



Supporting equitable and quality mental health care in Jackson County

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 by being flexible and making \$250,000 in emergency technology grants 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:** Our staff are 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. We have earned the trust of agencies in the provider community with our focuses on quality, data-driven outcomes, and professional and agency growth.
- **National Significance:** We work to develop and maintain the best approaches for quality mental health services and funding to achieve results. For example, our value-based payment (VBP) initiative aligns with cutting edge approaches for health care funding. To develop our approach, we have worked with the National Council on Mental Wellbeing, the Open Minds consultant group, and Integrus Health Group. Currently, two-thirds of our provider agencies are developing results-oriented approaches for better access to care, that will lead to 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 2019 our cultural competence advisory council created a unique Star self-rating system that helps organizations make meaningful improvements. In 2020 and 2021 we began to field-test the tool and prepare it for release. The process has attracted statewide attention and when released, will be available free of charge.
- **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 audit is always available on our website for public inspection.
- **Board Engagement:** Our work is only possible with a highly engaged Board of Trustees. They in turn rely on professional staff to provide 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 agency spending and treatment records of patients. Our purpose is not to be 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 our mental health provider community. Our ability to work candidly on shared problems and issues is, we believe, unique in the funding community. Recently, the Grant professionals Association, Kansas City Chapter, announced they have honored us by nominating CMHF for their national, 2021 Funder of The Year Award.
- **Tax Incentive 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, and

its Finance, Governance and Audit Committee. In this role I represent my organization, plus Kansas City Public Library and the Board of Services for Developmental Disabilities (EITAS). We also work closely with Mid Continent Public Library in taxing jurisdiction collaboration. I serve on the Advance KC 2.0 Standing Committee, a consensus-building process to guide policymakers in difficult and controversial issues regarding tax incentives. As a taxpayer representative I believe in equity in the use tax incentives, transparency in political dealings, and prioritizing communities and issues that have been left behind. The prioritization of tax subsidies for affordable housing is an example of my focus.

- 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, tax incentive policy, 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. We are grateful for the engagement of our Board of Trustees and guidance of legal counsel at the Bryan Cave law firm.

Sincerely,

Bruce

Bruce A. Eddy, PhD
Executive Director