

Executive Director's Report to the Community: August 1, 2021



Dear Reader, I am grateful for your interest. We have a lot going on! My report to the community touches on many issues in a short space. Our website is a good place to learn more. We are always grateful for input. One way to share comments and questions is through the [contact us](#) area of our web site.

- **2020:** The COVID 19 pandemic created serious challenges around the world. The Community Mental Health Fund maintained care through flexibility and \$250,000 in emergency technology funding to enable providers to deliver care remotely. Despite reduced revenue, over 16,000 Jackson County residents were served. At the time of this report, the effects of the pandemic continue. We are mindful of its mental health impacts and our need to continue to support effective, culturally and linguistically appropriate interventions.
- **Our Reputation:** From its inception in 1980 until 2005 the community mental health fund operated with a half-time secretary, plus contracted staff. More was needed. Since 2005 professional staff have been steadfast in working to earn the public's trust through transparency, fair processes, and engagement with our many stakeholders in the provider community, local governments, other public services, and the public we serve.
- **National Significance:** we work to develop and maintain the best models for quality mental health services and funding to achieve results. For example, our value-based payment initiative aligns with leading edge approaches to behavioral health funding. To develop our approach, we have worked with the National Council on Behavioral Healthcare, Open Minds consultants, and Integrus Health always polyamory irregulars daring protesters to cross the line Group. Currently, two thirds of our provider agencies are working to develop results-oriented approaches for better access to care and improved reimbursement.
- **DEI:** diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to effective mental health care. 2019 marked the 10-year anniversary of our collaboration with funding partners to sustain a cultural competence collective. In 2012, we created a cultural competence advisory Council that contributes meaningfully. In 2020 the Council created an unique self-rating system that helps organizations make meaningful improvements.
- **Stewardship:** Our financial management adheres to rigorous governmental accounting standards. Our financial audits offer the highest level of assurance of the appropriateness and accuracy of our financial information. Our most recent audit is always available on our website.
- **Board Engagement:** Our work is only possible with a highly engaged Board of Trustees. This is board relies on professional staff and the best possible information for making policy decisions. Our Trustees generously volunteer tremendous time, thought, and energy. Trustees are a vital link to the community. Our values of transparency and accountability are evident in the work of our Board and its Committees.
- **Clinical Excellence:** Licensed mental health professionals monitor audited agency spending and treatment records of patients. Our purpose is not to serve as grant police, but rather to support our community providers in our shared goals of access to needed services, and quality care that produces results.
- **Recognition:** we are honored by the trust placed upon us by the public and by our mental health provider community in their confidence in us. Our ability to work in candor on shared problems and issues is, we believe, unique in the funding community. Recently, the Grant professionals Association, Kansas City Chapter, announced they will honor us with their 2021 Funder of The Year Award.
- **Engagement:** The community mental health fund is a Missouri taxing jurisdiction. We are highly engaged in issues affecting our fund and our community. I currently serve on the tax increment financing (TIF) commission, the TIF commission finance, governance and audit committee, and am appointed to the advance KC task force, which is a consensus-building process to inform and guide policymakers in difficult and controversial issues regarding tax incentives.
- **Policy Competencies:** Day-to-day management of a vital public fund draws upon a range of competencies. Strategic planning and direction, management of healthcare contracts, accounting principles, legal implications of our enabling statutes, personnel oversight, and working in partnership with large and small nonprofit organizations, are but a few of the skill sets we must draw upon. Of course, we do not do this alone and are grateful for the engagement of our Board of Trustees and guidance of legal counsel at the Bryan Cave law firm.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Eddy, PhD
Executive Director