process soon after, and we're still waiting to hear back from almost 50% of the insurance companies

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For which family service is a network.

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Our future objectives...

00:15:13.784 --> 00:15:17.686

is to be able to begin individual art therapy.

00:15:17.686 --> 00:15:28.415

Um, our new, um, clinical supervisor is looking into being trained in EMDR therapy, which is eye movement desensitization,

00:15:28.415 --> 00:15:29.665

and reprocessing, um...

00:15:31.014 --> 00:15:37.014

And we're hoping to actually add some group therapy at our build... our current building.

00:15:37.013 --> 00:15:43.771

Um, which I have wanted to do for a while, but we're getting to that point, so I'm very excited about that.

00:15:43.772 --> 00:15:51.444

Um, another future objective is to become a Medicare provider. We're gonna start doing that next month.

00:15:51.709 --> 00:15:55.709

Um, and eventually to hire another part-time therapist.

00:15:55.709 --> 00:16:02.574

We also, um, have been contacted about, um, having counseling interns, so that

00:16:02.574 --> 00:16:04.710

Just recently happened, so it's not on the...

00:16:04.711 --> 00:16:12.040

The list, and another thing that is very exciting, um,

00:16:12.039 --> 00:16:15.882

is offering expressive arts in the Champaign County Jail.

00:16:15.882 --> 00:16:23.076

Um, Captain Bogus was very interested in that, and so we have been contacted by Celeste, um..

00:16:23.679 --> 00:16:26.679

Blodgett, who is the program coordinator for the Champaign County Jail,

00:16:26.679 --> 00:16:33.069

And we're gonna work and see if we can provide expressive arts therapies in the jail.

00:16:33.070 --> 00:16:36.917

So, that is something we are extremely excited about, and can only do

00:16:37.451 --> 00:16:41.451

Because of Champaign County Mental Health Board, so we really thank you for that.

00:16:43.055 --> 00:16:46.055

Um, additional funding prospects.

00:16:48.169 --> 00:16:53.169

Our, um, Medicare reimbursement in the future, when we can accept Medicare.

00:16:53.169 --> 00:16:58.383

Increased Medicaid reimbursement, our, um, outside agency that does our billing,

00:16:58.410 --> 00:17:01.410

continues to work at, um..

00:17:01.708 --> 00:17:03.708

getting the... the...

00:17:04.288 --> 00:17:08.288

most reimbursement possible, so, um, we're hoping to be able to get

00:17:09.499 --> 00:17:12.499

increased Medicaid reimbursement.

00:17:12.500 --> 00:17:17.767

increased insurance reimbursement altogether, too, and, um, eventually get, um,

00:17:17.767 --> 00:17:22.787

reimbursement for relationship assessments that we do for the drug court.

00:17:23.298 --> 00:17:26.298

Um, and then...

00:17:27.036 --> 00:17:30.036

Um, yeah, so that is what I have.

00:17:32.038 --> 00:17:34.038

And I want to share with you...

00:17:34.038 --> 00:17:35.934

that, um, next week, Friday,

00:17:36.808 --> 00:17:39.808

We, um... this is actually from the Self-Help Center, though.

00:17:39.808 --> 00:17:44.622

Oh, yeah, thank you for your support, which allows us to offer affordable mental health counseling.

00:17:44.621 --> 00:17:49.716

and Expressive Arts Therapy to everyone. And the Expressive Arts Therapy is just...

00:17:51.807 --> 00:17:55.807

really taking off, and it's so exciting, and we have a workshop

00:17:55.808 --> 00:17:58.290

Um, on next week, Friday.

00:17:59.221 --> 00:18:04.221

in City View, and the speakers are Julie Schubach and Joe Omo Osagie.

00:18:05.019 --> 00:18:09.019

And, um, actually, they're more than speakers, because it is an interactive...

00:18:10.116 --> 00:18:12.116

Expressive Arts Workshop.

00:18:12.116 --> 00:18:18.039

And everyone is invited, you don't have to be a professional, just anyone interested in, um,

00:18:18.763 --> 00:18:21.763

different ways to promote positive mental health.

00:18:21.763 --> 00:18:24.700

And so I have some, um...

00:18:25.548 --> 00:18:29.548

Flyers about that, and I also have some flyers about our current...

00:18:29.452 --> 00:18:31.452

Um,

00:18:33.891 --> 00:18:37.891

Expressive arts groups that we have going on, and I will bring those up to you.

00:18:37.891 --> 00:18:40.457

Do you have electronic versions of them?

00:18:40.491 --> 00:18:43.491

Oh, could you send those to me? Can I do that?

00:18:43.914 --> 00:18:45.914

Absolutely, thank you! Okay.

00:19:07.836 --> 00:19:12.836

I have a couple questions. Do you have a waiting list for Counseling?

00:19:15.230 --> 00:19:17.230

Well, that's good.

00:19:17.230 --> 00:19:23.795

Um, and also, when you say expressive arts, do you mean the plastic arts, not, not like writing, or...?

00:19:23.795 --> 00:19:27.098

Or do you mean that all arts? Because...

00:19:27.867 --> 00:19:30.867

Pretty much all arts. We do, um... let me get to the microphone. Okay.

00:19:40.059 --> 00:19:47.059

The, um, with the Expressive Arts groups that we've had so far, um, we have done a little bit of writing at the very beginning.

00:19:47.059 --> 00:19:50.811

Um, but if somebody is not interested in doing the writing, they can just think about it, um...

00:19:51.872 --> 00:19:53.872

And then we move on to...

00:19:53.871 --> 00:20:09.379

Uh, we're going to be doing something with clay next week. We've done things, um, collages, and just a wide variety of things, and we're gonna definitely be increasing the number and types of things that we do.

00:20:09.379 --> 00:20:13.727

Okay, and I just have one more question. You said, um, it's very impressive that clients who

00:20:14.165 --> 00:20:18.165

complete the surveys, have 100%, you know, they've...

00:20:18.165 --> 00:20:19.862

They've been helped, but...

00:20:22.048 --> 00:20:27.048

Do you have people who don't complete the survey? Yes. Yeah, so...

00:20:27.049 --> 00:20:32.068

And I know for a fact that there have been a few clients from Drug Court who have been

00:20:32.068 --> 00:20:35.338

Um, refer to us, and they just did not

00:20:36.102 --> 00:20:42.102

connect with their therapist, and so they were given other options. Because we know that

00:20:43.442 --> 00:20:48.442

not every client and not every therapist are going to connect, and that's okay. Yeah.

00:20:48.442 --> 00:20:51.650

Um, but we definitely want to be able to have other options for them, and so we...

00:20:51.650 --> 00:20:54.539

have, um, other places where they can go.

00:20:54.353 --> 00:20:56.353

Okay, thank you. Yeah.

00:20:58.740 --> 00:21:00.740

Any other questions or comments?

00:21:04.030 --> 00:21:09.030

Um, I had a couple of questions. Um, so how many therapists do you currently have?

00:21:09.029 --> 00:21:09.814

We have one full-time and one part-time.

00:21:09.815 --> 00:21:14.180

Okay, and ideally, how many would you like to have?

00:21:14.168 --> 00:21:16.168

as many as what?

00:21:16.398 --> 00:21:19.398

are needed for the community. Yeah.

00:21:20.184 --> 00:21:25.184

Which we obviously know the need is great. Yes.

00:21:26.798 --> 00:21:31.798

So the, like, envisioning the year and these, like, um,

00:21:31.798 --> 00:21:32.947

Is there a cost for people to attend these?

00:21:33.470 --> 00:21:35.470

No, um, we...

00:21:38.083 --> 00:21:43.083

Um... I don't even remember how it's phrased, but we... we request 5...

00:21:43.083 --> 00:21:52.902

Potentially a \$5 donation just to help with, um, the supplies, but if somebody chooses not to,

00:21:52.903 --> 00:21:56.305

That's fine. No, that's... that's wonderful. Thank you so much. Yeah.

00:21:58.374 --> 00:22:05.374

Um, I... let me think of what my... my question was. Um, I guess I have a couple questions. So, one, I noticed you said you have a...

00:22:06.634 --> 00:22:11.634

full-time therapist, and then a part-time, and you want to hire another part-time. Is there a reason for...

00:22:11.633 --> 00:22:16.037

like, one... like, two part-time versus one full-time, because I know sometimes a full-time position is

00:22:16.037 --> 00:22:18.353

more attractive to some candidates.

00:22:19.251 --> 00:22:26.251

True. Um, but the part-time person that is there now has been there for quite a while, and is very interested in staying part-time.

00:22:27.868 --> 00:22:29.868

Okay, that makes sense. Um...

00:22:31.945 --> 00:22:36.945

Let me think. So, I was also... this is... I'm a private practice therapist myself.

00:22:36.945 --> 00:22:41.951

Um, and I was very curious about this whole kind of reimbursement thing, and, like, the fact that, um,

00:22:42.916 --> 00:22:49.916

I'm very aware of the wide array of reimbursements that can be given for therapy.

00:22:49.916 --> 00:22:51.698

from various payers.

00:22:53.537 --> 00:22:55.537
Um, which I cannot speak about.

00:22:56.971 --> 00:23:02.971
But I was curious about how, um, working with this outside, um, facility, um,

00:23:02.970 --> 00:23:08.642
How is that helping, um, how has that increased your rates specifically?

00:23:11.296 --> 00:23:19.296
Um, they just have a greater knowledge of billing procedures and codes to use and things like that, and so...

00:23:19.294 --> 00:23:20.945
they had a much better knowledge than what we

00:23:21.259 --> 00:23:23.259
in-house had.

00:23:25.068 --> 00:23:32.068
That definitely, um, makes sense for sure. And, um, was definitely excited to hear about the

00:23:32.069 --> 00:23:38.902
workshop coming up, because I know that Julie Schubach has spoken with the board before.

00:23:38.902 --> 00:23:42.894
And, uh, Joe Omo Osagie was a previously member of our board, so...

00:23:42.894 --> 00:23:44.773
I've been seeing, um...

00:23:45.443 --> 00:23:51.443
advertisements on social media about the workshop, too, so I'm glad to see that the word is getting out about it as well.

00:23:52.825 --> 00:23:55.825
Um, are there any other questions or comments from the board?

00:23:59.141 --> 00:24:03.141
I have a question. Yes, yes, I was gonna say, or step. Steph, thank you.

00:24:03.141 --> 00:24:15.404
Sit next to Leon and me. Sure. Okay. So, so, Joy, you may have answered this question, but, um, I think you mentioned that, uh, Carissa, you started in November, and the group began in December, maybe?

00:24:17.666 --> 00:24:23.666
Expressive art. Oh, the expressive arts are run by Julie Schubach and Rhonda Daniels.

00:24:23.666 --> 00:24:27.560

And would... I forget the number, how many, uh, participants

00:24:28.662 --> 00:24:30.662

Individuals did you have in that, would you say, in that group?

00:24:30.682 --> 00:24:37.682

Or what's the cap? I mean, Expressive Arts Group, currently there is no cap. Um, we, in the first one, we had..

00:24:40.089 --> 00:24:43.089

4, and since then,

00:24:43.088 --> 00:24:46.830

The weather's been terrible, unfortunately, and so the second one we had,

00:24:46.853 --> 00:24:49.853

two... two people didn't show up.

00:24:50.268 --> 00:24:52.268

Um, and...

00:24:53.581 --> 00:24:55.581

The third one we had...

00:24:56.727 --> 00:25:03.727

3 and 2 people, once again, didn't show up, but there were different people, because different people were registered for the different groups.

00:25:03.727 --> 00:25:04.779

Gotcha, thanks. Yep.

00:25:07.096 --> 00:25:10.096

Any other questions from the board or staff?

00:25:17.427 --> 00:25:20.427

All right, well, thank you very much for your presentation. We enjoyed it.

00:25:21.048 --> 00:25:23.048

Thank you.

00:25:30.882 --> 00:25:33.882

Up next, we will hear from

00:25:33.884 --> 00:25:38.630

Tracy Parsons, from the City of Champaign.

00:25:38.629 --> 00:25:41.888

And Amy Brown from the Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club.

00:25:41.889 --> 00:25:43.902

who will give us an update on...

00:25:43.834 --> 00:25:47.834
Program year 25, Community Coalition Summer.

00:25:50.451 --> 00:25:53.451
youth initiatives. So, without further ado, take it away.

00:25:56.664 --> 00:26:01.664
Thank you. Actually, I think Tracy's starting, right? About starting, okay, cool. Okay.

00:26:01.664 --> 00:26:04.973
Well, um, once again, thank you so much.

00:26:05.404 --> 00:26:08.404
Uh, for the opportunity to come and share with you

00:26:09.429 --> 00:26:13.429
Uh, about the summer initiatives that we've been doing for a number of years now.

00:26:13.867 --> 00:26:15.867
Um, it is...

00:26:16.046 --> 00:26:18.046
really one of the more impactful...

00:26:19.048 --> 00:26:23.048
initiative that we have through our community coalition.

00:26:22.997 --> 00:26:24.997
So I think I have a couple of new...

00:26:25.809 --> 00:26:27.809
board members, is that correct, that we have?

00:26:29.132 --> 00:26:31.132
No? Okay, so everyone's familiar with the Coalition, and...

00:26:31.735 --> 00:26:34.735
Okay, great, thank you. So, um...

00:26:35.715 --> 00:26:39.715
Also, just thank you to the Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club.

00:26:40.402 --> 00:26:42.402
for just providing the...

00:26:42.745 --> 00:26:44.745
support, guidance,

00:26:44.745 --> 00:26:46.624
The infrastructure...

00:26:46.624 --> 00:26:50.495

to allow us to do this in a really meaningful way.

00:26:50.774 --> 00:26:53.774

And... put in place...

00:26:53.972 --> 00:26:55.972

Uh, structure...

00:26:56.013 --> 00:27:01.013

Because many of the individuals and organizations that we work with are non-traditional.

00:27:02.058 --> 00:27:06.058

So while the club, as everyone knows and has the infrastructure, a lot of the projects we do

00:27:06.979 --> 00:27:09.979

are with smaller organizations and individuals who

00:27:11.158 --> 00:27:16.158

need the support, infrastructure, and the guidance on just operational things, and

00:27:16.942 --> 00:27:18.942

accountability for the money and all those things, so...

00:27:19.848 --> 00:27:21.848

Uh, without the club, this could not happen, and...

00:27:22.683 --> 00:27:24.683

Amy and Monica are just tremendous.

00:27:24.683 --> 00:27:30.846

So tonight, what we're gonna do is, uh, go through our presentation. Amy will talk a little bit about the...

00:27:31.330 --> 00:27:35.330

structure. I'll talk about some of the initiatives and just some of the really...

00:27:36.148 --> 00:27:38.148

Exciting work. Um...

00:27:38.778 --> 00:27:43.778

For the first time, I think I had a chance to visit each one of the initiatives.

00:27:44.233 --> 00:27:48.233

Last summer. And so the document won't do justice.

00:27:48.068 --> 00:27:53.068

To what it's like to walk in and see the kids and the families and the community members and...

00:27:53.502 --> 00:27:55.502
all the different things that we're doing.

00:27:56.342 --> 00:27:58.342
coming together, right? And...

00:27:58.605 --> 00:28:03.605
really looking at how we can help and make mental health and mental health supports.

00:28:04.178 --> 00:28:06.178
important across the board, so...

00:28:07.193 --> 00:28:12.193
Now I turn it back to Amy. Yeah, well, thank you. It has been a journey, and...

00:28:12.693 --> 00:28:18.693
Tracy and myself, and especially Monica Miles, she's our Chief Operating Officer and truly the

00:28:18.694 --> 00:28:21.497
the mother hen of all of... all of this.

00:28:22.175 --> 00:28:28.175
And, uh, we have very much focused on that infrastructure piece, which...

00:28:28.566 --> 00:28:32.566
allows all of us to feel peaceful about things like

00:28:32.568 --> 00:28:36.982
comprehensive background checks, and training that

00:28:37.949 --> 00:28:39.949
everyone, uh, has training on

00:28:40.061 --> 00:28:43.061
sexual harassment and, um...

00:28:43.917 --> 00:28:45.917
Background checks, trauma-informed care,

00:28:47.134 --> 00:28:51.134
And all that structure is quite a surprise to...

00:28:51.009 --> 00:28:53.009
Our grassroots organizations.

00:28:53.841 --> 00:28:58.841
It was very hard. Last year was the first year that we really began implementing all of this.

00:29:00.110 --> 00:29:09.110

This is our second year, and what we decided to do was just follow the rules of the Boys and Girls Club of America as far as the specific trainings.

00:29:09.111 --> 00:29:14.924

And that's gone pretty well, so every single person that has contact with our youth,

00:29:16.278 --> 00:29:18.278

do have these... all of these

00:29:18.431 --> 00:29:26.431

trainings and background checks. There's about 4 hours of training that every single person has to take. They can go online and do that.

00:29:26.949 --> 00:29:32.949

Some are okay doing that, we can tell who took it, how long they spent on the training, all those kind of things.

00:29:32.949 --> 00:29:39.433

Um, everybody tries to figure out, I do too, how to race through that stuff, but, um, it's impossible to do that.

00:29:40.680 --> 00:29:44.680

And, uh, I think what's even more beautiful is

00:29:45.212 --> 00:29:49.212

the... the leaders in these organizations that...

00:29:49.817 --> 00:29:55.817

really just can't figure out how to get online, and they come in, and we sit down with them, we set them up, and...

00:29:56.115 --> 00:30:03.115

a space at the Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club, and help them click through all the things they need to so they get registered.

00:30:03.922 --> 00:30:10.922

I think that just truly is evidence of how grassroots this is, and how impactful it is to

00:30:10.921 --> 00:30:12.581

have people that...

00:30:12.924 --> 00:30:14.924

are super creative.

00:30:15.556 --> 00:30:22.556

And have these great ideas of how to reach particular groups of persons, and can do that.

00:30:23.859 --> 00:30:28.859

With really following protocols that nowadays we know that we can't skip over.

00:30:31.480 --> 00:30:33.480

So, yes, I say to...

00:30:34.094 --> 00:30:42.094

All of our partners, I have to do it at the city as well, right? So it's not... I mean, it's really just part of the nature and the world that we work in today that...

00:30:42.553 --> 00:30:46.553

We have to provide these tools and protections and inform

00:30:46.764 --> 00:30:48.764

Uh, across...

00:30:49.816 --> 00:30:51.816

communities. And so, um,

00:30:51.973 --> 00:30:59.973

I'm gonna kind of go through and just do a quick on some of the initiatives. I kind of jumped in, did I? Yeah, no, you're... that's great.

00:31:00.277 --> 00:31:03.277

So, we had 12 initiatives, uh, again, if...

00:31:03.673 --> 00:31:06.673

I'm gonna go through a couple slides, and...

00:31:07.687 --> 00:31:09.687

Get us to, um...

00:31:09.687 --> 00:31:11.960

That's what she said.

00:31:12.134 --> 00:31:17.134

Yeah. So, this is a project, um, that's what she said is...

00:31:18.212 --> 00:31:21.212

world-renowned across the country now, with...

00:31:21.744 --> 00:31:23.744

They're doing with Women Voice,

00:31:23.746 --> 00:31:29.116

And, um, I think we have coming up pretty soon the loco, that's what she said.

00:31:29.666 --> 00:31:31.666

event that takes place.

00:31:32.443 --> 00:31:36.443

But what we're doing with high school, middle and high school age girls...

00:31:36.456 --> 00:31:40.456

is just phenomenal. So I had a chance to go to a couple of their sessions.

00:31:40.972 --> 00:31:43.972

And see girls talking about

00:31:44.425 --> 00:31:47.425

self-esteem and confidence, and leadership.

00:31:48.534 --> 00:31:53.534

And, uh, well, Jeanette, again, does is she brings in a college-age student to run the...

00:31:54.200 --> 00:31:58.200

sessions, and just to hear the girls talk about...

00:31:58.601 --> 00:32:03.601

challenges and themselves, and what they're finding out.

00:32:03.601 --> 00:32:05.502

They go on tours,

00:32:06.675 --> 00:32:08.675

Um, and it's just a really phenomenal...

00:32:08.676 --> 00:32:10.987

phenomenal, uh, program that we do.

00:32:12.940 --> 00:32:14.940

or I think it was about 10 or 12 girls.

00:32:14.939 --> 00:32:17.025

Very diverse group of girls.

00:32:17.037 --> 00:32:19.037

And, uh, just...

00:32:19.095 --> 00:32:21.095

Again, like I said, it just really...

00:32:21.827 --> 00:32:24.827

makes me proud as a community what we're doing to...

00:32:25.441 --> 00:32:27.441

inform and promote and encourage

00:32:28.363 --> 00:32:32.363

girls and their self-esteem and their confidence, and thinking about their futures.

00:32:33.102 --> 00:32:36.102

It is a great, great experience, so...

00:32:35.827 --> 00:32:37.827

Next slide, please.

00:32:41.933 --> 00:32:47.933

Just an ex... just as another picture of some of the sessions, and...

00:32:48.684 --> 00:32:50.684

Uh, things that they... that they do.

00:32:52.746 --> 00:32:56.746

And I will say that Jeanette started doing these sessions with the girls,

00:32:56.746 --> 00:32:59.333

through our support from the Mental Health Board, so...

00:32:59.802 --> 00:33:02.802

She didn't do this for middle and high school girls.

00:33:02.802 --> 00:33:05.654

Until we partnered and support them in this work.

00:33:06.102 --> 00:33:08.102

Next, next slide, please.

00:33:10.111 --> 00:33:12.111

One more, I think.

00:33:12.537 --> 00:33:14.537

One more.

00:33:15.261 --> 00:33:20.261

Yeah, there we go. Uh, no, no, uh, you just went past Reverend Comer and...

00:33:21.372 --> 00:33:25.372

the Central Illinois Youth for Christ, this is Reverend Comer, who does this...

00:33:25.854 --> 00:33:29.854

unbelievable work in the community, uh, as it relates to... he has a...

00:33:29.842 --> 00:33:34.842

uniquely special, uh, midnight basketball initiative.

00:33:35.214 --> 00:33:37.214

Each Friday has about, uh,

00:33:37.227 --> 00:33:39.227

130 to a hundred and...

00:33:39.801 --> 00:33:44.801

50, uh, middle school and high school youth, and two different gyms.

00:33:46.152 --> 00:33:51.152

And, uh, and then he's in the schools, each one of the middle schools,

00:33:51.538 --> 00:33:55.538

Uh, and high schools throughout, one day per week.

00:33:56.690 --> 00:34:00.690

But what we support through our initiative is a summer, he calls it a campference.

00:34:01.556 --> 00:34:03.556

So, we have, uh, street,

00:34:04.238 --> 00:34:09.238

Open basketball, and this is a place where he's bringing kids in, and families in.

00:34:08.916 --> 00:34:12.916

Uh, for a week of, uh, athletics and..

00:34:13.660 --> 00:34:15.660

conversation, and food,

00:34:15.659 --> 00:34:23.723

and fellowship and a couple of the neighborhoods where we need more engagement for our young people in the Garden Hills area.

00:34:24.112 --> 00:34:28.112

And then we've added out here in the, um...

00:34:29.566 --> 00:34:36.566

right around Brookings. I'm thinking we're still at Brookings Lynn, but in that neighborhood, right over there in the Learman area in Irana.

00:34:37.407 --> 00:34:40.407

So, the kids play for a week, and then they...

00:34:40.423 --> 00:34:42.423

put together teams.

00:34:42.570 --> 00:34:47.570

And then, so the last couple of years, it's been really fun. So we have what we call the Mayor's

00:34:48.140 --> 00:34:51.140

tournament, so the top team in Champaign,

00:34:51.256 --> 00:34:53.256

plays against the top team.

00:34:53.556 --> 00:34:59.556

Uh, in Urbana, and the mayor's come out, and, you know, so we have a traveling trophy.

00:35:00.101 --> 00:35:03.101

That's going back and forth, so it's become a really fun...

00:35:04.183 --> 00:35:06.183
week of activities, and again,

00:35:07.231 --> 00:35:10.231
This doesn't happen without the support of the Mental Health Board.

00:35:10.025 --> 00:35:12.025
Next, please.

00:35:15.702 --> 00:35:20.702
Uh, Girls Inc. is, um, an initiative working with...

00:35:20.702 --> 00:35:22.787
Uh, 6 through 12.

00:35:22.996 --> 00:35:27.996
grade students. Um, this is doing everything, again, from

00:35:28.311 --> 00:35:34.311
Uh, the Girls Inc. designation, or title, is a little misgiving, because they do serve boys now.

00:35:35.140 --> 00:35:38.140
But they do everything from academic achievement,

00:35:38.290 --> 00:35:42.290
Uh, again, self-esteem, confidence, training.

00:35:42.473 --> 00:35:44.473
For the older kids, they go on...

00:35:44.870 --> 00:35:46.870
camp, uh, campus visits.

00:35:48.121 --> 00:35:53.121
And so, I had a chance to go to their end-of-the-year celebration at Champaign Library

00:35:54.649 --> 00:35:57.649
And it was just magnificent to see families and kids, and...

00:35:58.447 --> 00:36:05.447
the students being recognized for their achievements and academic improvements, and again, just...

00:36:05.879 --> 00:36:10.879
This is one of our anchor initiatives that we've been funding each year, and it's just...

00:36:11.040 --> 00:36:13.040
grown tremendously in doing...

00:36:14.055 --> 00:36:18.055
great work, so we're great to... I'm pleased to share this group with you.

00:36:21.695 --> 00:36:24.695
A new initiative we did last year. This was...

00:36:25.529 --> 00:36:28.529
I had a chance to meet Dr. Joy, uh...

00:36:29.074 --> 00:36:34.074
Uh, Yang, uh, University of Illinois, uh, professor in the School of Music.

00:36:34.461 --> 00:36:38.461
And she created, again, this was the first time...

00:36:38.900 --> 00:36:41.900
initiative to work with kids around

00:36:42.056 --> 00:36:44.056
uh, performance,

00:36:45.216 --> 00:36:48.216
instruments, art,

00:36:48.964 --> 00:36:50.964
Poetry, spoken word,

00:36:51.079 --> 00:36:54.079
And then I had a chance to end, uh, they had a...

00:36:54.501 --> 00:36:59.501
At the Orphan theater, a, um, end-of-the-year program where the kids performed,

00:37:00.499 --> 00:37:03.499
They came together and performed something together.

00:37:04.101 --> 00:37:07.101
Again, just a tremendous, tremendous...

00:37:07.341 --> 00:37:10.341
initiative that we did for the first time last summer.

00:37:12.850 --> 00:37:14.850
Next slide, please, Lynn. Thank you.

00:37:19.036 --> 00:37:23.036
Um, this was the second year we were able to work with A Cry For You.

00:37:23.881 --> 00:37:26.881
Cry for You is an entity made up of, uh,

00:37:28.152 --> 00:37:31.152

Family members, primarily, moms and grandmas.

00:37:31.908 --> 00:37:33.908
and caregivers who have lost

00:37:34.774 --> 00:37:37.774
their children and loved ones to gun violence.

00:37:38.253 --> 00:37:41.253
And we've worked for years, almost since...

00:37:41.257 --> 00:37:43.257
the beginning of our...

00:37:45.068 --> 00:37:48.068
work to address our community gun violence challenges and issues.

00:37:48.667 --> 00:37:51.667
to find supports for the moms, and...

00:37:51.665 --> 00:37:55.555
The challenge we initially had is that it was all so fresh.

00:37:56.686 --> 00:37:58.686
So, each time you're bringing the moms together,

00:37:58.686 --> 00:38:02.267
triggering them and re-traumatizing them.

00:38:02.703 --> 00:38:07.703
Um, but Bonnie Miller, uh, who lost her son a few years earlier,

00:38:07.703 --> 00:38:10.454
has taken on the leadership of this.

00:38:11.374 --> 00:38:15.374
initiative, so they meet weekly, support groups, counseling,

00:38:15.365 --> 00:38:20.365
Uh, just doing tremendous support work for, again, family members going through

00:38:20.709 --> 00:38:22.709
unbelievable trauma.

00:38:22.710 --> 00:38:24.711
And at the end of the...

00:38:25.221 --> 00:38:27.221
summer, uh...

00:38:27.365 --> 00:38:31.365
We have a community-based or community-wide, um,

00:38:32.031 --> 00:38:36.031

celebration of their family members that they've lost.

00:38:36.688 --> 00:38:39.688

So we fund and pay for the banquet.

00:38:40.829 --> 00:38:42.829

Through our summer initiatives, and again, it's...

00:38:43.074 --> 00:38:45.074

You know, tremendous turnout.

00:38:45.850 --> 00:38:49.850

unbelievable, uh, opportunity for family members to recognize

00:38:50.255 --> 00:38:56.255

And again, when you... when you think about street-level gun violence and folks losing their kids,

00:38:56.106 --> 00:38:58.106

There can be some lack of...

00:38:58.599 --> 00:39:03.599

compassion for that, right? If your kids worth it, right, you know, you get that kind of thing, but...

00:39:04.083 --> 00:39:11.083

To be able to have some intentional focus and support for this group has just been some of the best work we've been able to do.

00:39:11.726 --> 00:39:16.726

And I see the moms all the time, they come to coalition meetings regularly.

00:39:16.726 --> 00:39:19.135

So, thank you, board, for just...

00:39:19.642 --> 00:39:24.642

To support, to be able to do this, right? I had to keep myself composed, because it just...

00:39:25.037 --> 00:39:28.037

It's been difficult for us, but we finally have

00:39:28.250 --> 00:39:30.250

found a way to provide support for this group.

00:39:31.144 --> 00:39:33.144

Next slide, please.

00:39:35.470 --> 00:39:40.470

Okay, so we were able to do some work with sports, but we're doing some, uh...

00:39:40.641 --> 00:39:45.641

physical training, and athletics, and conditioning for...

00:39:46.764 --> 00:39:50.764

youth, uh, Ryan Byfield heads this up for us.

00:39:50.788 --> 00:39:52.788

Um, and again, we...

00:39:53.546 --> 00:39:56.546

have tracked primarily as the focus of the athletes.

00:39:56.841 --> 00:39:59.841

And so you can see there, we have a good group of students who

00:40:01.051 --> 00:40:04.051

trained and physically go through conditioning,

00:40:04.203 --> 00:40:06.203

And doing those types of things.

00:40:06.865 --> 00:40:11.865

Hopefully more of them will do that, um, on their sports teams through... in their schools.

00:40:12.066 --> 00:40:16.066

But that's not a requirement for them to participate.

00:40:17.252 --> 00:40:22.252

Uh, we did have a higher-level performer who's now running track at, uh, Eastern Illinois.

00:40:22.753 --> 00:40:25.753

And he came through our optimal performance program.

00:40:26.869 --> 00:40:28.869

Thanks. Next slide, please.

00:40:33.453 --> 00:40:37.453

Yeah, no, that's fine. So, we have a traveling.

00:40:38.364 --> 00:40:41.364

Sports basketball team that we've been supporting that...

00:40:42.230 --> 00:40:49.230

It's part of the world of sports today, with traveling basketball, and so we have a team that's traveled and done

00:40:49.413 --> 00:40:51.413

Had some success on that, and...

00:40:52.184 --> 00:40:56.184

We've been able to support that work, and support that. Next slide, please.

00:41:01.081 --> 00:41:03.081

Next slide, please. That's hard to say.

00:41:06.102 --> 00:41:14.102

This year, this is a training project that we have with, uh, Seon Williams, who works with local youth.

00:41:15.050 --> 00:41:21.050

Uh, to talk about the world of finance. So kids are going in and learning about financing and stocks,

00:41:22.033 --> 00:41:25.033

And bonds, and they set up, um...

00:41:25.593 --> 00:41:27.593

you know, accounts where they get...

00:41:27.593 --> 00:41:33.538

fake money. But... so they learn about trading and doing that, and so Seon's been doing a really

00:41:33.532 --> 00:41:35.532

good job with our young people.

00:41:36.270 --> 00:41:38.270

Around this issue of literacy and...

00:41:39.940 --> 00:41:41.940

money and investment and...

00:41:41.953 --> 00:41:43.953

I need to go through some of the classes.

00:41:44.272 --> 00:41:49.272

You know, and so the kids do a great job, though, in their sessions and participate, and...

00:41:49.477 --> 00:41:54.477

This is, again, middle and high school kids from all across the community, Champaign-Urbana.

00:41:54.534 --> 00:41:56.534

Um, for this initiative.

00:42:02.556 --> 00:42:04.556

And then we've been able to do just a number of...

00:42:05.677 --> 00:42:09.677

community-based events where we're bringing community together.

00:42:10.702 --> 00:42:14.702

Um, and, um, neighborhoods, and then parks.

00:42:14.702 --> 00:42:21.242

Uh, at the top, there's our Black Mental Health and Wellness Conference that we've been doing at, um,

00:42:22.552 --> 00:42:25.552

Parkland, for the last couple of, uh, years.

00:42:26.333 --> 00:42:30.333

Donna Tanner-Herald is the lead and point for us on this.

00:42:31.194 --> 00:42:36.194

She's committed to do this, so we're gonna do two more years, so we'll do a 5-year run of this conference.

00:42:37.306 --> 00:42:41.306

And, uh, the mental health support, mental health board support for this is...

00:42:41.721 --> 00:42:44.721

And it really is a tremendous conference, 150...

00:42:45.071 --> 00:42:47.071

Attendees, um...

00:42:47.672 --> 00:42:50.672

Presenters from all around the region,

00:42:50.672 --> 00:42:55.431

Um, it is really turned into a phenomenal, phenomenal conference.

00:42:55.631 --> 00:42:57.631

Recognize, um...

00:42:57.665 --> 00:42:59.665

Nationally now, at this point.

00:43:05.639 --> 00:43:07.639

Okay.

00:43:09.922 --> 00:43:14.922

So, I'll run through some of the data, and data is very interesting to gather with

00:43:14.921 --> 00:43:17.613

With grassroots organizations.

00:43:18.354 --> 00:43:23.354

Leon had to ask me twice for this presentation, imagine, Leon.

00:43:24.283 --> 00:43:36.283

grassroots organizations. So, we're learning, we keep trying different things to get information from them. This is the best year yet that we've had. We've had so many pictures, and...

00:43:37.095 --> 00:43:39.095

Uh, good reporting from...

00:43:40.224 --> 00:43:50.224

from everybody, and so you can see the numbers. When you look at the pictures, it's just amazing how many are engaged and how many families are participating, youth, and...

00:43:50.362 --> 00:43:53.362

really people of all ages in our community, so...

00:43:53.892 --> 00:43:58.892

967 different people that... that we've touched with this

00:43:59.112 --> 00:44:01.112

Amazing programming.

00:44:01.699 --> 00:44:03.699

And 44...

00:44:04.811 --> 00:44:10.811

community service events, that is a lot of events that happens over the span of less than a quarter of a year.

00:44:10.811 --> 00:44:22.046

Everybody's truly committed, they have such great ideas, and... and everybody knows how much work an event is, so it's super impressive to see everybody come together and pull this off.

00:44:22.344 --> 00:44:32.344

That number is correct, that service contacts, 11,064. I had to go back to Monica and say, Monica, are you sure we don't have too many numbers in this?

00:44:33.035 --> 00:44:38.035

No, that's the numbers that were counted. We're sure there's more, but that's the data that we were able to

00:44:38.959 --> 00:44:41.959

The poll, uh, specifically from all of their reports.

00:44:42.495 --> 00:44:50.495

And you can see some highlights. Uh, we... we had 4 new partners this year, which is exciting, kind of switches things up, and...

00:44:50.702 --> 00:44:55.702

get to meet new people, and new people, and new grassroots programs, we think, touched

00:44:56.679 --> 00:45:02.679

different groups, and so that's very nice, and it's great to feel how widespread everything is.

00:45:04.018 --> 00:45:09.018

We had everything from tutoring to intensive music, art, and community-based violence events.

00:45:10.224 --> 00:45:16.224

And everybody, you know, from families to youth to adults that...

00:45:16.324 --> 00:45:23.324

Needed that mental health touch were engaged in 93% of our participants

00:45:23.721 --> 00:45:25.721

I had high satisfaction ratings.

00:45:29.342 --> 00:45:31.342

So, our next slide will...

00:45:31.863 --> 00:45:36.863

tell you that we did... yeah, we do have some obstacles, and I... I would say that

00:45:36.863 --> 00:45:45.077

If Monica were here, she would say this is one of the most challenging programs that we administer at Delaware Boys and Girls Club.

00:45:45.923 --> 00:45:49.923

Including our own, just because there's so many people go in so many different directions, and...

00:45:50.696 --> 00:45:53.696

Uh, the communication that we need to have is...

00:45:54.560 --> 00:46:00.560

is truly at different levels. So some... some of the grassroots are very grassroots, and others...

00:46:01.126 --> 00:46:05.126

have quite a bit of experience, like, that's what she said, for example. They truly understand that

00:46:05.617 --> 00:46:17.617

Um, no, you can't get paid until you turn in your receipts, and uh, that's a big surprise for some of the other groups. We have to work with some of them to do

00:46:17.707 --> 00:46:23.707

Um, reimbursements ahead, and that's very nervous. It makes me very nervous.

00:46:23.707 --> 00:46:30.551

to do that. Uh, but they pull through. They, they do bring in their receipts, and we have...

00:46:31.347 --> 00:46:42.347

Uh, we have this conversation about how about the day that you're gonna purchase your things? You come by and get the check, and that same day you bring your receipts, and that's worked out very well.

00:46:42.313 --> 00:46:47.313

And so, you know, beyond everything that we're doing here that you see,

00:46:47.709 --> 00:46:49.709

We're also teaching people how to, how to...

00:46:49.709 --> 00:47:00.578

how to be business partners, and how to maybe stair-step themselves into one day becoming a not-for-profit, if that's the right thing. I don't think that's the right thing for everybody.

00:47:00.577 --> 00:47:05.109

But in some cases, that may be something that they can grow into, or...

00:47:05.110 --> 00:47:09.110

perhaps attach themselves to another bigger agency someday.

00:47:09.398 --> 00:47:15.398

But developing a tracking system that everybody can relate to is challenging. Our first steps were...

00:47:15.834 --> 00:47:17.834

Um, they were too hard.

00:47:18.713 --> 00:47:20.713

And so we learned that we had to back that down.

00:47:20.713 --> 00:47:29.132

And create a tracking system that was much more user-friendly, trying to find something consistent that works for everybody.

00:47:29.745 --> 00:47:34.745

is a challenge that... that we're up to, and we keep working at. Each year gets...

00:47:35.538 --> 00:47:41.538

Every... each year gets better, especially if it's not their first year at doing all of this.

00:47:42.102 --> 00:47:47.102

Boys and Girls Club of America, I just started kind of doing some soul-searching about

00:47:47.286 --> 00:47:51.286

Really, what training do we have to have? And at the end of the day, we feel like

00:47:52.348 --> 00:48:01.348

If the check's coming from the Delaware Boys and Girls Club, we really need to have that rubber stamp of quality regarding the training, and so that's why we did choose

00:48:01.898 --> 00:48:10.898

to go with the Boys and Girls Club of America, so everybody gets an email that they can sign on, and we can, I told you earlier, we can track their training and make sure that everybody

00:48:10.898 --> 00:48:14.453

did a good job, but it does create a lot of hoops.

00:48:15.511 --> 00:48:18.511

For a small organization to go through to maybe

00:48:18.699 --> 00:48:22.699

pick up 3 or 4 or 5 or \$10,000. It's...

00:48:23.271 --> 00:48:28.271

more hoops than maybe a larger organization would ever go through to...

00:48:28.861 --> 00:48:35.861

to pick up that, uh, that funding, but that's the stage that they're at, and that's kind of the beauty of it all, too, is to

00:48:36.821 --> 00:48:38.821

to be right there where they are with them.

00:48:39.004 --> 00:48:50.004

So our future objectives would be to improve our community survey. We'd like to do something in March to gain better insight on the types of services and things that they want to do. We'd like to know

00:48:51.209 --> 00:48:59.209

A bit sooner than later, what we're getting into. We did do that this year. We convened, I think it was in April, didn't we, Tracy, where we...

00:48:59.766 --> 00:49:04.766

started getting together. That's a... that's a huge jump, because just a year before that, I think it was...

00:49:04.765 --> 00:49:10.606

July, before we were getting together. So, that was too much, too fast, and so having that pace and...

00:49:10.607 --> 00:49:12.938

Climbing up, uh, to the...

00:49:13.396 --> 00:49:18.396

to the level that we need to get them to so they can have... get the dollars and be eligible.

00:49:18.847 --> 00:49:23.847

And then, um, just continuing to figure out how to evaluate the current partners,

00:49:23.862 --> 00:49:28.862

Their funding levels, and try to increase services in 2026, because

00:49:29.652 --> 00:49:40.652

We all know that there's never enough money to go around, there's never... there's always more that we can do when you shut that light off at the end of the night. You could have done more. If you stayed longer, you could have served more people.

00:49:40.652 --> 00:49:44.893

And, uh, so just finding the right balance to all that, and...

00:49:45.629 --> 00:49:50.629

making ourselves available to as many people in the county as possible is the priority.

00:49:52.696 --> 00:49:54.696

I think that's it.

00:49:57.141 --> 00:50:02.141

All right, thank you both very much. I'm open to questions and comments from the board.

00:50:03.005 --> 00:50:06.005

I just have a comment, um...

00:50:07.211 --> 00:50:15.211

I was saying to Tracy before one of the community coalition meetings recently, how much things have changed over the years that I've been involved.

00:50:16.333 --> 00:50:19.333

there are more people at the table, and that's what the grassroots

00:50:20.871 --> 00:50:27.871

Pulling in the grassroots organizations are about, and almost every one of them that we fund started as a grassroots.

00:50:28.185 --> 00:50:30.185

organization, and what that...

00:50:31.269 --> 00:50:34.269

in my experience in the community has meant is that it's been

00:50:34.718 --> 00:50:38.718

many organizations have been dependent on a single individual.

00:50:38.831 --> 00:50:40.831

And if that individual

00:50:41.628 --> 00:50:46.628

gets tired, or whatever, then things fall apart, so I'd love to hear...

00:50:46.628 --> 00:50:50.927

about structure, that you're putting structures in place that...

00:50:51.383 --> 00:50:58.383

Among other things, help a larger group buy into what's going on, if everybody has to have training and

00:50:59.152 --> 00:51:06.152

so on, you know. So I think all of that is... I'm just really happy to hear about it, and I know that...

00:51:08.022 --> 00:51:13.022

When I first started on this board, sometimes the things that the Don Moyer

00:51:13.700 --> 00:51:19.700

Um, that came through Don Moyer, we couldn't figure out exactly who was doing what, or, you know...

00:51:20.940 --> 00:51:26.940

Exactly, how the money was being split up and everything, and so all of this organization, I think, um...

00:51:26.939 --> 00:51:31.395

It's just really healthy, and it's going to mean that things last longer.

00:51:32.134 --> 00:51:44.134

So, congratulations on all of that. Thank you, thank you. And I... I think I said her name twice so far, if I could say it a hundred times, it's really Monica Miles Shellman, our Chief Operating Officer. This is...

00:51:44.424 --> 00:51:47.424

a big love of hers, this is a big love of Tracy's.

00:51:47.466 --> 00:51:51.466

And, uh, you know, and all of you. You certainly...

00:51:52.273 --> 00:51:55.273

have decided that this is very important in our community, and

00:51:55.226 --> 00:51:57.226

It's wonderful to watch it blossom.

00:52:00.263 --> 00:52:03.263

Any other comments or questions from board or staff?

00:52:04.695 --> 00:52:08.695

Um, I had a couple of questions, sort of kind of random, I apologize.

00:52:08.695 --> 00:52:16.197

So, how are a majority of these kids chosen, and is there much overlap? Like, can you do a couple of programs?

00:52:17.614 --> 00:52:23.614

Yeah, well, that's a great question, and each of the organizations decide how they're going to choose.

00:52:23.615 --> 00:52:25.984

Uh, we do ask them to...

00:52:27.078 --> 00:52:34.078

And to spread the word countywide, and to make as many people known as possible. That's part of their training.

00:52:33.820 --> 00:52:38.820

In the beginning, but 967 different people.

00:52:39.022 --> 00:52:41.022

are involved, and...

00:52:41.094 --> 00:52:44.094

That's... I don't know, is that \$10 a person, or not?

00:52:45.166 --> 00:52:48.166

It's, uh, it's just a... it's a tremendous amount of people.

00:52:50.765 --> 00:52:56.765

Um, so if I, like, I noticed on the teen summer program, you know, there was a flyer, so...

00:52:56.765 --> 00:53:08.512

Um, how would I find out about different events like this if I wanted to attend, um, follow community coalition Facebook page, your Facebook page? What's the best way to kind of know of these

00:53:09.233 --> 00:53:11.233

Celebrations that are open to the public.

00:53:12.538 --> 00:53:15.538

Well, it's a great question. A lot of this really...

00:53:15.773 --> 00:53:18.773

comes from our monthly community coalition meeting.

00:53:19.111 --> 00:53:21.111

And, uh...

00:53:22.093 --> 00:53:28.093

interested individuals will come and present and talk about their programs that they're gonna be doing.

00:53:28.597 --> 00:53:32.597

They send the invitation out. If you know any kids that are interested in

00:53:32.596 --> 00:53:36.820

Music, for example, we're gonna be doing this type of programming.

00:53:36.820 --> 00:53:39.873

And they connect with the person who's coordinating the program,

00:53:40.472 --> 00:53:44.472

And so that's how the youth get identified. The coalition is a great space.

00:53:44.856 --> 00:53:47.856

For those who have ideas,

00:53:48.282 --> 00:53:51.282

So they'll start sometimes just coming to a coalition meeting,

00:53:51.443 --> 00:53:55.443

And they will say, Tracy, you know, I've been wanting to do this for a while, and...

00:53:56.103 --> 00:54:02.103

We talk about it, and we talk about how to try to make it happen, you know, you can't support everything and every idea,

00:54:02.300 --> 00:54:04.300

But it really has...

00:54:05.278 --> 00:54:09.278

the meeting itself, and Ms. Palencia, you can share, right?

00:54:09.298 --> 00:54:12.298

Uh, it's a great, just, gathering place.

00:54:12.958 --> 00:54:17.958

for ideas, for partnerships. The Boys and Girls Club, for example, will come and do

00:54:18.407 --> 00:54:20.407

a presentation about things that they're doing, and...

00:54:21.497 --> 00:54:25.497

They have... then kids can get connected there. So, all of the agencies...

00:54:25.664 --> 00:54:30.664

Maybe not the right way, but many agencies come through the coalition and...

00:54:30.665 --> 00:54:33.484

And they emulate from the meeting itself.

00:54:34.728 --> 00:54:41.728

Yes, I will say Elaine is wonderful about monthly giving us updates. I've been to a couple of meetings, um,

00:54:41.729 --> 00:54:48.431

And obviously, her and I both could be there, and we're still not, you know, breaking, you know, rules, but, um, usually she's...

00:54:48.847 --> 00:54:51.847

able to do that, so that's awesome. Um, I did...

00:54:52.577 --> 00:54:55.577

Jot down here on the Wall Street, um...

00:54:56.517 --> 00:55:03.517

financial literacy workshop, wish they taught this in schools. I have young adult children. My youngest is probably the most

00:55:04.287 --> 00:55:08.287

fiscally sound, because she listens to her parents. The other two, eh.

00:55:08.897 --> 00:55:15.897

You know, um, but thank you so much for, um, all you guys do in the community and things like that.

00:55:16.602 --> 00:55:24.602

It's, um, kind of an ongoing battle, you know? I... I feel like, and I know I'm saying to the choir, it seems like

00:55:24.602 --> 00:55:28.135

you know, we're continuing to put programs out there, we're trying to give

00:55:29.095 --> 00:55:32.095

kids alternatives, maybe teach them the right way.

00:55:33.381 --> 00:55:39.381

And unfortunately, we're still seeing some of the same things in the news, unfortunately. And I...

00:55:40.689 --> 00:55:42.689

I... and I know occasionally,

00:55:42.689 --> 00:55:46.365

You know, an organizational will say that was one of our kids.

00:55:46.716 --> 00:55:54.716

And that's too bad. Um, so... but I appreciate all the time and energy and love that you guys put into all these youth.

00:55:57.596 --> 00:56:02.596

Um, I'll just... I mean, I can't say much more than these two have already said, but, um...

00:56:02.595 --> 00:56:06.068

Thank you so much for all you do. I think, like, hearing about

00:56:06.048 --> 00:56:08.048

the, like, the...

00:56:09.084 --> 00:56:15.084

vast variety of different kinds of programs and, like, having something that really is for everyone.

00:56:15.174 --> 00:56:17.174

I think, like, what...

00:56:17.829 --> 00:56:20.829

people need for their mental health is to belong.

00:56:22.202 --> 00:56:29.202

And I think having these different kinds of programs, um, and especially for young people to, like,

00:56:29.350 --> 00:56:37.350

find something that they really love. Um, it does so much for mental health, and I agree on the financial literacy piece. As a therapist.

00:56:38.332 --> 00:56:47.332

how much stress and anxiety and depression can come from, like, the financial stress and strain, and...

00:56:47.544 --> 00:56:55.544

Um, I think being able to have that available for young people is really important, and I think for both programs this evening, seeing, like,

00:56:56.274 --> 00:56:58.274

Um, like...

00:57:00.039 --> 00:57:10.039

various different ways of expressing ourselves, being so instrumental for improving our mental health and preventing some of the problems that people do come and see a therapist for, so...

00:57:10.040 --> 00:57:14.951

Thank you so, so much for all you do. Are there any other comments or questions?

00:57:16.887 --> 00:57:18.887

I have a couple of comments, um...

00:57:20.799 --> 00:57:23.799

12 initiatives. That's, um...

00:57:24.313 --> 00:57:26.313

So, tall feet, right?

00:57:27.031 --> 00:57:31.031

And I equate the, um, initiatives to life lessons.

00:57:31.717 --> 00:57:35.717

And so, they're very impactful and meaningful, I'm sure, for the youth.

00:57:35.717 --> 00:57:38.337

And we'll, you know, they'll take that with them.

00:57:39.058 --> 00:57:41.058

Um, perhaps for the rest of their lives.

00:57:41.466 --> 00:57:46.466

I want to add another initiative, if I could, and that would be maybe swimming lessons.

00:57:47.216 --> 00:57:49.216

If there is a way that...

00:57:49.745 --> 00:57:51.745

Somehow, you could find a couple of...

00:57:52.121 --> 00:57:54.121

Um...

00:57:54.761 --> 00:57:56.761

individuals who would be willing to teach.

00:57:58.025 --> 00:58:01.025

you know, a small group to learn how to swim.

00:58:01.317 --> 00:58:05.317

Uh, since we're talking about life lessons, I think it'll go a long way.

00:58:05.498 --> 00:58:09.498

Uh, I recall being at the Boys and Girls Club years ago,

00:58:09.377 --> 00:58:12.377

Uh, and taking youth to,

00:58:12.419 --> 00:58:16.419

go swim, and...

00:58:17.088 --> 00:58:19.088

Most of them couldn't swim, and so...

00:58:19.234 --> 00:58:24.234

you know, had to have staff really lock in on, you know,

00:58:25.335 --> 00:58:31.335

what was going on in the water. Um, the kids were having fun, but it was really a stressful time.

00:58:31.439 --> 00:58:39.439

Uh, so just... put that somewhere in the back of your mind, just maybe swim lessons. And I also appreciate the, um...

00:58:39.578 --> 00:58:42.578

Mentoring the grassroot agency.

00:58:42.578 --> 00:58:45.307

I think that's, uh, that's an awesome...

00:58:45.575 --> 00:58:47.575

awesome way to,

00:58:47.575 --> 00:58:52.456

Um, people learn by watching. Many people do, and I think

00:58:53.074 --> 00:58:58.074

uh... my hat goes off to you two, in addition to Monica and the other

00:58:58.513 --> 00:59:00.513

uh, subcontractors

00:59:00.896 --> 00:59:07.896

who are participating in the, um, in the programming, summer programming, so thank you. Yeah, just to share, pre-Amy...

00:59:08.509 --> 00:59:11.509

We did have a partnership one summer,

00:59:11.492 --> 00:59:13.492

With the Y.

00:59:14.389 --> 00:59:17.389

And so we were picking kids up, and I can't remember...

00:59:18.517 --> 00:59:21.517

If it was through the Park District, or the school or something, but we were picking kids up.

00:59:22.274 --> 00:59:25.274

And they could go to the Y for lessons, swim lessons, but...

00:59:25.510 --> 00:59:27.510

It's been a few years since we've done it, so...

00:59:30.923 --> 00:59:32.923

Oh, go ahead.

00:59:33.743 --> 00:59:40.743

Well, Leon, thank you for the very last part. That's what I was going to bring up. So you created a perfect segue. I kind of...

00:59:40.743 --> 00:59:45.850

Um, just for the many years that I've known Trace Parsons, I think

00:59:45.974 --> 00:59:50.974

Um, a lot of the work that you've been doing directly has helped me understand

00:59:51.308 --> 00:59:55.308

the huge distance between what we do

00:59:55.555 --> 01:00:01.555

And grassroots groups who might be a really effective answer for some of the problems that we are aware of.

01:00:01.997 --> 01:00:05.997

So, so I was kind of wondering, like, do you...

01:00:06.568 --> 01:00:11.568

Is that an impact? Do you feel like the agencies that you're working with and you're providing them these

01:00:11.569 --> 01:00:18.407

Um, Boys and Girls Club trainings, and then some other... maybe some organizational support, and...

01:00:19.002 --> 01:00:23.002

Monica's time, is that helping them to improve

01:00:23.224 --> 01:00:26.224

Their infrastructure...

01:00:26.661 --> 01:00:29.661

Or, to kind of demystify a little bit,

01:00:29.662 --> 01:00:32.918

what we do, you know what I mean? Like, that...

01:00:33.764 --> 01:00:38.764

That we really are interested, and I'm speaking for the board, which I shouldn't do, but...

01:00:38.763 --> 01:00:43.347

We really are interested in small agency solutions, but we also have this

01:00:43.839 --> 01:00:48.839

this issue of needing to account for public tax dollars, which means there's lots of...

01:00:50.151 --> 01:00:53.151

those kind of quality indicators that you were talking about. Anyway, just...

01:00:53.670 --> 01:01:00.670

So I'm glad you brought it up, and I just wondered if you all think about that as a potential positive impact, and something we should even, like,

01:01:01.289 --> 01:01:03.289

kind of maybe celebrate.

01:01:07.234 --> 01:01:12.234

I think Amy shared a little bit of the challenge that I bring to the table with this initiative.

01:01:12.322 --> 01:01:14.322
for them, because...

01:01:15.087 --> 01:01:20.087
And this is how it happened, so your question was great, and I was thinking earlier, as you were presenting, about

01:01:20.057 --> 01:01:26.057
connecting, right? So the Boys and Girls Club has unbelievable programming and what they've done to transition...

01:01:26.144 --> 01:01:28.144
But it's not for every kid.

01:01:28.789 --> 01:01:31.789
Right? And so, some kids will go there and say,

01:01:31.991 --> 01:01:35.991
I don't like this. It's too structured, or it's too whatever, right?

01:01:36.350 --> 01:01:38.350
So, finding a space...

01:01:38.695 --> 01:01:40.695
that helps reach that

01:01:40.695 --> 01:01:42.713
kid, right, is...

01:01:42.713 --> 01:01:48.284
One of the beauty of things... beauties of this project that we've been able to do through the years

01:01:48.873 --> 01:01:50.873
And, um...

01:01:51.757 --> 01:01:53.757
meeting someone who has a great idea,

01:01:53.758 --> 01:01:58.401
And thinks that they can lead and put in place.

01:01:59.138 --> 01:02:01.138
This can teach them that they're not quite ready.

01:02:02.001 --> 01:02:06.001
And so, someone who might think that they're ready, or they can do,

01:02:07.355 --> 01:02:12.355
I can run an agency. They soon find out that their skill set might be

01:02:13.515 --> 01:02:20.515
doing this, but the whole other side of running an organization, they're not equipped to do, right? So...

01:02:20.998 --> 01:02:22.998

That's probably the more challenging of the...

01:02:23.246 --> 01:02:26.246

partners that I'm asking the club to work with,

01:02:26.795 --> 01:02:33.795

And if you don't have a financial background, if you don't have a bookkeeping background, if you don't have blah blah blah, all the things that it takes to be a

01:02:33.796 --> 01:02:35.796

agency director,

01:02:35.796 --> 01:02:41.429

But you think you can. You find out really quick when...

01:02:41.429 --> 01:02:48.237

They're saying, okay, you've got to do this, and you've got to get this in place, and yes, you've got to document, and, you know,

01:02:48.839 --> 01:02:50.839

It's... it's a...

01:02:51.443 --> 01:02:54.443

It's been a great space, and it's taught a number of things.

01:02:55.032 --> 01:02:57.032

You know, we have folks that we've worked with,

01:02:57.130 --> 01:02:59.130

Who we're no longer work with.

01:02:59.900 --> 01:03:03.900

You know, because they can't produce, and it's not...

01:03:03.900 --> 01:03:05.165

You know, so...

01:03:06.567 --> 01:03:08.567

Well said.

01:03:09.742 --> 01:03:16.742

Well said. We don't... I guess we'd have to ask them, honestly, you know, how they're feeling about all of that. I think sometimes...

01:03:16.741 --> 01:03:21.142

Um, they are... they're excited to get the... money day is a big day.

01:03:22.246 --> 01:03:24.246

But training day's not, so...

01:03:24.816 --> 01:03:31.816

There's just a lot of pieces. They have to prove their liability insurance, they have to, um, sign a contract.

01:03:32.507 --> 01:03:37.507

Um, there's just a lot of pieces that weren't in place a few years ago that we put in place.

01:03:37.829 --> 01:03:40.829

And, uh, it is very time-consuming.

01:03:40.829 --> 01:03:48.172

And by, you know, hopefully each year it gets better as we... as we see people come back to the table.

01:03:49.372 --> 01:03:53.372

And back to your... I just wanted to say about your question about how do we inform everybody.

01:03:54.635 --> 01:03:59.635

That is one of the most fascinating parts of it for me, because I am just astonished at how...

01:03:59.635 --> 01:04:01.915

Families and parents.

01:04:03.190 --> 01:04:10.190

find out... I mean, they... they know. It's networked. This is no secret. It's very networked.

01:04:10.740 --> 01:04:16.740

People know about these initiatives. They've... it's become part of the culture and society.

01:04:16.741 --> 01:04:20.963

And so if they disappeared, I think it would be shocking.

01:04:22.027 --> 01:04:32.027

Uh, it's something that parents look for, and they... there's a lot... so many parents, and they have so many struggles, but what I find beautiful about a lot of our parents that we work with

01:04:31.783 --> 01:04:37.783

is that they truly... they do know that their kids have to stay busy.

01:04:37.783 --> 01:04:43.705

And so they're really desperate to find a place that they can be that's safe, and also

01:04:43.706 --> 01:04:48.300

continue to grow their child, and so they're just out on the hunt.

01:04:47.994 --> 01:04:49.994

or programming.

01:04:52.773 --> 01:04:56.773

Thank you so much. Um, any final comments?

01:04:56.708 --> 01:04:58.708

or questions?

01:05:02.928 --> 01:05:04.928

And say thank you enough. Yeah, thank you.

01:05:05.298 --> 01:05:07.298

Thank you.

01:05:07.442 --> 01:05:14.442

Leanne, do you have any concluding comments for the study sessions? I would just like to thank...

01:05:14.663 --> 01:05:17.663

Uh, the experts here for, um...

01:05:18.729 --> 01:05:23.729

sharing valuable information about the things that they're doing in our community.

01:05:24.179 --> 01:05:26.179

Uh, providing quality work.

01:05:26.296 --> 01:05:28.296

And, um...

01:05:29.030 --> 01:05:34.030

I'm glad to be a part of what you're doing, so keep up the great work, and...

01:05:34.320 --> 01:05:40.320

Uh, sorry to be a little pest about needing materials from you all, but that's part of my job.

01:05:40.506 --> 01:05:45.506

Uh, so I have to keep pressing, um, but, um, otherwise, thank you all for...

01:05:46.346 --> 01:05:48.346

Given us your time and your... your...

01:05:49.243 --> 01:05:51.243

mind space about what you're doing, so thanks.

01:05:52.600 --> 01:06:01.600

You're welcome. All right, thank you very much. Um, well, we will move on once more to public participation and agency input.

01:06:02.316 --> 01:06:06.316

Most of the people... everybody in the room here has spoken.

01:06:06.408 --> 01:06:15.408

Um, but, um, of course, if, you know, if there's any other public comment that anyone would like to make here in person or online, now is the time.

01:06:15.335 --> 01:06:19.335

So, um, you can approach the podium, um,

01:06:20.362 --> 01:06:29.362

You can fill out a comment card or raise your hand on Zoom, or put something in the chat if you'd like to speak. I may limit individual time to 5 minutes, total time to 20 minutes.

01:06:30.315 --> 01:06:37.315

And as a reminder, we can't respond to public comment, but we will use it to inform future actions. Is there anybody who'd like to speak?

01:06:44.395 --> 01:06:51.395

It appears none, so we will move on. So, next we will move to board announcements and input. Are there any

01:06:51.346 --> 01:06:53.346

Board announcements and input.

01:06:57.183 --> 01:07:01.183

I figured not. There's, you know, a full board here either.

01:07:01.689 --> 01:07:16.689

So, lastly, I mean, I guess we're not officially meeting, but I'll go ahead and say that we're adjourned anyway. Our next meeting will be, um, Wednesday, February 18th at 545 PM in the Shields Carter Room of the Bennett Administrative Center, Urbana, Illinois.

01:07:16.576 --> 01:07:18.576

Uh, see you all then!