

Minutes
Developmental Disabilities Resource Board of Directors

Finance Committee Meeting

October 22, 2018

The **Finance Committee** met on October 22, 2018 at 5:30 pm at the DDRB office. The meeting was called to order by Finance Committee Chairman and Board Treasurer, Tom Bradley. Present from the Finance Committee were Tom Bradley, Gary Steinman, James Gottstein and Steve Elliott. Also present were Alan Naylor, Robert Sevier and Sonja Bennett.

Invited Guests present included:

Julie Edlund, Brian Watson, Mark Bertrand and Jim Huffman of Life Unlimited.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Life Unlimited's funding request for FY19. Life Unlimited previously submitted a funding request based on the 4% guideline provided by the DDRB Board. This request did not account for Life Unlimited's upcoming merger with another entity. This is the first year the application has been submitted as the merged Life Unlimited. Brian and Mark are both new to the LU organization. Julie previously represented Immacolata Manor. All recent years direct funding was provided to Concerned Care.

Tom and Sonja met earlier in the month with Julie (via phone), Brian and Mark to discuss their application. Julie advised that Direct Care Professional staff wages are creating a problem in retention and recruitment of qualified people. LU suggested the average wage for a DCP is \$11 per hour and they are having to compete with companies paying \$15 per hour with jobs with far less responsibility. Tom acknowledged he understood this issue and that it was not exclusive to Life Unlimited, nor to this industry.

Tom suggested the initial information provided lacked financial details and requested they update their information based on actual costs as required for any funding. In addition, he suggested they complete the same cost reports based on the pay increase they are considering.

After receiving, reviewing and reconfirming the requested information from Life Unlimited. Tom requested a special meeting with the Finance Committee and Life Unlimited for 10/22. The information provided suggested that their unfunded amount, after all expenses and income were accounted for, was significantly less than the amount DDRB funded in 2018 (\$950,000 vs. \$714,000). Brian and Julie expressed a concern that the information they supplied might not have been accurate or complete.

Life Unlimited further advises that it is planning to merge with a Jackson County organization, Open Options, and hopes to have that completed by December 31, 2018. Given the disparity

in the actual 2018 funding and the information supplied about actual costs, along with the merger, the Committee requested Life Unlimited provide updated information for FY19 based on the newly merged company. Brian agreed to provide updated information to the Board and would try and have it to Sonja by the end of the day on Tuesday 10/23.

Bob Sevier expressed his concern and displeasure over the merger of Life Unlimited with Open Options. He further expressed his concern that Clay County tax funds would be mixed with Jackson County and therefore indirectly be used to fund consumers in Jackson County. He said he was not opposed to a wage increase for the Direct Care Professionals but stated firmly he would not accept Clay County tax dollars funding anyone but a Clay County resident. Brian assured Bob and the Committee that they would have a very clear accounting of Clay and Jackson funds and they would not be co-mingled.

The Finance Committee scheduled a follow up meeting with Life Unlimited on Monday, October 29 at 5:30pm. to review any newly requested financials from LU.

With no further matters to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted: Sonja Bennett
October 23, 2018