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1 OGLE COUNTY
 2 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD (708)

3 In the Matter of the Application)
 4 of)
 5 Easter Seals Children's) Zoom Meeting
 6 Development Center)
 7 Ogle County, Illinois) May 5, 2022

8

9 Testimony of Witnesses
 10 Produced and
 11 Examined on this 5th day
 12 of May, 2022,
 13 before the Ogle County
 14 Community Mental Health Board

15 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (via Zoom):

16 Dorothy Bowers, Chairperson
 17 Marcella Haushahn
 18 Amy Zbinden-Henkel
 19 Haley Whaley
 20 Kathleen Wilson

21 Justine Messenger, Secretary
 22 Reporter: Callie S. Bodmer

23 AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT (via Zoom):

24 Patti Mook
 Kathleen Kurtz

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1 MS. BOWERS: We'll do this like we have
 2 done in the past. We'll give you a few minutes
 3 to do a presentation, then we'll be asking
 4 questions.
 5 So, Ruth (sic), go ahead with your
 6 presentation.
 7 MS. MOOK: Well, first I'm going to talk
 8 about our respite program. That is probably one
 9 of our most successful programs that we do
 10 operate. Currently we are serving four Ogle
 11 County families at this time. We have been
 12 successful helping other families navigate their
 13 way into getting assistance from the Department
 14 of Human Services.
 15 And that's always been one of the goals,
 16 you know, that we would kind of be more
 17 short-term, but for some families we do end up
 18 being a very long-term respite program.
 19 And we have experienced, too, that we have
 20 had a lot of our families that have moved out of
 21 state. So that has really whittled down our
 22 wait list.
 23 Our trainings this past year have been
 24 successful. We've obviously had to do things
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1 virtually, which is something that me and my
 2 partner at Florissa have always wanted to do,
 3 and with the pandemic it kind of forced us to do
 4 that. But it's been very successful. We're
 5 finding that we're getting more people that are
 6 able to attend.
 7 And we have been starting to use a hybrid
 8 model just this past year, where we're hosting
 9 trainings in person but then we're also having
 10 people on virtually as well too.
 11 We had our social events. We were able to
 12 start those back up again last year. We had a
 13 family fun day at Lowell State Park which was a
 14 blast. We did old-fashioned lawn games. And I
 15 don't think that families, you know, do those
 16 much anymore and had experienced it. And that
 17 was actually one of the things that people
 18 commented on at the end of the night was, We had
 19 so much fun doing those lawn games. The kids
 20 learned about constellations and we made fairy
 21 gardens. So it was a very successful evening.
 22 We also continued our Sensory Santa with
 23 the Oregon Public Library. That's a time where
 24 Santa Claus is sitting down with kids, we give
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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 them extra time and, obviously because it's at 2 the library, it's in a quiet setting. And we 3 do -- we give crafts and small gifts out to each 4 child. So every family appreciates that. 5 This past year we were invited to be a 6 part of the Oregon Park District Halloween 7 carnival, and that was a lot of fun, where 8 consumers from the Village of Progress came and 9 then we had families that came that afternoon 10 and we did carnival-style games and then 11 everybody was given a hayride and then they were 12 able to go out and pick up a pumpkin. 13 Our sibling workshops are again very 14 successful. We had two virtual last year and 15 two in person. And then we did our annual 16 Volcano Falls event, which is always very 17 successful. 18 Our retreats, our Galena was cancelled 19 last year still because our other partner was 20 not able to do in-person events. But we did 21 host a virtual one-day retreat, and the moms 22 were able to do a soul collage. And all of that 23 is written out in the annual reports, what that 24 entailed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 Oregon Public Library, the Park District, and 2 the Ogle Extension Office, and the kids were 3 able to come in, they did art projects, they had 4 learning opportunities, and they were all able 5 to go swimming. 6 And I just can't say enough good things 7 about Catch the Wave, who has started a 8 partnership with the Nash Rec Center, and that 9 is specifically helping kids with disabilities 10 be successful in the water and give them one-on- 11 one help. 12 So with that, I guess we'll -- oh, yes, 13 and then we do a lot of information and 14 referrals. So we're kind of a good place where 15 families just don't know -- you know, community 16 people that just don't know where to turn to for 17 certain services and information, and we do our 18 best to connect them with -- whether or not they 19 have their family -- that member has a child 20 with a disability or not, we're available to 21 give information to families and other community 22 members regardless. 23 And just some of the training topics, too, 24 just kind of wanted to touch on, I just wanted</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 And then we were able to come back with 2 our Rockford retreat last year. And as you can 3 imagine, after being on hiatus for a couple of 4 years with that, everybody was so excited to get 5 back and reconnect and keep up those -- that 6 circle of support that they have all come to 7 rely on. 8 And I'm just really happy and proud of the 9 fact that we have really, you know, made strides 10 to continue to be a presence in Ogle County. We 11 have a great partnership with Kreider and 12 Florissa. We have a new partnership with the 13 Nash Rec Center. Oregon Public Library. 14 StarNet, which is a statewide agency, but they 15 host -- help us host trainings in the area. 16 They have an Ogle County extension office. We 17 have somebody from there that helps us with our 18 sibling shops when they're in person. And the 19 Nature Center at the Dixon Park District has 20 been fabulous. 21 One thing I did forget to mention is that 22 last year what was new, we did a four-day camp, 23 and that was held at the Nash Rec Center. And 24 that was in collaboration with Florissa, the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 to kind of go back and look at those, but we -- 2 let's see here. So we did a special education 3 law one last year, and we made our primary focus 4 on compensatory services because that was 5 something that families really needed to know 6 how to access, since children were out and not 7 in the classroom, and how families could access 8 regaining some of those services back. You 9 know, again, futures planning and then managing 10 the challenging behaviors. And then we also did 11 a panel. So we had local agencies on and we 12 discussed with families what services were 13 available in the area. 14 And I think -- oh, yeah, and then, you 15 know, we always survey our families every year 16 in terms of -- you know, for respite services, 17 you know, what's, you know, good. I mean, we 18 always get a hundred percent on that, that it 19 has reduced their stress level. And then we 20 survey everybody after attending our trainings, 21 which for that we are meeting their needs. And, 22 you know, that usually runs 90 to 95 percent 23 that they either have learned something new or 24 that, you know, the training was meaningful for</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>

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1 them.
 2 So I think that's about it.
 3 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Patti, I apologize to
 4 you. I called you Ruth.
 5 MS. MOOK: That's okay. I knew what you
 6 meant, Dorothy. That's okay.
 7 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Haley, let's start
 8 with you this time for questions. Do you have
 9 any questions?
 10 MS. WHALEY: I'm good right now.
 11 Thank you so much for everything.
 12 MS. BOWERS: Amy, how about you?
 13 MS. HENKEL: No, I don't.
 14 MS. BOWERS: Marcy?
 15 MS. HAUSHAHN: No, I don't.
 16 Good presentation.
 17 MS. MOOK: Oh, thank you.
 18 MS. BOWERS: Kathe?
 19 MS. WILSON: Yes. Thank you, Dorothy.
 20 Thank you, Patti, for a nice presentation.
 21 I do have a couple of questions.
 22 MS. MOOK: Sure.
 23 MS. WILSON: On Page 29 -- thank you for
 24 labeling all your pages. I really appreciate
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1 that -- I was looking at the support revenue,
 2 and I don't see anything from fundraisers on
 3 here. Can you tell me if that's incorporated in
 4 one of the other line items?
 5 MS. KURTZ: Right now we have mostly
 6 in-kind at this time. We did have a fundraiser
 7 that the agency is re-evaluating, and that is
 8 our Giving Tuesday, where we were raising money
 9 for -- you know, that's the Thanksgiving one.
 10 And the agency is looking at doing things
 11 different, and so we're re-evaluating that at
 12 this time.
 13 Patti does get revenue from -- when she's
 14 doing the mom's retreat, she gets revenue from,
 15 like, Blackhawk Bank and a couple of the
 16 churches, and then a lot of in-kind services
 17 that were not put on here.
 18 MS. WILSON: Okay. That might be
 19 worthwhile.
 20 MS. KURTZ: Okay.
 21 MS. WILSON: In fact, it might be
 22 required --
 23 MS. KURTZ: Okay.
 24 MS. WILSON: -- when you list your support
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1 revenue that you include fundraising.
 2 MS. KURTZ: Okay.
 3 MS. MOOK: Including in-kind, correct?
 4 MS. WILSON: I don't know. Dorothy?
 5 MS. BOWERS: It would be helpful to us.
 6 MS. MOOK: Yeah, because I think that, you
 7 know, when we're working with Nash and -- or the
 8 Oregon Public Library, I mean, you know, part of
 9 their collaboration is, you know, they're giving
 10 us the space for free. So I think that that
 11 probably comes at a good cost.
 12 I also did forget to tell you, too, that
 13 we did -- after one of the sibling workshops
 14 this past February that we hosted at Nash, we
 15 invited families to come back for an open swim.
 16 So, you know, the Oregon Public Library donated
 17 the pool to us and did not charge us for that.
 18 So I think that was probably significant.
 19 And then, you know, when we have our
 20 speakers that come for our retreat, you know,
 21 they're doing -- you know, part of their
 22 presentation is in-kind, and then we have a
 23 store that's open for the women to shop in, and
 24 all of our vendors give us door prizes for the
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1 moms as well, too.
 2 And we have a good relationship with
 3 Crimson Ridge here in Rockford, where, you know,
 4 we've purchased from them, but also Chip, the
 5 owner, has been very kind to us, where he gives
 6 us at least, every year, between 4- and \$600
 7 worth of donations, and then he also gives us a
 8 very generous 20 percent discount.
 9 So, yeah, we do get a lot in-kind.
 10 MS. WILSON: Okay. But you aren't doing
 11 any fundraisers?
 12 MS. KURTZ: That's coming in the spring.
 13 We did have a gala that had to be cancelled, and
 14 that was planned for last month. So there have
 15 been attempts made to have larger events by the
 16 agency and those were cancelled. There is a
 17 golf play date coming up in June.
 18 MS. WILSON: All right. So that's
 19 projected for this fiscal year or next fiscal
 20 year?
 21 MS. KURTZ: That would be for FY22.
 22 MS. WILSON: Okay.
 23 MS. KURTZ: Yeah, this fiscal year.
 24 MS. WILSON: That would be helpful to be
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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p> <p>1 on here, You know, if you're doing fundraisers 2 that would affect services in Ogle County that 3 you put those on there. 4 MS. KURTZ: Okay. Thank you. 5 MS. WILSON: Okay. Thank you. 6 Then one more question. On Page 30, where 7 you have your expenses, Line 30, Officers and 8 Directors Liability Insurance, is that covered 9 some other way? 10 MS. KURTZ: Yeah, it must be from part of 11 the -- if it's not listed here, then it must be 12 covered by the agency. She puts everything in 13 the budget and we reviewed it, so yeah. 14 MS. WILSON: Okay. Thank you. Those are 15 my only questions. 16 Thank you for providing all that you do. 17 I really appreciate that you have the respite 18 care. And great story for your success story. 19 MS. MOOK: Thank you. 20 MS. BOWERS: I just have a couple comments 21 to make. 22 Your request for funding for this year is 23 the same as it has been in the past several 24 years, but yet, on Page 9 and again on Page 12, In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p> <p>1 MS. KURTZ: We do have, you know, DHS 2 money, as you know, in the budget that we can 3 use. So we do support Ogle with those funds 4 too. And we also have United Way that also 5 supports. So yeah, Ogle has been very good to 6 us. 7 MS. BOWERS: That's good to hear. 8 MS. KURTZ: Yeah, you have. 9 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Thank you very much 10 for your presentation. 11 MS. MESSENGER: I have a quick question 12 for them, Dorothy. 13 On Page 25 -- well, actually it's Page 24, 14 you talk about your mom's retreat, and I was 15 just curious why you don't have a dad's retreat 16 or a program for dads. Do you have any that go 17 to or would be willing to do that? Or you just 18 don't have any dads in the program, so it's not 19 something that's covered? 20 MS. MOOK: First of all, I'm not a man. I 21 don't know what a man needs. You know what I 22 mean? 23 You know, we have had moms that have asked 24 us that, but men don't want to come and sit In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p> <p>1 your direct support services are paying out a 2 little bit more than that. Why aren't you 3 asking for more funding? 4 MS. KURTZ: We talked about it. We did. 5 You know, it's that -- we hear that a lot, 6 like -- non-profits in general not trying to be 7 too greedy or kick us out of the running or -- I 8 don't know. We're hesitant. We have always 9 been trying to live within our means and not 10 over-ask. I don't know. It's probably -- 11 MS. MOOK: I think the other thing is 12 because, you know, it's a one-person program, 13 with the help of the, you know, respite workers. 14 But I think when I look at that, and sometimes, 15 you know, look at what I have done, you know, it 16 can get overwhelming. 17 So I think that that's probably just been 18 our hesitancy, you know, along with what 19 Kathleen said. 20 MS. BOWERS: Okay. I was just curious 21 about that, the program costing you more than 22 what we're offering, so -- or what you're 23 requesting. 24 MS. MOOK: Yeah. In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p> <p>1 around for a weekend to, you know, talk about 2 their feelings. 3 I think what could be helpful and what we 4 could possibly do would be to say, Hey, we need 5 a project done. Do you want to come and maybe, 6 you know, pound a hammer? And then, you know, 7 that would maybe lend its way into talking 8 about, you know, the challenges that they, you 9 know, have as being the father of a child with a 10 disability. 11 I have to tell you that through our mom's 12 retreat, we have had families form wonderful, 13 wonderful relationships, and I see them doing 14 things. You know, families that would not have 15 ever met before, through the mom's retreat, 16 their families are getting together socially 17 throughout the year. I mean, even to the extent 18 that they're going on vacations together. 19 I have two families specifically, you 20 know, one's from Ogle and one's from Winnebago, 21 and their kids have -- one has two boys with 22 autism, another has a girl with Down syndrome, 23 but these parents connected, and they go camping 24 together, I mean, they have been out west, they In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>

1 have been to southern Illinois.
 2 But, you know, and that's the other thing,
 3 is, I would need a man to step up and say, you
 4 know, I'm going to take on this role and help
 5 dads. And it's just not been anything that's
 6 been successful.
 7 And I think as a woman, you know, trying
 8 to figure out exactly what it is that a man
 9 wants, I mean, I don't even know what my husband
 10 wants sometimes, you know.
 11 I hope that answers your question.
 12 MS. MESSENGER: I was just kind of
 13 curious. Thank you.
 14 MS. MOOK: Yeah. Yeah, and they come to
 15 the social events, so. I mean, it's -- yeah.
 16 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Thank you very much.
 17 MS. KURTZ: Thank you.
 18 MS. MOOK: Thank you.
 19 (The hearing was concluded at
 20 9:39 a.m.)
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 24

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1 OGLE COUNTY
 2 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD (708)
 3 In the Matter of the Application)
 4 of)
 5) Zoom Meeting
 6 Easter Seals Children's)
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 9 Ogle County, Illinois)
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 11) May 5, 2022
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9 I, Callie S. Bodmer, hereby certify that I
 10 am a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of
 11 Illinois; that I am the one who, by order and at the
 12 direction of the Chairperson, Dorothy Bowers,
 13 reported in shorthand the proceedings had or
 14 required to be kept in the above-entitled case; and
 15 that the above and foregoing is a full, true and
 16 complete transcript of my said shorthand notes so
 17 taken.

18 Dated at Dixon, Illinois, this 11th day of
 19 May, 2022.



20
 21 Callie S. Bodmer
 22 Certified Shorthand Reporter
 23 Registered Professional Reporter
 24 IL License No. 084-004489
 IA License No. 1361
 P.O. Box 381
 Dixon, Illinois 61021
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1 OGLE COUNTY
 2 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD (708)
 3 In the Matter of the Application)
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 5 HOPE) Zoom Meeting
 6 Ogle County, Illinois) May 5, 2022
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 25 AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT (via Zoom):
 26 Ruth Carter
 27 Diana Johnson
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1 MS. BOWERS: We're a little ahead of
 2 schedule. So why don't you go ahead and do your
 3 presentation and then we'll have some questions
 4 for you.
 5 MS. CARTER: Okay. Yeah, let me just go
 6 ahead and grab Diana. She's in the other
 7 office.
 8 All right. Good morning. How much time
 9 would you like us to take for this today?
 10 MS. BOWERS: Each presentation is going to
 11 be about a half an hour. So if you want to take
 12 five to ten minutes, and then that will give us
 13 20 minutes for questions.
 14 MS. CARTER: Okay. Great. Wonderful.
 15 So this is Diana Johnson. She's our
 16 business coordinator, for those of you who
 17 haven't met her through the meetings before.
 18 My name is Ruth Carter. I'm the director
 19 at HOPE of Ogle County.
 20 I'll start with talking a little bit about
 21 HOPE services and what we do. And you have read
 22 the application, so you have an idea, obviously,
 23 at this point of all our different services,
 24 but --
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1 What was that? I couldn't hear you,
 2 Dorothy. What was the question?
 3 MS. BOWERS: I didn't ask a question.
 4 MS. CARTER: Oh, it just sounded like
 5 there was -- okay. Sorry about that.
 6 MS. BOWERS: Sorry.
 7 MS. CARTER: That's okay.
 8 So I'll start to talk a little bit about
 9 what HOPE does and what we have been offering
 10 also in the past year for the clients that we
 11 serve. So we are a comprehensive domestic
 12 violence agency, which truly means that we, by
 13 our funders -- our major funders are DHS and
 14 ICADV, which is our VOCA and violence funding,
 15 they have guidelines that are set for our
 16 services, a guidelines manual, and we have land
 17 in the category of comprehensive domestic
 18 violence agency. Which means that we are a 24/7
 19 shelter and hotline service. That's a must for
 20 the component. Meaning, that we have to have
 21 staff coverage 24/7 for our shelter services and
 22 also for hotline services.
 23 So we have our 24/7 hotline, which anybody
 24 can call anytime, the day or night, and when
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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 they call they get a direct staff member. 2 There's no voicemail here at HOPE of Ogle 3 County. We don't utilize that, for fear of 4 missing any type of important call, especially 5 when there's safety involved. So we answer that 6 hotline 24/7. 7 And all of the staff that we have here at 8 HOPE of Ogle County have to go through a 40-hour 9 domestic violence training before they can begin 10 working with clients in any capacity. So we -- 11 when we hire, each direct service staff goes to 12 that 40-hour training. Actually, all of our 13 staff has the 40-hour training here at HOPE. 14 Diana has it, even though she doesn't do direct 15 services. 16 So that training is just kind of beginning 17 of education. We -- 40 hours seems like a lot, 18 but then our staff attend regular trainings 19 throughout the year. Most of it has been 20 virtual, with the pandemic in the past few 21 years, but some in-person trainings are starting 22 again, which is nice. And that can be local 23 trainings and it has also been statewide 24 trainings, in previous years in person. <p style="text-align: center;">In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 where it comes from. 2 So power and control is the main center of 3 domestic violence, and it's -- and when I say 4 violence, that doesn't mean just physical. 5 Domestic abuse is everything from emotional 6 abuse, financial abuse, sexual abuse in the 7 relationship, control issues to the extent of 8 wanting to monitor and control where they go, 9 who they see, what they do, what they wear. 10 And sometimes it doesn't have all those 11 components. Sometimes the components are just a 12 couple, but enough to intimidate and control in 13 the relationship. And that's really kind of 14 that center, is that when the person in the 15 relationship feels unsafe to be able to be who 16 they are and to do what they want to do in their 17 life because the person that they're with is 18 controlling from being able to do that. 19 So we have some of our clients that come 20 in for appointment counseling on a regular basis 21 with our counselors. We have -- right now we 22 have four adult counselors -- three adult 23 counselors and one child counselor, and we are 24 in the hiring process again for our Latinx <p style="text-align: center;">In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p></p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 Our coalition, our Illinois domestic 2 violence, ICADV, provides trainings that kind of 3 let us get the hours that we need for education. 4 So all the supervisors here at HOPE of Ogle 5 County are either getting their supervision 6 ICADV training or we already have our 7 certification. Delphine is working on hers, 8 since she's a new supervisor. It takes about a 9 year and a half to do that. 10 Normally what that is, is it's an 11 additional training and additional supervision 12 that goes along with becoming a supervisor at 13 your organization. If you're in the domestic 14 violence field, that's a requirement. 15 So that gives kind of a background of our 16 major requirements at HOPE of Ogle County. But 17 most importantly, what we look for in the staff 18 that we have is a staff that has a passion for 19 the work that we do, that has an understanding 20 of domestic abuse at the beginning, enough so 21 that they don't have their preconceived belief 22 systems already in place, where that's going to 23 be an issue in understanding the dynamics of 24 domestic abuse, and really what that means and <p style="text-align: center;">In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 outreach counselor. And all of them work with 2 our clients in the capacity that the client 3 feels most comfortable; meaning, that might be 4 telephone counseling, that might be the secure 5 video counseling, and it might be in-person 6 counseling, or it might be a combination of the 7 three. 8 We set up appointments based on what each 9 client feels that they are in need of. 10 Sometimes we have to set some boundaries with 11 how often, because we only have so many hours in 12 the day. So sometimes clients will have to wait 13 a week before they maybe see a counselor again. 14 But usually at least once a week, if that's what 15 they need. 16 And our counselors are great at what they 17 do. They're constantly seeking the training and 18 additional support from each other and other 19 counselors throughout the state to be able to 20 get that additional motivation to continue to 21 learn and to incorporate new ideas in the 22 counseling techniques. 23 So then we have a court advocate program. 24 So Kelly and Von (phonetic) are our court <p style="text-align: center;">In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p></p>

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1 advocates, and Kelly moved into our supervisory
 2 position. Oh, she's working on her ICADV, too.
 3 She moved into the supervisory position as well
 4 in the past six months. So she's supervising
 5 Von. Kelly's been with us for over 35 years.
 6 So her experience is amazing.
 7 So what she does then is, she and Von help
 8 clients move through the court system, and they
 9 support them all the way through. So it's not
 10 just going to the first court date for the
 11 emergency order of protection to be there to
 12 support and help them with the paperwork,
 13 they're there with every step of the way through
 14 that order of protection court process. And
 15 that can be multiple court dates, depending on
 16 if attorneys get involved, depending on if
 17 there's children involved.
 18 And then they also can attend some of the
 19 criminal domestic violence court cases, if a
 20 client is interested in having that additional
 21 support here in Ogle County. They only serve
 22 Ogle County, but once in a great while they get
 23 pulled out because a client has multiple cases
 24 in a couple different counties. But Ogle County
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1 is where they provide the order of protection
 2 assistance.
 3 All of our services are in Ogle County.
 4 So we have our Polo office, which is newer, in
 5 the past three years. It's our outreach office
 6 to reach our rural community even more so than
 7 we were doing before. Even more important,
 8 throughout the pandemic to give folks a place to
 9 go which is a little bit closer to them. We do
 10 find that the more rural our county spreads out,
 11 just like any other social service services,
 12 it's a little harder for people to reach what
 13 they need the further west you go.
 14 So we are located in the KSB Clinic in
 15 Polo. There are two offices, so that we can
 16 provide children's counseling at the same time
 17 as adult counseling. And Addy is our rural
 18 outreach counselor who staffs that office five
 19 days a week, with some varied hours. So she
 20 basically is there, just like our counselors
 21 here in the Rochelle office, to be able to
 22 provide all those counseling services I
 23 mentioned earlier.
 24 Then we have an outreach office in Oregon.
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1 That is by appointment only. So we have our
 2 clients that live in the Oregon area, they can
 3 make counseling appointments and counselors
 4 drive out there to meet them for those
 5 appointments. There's also two offices in that
 6 location as well, one for the children and one
 7 for the adults, so they can provide those
 8 appointments at the same time if needed.
 9 Then we have our outreach office in
 10 Rochelle that was intended originally to be for
 11 our Latinx outreach counselor to be in the
 12 office, like, four days a week. And what we
 13 found in the past few years, since having that
 14 office, it's more important to have that
 15 counselor here at this location, answering the
 16 hotlines, being available 24/7, when they're
 17 staffed here. And then we'll use that office
 18 for their appointment counseling. So they can
 19 meet clients over there for appointment
 20 counseling or here at the main office.
 21 MS. JOHNSON: We also have our legal
 22 advocate in Oregon.
 23 MS. CARTER: Yes, and that was in the
 24 application as well.
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1 We have our legal advocate in Oregon.
 2 That is new. When the pandemic hit and the
 3 courthouse shut down, they pretty much disbanded
 4 our office that was over there. So we looked
 5 for another one that worked out even better. We
 6 have now a location at --
 7 MS. JOHNSON: Commerce Building.
 8 MS. CARTER: Commerce Building, yeah.
 9 Thank you.
 10 -- the Commerce Building in Oregon, which
 11 is right across the street from the old
 12 courthouse. And that's been wonderful. We have
 13 room for, again, children to be able to be
 14 there. We have extra room for two court
 15 advocates to help with two orders of protection
 16 at the same time, where our office in the
 17 courthouse was very small. So that has been a
 18 blessing.
 19 So we have all of that that has happened,
 20 which feels like it should be ten years ago it
 21 happened but it's been three years. So it's
 22 been busy pandemic years. And we continue to do
 23 the secure video counseling and telephone
 24 counseling, and then our judges in Ogle County
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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p> <p>1 are continuing to offer the emergency order of 2 protections virtually, which we feel is a great 3 asset for our clients in the sense that they 4 don't have to be concerned about arranging 5 childcare and/or transportation to get to the 6 courthouse. So that really does make a 7 difference for a lot of our clients. 8 The only slight drawback to doing the 9 emergency order of protection virtually is that 10 the second date for the order of protection is 11 in person, and sometimes that can be a little 12 intimidating, not having already been to the 13 courthouse to experience that prior. But our 14 court advocates are really good at walking all 15 of our clients through that order of protection 16 process and what to potentially expect from the 17 judges and what questions might be asked so that 18 they're not completely blind-sided by the 19 sterility of the process, I guess is the word 20 I'm looking for. So yeah, they're there to be 21 that support network for them. 22 And then we have four staff who speak 23 Spanish currently that are in different shifts, 24 so that when folks call who do speak Spanish, <p style="text-align: center;">In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p> </p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p> <p>1 out of the food pantry for clients to make, to 2 helping with their medications, to sitting down 3 and talking, to being a support network, to 4 bringing out some board games, playing with 5 kids, painting nails with our adult clients or 6 teen clients. They have been a great asset. We 7 have a great team right now. They're very 8 supportive of the clients that come into the 9 shelter. 10 Our shelter stay, we used to have this 11 general guideline that it's one to 45 days. 12 That is no longer there anymore, which I am 13 thankful for, because it really did keep our -- 14 keep that language that we had from our State 15 funders in there, which was sometimes 16 intimidating for some of the clients that came 17 to shelter. Like, how am I going to get it all 18 done in 45 days? Even though we explained that 19 we can provide extensions, it was always a kind 20 of roadblock to, I think, some folks feeling 21 they can actually come into the shelter. Like, 22 how am I going to do that? 23 So now it is open-ended. It's a 24 case-by-case basis in our guidelines, in our <p style="text-align: center;">In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p> </p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p> <p>1 we're hoping that we have at least one on staff 2 able to provide that immediate support. 3 But we do work with LanguageLine when 4 there's not a Spanish-speaking tech here or if a 5 person calls speaking any other language. 6 LanguageLine serves up to 500 languages. So we 7 have a -- now a training video for our staff on 8 how to use LanguageLine and how to connect 9 three-way calls and all that fun stuff that 10 technology can sometimes trip us up. We just 11 finished that, so that was an experience, doing 12 our little training videos, making sure 13 everybody knows how to use the phones, what 14 buttons to push, and make sure that runs 15 smoothly so when we do have a person who calls, 16 a survivor who calls and speaks another 17 language, they feel hopefully that it's as fluid 18 as possible when they do and to be able to get 19 that translation. 20 We also have Jamie -- our shelter 21 component, and Jamie Hemp is our shelter 22 coordinator. She supervises seven advocates 23 right now, and those shelter advocates provide 24 everything from helping to just get some food <p style="text-align: center;">In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p> </p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p> <p>1 policies, so that staff that we have can 2 hopefully work with each individual situation 3 and each individual person, each individual 4 family. They all have different needs when they 5 come in. 6 Some of the folks that come into shelter 7 stay for just a few days and some choose to stay 8 until they find safe housing of their own. Some 9 take an emotional break from the relationship 10 they're in and then return, which is completely 11 fine. They can come back to shelter as many 12 times as they need when there's abuse going on 13 at home, so. 14 And then we have our extended emergency 15 shelter, which is an extension to our shelter. 16 It gives one family -- it does need to be a 17 family, because there's a six-bed, single-family 18 home -- one family at a time will be able to get 19 back on their feet. 20 We all know right now that childcare is a 21 main crux in, not just Ogle County but all over. 22 It's really hard for folks to find childcare in 23 order to work. And so we know that our clients 24 need that additional time, that additional <p style="text-align: center;">In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p> </p>

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1 opportunity to be able to get back on their feet
 2 and find that safe housing.
 3 In the past three years, we have had
 4 additional COVID rental assistance funding from
 5 our coalition, from the Rochelle Community
 6 Foundation, from our ESG funders.
 7 MS. JOHNSON: EFSP.
 8 MS. CARTER: EFSP, they have an additional
 9 stream of funding. So we have applied for
 10 additional funds to help our clients with rental
 11 assistance over the past three years. And they
 12 have to meet certain requirements, but it's been
 13 an amazing asset for folks to get back on their
 14 feet and to find --
 15 MS. BOWERS: Ruth.
 16 MS. CARTER: Yes?
 17 MS. BOWERS: Ruth, I'm going to have to
 18 cut you off.
 19 MS. CARTER: That's fine.
 20 MS. BOWERS: I know you're passionate
 21 about what you do.
 22 MS. CARTER: I just keep on talking until
 23 somebody says stop.
 24 MS. BOWERS: Okay. We'll go ahead and
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1 start asking questions.
 2 MS. CARTER: Okay.
 3 MS. BOWERS: Kathe, do you want to start?
 4 MS. WILSON: All right. I can do that.
 5 Thank you, Ruth, for your presentation.
 6 That was very enlightening.
 7 I am so glad to hear that the shelter has
 8 become open-ended. I know that's probably
 9 relieved a great source of stress for your
 10 clients.
 11 About the only question I have is on
 12 Exhibit 2.3, where -- that's the spreadsheet,
 13 and it says, Ogle County Domestic Violence
 14 Program --
 15 MS. CARTER: Yes.
 16 MS. WILSON: -- includes all direct
 17 services to Ogle County clients.
 18 Does that include shelter?
 19 MS. CARTER: It does.
 20 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.
 21 MS. CARTER: Yes.
 22 MS. WILSON: It does include shelter?
 23 MS. CARTER: Yes. It is all of ours
 24 wrapped together, because there's really -- our
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1 info net doesn't really give us a good way --
 2 our data entry system -- to separate out the
 3 counseling services, the court advocacy services
 4 in a way that really gives you a fair
 5 representation of the Ogle County residents we
 6 serve.
 7 So wanted to wrap that -- and it is one
 8 program. Our funders consider us all one
 9 program.
 10 MS. WILSON: All right. Thank you very
 11 much. Congratulations on having such a
 12 wonderful service and such a needed service,
 13 especially at this time in history.
 14 MS. CARTER: Thank you, Kathe.
 15 MS. BOWERS: Marcy, do you have any
 16 questions?
 17 MS. HAUSHAHN: No, I do not have any
 18 questions.
 19 MS. BOWERS: Amy, do you have any
 20 questions?
 21 MS. CARTER: You're muted.
 22 MS. HENKEL: Sorry about that.
 23 Just kind of a clinical question on the
 24 orders of protection. What is the difference of
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1 the teens and adults being served versus orders
 2 of protection filed?
 3 MS. CARTER: Are you talking about on Page
 4 14?
 5 MS. HENKEL: Yes. Right at the bottom
 6 there.
 7 MS. CARTER: That was kind of -- those
 8 stats are kind of attached to that pie chart
 9 that is also one of the attachments, the
 10 colorful -- the only colorful piece to our --
 11 MS. HENKEL: Right here, the pie chart?
 12 MS. JOHNSON: Yeah.
 13 MS. CARTER: So it kind of gives an
 14 explanation of the clients that were served
 15 within those categories.
 16 Yeah, so the reason I put number of
 17 children/teens served and then number of adults
 18 served, because teens can be -- the reason I
 19 separate teens just a little bit is teens can be
 20 teens of the parent that comes into the program
 21 and they are considered a child client but they
 22 really are teens, so they're getting more teen
 23 services; and then what I probably could have
 24 put is number of adult teens served as well.
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1 Because we do have some teens that come through
 2 that are not with a parent, but they are getting
 3 the immediate order of protection because of a
 4 teen dating violence situation. So that's a
 5 little bit of representation of that. That's in
 6 general served.
 7 And then the number of orders of
 8 protection filed for Ogle County residents was
 9 63 in a calendar year. But the previous year it
 10 was 101, so with the pandemic going on -- fiscal
 11 year, sorry. Fiscal year.
 12 MS. HENKEL: So it's really gone down
 13 drastically.
 14 MS. CARTER: Yeah, I think it will be
 15 interesting to see at the end of this fiscal
 16 year, which ends June 30th for us, where that's
 17 going to land. There was a slowdown for the
 18 calendar year, and I don't know if that was
 19 because things are starting to open up again
 20 with the pandemic and that it's giving folks
 21 more opportunities and options the second half
 22 of the year. You know, it's really hard to
 23 figure out.
 24 MS. JOHNSON: Yeah, I don't know either.
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1 MS. CARTER: But I'm going to say that's
 2 part of it. At the going of things opening up,
 3 people are finally getting out of the house and
 4 you're starting to see a real increase of the
 5 virtual emergency orders of protection and then
 6 that's kind of dissipated. So we'll see if that
 7 starts to level out again by the end of this
 8 fiscal year.
 9 MS. HENKEL: Thank you.
 10 MS. CARTER: You're welcome.
 11 MS. BOWERS: Next. Haley, do you have any
 12 questions?
 13 MS. WHALEY: I'm good, thank you.
 14 MS. BOWERS: Did Renee come on yet,
 15 Justine?
 16 MS. MESSENGER: Renee, no.
 17 MS. BOWERS: Okay. All right.
 18 I just have a couple questions for you
 19 then. I need ten hands today.
 20 Okay. On Page 12, you have the Ogle
 21 County Mental Health Board, it's only 52,916.67.
 22 Is that according to your fiscal year?
 23 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. That's what we had
 24 received so far for the fiscal year.
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1 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Not what the 2022
 2 budget is though, correct?
 3 MS. JOHNSON: No. This is the dollars
 4 received during your current fiscal year, is
 5 what it asked for. So that is what we had
 6 received as of our current fiscal year.
 7 MS. BOWERS: I would think it would be
 8 less confusing if -- since your fiscal year ends
 9 June 30th, if you would have the previous year's
 10 figures in there. Because it looks like we're
 11 not giving you what you were allotted, so.
 12 MS. CARTER: Oh, I see. So when it says
 13 during your fiscal year --
 14 MS. JOHNSON: You want a calendar year?
 15 MS. CARTER: Or the past fiscal year.
 16 It's up to you guys how you want it.
 17 MS. BOWERS: For the past fiscal year.
 18 Because it says fiscal year. If you just leave
 19 it at fiscal year.
 20 MS. JOHNSON: So instead of current, you
 21 would like it as past?
 22 MS. BOWERS: Yes.
 23 MS. JOHNSON: Okay.
 24 MS. CARTER: That does make more sense.
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1 It feels a little weird just doing a partial of
 2 what we're getting from all of our funders.
 3 Would you like us to correct that and send
 4 it back to you?
 5 MS. BOWERS: No. Just something to keep
 6 in mind for next year.
 7 MS. CARTER: Okay.
 8 MS. BOWERS: And then on your approved
 9 budget for your expenses, it seems like you're
 10 paying an awful lot in rent and utilities, plus
 11 building maintenance and security. Are those
 12 figures actually correct on how much you have to
 13 pay for rent and utilities?
 14 MS. CARTER: Is that client rent as well?
 15 MS. JOHNSON: No, that's not client rent.
 16 MS. BOWERS: Before the pie chart.
 17 MS. JOHNSON: Yeah. Under 755, the rent
 18 and utilities?
 19 MS. BOWERS: Yes.
 20 MS. CARTER: Yes.
 21 MS. BOWERS: That seems like an awful lot
 22 that you have to pay out in rent.
 23 MS. JOHNSON: We have three -- four --
 24 four different facilities that we pay rent on,
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1 plus all the utilities, plus the utilities of
 2 the two offices right here.
 3 MS. BOWERS: Okay.
 4 MS. JOHNSON: So, yeah, it's a lot. And
 5 the utilities are the gas, electric, all of
 6 that, you know.
 7 MS. BOWERS: Sure, sure.
 8 MS. JOHNSON: So, yeah, it adds up.
 9 MS. BOWERS: I'm sure it does. I just
 10 found that to be an astounding amount of money.
 11 MS. JOHNSON: Yeah.
 12 MS. CARTER: The shelter, when it comes
 13 to, like, the water and garbage bill and things
 14 like that, that's really gone up a lot in the
 15 past couple years, and then just having
 16 residents using all of the facilities.
 17 MS. BOWERS: Oh, sure, sure.
 18 MS. CARTER: Yeah, that's where we pay the
 19 most.
 20 MS. BOWERS: That's all the questions that
 21 I have at the present time.
 22 Anybody else have anything?
 23 (No verbal response.)
 24 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Thank you, Ruth.
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1 MS. CARTER: Thank you, guys, and thank
 2 you so much for everything you all do. We
 3 really appreciate, you know, the fact that you
 4 are volunteering your time to be able to help
 5 all the organizations here in Ogle County. So
 6 thank you.
 7 MS. HENKEL: Thank you guys, too.
 8 MS. BOWERS: Thank you.
 9 (The hearing was concluded at
 10 7:42 a.m.)
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1 OGLE COUNTY
 2 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD (708)
 3 In the Matter of the Application)
 4 of)
 5 HOPE) Zoom Meeting
 6 Ogle County, Illinois)
 7) May 5, 2022
 8
 9 I, Callie S. Bodmer, hereby certify that I
 10 am a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of
 11 Illinois; that I am the one who, by order and at the
 12 direction of the Chairperson, Dorothy Bowers,
 13 reported in shorthand the proceedings had or
 14 required to be kept in the above-entitled case; and
 15 that the above and foregoing is a full, true and
 16 complete transcript of my said shorthand notes so
 17 taken.
 18 Dated at Dixon, Illinois, this 8th day of
 19 May, 2022.
 20 
 21 Callie S. Bodmer
 22 Certified Shorthand Reporter
 23 Registered Professional Reporter
 24 IL License No. 084-004489
 IA License No. 1361
 P.O. Box 381
 Dixon, Illinois 61021
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1 OGLE COUNTY
 2 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD (708)
 3 In the Matter of the Application)
 4 of)
 5 Lutheran Social Services) Zoom Meeting
 6 Ogle County, Illinois) May 5, 2022
 7
 8
 9 Testimony of Witnesses
 10 Produced and
 11 Examined on this 5th day
 12 of May, 2022,
 13 before the Ogle County
 14 Community Mental Health Board
 15
 16 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (via Zoom):
 17 Dorothy Bowers, Chairperson
 18 Marcella Haushahn
 19 Amy Zbinden-Henkel
 20 Haley Whaley
 21 Kathleen Wilson
 22 Justine Messenger, Secretary
 23 Reporter: Callie S. Bodmer
 24
 25 AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT (via Zoom):
 26 Chris Mills

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 18
 19
 20 End. 18
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 23
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1 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Chris, we'll do this
 2 like we have done in the past. We'll give you a
 3 few minutes to do your presentation about your
 4 funding request and then we'll be asking
 5 questions.
 6 So go ahead and start.
 7 MS. MILLS: All right. Good morning.
 8 As we have done in the past, LSSI has
 9 included three different programs in our
 10 application. The first one is CCBYS, and this
 11 program is focused on serving those youth who
 12 are either locked out or run away from their
 13 homes due to family conflict or other personal
 14 concerns, mental health concerns, substance
 15 abuse, a variety of issues.
 16 And one of the main components of this
 17 program is the crisis intervention. That means
 18 that we have staff available 24 hours a day,
 19 7 days a week, 365 days a year, in case a police
 20 department contacts our program and says that
 21 they have a youth in their custody and that
 22 either the parent will not let them in due to a
 23 lockout or that they have run away.
 24 And the police departments aren't really
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1 quick to handle these youth, and -- in terms of
 2 the time it takes and the resources it takes to
 3 try to work towards reunification and/or
 4 coordination with DCFS, if absolutely necessary.
 5 So our program steps in and takes care of that
 6 and collaborates with the police departments so
 7 that these youth can get their needs taken care
 8 of and hopefully end up back at home with issues
 9 resolved, and the program is then able to
 10 continue counseling with the family to prevent
 11 future situations.
 12 We also do have the ability to do what's
 13 called discretionary services. And
 14 discretionary services are really what I would
 15 classify as kind of preventative. So this would
 16 be a situation where maybe there's a youth who
 17 we know is struggling and we know there's
 18 conflict in the home, and even though there
 19 hasn't been a lockout or a runaway situation
 20 yet, we know there's a high risk for it.
 21 And in those cases, our staff can get
 22 referred through CCBYS and we can do some
 23 preventative counseling with the youth and the
 24 family so that those higher levels of care, in
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1 terms of law enforcement or DCFS, we don't need
 2 those at all, and we can hopefully help resolve
 3 any communication issues or any of those family
 4 concerns that are leading to the risk.
 5 The second program I'll talk about is
 6 Project Lead, and that is our prevention program
 7 that focuses on substance use prevention for
 8 youth ages 11 to 18. They do a variety of
 9 different prevention activities, communication
 10 campaigns, but they're mostly well known for
 11 going into the schools and providing Too Good
 12 for Drugs curriculum. And this is an
 13 evidence-based curriculum that our area schools
 14 have really taken to. Ogle County, we get lots
 15 of requests, and we're continuing to expand for
 16 this program.
 17 Not only have we gotten a great response
 18 from the community with Project Lead, DHS is
 19 also acknowledging that we may need to serve
 20 youth a little bit younger. Sadly, we're seeing
 21 the trend going towards youth experimentation
 22 happen at even an earlier age.
 23 And so as I had talked about last month
 24 when we first got together, that we just got
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1 notified that we were one of the programs that
 2 were chosen to pilot serving fourth and fifth
 3 graders this coming year for Project Lead in
 4 Ogle County. So it is what we're going to
 5 consider our pilot county. And we're thrilled
 6 and have gotten already a great response from
 7 schools about serving this younger age group.
 8 The last program I'll talk about is called
 9 Youth Works, and that is a violence prevention
 10 program. And the age range for that one is a
 11 little bit different; it's 11 to 24. So this --
 12 this program really focuses a lot on bullying.
 13 A lot of times, through our schools and other
 14 youth-serving agencies, bullying is what we hear
 15 a lot about. Dating violence is also something
 16 that is pretty problematic in our areas,
 17 including Ogle County.
 18 So this program creates what's called an
 19 action plan through the area project board and
 20 the community committee and their youth
 21 committee so that there's a comprehensive take
 22 and input towards developing what's called an
 23 action plan to address those main issues that we
 24 see in Ogle County.
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1 They really neat thing about the
 2 prevention program is it is county focused. A
 3 lot of the program's kind of just have an
 4 overarching goal and go in to serve each county
 5 the same. The prevention programs do not do
 6 that. They look at each county individually and
 7 try to meet the needs based on the feedback that
 8 they get from community members and youth.
 9 So I'm happy to take questions or give
 10 more detail if necessary on any of the three
 11 programs, but I'll take a breath and let someone
 12 else jump in if they want more information.
 13 MS. BOWERS: Thank you, Chris.
 14 Kathe, do you want to start with you this
 15 time? Do you have any questions for Chris?
 16 MS. WILSON: Thank you, Dorothy, and thank
 17 you, Chris.
 18 I do have, on your Page 6, the
 19 descriptions of Project Lead and Youth Works and
 20 CCBYS, thank you, those are very good and really
 21 informed me about what is under each umbrella.
 22 Just in the Project Lead paragraph, the
 23 last sentence says that you have requested --
 24 Oregon Elementary School has requested
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1 application -- presentations for Lead staff.
 2 I was wondering if that has gone forward
 3 yet?
 4 MS. MILLS: Yes. Anytime we get a request
 5 to serve the youth in our age group, which sixth
 6 grade is still technically in our age group,
 7 even before this coming year, when we start
 8 serving fourth and fifth graders also, but, yes,
 9 we try to accommodate every request. We're only
 10 required by DHS to serve one school, and our
 11 goal was never to serve one school. Our goal
 12 was to meet the needs of Ogle County schools and
 13 the youth that are eligible for these services.
 14 So it's really why we do applications like
 15 this, because we don't want to turn anyone away.
 16 We know there's more costs when we expand our
 17 services, and we do our best to get the support
 18 we need and then try to work together as a
 19 program to meet the needs.
 20 So, yes, absolutely we did go into that
 21 school and give presentations to those sixth
 22 graders.
 23 MS. WILSON: Thank you.
 24 In the next paragraph, under Youth Works,
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1 I don't know, I guess I'm a little bit confused
 2 about the wording. Youth Works is fully funded
 3 by the Illinois Department of Human Services.
 4 If it's fully funded, why are you asking us for
 5 money for it?
 6 MS. MILLS: What I intended by that is
 7 that they are the funder of the program. They
 8 put out the grant request, and then each year we
 9 reapply for it. And so they are the ones who
 10 provide the funds that launch the program.
 11 And so it does need extra support. So
 12 when I say fully funded, it -- DCFS doesn't help
 13 with this. Other governing bodies -- it is a
 14 DHS grant, is what I was not very well saying.
 15 MS. WILSON: Okay. So it isn't fully
 16 funded by IDHS?
 17 MS. MILLS: No. Obviously we do get
 18 supportive funds. Like, the 708 is one of our
 19 greatest supporters. So yes, that wasn't
 20 intended to diminish that.
 21 But they are the ones who put out the
 22 funding notice and request and then we apply for
 23 the grant.
 24 MS. WILSON: Okay. All righty. So that's
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1 a little bit clearer.
 2 Thank you for breaking out, on your
 3 Exhibit 2.3, the Ogle County funding out from
 4 everybody else. That's really good.
 5 I am a little bit curious though why
 6 Project Lead costs \$900 an hour?
 7 MS. MILLS: Well, part of the -- part of
 8 what the time frames that we were given included
 9 during the pandemic, and we weren't allowed to
 10 go into schools for quite a long time. We
 11 weren't allowed access to schools until August
 12 of 2021, was the first time that we were able to
 13 reenter schools. So every effort that -- we had
 14 contact with youth, but I honestly tell my staff
 15 that I don't count that as serving youth.
 16 The pandemic was very, very challenging
 17 for the prevention program specifically because
 18 we're dependent on youth, they are our partners,
 19 and that's how we deliver this curriculum. And
 20 the schools were struggling too. I mean, we
 21 bought the resources to be able to deliver
 22 electronically our lessons. They were
 23 scrambling themselves to try to accommodate
 24 everything and meet the educational needs of
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1 these students. So it was just a very
 2 challenging time.
 3 So these numbers are a little skewed,
 4 quite honestly. And so we were able to get back
 5 in in August of 2021, and the numbers I think
 6 have been pretty consistent over the last few
 7 years, and they're only increasing, with the
 8 exception of the times that the pandemic
 9 disrupted our services.
 10 MS. WILSON: So what I think I'm hearing
 11 you saying is, you had the same program costs
 12 but you were serving fewer students?
 13 MS. MILLS: Correct, yes. Because we
 14 weren't -- we were working with one school, yes.
 15 MS. WILSON: So that's why the cost per
 16 hour of service is so high?
 17 MS. MILLS: Yes, that's why it looks -- it
 18 looks awful, quite honestly. And to calculate
 19 this way for this particular application was
 20 hard for me to look at that, because I know the
 21 hard work the staff put in, I know the efforts
 22 that they put in it, but those are just
 23 roadblocks that we ran into during the pandemic,
 24 and it really shows in that portion of our
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1 application.
 2 MS. WILSON: Okay. Thank you very much.
 3 That answers my questions.
 4 MS. MILLS: Thank you, Kathe.
 5 MS. BOWERS: Anything else, Kathe?
 6 MS. WILSON: No.
 7 MS. BOWERS: Marcy, do you have any
 8 questions?
 9 MS. HAUSHAHN: No, I do not. Thank you.
 10 MS. BOWERS: Amy?
 11 MS. HENKEL: First of all, thank you so
 12 much for expanding to the younger, elementary
 13 grades, because I can tell you firsthand we have
 14 seen those kids experimenting at vaping and
 15 doing all kinds of things at the elementary
 16 level that has been really difficult for us to
 17 see at that young age. So thank you for that.
 18 Also, for the kind of preventative
 19 program, I don't remember the term you used,
 20 what is the best way -- so to get in with
 21 families, you know, if we're at risk of a
 22 lockout, what's the best way to access that? Is
 23 it just to call over to Nachusa?
 24 MS. MILLS: Absolutely. So we're able --
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1 if you feel like that there's a youth who's at
 2 risk for any of those different reasons, you can
 3 go ahead and call over to Nachusa. We will send
 4 a worker in to try to -- you know, to see what
 5 they can do. Hopefully parents are going to be
 6 supportive of them receiving some services.
 7 But, yes, all it takes is a referral to
 8 CCBYS. And I would be happy to get you all that
 9 information. I have also asked that program to
 10 make a big push to get that information out to
 11 schools, and so that's something you'll see more
 12 of also.
 13 MS. HENKEL: Okay. Yeah, that sounds
 14 great.
 15 You know, I have run into this in schools
 16 too. If there is actually a refusal to go home,
 17 it's the end of the school day, I think the best
 18 thing then is to ask for the police to get
 19 involved in terms of taking custody, like you
 20 mentioned? Maybe especially if there's a school
 21 resource officer?
 22 MS. MILLS: Yes.
 23 MS. HENKEL: And then they would contact
 24 you for the actual lockout program?
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1 MS. MILLS: Yes.
 2 MS. HENKEL: And is it accurate to say --
 3 for the lockout program, obviously the hope is
 4 to return home, but sometimes we don't achieve
 5 that. Are there three emergency foster homes
 6 available -- that's kind of, I think, what I ran
 7 into earlier in the year -- that could possibly
 8 choose to accept this child temporarily or not?
 9 MS. MILLS: We are required by that
 10 program to have a list of foster homes that we
 11 call and see if they are willing to house the
 12 youth for, usually it's up to 48 hours, but --
 13 and we also do have a backup shelter that
 14 sometimes we refer to if the foster homes say,
 15 No, we absolutely can't.
 16 But we stay involved with that youth, even
 17 if they do go to that shelter. So we're not
 18 stopping and trying to figure out some sort of
 19 solution to try to resolve this.
 20 The goal in those cases is really to try
 21 to avoid DCFS involvement. That doesn't always
 22 happen, but it does most of the time, quite
 23 honestly. Usually there's a friend of the
 24 family or a family member or a friend even that
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1 the parent will give permission for the youth to
 2 stay with. And then usually, with some
 3 counseling and some family intervention, there's
 4 some level of reunification that can occur to at
 5 least avoid the DCFS involvement.
 6 MS. HENKEL: Gotcha. Thank you so much.
 7 And the shelter is in Rockford? Just
 8 curious.
 9 MS. MILLS: I believe that one of the
 10 shelters that we have used is in Rockford.
 11 Yeah, because shelters are very hard to come by
 12 right now. I mean, we used to even have one at
 13 Nachusa. And it just became really challenging
 14 to have a shelter. And the trend -- and we all
 15 know that social services does go through trends
 16 in terms of funding. And the trend has been to
 17 steer away from any type of residential care,
 18 and that has caused problems because at times,
 19 unfortunately, those are needed.
 20 MS. HENKEL: Yeah, I empathize with you on
 21 that.
 22 Okay. So thank you so much.
 23 MS. MILLS: You're welcome. Thank you.
 24 MS. BOWERS: Haley, do you have any
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1 questions?
 2 MS. WHALEY: I'm good. I just want to
 3 thank you again for everything you guys do.
 4 MS. MILLS: Thank you. It's appreciated.
 5 MS. BOWERS: Chris, I really don't have
 6 any questions for you right now.
 7 Good presentation on your funding request.
 8 I'm glad that you made Ogle County funding that
 9 you get more visible on the sheets.
 10 MS. MILLS: Yeah, thank you for that,
 11 Dorothy. I know in the past that was one of the
 12 biggest challenges, is really trying to pick
 13 apart the application to figure out how much of
 14 this is really Ogle County. And so the past
 15 couple years, I just wanted to make that very
 16 clear, or as clear as possible, to you all how
 17 much of what we do is dedicated just to Ogle
 18 County.
 19 MS. BOWERS: You did a good job this year.
 20 MS. MILLS: Thank you.
 21 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Thank you very much,
 22 Chris.
 23 MS. MILLS: Well, thank you. You all have
 24 a great day. And from all the staff members, we
 In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)

1 appreciate all of you and all the work that you
2 do. So thank you.

3 (The hearing was concluded at
4 9:19 a.m.)
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1 OGLE COUNTY
2 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD (708)

3 In the Matter of the Application)

4 of)
5 Lutheran Social Services) Zoom Meeting
6 Ogle County, Illinois)
7) May 5, 2022
8

9 I, Callie S. Bodmer, hereby certify that I
10 am a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of
11 Illinois; that I am the one who, by order and at the
12 direction of the Chairperson, Dorothy Bowers,
13 reported in shorthand the proceedings had or
14 required to be kept in the above-entitled case; and
15 that the above and foregoing is a full, true and
16 complete transcript of my said shorthand notes so
17 taken.

18 Dated at Dixon, Illinois, this 11th day of
19 May, 2022.

20 
21 Callie S. Bodmer
22 Certified Shorthand Reporter
23 Registered Professional Reporter
24 IL License No. 084-004489
IA License No. 1361
P.O. Box 381
Dixon, Illinois 61021
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Page 1

1 OGLE COUNTY
 2 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD (708)

3 In the Matter of the Application)
 4 of)
 5 Rockford Sexual Assault) Zoom Meeting
 Counseling)
 6 Ogle County, Illinois) May 5, 2022
 7

8

9 Testimony of Witnesses
 Produced and
 10 Examined on this 5th day
 of May, 2022,
 11 before the Ogle County
 Community Mental Health Board
 12

13

14

15 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (via Zoom):

16 Dorothy Bowers, Chairperson
 Marcella Haushahn
 17 Amy Zbinden-Henkel
 Haley Whaley
 18 Kathleen Wilson

19 Justine Messenger, Secretary
 Reporter: Callie S. Bodmer
 20

21 AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT (via Zoom):

22 Erica Engler
 23 Michelle Pauley
 24

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 20 End. 24
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1 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Erica and Michelle, we
 2 are going to do this like we have done in the
 3 past. We are going to give you a few minutes to
 4 do your presentation about your funding requests
 5 and then we'll be asking questions.
 6 So go ahead and start.
 7 MS. ENGLER: Okay. Great.
 8 Well, thank you. And I just want to start
 9 with, thank you for supporting us these last, I
 10 think, four to five years now. We really do
 11 appreciate it, and it's not just about -- I want
 12 you to know, it's not just about the money that
 13 you give us, which is obviously very important,
 14 but our other funders really find it important
 15 to know that local communities and local
 16 community agencies support our agency, that
 17 they're seeing an impact on the community and
 18 the survivors in our community. So it's
 19 really -- it really is -- we're grateful for it
 20 and it's important for two reasons, right, so.
 21 But I know, you know, throughout the years
 22 you know a lot about us. So I'll just run
 23 through our five key services quickly, and then
 24 I want to turn it over to Michelle, because
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1 she's the one that does a lot of those services
 2 in Ogle County, along with some of our other
 3 staff.
 4 But so we have 24-hour crisis intervention
 5 on our hotline and hospital calls, and we do
 6 serve all three of our counties with hospital
 7 calls. We actually just had a call to Rochelle
 8 Hospital, I think, two weeks ago. So we do
 9 provide those services. We go to the hospitals
 10 and provide support, education, clothing for the
 11 survivor when that's been taken for evidence.
 12 We have our 24-hour crisis hotline, and
 13 that's for clients and for non-clients so that,
 14 you know, if they're in a crisis that we can
 15 help them through that time. We have counseling
 16 -- and all of our services are free. We have
 17 counseling available, and that's -- in Ogle
 18 County, that's in the Oregon office. And that's
 19 Michelle, for the most part.
 20 And we also have different therapists who
 21 will come out to be support to Michelle when
 22 it's a larger family. Or if it's a
 23 Spanish-speaking family, we have a Spanish-
 24 speaking therapist that comes out.
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1 And then we do prevention education in the
 2 schools. And we have been in the Ogle County
 3 schools, you know, providing Erin's Law, healthy
 4 relationships, bullying. Michelle goes out to
 5 the schools -- I'm going to let her talk about
 6 that more, but Michelle goes to the schools to
 7 do tables, information tables, so that kids can
 8 know, and we have a variety of brochures that we
 9 put out there.

10 We also do counseling therapy -- oh, wait,
 11 I said that already. Sorry.

12 Professional training to law enforcement,
 13 to different social service agencies. Michelle
 14 will tell you about the meetings she attends in
 15 Ogle County.

16 And legal advocacy. So legal advocacy can
 17 mean civil or criminal. But that we offer
 18 support through civil no-contact orders and
 19 offer support through criminal legal process
 20 too.

21 So that's kind of our five key services
 22 overall. And, again, those are all free to
 23 survivors of sexual abuse and their significant
 24 others.

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1 I'm going to turn it over to Michelle and
 2 she can share kind of specifically what that
 3 looks like in Ogle County.

4 MS. BOWERS: Thank you, Erica.

5 MS. ENGLER: Uh-huh.

6 MS. PAULEY: Hey, everybody. I am dealing
 7 with allergies and a sinus infection, so my
 8 voice sounds a little funny. So bear with me.

9 So I'm going to go through all of the
 10 services that Erica just talked about.

11 So crisis intervention, obviously the
 12 24-hour crisis hotline is available to all of
 13 Ogle County residents as well. And so all of my
 14 clients have access to that crisis hotline as
 15 well. When they call and ask for me, if I am
 16 not available, then it goes to a different
 17 therapist to call them. But that's just how it
 18 is. That's the procedure for every therapist.
 19 Same for Ogle County.

20 And then we did have a hospital call a
 21 couple weeks ago. They called me, I wasn't
 22 available. I have two young kids, so I find
 23 myself not being available a lot. But one of
 24 our therapists was able to go, Marilyn was able

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1 to go, and be with that survivor at the hospital
 2 in Rochelle.

3 Counseling therapy, obviously I am the
 4 primary counselor at RSAC in Ogle County. So I
 5 provide services -- counseling services to three
 6 and up and non-offending family members. There
 7 are sometimes where I have other therapists come
 8 in. Colleen and Marilyn sometimes see, like, a
 9 sibling or a significant other.

10 I have a couple people right now where I'm
 11 seeing the victim or a mom I'm seeing right now
 12 and Colleen is seeing, you know, the other
 13 family member. And so she -- Colleen comes down
 14 to the Ogle County office. And I know she is
 15 also providing phone counseling as well to one
 16 of the dads and the victims I'm seeing as well.

17 So I do provide play therapy too. So I
 18 have a designated play therapy room and an
 19 adult/adolescent room.

20 Legal advocacy. So I think over all
 21 services, I think legal advocacy is something
 22 that people are most unfamiliar with, is what
 23 I'm finding. So, please, if you have any
 24 follow-up questions, just let me know about any

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1 of these services, but legal advocacy in
 2 particular.

3 But so legal advocacy is, we attend court
 4 dates, court hearings. We're able to trial prep
 5 with -- sorry. We're able to trial prep with
 6 our victims/survivors. We work one on one with
 7 the State's Attorney's Office, the victim
 8 witness provider -- that's not the title --
 9 victim witness advocate to get that information.

10 And so it's Marisol Martinez, who actually
 11 used to work at HOPE. That name might sound
 12 familiar to some people. She's actually the new
 13 victim witness advocate at the Ogle County
 14 Courthouse now, which has been amazing. And so
 15 her and I have had many conversations just
 16 updating on courthouse cases, talking about, you
 17 know, victim services, things like that.

18 Sorry, I'm getting longwinded.

19 And so I will also mention, you know,
 20 sometimes an Ogle County resident -- so how that
 21 works is, the criminal case or the civil case is
 22 filed in the jurisdiction where it happened. So
 23 sometimes the Ogle County residents have court
 24 cases in Lee County as well. So I do work

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> <p>1 closely with the Lee County State's Attorney's 2 Office as well. 3 I'm going to take a drink. 4 So prevention information. Like Erica had 5 mentioned, I do info tables. I primarily do 6 info tables in April, which is sexual assault 7 awareness month. I did just finish quite a few 8 of those. I was at Byron High School, I did a 9 couple at Oregon High School, which I'm sitting 10 in the parking lot of right now, and then 11 Meridian Junior High I did info tables at as 12 well. 13 Which leads me to other advocacy. So I 14 partner with Youth Works Program from LSSI, 15 which I know the 708 Board also supports. Me 16 and Danielle -- Danielle is the Youth Works 17 provider for Ogle County. So I partner with her 18 on those info tables to help get information 19 out. Her and I work closely together because 20 she does a lot of, like, the violence protection 21 kind of curriculum. And so she helps me get 22 into schools, I help her get into schools, and 23 we have kind of that, like, mutual working 24 relationship. In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1 sitting in her car right now outside a high 2 school. A lot of her counseling is at the 3 schools, which is really important and part of 4 what the Board does support through the funding, 5 because a lot of kids can't, right, can't get to 6 the office. So going to the schools kind of 7 breaks down that barrier of transportation, if 8 parents have work schedules that don't allow 9 them to bring them. 10 So Michelle is out and about a lot at the 11 schools, meeting with kids, which is just really 12 important, we have found throughout the years, 13 to provide that service. 14 So those are our services. I know I kind 15 of put that -- 16 Thank you, Michelle. 17 I know I put out the stats on the 18 application, some of the satisfaction and 19 feedback that we got back from clients when we 20 did our annual outcome survey in October and 21 November. I don't know if you want me to go 22 over those or if you just want to ask questions 23 about those? 24 MS. BOWERS: Erica, what we'll do now is In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> <p>1 I am also -- which is another part of 2 advocacy, I'm on that Youth Works Violence 3 Prevention Board. I'm one of the board members 4 there. So we meet quarterly, I think. I can't 5 remember. I just write it down and attend. I 6 can't remember how often it is. 7 But then I also attend the Ogle County 8 Cares Coalition. I have missed a couple of them 9 recently because I have been sick, my kids have 10 been sick, I have been sick, it's been crazy. 11 So then -- I'm missing one. Oh, the 12 Envision Coalition, which is a coalition that 13 Ruth Carter from HOPE leads, I should say, and 14 it's about providing services to victims with 15 disabilities. And so I am also part of that. 16 I think that is, like, kind of as specific 17 as I have thought about doing. 18 Does anybody -- I know, Dorothy, you 19 already said you have questions -- or were going 20 to have questions. 21 MS. ENGLER: If I can just jump in though 22 real quick. 23 So I know -- I don't think Michelle 24 mentioned, but -- I know she mentioned she's In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> <p>1 just ask some questions. How's that sound? 2 MS. ENGLER: Okay. That's great, Dorothy. 3 Thank you. 4 MS. BOWERS: Justine, did Haley ever come 5 back on? 6 MS. MESSENGER: No, she did not. 7 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Amy, do you have any 8 questions for them? 9 MS. HENKEL: No. Just thank you so 10 much -- actually, one quick one. 11 You refer -- we see a lot of kids in the 12 schools that show signs of abuse but nothing has 13 been disclosed yet, and it's very, very alarming 14 types of behaviors for young kids at times. 15 The best way to maybe refer them is just 16 to give a call? I mean, do you get a lot of 17 cases, referrals where schools are asking you to 18 see families or children because we have a 19 concern of sexual abuse but, you know, nothing 20 is verified? 21 MS. ENGLER: Yeah, so unfortunately -- how 22 old are your age -- is your age group? 23 MS. HENKEL: I have preschool through, you 24 know, 22. So, but I'm particularly kind of In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>

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1 talking about elementary age.
 2 MS. ENGLER: Okay. So we absolutely get a
 3 lot of those calls where parents or school
 4 officials are concerned but nothing's been
 5 disclosed. And unfortunately, we can't see
 6 anybody until there's been a disclosure, because
 7 the concern is that if they have the kids come
 8 in, then they're going to say, Well, you know,
 9 they kind of put stuff in their head. And we
 10 don't want that to be the case.
 11 But what I would recommend for you, and
 12 what I recommend to people, is just to have that
 13 good/bad, secret touch talk with the kids --
 14 good/bad, safe touch talk with the kids. And
 15 that's -- you know, we can give you that
 16 language, or whoever would be that person who
 17 would have those conversations with the kids.
 18 And a lot of times with elementary kids
 19 you will get a spontaneous disclosure. They'll
 20 be like, Oh, what my brother does to me, or,
 21 What my dad did, right, or something like that.
 22 But also, the other way that we work on
 23 that is, if you don't know if the school has had
 24 an Erin's Law presentation -- our prevention
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1 educators, like this year, between our three
 2 county areas, they have taught over
 3 30-some-thousand kids.
 4 I think in Ogle County -- it might have
 5 been in the grant. I can look in a minute. But
 6 we saw thousands of kids in Ogle County, and so
 7 chances are they might have had the
 8 presentation. But if you don't know or they
 9 need the presentation again, we absolutely can
 10 come back in there -- the prevention educators
 11 can come back in there. Again, that's telling
 12 the kids, no one has the right to touch you. If
 13 someone has touched you, we want to tell a safe
 14 adult. You know, going through all of that.
 15 And, again, a lot of times with those
 16 elementary school age, we do get those -- we get
 17 those disclosures a lot. And since prevention
 18 has been back in the schools full force this
 19 year -- I mean, we were in the schools as much
 20 as people would allow us to be in the schools
 21 last year. This year it's kind of coming back
 22 to normal numbers, and our numbers of
 23 disclosures are through the roof, which we knew,
 24 we knew was going to happen once kids were back
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1 in school and once, you know, they could see our
 2 presentations.
 3 So those are kind of the two options we
 4 have for when you see that kind of case. It's
 5 so hard, you can see all the signs, but
 6 unfortunately, you know.
 7 MS. HENKEL: Do you have -- what's the
 8 best way to acquire those materials or something
 9 like the good touch/bad touch -- is there a
 10 workbook or materials that maybe we could get
 11 for our local social worker at school?
 12 MS. ENGLER: Yup.
 13 Michelle, do you want to write down to get
 14 in contact with Amy? Do you guys have each
 15 other's contact information?
 16 MS. PAULEY: Sure.
 17 Amy, I'll contact you. There's a lot of
 18 books that are great that I -- most of the play
 19 therapy sessions start off with that education
 20 kind of about the good touch/bad touch kind of
 21 stuff anyway. And I -- I love using books. It
 22 gives it, like, a loving kind of feel. And kids
 23 are just used to having books read to them, and
 24 so it can also make it a great conversation.
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1 MS. HENKEL: That sounds good. I can be
 2 found on the OCEC -- my email is on the OCEC
 3 website, if you don't have it.
 4 MS. PAULEY: Okay.
 5 MS. HENKEL: That would be awesome. Thank
 6 you so much.
 7 MS. PAULEY: I do want to also mention
 8 too, if I could, Erica, that if there are, like,
 9 reenactment behaviors -- so for little, little
 10 kids, there's some type of behaviors that are,
 11 you know, outside of the scope of normal sexual
 12 development, there are -- I just ended eight
 13 sessions of education with someone that had kind
 14 of those things happening. And so that is
 15 something that we can do if there is no
 16 disclosure but there's kind of those specific
 17 behaviors.
 18 And then that's not up to me if that
 19 client would be seen particularly. That would
 20 be our clinical supervisor, as well as Erica,
 21 deciding if that client would be appropriate
 22 without a disclosure first.
 23 MS. ENGLER: Thank you for bringing that
 24 up, Michelle.
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1 Yeah, when we see young kids, you know,
 2 that are -- that should not have that level of
 3 knowledge and are sexually acting out, like
 4 Michelle said, beyond the normal -- what's
 5 normal, healthy sexual development for kids, we
 6 do do those education sessions.
 7 So thank you, Michelle, for bringing that
 8 up.
 9 So if that's a part of that, Amy, yeah,
 10 just talk to Michelle first and see where we go
 11 from there.
 12 MS. HENKEL: Thank you.
 13 MS. MESSENGER: Amy, Michelle, I emailed
 14 you guys so you have a connection too.
 15 MS. PAULEY: Thank you.
 16 MS. HENKEL: Thank you.
 17 MS. MESSENGER: And Haley is back on, so
 18 if she has questions.
 19 MS. WHALEY: Sorry. I just got back in
 20 the last two minutes of that conversation.
 21 Sorry about that, guys. I had to jump off
 22 for a call.
 23 MS. MESSENGER: Do you have any questions
 24 for RSAC, Haley?

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1 MS. PAULEY: I'm good. Thank you.
 2 MS. MESSENGER: I do have a question
 3 really quick.
 4 On Page 5 of the application you have got
 5 a Counseling Client Surveys and Percentages, and
 6 I was kind of curious why the top three -- the
 7 Significant Relationships, Mood, and Setting
 8 Healthy Boundaries -- there's such a significant
 9 difference between the adults and the
 10 adolescents for that?
 11 MS. ENGLER: Yeah. So unfortunately, you
 12 know, adolescents/kids do not have the same kind
 13 of control over their life that adults do. So
 14 if adults are in an abusive relationship, if
 15 adults are in unhealthy friendships, they have
 16 more capacity, right, adults have more capacity,
 17 to leave those situation, to leave those
 18 friendships. Where, if you think about
 19 adolescents and kids, they're -- unless it rises
 20 to a level of, you know, DCFS taking them out of
 21 the household -- but obviously if they're taken
 22 out of the household, that's a whole other level
 23 of stuff. They don't have as much control and
 24 they don't perceive they have as much control,

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1 right, because the reality is they don't, over
 2 who they're in relationships with in general.
 3 So if they're having issues with their
 4 parents, if they're having issues with people at
 5 school, those aren't easily changed for -- not
 6 that it's easy to change those for adults, but
 7 it's not as easily changed for kids as it is for
 8 adults.
 9 But, you know, seeing any types of
 10 improvements when we're talking about
 11 adolescents, you know, I know those are low
 12 numbers or lower numbers than the adults, but
 13 seeing -- teenagers seeing any kind of changes
 14 in their life we really take as a positive thing
 15 because of their lack of control in their world.
 16 MS. PAULEY: I would also say, add on to
 17 that, if you -- managing feelings and healthy
 18 coping skills, those are over 70 percent, which
 19 I know in my therapy with adolescents I like to
 20 focus on primarily feeling management and coping
 21 skills. Because a lot of times, like Erica
 22 said, you can't control their environment, but
 23 so you have to focus on inter- -- like,
 24 in-person, like -- not in-person, but, like,

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1 internal control. And so what can I control?
 2 And that's my feelings, my actions, my coping
 3 skills. And so that's kind of why those numbers
 4 are higher but relationships and things aren't
 5 as significant.
 6 MS. ENGLER: And even when we're talking
 7 about mood, the teenage years are just hard for
 8 kids. Hormones, there's a lot of depression and
 9 anxiety. Just take away the trauma, you know,
 10 there's so many things that happen in middle
 11 school and high school that makes things hard
 12 for kids mood-wise too.
 13 So thank you, Michelle, for chiming in.
 14 MS. WILSON: Kathe has a question.
 15 Hi, yes. Thank you, Erica and Michelle,
 16 for this great presentation.
 17 The only question that I have is on
 18 Page 7, and it's the section, Additional Items.
 19 Increasing a new financial stream. You said
 20 you're receiving funding from Ogle County
 21 community.
 22 Winnebago County Community Mental Health
 23 Board. Yeah, thank heavens for that.
 24 MS. ENGLER: Yeah, finally caught up to

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1 you guys.
 2 MS. WILSON: I'm pretty sure, but I think
 3 I should ask, that does not affect Ogle County
 4 at all, right? You have to spend it all in
 5 Winnebago?
 6 MS. ENGLER: Yeah, so that money we wrote
 7 can only be spent in Winnebago County, and we
 8 wrote that specifically for outreach therapists.
 9 So a lot of similar things to what Michelle is
 10 doing in Ogle County, is getting people --
 11 getting therapists out to the schools to reduce
 12 the barriers, like Michelle is already doing in
 13 Ogle County.
 14 MS. WILSON: Great. Thank you so much for
 15 what you do.
 16 MS. ENGLER: Thank you.
 17 MS. PAULEY: Thank you, Kathe.
 18 MS. BOWERS: Marcy, did you have any
 19 questions?
 20 MS. HAUSHAHN: No, I do not. Thank you.
 21 MS. BOWERS: I just have one question.
 22 On your -- you listed your Board of
 23 Directors. Are there any on your Board that are
 24 from Ogle County?
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1 MS. ENGLER: Joe Drought (phonetic), he --
 2 MS. BOWERS: Joe Drought is? Okay.
 3 MS. ENGLER: Yeah, he lives -- I can't
 4 remember if he lives in Byron -- Byron or
 5 Oregon.
 6 MS. HENKEL: I think he's in Rochelle.
 7 MS. ENGLER: Oh, Rochelle. Thank you,
 8 Amy.
 9 MS. HENKEL: I think so.
 10 MS. ENGLER: I know he's in Ogle County.
 11 Sorry.
 12 But, yeah, if you don't know Joe, he was a
 13 police officer for a lot of years. He's retired
 14 now. He did a lot of stuff with our RAD kids
 15 for a long time. So really, really great guy.
 16 MS. BOWERS: I know Joe, and he is a great
 17 guy.
 18 MS. ENGLER: Oh, good.
 19 MS. BOWERS: Okay. All right. Erica and
 20 Michelle, thank you very much for your
 21 presentation. I think you did a fantastic job
 22 on your funding application.
 23 MS. ENGLER: Thank you.
 24 MS. BOWERS: All right.
 In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)

Page 23

1 MS. ENGLER: We do appreciate you guys.
 2 We know that you guys are volunteers, that
 3 you're taking your own personal time to do this.
 4 So we appreciate that you put all this effort
 5 into this and that you work to fund agencies.
 6 So thank you.
 7 MS. BOWERS: Okay. All right. We will be
 8 meeting again on May 19th to make the
 9 determinations.
 10 Seeing no further business at this time, I
 11 consider this meeting adjourned.
 12 (The hearing was concluded at
 13 10:16 a.m.)
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1 OGLE COUNTY
 2 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD (708)
 3 In the Matter of the Application)
 4 of)
 5) Zoom Meeting
 6 Rockford Sexual Assault)
 7 Counseling)
 8 Ogle County, Illinois)
 9)
 10) May 5, 2022
 11
 12 I, Callie S. Bodmer, hereby certify that I
 13 am a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of
 14 Illinois; that I am the one who, by order and at the
 15 direction of the Chairperson, Dorothy Bowers,
 16 reported in shorthand the proceedings had or
 17 required to be kept in the above-entitled case; and
 18 that the above and foregoing is a full, true and
 19 complete transcript of my said shorthand notes so
 20 taken.
 21 Dated at Dixon, Illinois, this 11th day of
 22 May, 2022.
 23
 24 Callie S. Bodmer
 Certified Shorthand Reporter
 Registered Professional Reporter
 IL License No. 084-004489
 IA License No. 1361
 P.O. Box 381
 Dixon, Illinois 61021
 In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)

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1 OGLE COUNTY
 2 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD (708)

3 In the Matter of the Application)
 4 of)
 5 Serenity Hospice and Home) Zoom Meeting
 6 Ogle County, Illinois) May 5, 2022

7
 8
 9 Testimony of Witnesses
 10 Produced and
 11 Examined on this 5th day
 12 of May, 2022,
 13 before the Ogle County
 14 Community Mental Health Board

15 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (via Zoom):
 16 Dorothy Bowers, Chairperson
 17 Marcella Haushahn
 18 Amy Zbinden-Henkel
 19 Haley Whaley

20 Justine Messenger, Secretary
 21 Reporter: Callie S. Bodmer

22 AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT (via Zoom):
 23 Lynn Knodle
 24 Kathy Groenhagen

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1 MS. BOWERS: Lynn, we'll do this like we
 2 have always done in the past. Give you a few
 3 minutes to do your presentation for the request
 4 for funding and then we'll ask some questions.
 5 So go ahead and start your presentation.
 6 MS. KNODLE: All right. That sounds
 7 perfect. I'm going to turn up my volume here
 8 just a little bit. There we go.
 9 All right. Are you ready for me to begin?
 10 MS. BOWERS: Absolutely.
 11 MS. KNODLE: Okay. Well, first off, good
 12 morning to everyone. And, again, thank you so
 13 much for giving up your time. I know that it's
 14 hard, especially the way you're doing this this
 15 morning, with so many back to back. But your
 16 commitment to all the area not-for-profits means
 17 a great deal to this community, and I just
 18 wanted to thank you for that.
 19 So the last time we spoke, we were heavily
 20 in the midst of the pandemic. For many of us,
 21 the recent freedom of not wearing masks out in
 22 the community has been really great. However,
 23 us, in healthcare, we're still needing to wear
 24 masks to provide care to our patients and our
 In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)

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1 staff, to keep everybody safe.
 2 Nevertheless, what we're seeing is a
 3 slowdown in the number of COVID cases that we
 4 are treating in the community and the number of
 5 COVID cases that our staff has been positive
 6 for. So for that, we are extremely grateful.
 7 That's allowed us to get back to practices we
 8 haven't been able to do for a while, things like
 9 in-person meetings, our grief groups, our
 10 memorial service, our fundraisers.
 11 In fact, our garden luncheon is this
 12 Saturday. So we have been working really hard
 13 this week to get prepared for that, and we're
 14 excited to see all the ladies come together
 15 again.
 16 Our eight-week grief course that we have
 17 talked about a lot, that one is continuing, and
 18 we are -- have now started that when one class
 19 ends, we wait two weeks and then we start
 20 another. It's become that popular to do. And
 21 we're actually doing the class in Rochelle also.
 22 We have been asked to actually do a location
 23 there.
 24 Our Grief Group for Moms is a newer
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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 offering for mothers who have lost an adult 2 child. It's a group no mother wants to qualify 3 for. Even though my child wasn't an adult, it's 4 a pain that you never, ever get rid of. So 5 having that support really means a lot. 6 Another group that started out a couple of 7 years ago and is still going strong is our Young 8 Widows. Again, there's so many different 9 dynamics with young widows. Many of them are 10 still trying to raise a family, many of them 11 have to rejoin the workforce that they haven't 12 been in for quite some time. 13 Our caregiver support groups at the Rock 14 River Center continue to grow. They're offered 15 to all residents of Ogle County who are caring 16 for a loved one. And they help our caregivers 17 have peace of mind and confidence to safely care 18 for the chronically-ill loved one. 19 We're especially proud to be partnering 20 with the Alzheimer's Association to offer our 21 statewide grief group. We were approached by a 22 representative from Alzheimer's, and we actually 23 have printed materials that Alzheimer's 24 Association and Serenity's logo is right on <p style="text-align: center;">In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 their day-to-day symptoms and hopefully keep 2 them out of the hospital. 3 We have been sharing our hospice social 4 workers for our palliative patients, but that 5 census has grown to over 60, and that's really 6 stretched our resources and not allowed us to 7 offer as much support for psychosocial and 8 bereavement for our palliative as we would like. 9 So we are looking to add a social worker to our 10 palliative care. 11 Lastly, we're so excited to be the 12 recipient of a grant from the Rochelle Area 13 Community Foundation for the purchase of a 14 virtual reality Oculus headset. And what we 15 plan to do with that is to offer experiences to 16 our patients that they might not have had a 17 chance to have, a bucket list item: visiting 18 the Taj Mahal, visiting Thailand. It also has 19 proven to reduce pain and reduce stress. 20 I actually -- we had brought one in to our 21 organization just to test it out. And so the 22 education manager asked if I wanted to try an 23 experience, and I had never used one before, so 24 I'm like, Yeah, sure. I picked a roller coaster <p style="text-align: center;">In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p></p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 those printed materials that are going out and 2 also on their website. 3 And the first group is starting in May, 4 and it's going to be co-hosted or co-facilitated 5 by our education manager and our bereavement 6 coordinator. So they're excited to start that. 7 We have also partnered with the 8 Alzheimer's Association on the lending of DVD's 9 from our library. I have talked a little bit 10 about that before. It shows the different 11 stages of Alzheimer's and how to care for a 12 loved one depending on what stage they are in. 13 Our education manager also offers dementia 14 training out in our communities for anybody who 15 is interested in our long-term care facilities, 16 et cetera. 17 Besides our hospice census, our palliative 18 care census continues to grow, and that has 19 really stretched our limited resources. Again, 20 palliative care is offering care for pain and 21 symptom management for patients who are 22 pre-hospice. So they don't have that prognosis 23 of six months or less, but they benefit from 24 visits from physicians and nurses to help manage <p style="text-align: center;">In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 ride. It had loops and it had drop-offs. I 2 didn't make it through the entire thing. In 3 fact, I was nauseous. So no roller coaster 4 rides for our patients. 5 But they really are so realistic. So we 6 are really, really excited to have the 7 opportunity to offer that as just something for 8 our patients as well. 9 So just a real quick story to sum up where 10 we have been over the last couple of years and 11 kind of where we are now. During the height of 12 the pandemic, we had a wife whose husband of 13 over 40 years was dying in one of our local 14 hospitals. Because of the pandemic and the 15 infection rates at that time, she was not able 16 to visit him at all. So she worked frantically 17 to get him moved to Serenity Home. She was able 18 to make that happen. He came here. She was 19 able to be at his bedside, hold his hand, tell 20 him how grateful she had been for the last 40 21 years that they had spent together. She told us 22 that words really couldn't express to her how 23 grateful she was to Serenity for being able to 24 make that happen. <p style="text-align: center;">In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p></p>

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1 So when many places were unable to allow
 2 visitors, because we're end of life, we did
 3 allow up to four visitors at a time. So some
 4 limitations, but we did at least allow -- or
 5 were able to allow families to be together at
 6 the end.
 7 And where we are today is that we're
 8 really proud to announce that we have opened our
 9 visitation and the entire home now to visitors.
 10 We do ask that they're vaccinated. They do have
 11 to be masked. But we have no limitations
 12 anymore, and it's just so good to see the home
 13 being used the way that it was designed to be
 14 used. And we're hoping to be able to continue
 15 to do that and hoping that rates stay down in
 16 our area so that we are allowed to offer
 17 families those last moments together.
 18 So I just want to again thank you guys all
 19 for what you do to allow Serenity to make an
 20 impact in the lives of so many.
 21 And I will open it up for questions.
 22 MS. BOWERS: Thank you, Lynn.
 23 Kathe, we'll start with you this time. Do
 24 you have any questions for Lynn?
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1 MS. WILSON: Thank you, Dorothy.
 2 Actually, I do not have any questions.
 3 This packet was very explanatory and moving, and
 4 I thank you for what you do, for all the good
 5 that you do in the county and in the world.
 6 That's all I have. Thanks.
 7 MS. KNODLE: Thank you, Kathe.
 8 MS. BOWERS: Thank you, Kathe.
 9 Marcy, do you have any questions?
 10 MS. HAUSHAHN: No. I just am thankful
 11 that you're here to help all of those people,
 12 especially the palliative care, because I think
 13 that's really important. I have a niece on it
 14 now in New Jersey, and I just know how great
 15 that is, the palliative care.
 16 MS. KNODLE: Thank you.
 17 MS. BOWERS: Amy, do you have any
 18 questions?
 19 MS. HENKEL: No. Thank you.
 20 MS. BOWERS: Haley?
 21 MS. WHALEY: I'm good, but just want to,
 22 you know, repeat what everyone is saying. Thank
 23 you so much for everything that you guys do.
 24 MS. KNODLE: Thank you.
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1 MS. BOWERS: Lynn, I don't have any
 2 complaints this year for you.
 3 MS. KNODLE: Well, actually, Dorothy, I
 4 could say it the other way around. Stop
 5 taking --
 6 MS. BOWERS: I know, I know.
 7 MS. KNODLE: No, I just want people to
 8 work, you know, in whatever setting best fits
 9 their families, and we love our partnership with
 10 Pinecrest. So, it's okay.
 11 MS. BOWERS: It's all good, isn't it,
 12 Lynn?
 13 MS. KNODLE: It is all good.
 14 MS. BOWERS: Your presentation for your
 15 funding request is just great. I love the
 16 pamphlet that you have in there, the community
 17 guide, and your report. That explains a lot of
 18 things and shows how much people are helping out
 19 and donating to Serenity. It's just fantastic,
 20 so phenomenal.
 21 MS. KNODLE: Thank you.
 22 MS. BOWERS: Other than that, I really
 23 don't have any questions. You're going to get
 24 off easy this year, Lynn.
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1 MS. KNODLE: Well, thank you.
 2 MS. HENKEL: It's about time.
 3 MS. BOWERS: Yes.
 4 MS. MESSENGER: Lynn, I do have a question
 5 for you.
 6 MS. KNODLE: Okay.
 7 MS. MESSENGER: For your Alzheimer's grief
 8 support, I question if this is something that
 9 would be doable, because you have got it after
 10 the fact, but I didn't know -- with, like,
 11 Alzheimer's, they say you lose the people twice
 12 when you have got Alzheimer's. So I didn't know
 13 if there was something that they could offer
 14 for, like, pre-death groups to kind of help with
 15 that transition of losing them mentally first
 16 before --
 17 MS. KNODLE: Oh, my gosh, Justine, that is
 18 such a great idea. Because I'm in that place
 19 right now with my own mom, as are many people
 20 here, and I don't know what to do with it all.
 21 And I do sometimes go talk to our bereavement
 22 counselor, because she lost both of her parents
 23 to Alzheimer's. But I never actually thought
 24 about putting a grief group together for us.
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1 So I am definitely going to pass that
 2 along. I think that's such an excellent idea.
 3 MS. MESSENGER: Yeah, I think -- I have
 4 got a friend who's currently dealing with that,
 5 and I have tried to be as helpful as providing
 6 information because we dealt with that with my
 7 husband's father. And you do, in essence, lose
 8 them twice.
 9 MS. KNODLE: Yes.
 10 MS. MESSENGER: You lose them mentally
 11 first, but then that physical, after the fact.
 12 And I have heard many people say that. So if
 13 there was an option --
 14 MS. KNODLE: That is such a good idea.
 15 MS. GROENHAGEN: The caregiver support
 16 group just teaches the families how to deal with
 17 the day-to-day --
 18 MS. KNODLE: Right, not the family members
 19 that are dealing with the loss, so.
 20 MS. GROENHAGEN: -- Not the actual aspect
 21 of the loss.
 22 MS. KNODLE: No. Thank you.
 23 MS. GROENHAGEN: That is a great idea,
 24 Justine.
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1 MS. KNODLE: That is a good idea.
 2 MS. MESSENGER: And I did want to just let
 3 you guys know, there is a lot of little spots on
 4 your guys' application that I put little hearts
 5 next to it because I love the stuff that you
 6 guys do. So keep up the great job.
 7 MS. KNODLE: Thank you. Well, gosh, you
 8 guys made this a really nice morning. Thank you
 9 so much.
 10 MS. BOWERS: Thank you, Lynn.
 11 MS. KNODLE: Have a great day, you guys.
 12 Don't work too hard.
 13 MS. BOWERS: Thank you.
 14 (The hearing was concluded at
 15 8:24 a.m.)
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1 OGLE COUNTY
 2 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD (708)
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1 OGLE COUNTY
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 5 Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.) Zoom Meeting
 6 Ogle County, Illinois) May 5, 2022
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 15
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 18 Marcella Haushahn
 19 Amy Zbinden-Henkel
 20 Kathleen Wilson
 21 Justine Messenger, Secretary
 22 Reporter: Callie S. Bodmer
 23
 24 AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT (via Zoom):
 Patrick Phelan

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1 MS. BOWERS: Pat, we'll do this like we
 2 have done in the past. We'll give you a few
 3 minutes to do your presentation about your
 4 funding request and then we'll ask some
 5 questions.
 6 So go right ahead.
 7 MR. PHELAN: Absolutely.
 8 Well, thank you again for allowing me this
 9 opportunity, and we do so appreciate the support
 10 of the Ogle County Mental Health Board.
 11 My presentation is usually actually pretty
 12 quick. You have read the -- you know, you read
 13 the whole proposal and request, you have got
 14 that information.
 15 I call your attention to just a couple
 16 things. I like this update of the 2021 sheet
 17 because it really lays out the hours that we
 18 have provided, you know, the County and the
 19 services we have provided, over 31,000 hours of
 20 services in Ogle County from our two office
 21 locations and our apartments.
 22 We are in the midst of -- well, we were in
 23 the midst of just an incredible expansion of
 24 services in Ogle County and elsewhere. We sort
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1 of ran into the bus of labor shortages here in
 2 the last few months, but, you know, our
 3 intention is to continue to expand services,
 4 continue to try to meet the needs of the county.
 5 On Page 5 of the application, you know,
 6 you have a whole list there of the things that
 7 we're looking at expanding: intensive services,
 8 at-risk youth. We have just added that to our
 9 listing, a position for a youth CST team. We
 10 have tried to find CST teams in past. An
 11 additional adult CST team is on the way.
 12 And the next CST teams, because of the
 13 needs that we're seeing, is going to be oriented
 14 specifically at the Rochelle area. There's
 15 overwhelming -- the demand is overwhelming. So
 16 we have got an Ogle County, in general, team,
 17 but seeing that need, we're further expanding
 18 there, expanding our services and training for
 19 primary health services.
 20 You know, clearly we see lots of
 21 individuals who have primary healthcare needs,
 22 and we know that those with a serious mental
 23 illness or addiction, their life expectancy is
 24 significantly shorter than the general
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1 population. And so, you know, really trying to
 2 expand on those areas; our medication assistance
 3 recovery, medication assistance treatment
 4 services, medications for those with addictions,
 5 another great area of expansion.
 6 So as long as we can get those positions
 7 filled and hired, we'll be in good shape with
 8 that expansion.
 9 But, you know, our intention is to just
 10 continue to try to build services and to try to
 11 meet all of the needs that we're hearing about
 12 from the communities.
 13 So having said that, again, you have got
 14 all of that information. I just want to say
 15 thank you again. And I am open to any
 16 questions.
 17 MS. BOWERS: Kathe, do you want to start
 18 this time?
 19 MS. WILSON: Thank you, Dorothy.
 20 Yeah, thank you, Patrick, for this
 21 application. It's very complete. I don't
 22 really have any questions, except for, do you
 23 still want your financial statements back, if
 24 possible?
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1 MR. PHELAN: Yes, if possible. We can
 2 pick them up, you know, if you want to gather
 3 them together. That allows us to pass them off
 4 to the next group.
 5 MS. WILSON: Okay. Thank you for your
 6 service.
 7 MR. PHELAN: Thank you, Kathe.
 8 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Marcy, do you have any
 9 questions?
 10 MS. HAUSHAHN: No, not at this time.
 11 Good presentation.
 12 MR. PHELAN: Thanks, Marcy.
 13 MS. BOWERS: Amy?
 14 MS. HENKEL: No, I do not.
 15 Thank you so much for everything your
 16 agency does for us.
 17 MR. PHELAN: Thanks, Amy.
 18 MS. BOWERS: Haley?
 19 COURT REPORTER: Dorothy, I'll step in and
 20 let you know, it looks like she left.
 21 MS. BOWERS: What was that?
 22 COURT REPORTER: It looks like she left
 23 the meeting.
 24 MS. BOWERS: Oh, okay.
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1 Pat, the only thing I am seeing here is,
 2 it looks like you're expanding a lot of your
 3 programs, which is fantastic news, but again you
 4 are not asking for any increase in funding from
 5 the 708 Board. Can you explain that to me?
 6 MR. PHELAN: Well, you know, I really
 7 thought, you know, that we have got a scarcity
 8 of resources that are allocated at the 708, we
 9 have got so many tremendous agencies that are
 10 asking for money. I know that there's even
 11 potentially some new requests this year. So we
 12 did decide just to keep it at the same level.
 13 You know, when you look at -- it's
 14 interesting, because when you look at 2013, when
 15 I got here, we had about an \$8 million annual
 16 budget. I anticipate that's going to be over
 17 \$20 million going into fiscal '23. So Ogle
 18 County funds made up about 4 percent of our
 19 funding back in '13, and we're going to be down
 20 to about 1.8 percent in fiscal 2023. So we have
 21 seen certainly a decrease in that overall
 22 percentage of the support.
 23 You know, I think it's just an awareness
 24 that there's a lot of needs to go around and
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1 that the -- you know, my anticipation that a
 2 greatly-expanded amount of funding was probably
 3 not going to be a potential this year. So
 4 that's where I was coming from.
 5 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Thank you for your
 6 explanation of that.
 7 Staffing everywhere is a significant
 8 shortage, so I understand where you're coming
 9 from for that.
 10 MR. PHELAN: We have got -- we go up and
 11 down a little bit. We have got somewhere in the
 12 neighborhood of 45 open positions at the moment.
 13 MS. BOWERS: Oh, geez.
 14 MR. PHELAN: The demand right now, both in
 15 number of individuals seeking treatment and the
 16 intensity of the needs amongst those seeking
 17 treatment, is at a level that I have never seen
 18 in my career. And, you know, our current staff
 19 are all overworked and desperate for more help,
 20 but we are just having huge challenges getting
 21 that done.
 22 You know, they have actually resorted to
 23 the point where, you know, I'm covering
 24 apartments on Saturdays. So you know it's bad
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1 when they want me to do client visits, so.
 2 MS. BOWERS: Absolutely. Okay. Thank you
 3 very much, Pat, for your presentation and your
 4 request for funding.
 5 MR. PHELAN: Thank you all very much.
 6 Thank you, Dorothy. And please let me
 7 know if you have any additional questions.
 8 MS. BOWERS: Sounds good.
 9 MR. PHELAN: Enjoy the rest of your
 10 morning.
 11 (The hearing was concluded at
 12 9:47 a.m.)
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1 OGLE COUNTY
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 23 Callie S. Bodmer
 24 Certified Shorthand Reporter
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 AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT (via Zoom):
 Brion Brooks
 Sherri Egan

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1 MS. BOWERS: Brion, we're going to do this
 2 like we have done in the past. Give you a few
 3 minutes to do a presentation on your funding
 4 request, and then we'll be asking you questions.
 5 So go right ahead.
 6 MR. BROOKS: I realized I should have
 7 powdered myself before. I'm glowing.
 8 So first of all, thanks again for meeting
 9 with us. I think this works out for all to do
 10 this by Zoom, and obviously it's been pretty
 11 efficient for you guys, it looks like.
 12 There's both challenges for the Village
 13 ahead and there's also excitement at the
 14 Village. I'll go over a couple of the
 15 challenges right now. I think the challenges
 16 virtually all of non-profits are facing, the
 17 primary challenge is that wages -- minimum wages
 18 continue to creep up. It's \$12 an hour now, I
 19 think. In January it will be another dollar an
 20 hour.
 21 On top of that, the Department of Human
 22 Services is requiring that the average wage for
 23 our supervisors, our frontline workers, as they
 24 call them, increase even more, more than a
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1 dollar an hour per year. And while the State
 2 has given us some extra rate increases to help
 3 fund this, it doesn't meet all of the extras
 4 that go into it. So overtime and insurance
 5 costs, things like that, are not factored into
 6 those rate increases. So it's all good for the
 7 State to say, You have got to pay your people
 8 more, but it would be even better if they gave
 9 us sufficient funding to allow us to do that.
 10 As I mentioned, among the eight or so
 11 different day service providers in northwestern
 12 Illinois, that was a common complaint, is this
 13 budget crunch. Because not like most business,
 14 we don't have the luxury to be able to say,
 15 Well, we'll just charge more for our services.
 16 We get paid what the State decides to pay us.
 17 The ripple effect with the minimum wage is
 18 that it's not just the lower-paid staff that are
 19 getting paid more, it's the middle tier staff
 20 that see the lower tier catching up to them and
 21 thinking, Am I not that important anymore? And
 22 that there's now less wage differential than
 23 there was five years ago.
 24 Sherri was -- we were talking a few
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1 minutes ago. There's a person at the Village
 2 who was talking to us, not in a complaining sort
 3 of way, but she said, I worked my entire life to
 4 get up to making \$15 an hour, 30,000 a year.
 5 And she says, Now in the next year or two, any
 6 kid that's fresh out of high school going to
 7 work at McDonald's or anyplace else is going to
 8 make the same wage that it took me 30 years of
 9 my life to get to. It just kind of -- it's just
 10 kind of disconcerting.
 11 So there is that question, you know, of
 12 also increasing the wages of people that are
 13 above minimum wage, but look around them and
 14 just want to make sure they're kind of keeping
 15 pace with the people that are -- you know, have
 16 less responsibilities.
 17 The other weird thing about it is, we are
 18 trying to get more and more of our consumers
 19 into jobs that pay at least minimum wage. Which
 20 is a good thing, right? Nobody relishes the
 21 idea of subminimum wages. And I think in
 22 another five to eight years the federal
 23 government might grandfather that amount.
 24 So we're going to try to get more and more
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1 people into jobs that are paying minimum wage.
 2 The tricky part is, if their income gets too
 3 high, they're going to lose Social Security
 4 funding, which isn't just the monthly SSI or
 5 SSEI payments, it's the Medicaid funding, the
 6 Medicare funding that goes with that.
 7 And the federal government has not found a
 8 clean way to smoothly transition people off of
 9 Social Security benefit housing into the private
 10 sector. And, you know, a lot of them risk
 11 losing subsidies for housing, for rent, losing
 12 their insurance, and losing the other benefits
 13 that come with Social Security.
 14 So there's a real concern by a lot of
 15 consumers and their guardians about what their
 16 financial position is going to be in the future.
 17 I remember Bill Sigler, when he was alive,
 18 that was a big concern of his, you know, with
 19 Tammy, his daughter, was, Well, she started
 20 having too many assets, she won't be entitled to
 21 Social Security anymore. Then what happens?
 22 So that's the challenge that we're facing
 23 on the expense side.
 24 Some of the good things that have been
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1 pretty exciting for us, to be honest with you,
 2 at the Village -- and if I take too much time,
 3 you know, just show me a yellow flag or
 4 something.
 5 One of the --
 6 MS. BOWERS: I'll kick you off, Brion.
 7 MR. BROOKS: Okay. Fair enough, Dorothy.
 8 That's a draconian measurement, but it's
 9 acceptable.
 10 A couple of the cool things that's been
 11 going on is, yes, we have lost some people over
 12 the last two and a half years in the pandemic --
 13 we have had some people that have simply
 14 retired. We have had some people that said, you
 15 know, going back into a public setting is not
 16 worth the risk to me or to my child, I think
 17 we'll just stay home. Some of them, quite
 18 honestly, have decided that they can keep that
 19 funding themselves instead of having the State
 20 pay the Village to, quote-unquote, take care of
 21 their son or daughter on their own, which
 22 basically collectively means, for many of them,
 23 they're not getting services anymore. Their son
 24 or daughter stays home and watches TV all day
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1 because the parent wants to collect the money as
 2 the, quote, service provider that someone like
 3 the Village of Progress would have received
 4 otherwise.
 5 I get that, but I grieve the fact that
 6 consumers aren't being able to receive some of
 7 the benefits simply because a parent wants to
 8 try to close budget gaps in their personal
 9 finances.
 10 On the other hand, in the last six months
 11 to a year, we have had some pretty significant
 12 growth at the Village of Progress. We have had
 13 at least four or five people that have come on
 14 in the last six months, some of them transferred
 15 from other agencies because they liked what we
 16 were doing around here.
 17 The Attendance Grant Program, which I have
 18 stated in the past, allows us to fund our
 19 foundation, to privately fund people who are on
 20 the waiting list to receive State services. The
 21 Attendance Grant Program has been growing, and
 22 the foundation has increased the funding to
 23 accommodate that.
 24 So even though we have had a dip over the
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1 last couple years in attendance, that dip is
 2 starting to come back up again, and it's created
 3 some real excitement among the other consumers
 4 and among the staff.

5 In addition to that, what we're doing at
 6 the Village is much different than even six or
 7 seven years ago when I came on. And this is
 8 nothing against Greg or against Bob, but the
 9 mindset at the time used to be: You bring
 10 people into the community center, you give them
 11 their services in the community center, at the
 12 end of the day they'll be bussed home. So what
 13 you're doing is, you're taking them from an
 14 enclave, which is their house, to another
 15 enclave, which was the Village of Progress.
 16 Over the last couple of years, we have really
 17 been working hard to try to reduce that
 18 sheltered effect, to really do away with the
 19 whole idea of a, quote, sheltered workshop.

20 I mentioned that a year, year and a half
 21 ago now, we started a project with Crest Foods
 22 where we're now sending -- two or three days a
 23 week we would send five people. Now five days a
 24 week we're sending ten people down there. They

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1 went from working on one line to now they're
 2 working in two buildings and now they're working
 3 in three rooms in those two buildings. And the
 4 cool thing about that is, it's not just
 5 integrating jobs with us going to Crest Foods,
 6 it's integrating jobs inside of Crest Foods;
 7 they're spreading out, which is really what
 8 integration is about.

9 Our people really enjoy it. Number one,
 10 the wage to go down there, but more importantly,
 11 they see themselves as wanted by an employer in
 12 the community. And everybody knows how
 13 important it is to feel like we have got worth,
 14 to feel like someone actually wants you to work
 15 for them. And they're excited, and they
 16 challenge themselves every day to try to beat
 17 their performance from a week ago. If they did
 18 12 skids a week ago, they want to do 13 skids
 19 this week, 14 skids next week.

20 What's equally cool about that is
 21 especially not only the day-to-day workers at
 22 Crest Foods but the management at Crest Foods
 23 loves to see that enthusiasm. Because if you
 24 think about it, if you get someone that's being

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1 paid minimum wage to work on the assembly line
 2 at Crest Foods or anyplace else, putting au
 3 gratin potato boxes into larger boxes, it gets
 4 wearing after a while. And to see people that
 5 come in that are excited about doing things that
 6 most people are just kind of, "Well, it's a
 7 job," that has been so refreshing to the
 8 management at Crest Foods. And I think, quite
 9 honestly, it has been surprising to the workers
 10 that are working along and beside our consumers.
 11 They are really excited about doing this. So
 12 it's really been very much of a win-win for both
 13 sides.

14 Now we're looking at the possibility of
 15 Etnyre. And now we have got Crest Foods, which
 16 is our poster child of a successful integration
 17 project. Crest Foods' management can talk to
 18 Etnyre and say, It's not as scary as you think
 19 it might be. It's easy to do. Here's how we
 20 can do it.

21 And then, of course, we've still got the
 22 Bakery, we've still got the Village Cleaning
 23 Service, those other integrated type of
 24 functions.

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1 And then finally, related to that, we
 2 started this project last year called Meaningful
 3 Day. And what that means is, we try to -- each
 4 person at the Village, we try to figure out from
 5 them what makes a meaningful day for them. For
 6 some people it may be earning as much money as
 7 they possibly can. So they go to Crest Foods or
 8 they work doing assembly line work at the
 9 Village. That's cool.

10 For some people it may be social
 11 interaction. They know that they can't do
 12 regular work, but to be able to actually
 13 experience a restaurant without 20 other
 14 disabled people around them is a, you know,
 15 meaningful thing to do them. To be able to do
 16 nails, to learn how to put your hair up, all
 17 these things can be meaningful to them. And we
 18 have been tapping into that.

19 You look behind me, you'll see a calendar
 20 that are cues which basically our caseworkers
 21 have put together every month of different
 22 small-group activities that they will take two
 23 or three consumers out at a time to do.

24 And some of them, you know, is make bath

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1 bombs, believe it or not, at the Village. They
 2 went to the butterfly exhibit up in Rockford the
 3 other day. We took five or six of them, I
 4 think, up there to look at the butterflies and
 5 everything. To go to the post office every day.
 6 Instead of me going to the post office, they
 7 will oftentimes take a person to go to the post
 8 office.
 9 MS. EGAN: And even the local businesses
 10 have really enjoyed having them. As we do
 11 ceramics at, you know, Conover, it's just kind
 12 of fun to see everybody commenting back, like,
 13 We loved yoga, or line dancing or whatever it
 14 is.
 15 MR. BROOKS: Yeah, and it gives them a
 16 real experience of what it's like to be in the
 17 world but, again, not in a bubble but more
 18 integrating in the community, to interact with
 19 the waitresses, to do things like that is just
 20 really meaningful.
 21 I mentioned that we have quiet
 22 conversations, where a volunteer works with some
 23 of our autistic people that are not very
 24 verbally communicative on communications boards.
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1 We have a mother that has said, I think my
 2 daughter's communicating really well with the
 3 communications board, let's encourage her to
 4 start speaking to express her needs and her
 5 desires. So that quiet conversations has now
 6 turned into a different type of conversation,
 7 all involving helping a 20-year-old girl come
 8 out of her shell and be able to communicate with
 9 the world around her. That's a really cool
 10 thing.
 11 So these are some of the new things we're
 12 doing at the Village. It does require more
 13 staffing because you're doing more things in
 14 small groups. You can't have one staff person
 15 supervising 10 or 15 people at a time. So we're
 16 slowly trying to increase staffing to help
 17 accommodate that too, which is another --
 18 But that's kind of a nutshell, I think, of
 19 what's been going on at the Village and where we
 20 see the Village continuing to go in the next few
 21 years.
 22 That's it for me.
 23 MS. BOWERS: Thank you, Brion.
 24 MS. HENKEL: Thank you.
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1 MR. BROOKS: I was afraid you all fell
 2 asleep on me.
 3 MS. BOWERS: I thought you were done.
 4 There was a pause there.
 5 MR. BROOKS: Yeah, well, you can't see me,
 6 I suppose, because you're on the phone. Yeah,
 7 I'm done.
 8 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Haley, do you want to
 9 start with you for questions?
 10 MS. WHALEY: I'm good at the moment.
 11 I just want to thank you for everything
 12 you do. Thank you.
 13 MR. BROOKS: Thanks, Haley.
 14 MS. BOWERS: Amy, how about you?
 15 MS. HENKEL: No, I didn't have any
 16 questions.
 17 It was great. Thank you, guys, of course
 18 for everything you do.
 19 MR. BROOKS: Yeah.
 20 MS. BOWERS: Marcy?
 21 MS. HAUSHAHN: No, thank you.
 22 That program about making people feel
 23 special is unbelievable. Great job.
 24 MR. BROOKS: And just to go on that real
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1 quickly, that was a parent who came in about a
 2 year, year and a half and ago wanted to know
 3 what things might be done to challenge her
 4 child. And I really give our staff a lot of
 5 credit. They could have gotten offensive. They
 6 could have said, Well, we're the experts. You
 7 know, we'll do it when we want. But our staff
 8 really took it as a challenge to look at how to
 9 do things better.
 10 So I owe that mother and thank her for
 11 being the catalyst like that.
 12 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Kathe, do you have any
 13 questions?
 14 MS. WILSON: I don't have any questions.
 15 Thank you so much for what you do, Brion,
 16 and your staff. It is worrying about that
 17 minimum wage might disqualify some of your
 18 consumers from Medicaid and Social Security. I
 19 hope that gets worked out real soon.
 20 MR. BROOKS: Yeah, me too.
 21 MS. WILSON: Thank you.
 22 MS. BOWERS: Brion, I don't have any
 23 questions for you today. Thank you for your
 24 presentation, and you did a fantastic job of
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1 putting your funding request together. I always
2 enjoy the pictures and things with your report
3 that you give.

4 MR. BROOKS: Well, good. I never know if
5 I vomit up too much information, so I'm glad to
6 get the feedback.

7 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Thank you very much,
8 Brion.

9 You too, Sherri.

10 MR. BROOKS: Thanks, guys.

11 (The hearing was concluded at
12 9:00 a.m.)
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24


In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)

1 OGLE COUNTY
2 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD (708)

3 In the Matter of the Application)
4 of)
5 Village of Progress) Zoom Meeting
6 Ogle County, Illinois)
7) May 5, 2022
8

9 I, Callie S. Bodmer, hereby certify that I
10 am a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of
11 Illinois; that I am the one who, by order and at the
12 direction of the Chairperson, Dorothy Bowers,
13 reported in shorthand the proceedings had or
14 required to be kept in the above-entitled case; and
15 that the above and foregoing is a full, true and
16 complete transcript of my said shorthand notes so
17 taken.

18 Dated at Dixon, Illinois, this 11th day of
19 May, 2022.

20 
21 Callie S. Bodmer
22 Certified Shorthand Reporter
23 Registered Professional Reporter
24 IL License No. 084-004489
IA License No. 1361
P.O. Box 381
Dixon, Illinois 61021
In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)

Page 1

1 OGLE COUNTY
 2 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD (708)

3 In the Matter of the Application)
 4 of) Zoom Meeting
 5 708 Funding Hearings) May 19, 2022
 6 Ogle County, Illinois)

7
 8
 9 Testimony of Witnesses
 10 Produced and
 11 Examined on this 19th day
 12 of May, 2021,
 13 before the Ogle County
 14 Community Mental Health Board

15 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: ALSO PRESENT (via Zoom):
 16 (via Zoom) Dorothy Bowers, Chair Chris Mills
 17 Amy Henkel Patrick Phelan
 18 Marcy Haushahn Patti Mook
 19 Renee Barnhart Jessica Cash
 20 Cindy Bergstrom Kathleen Kurtz
 21 Brion Brooks
 22 Stacie Kemp

23 Justine Messenger, Secretary
 24 Reporter: Callie S. Bodmer

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1 MS. BOWERS: Okay. I have 7:30. I'm
 2 going to go ahead and call this meeting to order
 3 as a continuation of the May 5th meeting.
 4 Justine, would you do a roll call, please?
 5 MS. MESSENGER: Yes, I will.
 6 Renee Barnhart?
 7 MS. BARNHART: Present.
 8 MS. MESSENGER: Cindy Bergstrom?
 9 MS. BERGSTROM: Present.
 10 MS. MESSENGER: Janae Bothe?
 11 (No verbal response.)
 12 MS. MESSENGER: Dorothy Bowers?
 13 MS. BOWERS: Present.
 14 MS. MESSENGER: Marcy Haushahn?
 15 MS. HAUSHAHN: Here.
 16 MS. MESSENGER: Amy Henkel?
 17 MS. HENKEL: Here.
 18 MS. MESSENGER: Haley Whaley?
 19 (No verbal response.)
 20 MS. MESSENGER: Kathleen Wilson?
 21 (No verbal response.)
 22 MS. MESSENGER: That's all.
 23 MS. BOWERS: Okay. First I'd like to
 24 welcome the two new Board members.
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1 Cindy, I hear you're on.
 2 Is Janae on?
 3 MS. MESSENGER: I don't see her yet. She
 4 said she had a meeting this morning, so.
 5 MS. BOWERS: Welcome aboard, Cindy.
 6 MS. BERGSTROM: Thank you.
 7 MS. BOWERS: Next on the agenda, we're
 8 going to discuss the funding request.
 9 At this time I would like to make a motion
 10 to approve all the funding, for a total budget
 11 of \$1,029,750, which is a \$25,000 increase from
 12 last year.
 13 Do I have a second?
 14 MS. HENKEL: I will second that. This is
 15 Amy.
 16 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Any questions or
 17 concerns?
 18 (No verbal response.)
 19 MS. BOWERS: Anybody in disagreement with
 20 that?
 21 (No verbal response.)
 22 MS. BOWERS: Justine, would you do a roll
 23 call?
 24 MS. MESSENGER: Yes, I will.
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1 Renee Barnhart?
 2 MS. BARNHART: Yes.
 3 MS. MESSENGER: Cindy Bergstrom?
 4 MS. BERGSTROM: I'm just going to abstain,
 5 just because I'm unfamiliar with where we're at
 6 so far, if that's okay?
 7 MS. MESSENGER: That's fine.
 8 Janae Bothe?
 9 (No verbal response.)
 10 MS. MESSENGER: Dorothy Bowers?
 11 MS. BOWERS: Yes.
 12 MS. MESSENGER: Marcy Haushahn?
 13 MS. HAUSHAHN: Yes.
 14 MS. MESSENGER: Amy Henkel?
 15 MS. HENKEL: Yes.
 16 MS. MESSENGER: Haley Whaley?
 17 (No verbal response.)
 18 MS. MESSENGER: Kathleen Wilson?
 19 (No verbal response.)
 20 MS. MESSENGER: That's all.
 21 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Motion carries.
 22 Next on the agenda then, the agency
 23 newspaper article for May would be for
 24 Sinnissippi; June, Village of Progress; July
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1 would be HOPE.
 2 I'd like to make a motion to approve all
 3 the nominations that we received a couple months
 4 ago.
 5 MS. HENKEL: This is Amy. I would like to
 6 make a motion to approve the nominations for the
 7 Board officers.
 8 MS. BOWERS: Thank you, Amy.
 9 Is there a second?
 10 MS. HAUSHAHN: Marcy will second.
 11 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Any questions or
 12 concerns?
 13 (No verbal response.)
 14 MS. BOWERS: Justine, would you do a roll
 15 call?
 16 MS. MESSENGER: Yes.
 17 Renee Barnhart?
 18 MS. BARNHART: Yes.
 19 MS. MESSENGER: Cindy Bergstrom?
 20 MS. BERGSTROM: I'll abstain again.
 21 Sorry.
 22 MS. MESSENGER: That's fine.
 23 Janae Bothe?
 24 (No verbal response.)
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1 MS. MESSENGER: Dorothy Bowers?
 2 MS. BOWERS: Yes.
 3 MS. MESSENGER: Marcy Haushahn?
 4 MS. HAUSHAHN: Yes.
 5 MS. MESSENGER: Amy Henkel?
 6 MS. HENKEL: Yes.
 7 MS. MESSENGER: Haley Whaley?
 8 (No verbal response.)
 9 MS. MESSENGER: Kathleen Wilson?
 10 (No verbal response.)
 11 MS. MESSENGER: That's all.
 12 MS. BOWERS: Okay. That motion carries
 13 then.
 14 All right. And June and July there will
 15 be no 708 Board meetings. August 4th would be
 16 our next meeting.
 17 And, Justine, I would like you to set that
 18 up as an in-person meeting.
 19 MS. MESSENGER: I'm trying. I reached out
 20 to Susan down at the Ogle County Sheriff's
 21 Office and I haven't heard back from her yet.
 22 So I will definitely keep trying.
 23 MS. BOWERS: Okay. All right. Does
 24 anyone have anything else to bring up at this
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1 point?
 2 MS. HENKEL: Just thank you for the 708
 3 budget request sheets that were sent out. That
 4 was very helpful.
 5 MS. BOWERS: You're welcome. Justine does
 6 a really good job of that.
 7 MS. HENKEL: Yeah, I think that just makes
 8 things run really smoothly.
 9 MS. MESSENGER: Thank you.
 10 MS. BOWERS: It does. It does.
 11 Anything else?
 12 MR. PHELAN: This is Patrick. I just
 13 wanted to say thank you very much for the
 14 recommendation this morning.
 15 And quick question. Do we know if we are
 16 going to want any agencies' support at the HEW
 17 this year?
 18 MS. BOWERS: Pat, I do not want a
 19 PowerPoint presentation from you.
 20 MR. PHELAN: Okay. Well then, I'm out.
 21 So I am offering everything but a
 22 PowerPoint presentation, if you should need any
 23 support.
 24 MS. BOWERS: I think we'll be okay. I
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1 have already spoken with chairman of the Finance
 2 Committee, and I'm going to be meeting with him
 3 sometime next month. We haven't really set up a
 4 time yet. But at this point, I feel that
 5 there's not anything that's needed for the HEW
 6 Committee until we have our funding hearings in
 7 August --
 8 MR. PHELAN: Okay.
 9 MS. BOWERS: -- towards the end of August.
 10 Okay?
 11 MR. PHELAN: Sounds good.
 12 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Thank you for your
 13 offer, Pat.
 14 Anything else?
 15 (No verbal response.)
 16 MS. BOWERS: Seeing no further business, I
 17 consider this meeting adjourned.
 18 (The meeting was concluded at
 19 7:39 a.m.)
 20
 21
 22
 23
 24
 In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)

1 OGLE COUNTY
2 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD (708)

3 RE:)
4) Zoom Meeting
5 708 Funding Hearings)
6)
7 Ogle County, Illinois) May 19, 2022
8)

9 I, Callie S. Bodmer, hereby certify that I
10 am a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of
11 Illinois; that I am the one who, by order and at the
12 direction of the Chairperson, Dorothy Bowers,
13 reported in shorthand the proceedings had or
14 required to be kept in the above-entitled case; and
15 that the above and foregoing is a full, true and
16 complete transcript of my said shorthand notes so
17 taken.

18 Dated at Dixon, Illinois, this 25th day of
19 May, 2022.

20 *Callie S. Bodmer*
21 Callie S. Bodmer
22 Certified Shorthand Reporter
23 Registered Professional Reporter
24 IL License No. 084-004489
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P.O. Box 381
Dixon, Illinois 61021

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