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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 ) Ogle County  
 6 Ogle County, Illinois ) Sheriff's Office  
 ) Oregon, Illinois  
 ) May 4, 2023

7  
 8  
 9 Testimony of Witnesses  
 10 Produced and  
 11 Examined on this 4th day  
 12 of May, 2023,  
 13 before the Ogle County  
 14 Community Mental Health Board

15 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

16 Marcella Haushahn  
 17 Amy Henkel (via Zoom)  
 18 Renee Barnhart  
 19 Cindy Bergstrom  
 20 Kathleen Wilson (via Zoom)  
 21 Jenae Bothe (via Zoom)  
 22 Joe Simms  
 23 Dorothy Bowers, Chairperson  
 24 Justine Messenger, Secretary

Reporter: Callie S. Bodmer, Present via Zoom

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In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)

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1 MS. BOWERS: Do you want to go ahead and  
 2 start with anything?  
 3 MS. KURTZ: Sure. I mean, I have got my  
 4 little intro. I will go ahead and launch into  
 5 what we have.  
 6 It's really hard to believe that it's been  
 7 a year since we have last met. It seems to go  
 8 faster and faster every year as I get older and  
 9 older, but yeah, that's the way it goes.  
 10 So much has happened since the last time  
 11 we met. You know we lost Patti, and it's -- we  
 12 were very fortunate to find Christi.  
 13 But I just want to thank you guys for this  
 14 opportunity to talk about our services, and we  
 15 are so very grateful for the funding that we do  
 16 get from Ogle County. It's made a world of  
 17 difference in our program, and we do a lot of --  
 18 we have expanded the collaboration that we do  
 19 with the community, and Christi will talk a lot  
 20 about that. And we -- the funding has enabled  
 21 us to support, nurture, educate parents who are  
 22 challenged by raising a child with a disability.  
 23 So you have been there for us so that we can be  
 24 there for our families.  
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1 So, Christi, I know you just popped in.  
 2 MS. STARR: I did. Good morning,  
 3 everyone.  
 4 MS. KURTZ: You have all met Christi.  
 5 Christi started in September. Patti left at the  
 6 end of June. And we are very happy to have her  
 7 with us. She comes with a lot of personal life  
 8 experiences and has been a blessing for the  
 9 program.  
 10 MS. STARR: Thank you.  
 11 So I have been with Easter Seals since  
 12 September, so six months now, and I can still  
 13 say it is my dream job. I actually was an  
 14 Easter Seals family before taking the position.  
 15 So a little bit about myself. My -- I  
 16 have five kids, but the one that kind of makes  
 17 me good for the position is my second youngest,  
 18 and he's going to be 18 at the end of this  
 19 month. But when he was three months old, he was  
 20 diagnosed with epilepsy; and then at three years  
 21 old he was diagnosed with autism; and then at  
 22 ten he was diagnosed with leukemia. So we have  
 23 kind of had all gamuts. He has had several  
 24 other diagnoses along the way. We have had  
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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 countless therapies and doctors' appointments 2 and all of that stuff.</p> <p>3 So I can, you know, understand exactly 4 what our family members are going through. I 5 can relate to everything that they are dealing 6 with, and I have great resources when they reach 7 out for this and that. So, you know, I think 8 being able to be in their shoes has helped a 9 lot.</p> <p>10 And Patti has been great with training me. 11 She's come back and has helped with, you know, 12 doing the grant and basically getting me other 13 resources and helping to lay out everything. So 14 she had a couple of activities that she did 15 prior to me coming in that I kind of wanted to 16 touch on, just to kind of give you an idea as to 17 what she did prior to me picking up where she 18 left off.</p> <p>19 She did a really big event around Easter 20 time of -- not this Easter but the Easter before 21 she had an Easter Story Book Walk that she 22 collaborated with the Oregon Park District, and 23 it was a huge success. There was 349 Ogle 24 residents that attended this event. It was In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 had three sibling workshops. One of them Patti 2 did. Three residents -- Ogle residents attended 3 that. And then I did one in October with 4 Florissa and Starnet. And then we have one -- 5 Patti did one also in April. Only one attended, 6 but they loved it because it was one girl and 7 they were able to do a whole banner with her. 8 And it's still up, I believe, at the Oregon Park 9 District. So they loved that one, because she 10 got a lot of one-on-one attention.</p> <p>11 The family Carlson Ice Rink was canceled 12 last year, but I was able to do it this year. 13 It was a lot of fun. We did -- we had food 14 catered and they were able to skate. We had a 15 lot of new families that came out for that this 16 year. They were out with their little walkers 17 on the ice and skating, and I -- because I 18 didn't know how they were going to actually get 19 out there. So I was, like, I don't know about 20 this. But they -- it was a ball. It was a ball 21 to see them out there.</p> <p>22 We had one mom, which she sent me a quote, 23 and I love it. She said, We came, we fell, we 24 got back up and we had a ball. So I just, I In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 basically where they went for a walk, and a 2 story was read, and they did carnival games and 3 prizes were done. It was a two-hour event. I 4 guess it was huge. I didn't attend. I wish I 5 would have. It sounded amazing.</p> <p>6 She also did her annual Volcano Falls 7 event, which was a family event. They get three 8 hours of arcade games, go-carting, mini golf and 9 batting cages. And we will be doing that again 10 in June, and that is a big event. We have 11 family members that attend that. And last year 12 11 Ogle residents attended that one. We have 13 not sent out the fliers for this year's event.</p> <p>14 Where I picked up was a sensory movie, and 15 that was October, and the kids saw Lyle, Lyle, 16 Crocodile. And sensory movies are basically 17 where the lights are up, the sound is down, and 18 the kids are able to move around through the 19 theater. We ended up having, I want to say -- 20 we had nine Ogle residents for that one. That 21 was a lot of fun to do. I ended up bringing my 22 son to that one as well and he really enjoyed 23 that.</p> <p>24 We do a lot of sibling support. We have In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 loved it.</p> <p>2 I did two Christmas events. One that I 3 collaborated with the Oregon Public Library, 4 which is Sensory Santa. And that was basically 5 where it's done quietly, it's one-on-one time 6 with Santa, and the kids basically just sit 7 there in the library. Santa is very attentive 8 to them. It's in front of the fireplace. It's 9 just perfect. Each of the kids got to go to a 10 table and pick out a toy that they got to take 11 home, also they got a teddy bear. So it was 12 just a very sweet, sensitive, kind of quiet 13 moment.</p> <p>14 Many of the family members said that they 15 don't even take their kids to see Santa because 16 they can't -- you know, they can't stand in the 17 line and they can't have this interaction with 18 Santa. And I think one kid was even sitting on 19 the floor and Santa just got down on the floor 20 with them. So it was just very sweet.</p> <p>21 So we have that, and then we also did a 22 Selfies with Santa, which we collaborated with 23 the Winnebago Public Library and our autism 24 program for that. And we had nine Ogle In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>

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1 residents that attended that. That was just set  
 2 up as like a Christmas party type of event. We  
 3 did crafts and then we had a Santa come and  
 4 visit.  
 5 We did the camp at the Nash Rec Center,  
 6 which we will also be doing again in June. It's  
 7 just a half-day camp. That we do with Florissa,  
 8 the 4-H Club. It's also done with the Master  
 9 Gardeners and the Oregon Public -- or, sorry,  
 10 the Oregon Park District.  
 11 We had seven parent trainings last year.  
 12 Patti did most of those. I did two of them.  
 13 They were partnered with Family Matters,  
 14 National Autism Society, and Starnet Training.  
 15 Some of them were done in person and others were  
 16 done virtually. We had 27 Ogle residents that  
 17 attended those.  
 18 We also did Discovery passes for our  
 19 families, which gave them the opportunity to  
 20 have the whole year to attend the discovery  
 21 Museum. And then we'll be redoing those again  
 22 for our families, because that was a big  
 23 success.  
 24 And then we have our respite families.  
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1 That is going very well. We have four respite  
 2 families. And we keep in touch with them on a  
 3 monthly basis. I reach out to our respite  
 4 employees, make sure everything is going well,  
 5 that they're using their respite hours, making  
 6 sure they don't need anything while they're  
 7 doing that. The girls that are the respite  
 8 employees are considered employees of Easter  
 9 Seals.  
 10 And we have had much, much needed  
 11 inquiries as to if we're still offering respite,  
 12 and I have been able -- not been able to tell  
 13 people that we do at this time. But, you know,  
 14 I do know the families that are calling and  
 15 asking for respite services. But as of right  
 16 now, we have the four families, and they are  
 17 doing well and they are loving the services.  
 18 And that's all I can say about respite. It's  
 19 been a godsend to families.  
 20 You know, we have had a family member say  
 21 that basically it saved her marriage right now,  
 22 to be able to have time for them to get away and  
 23 just decompress and stuff like that.  
 24 And then we have the big donation of the  
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1 backpacks from the Formation Center here, which  
 2 started out at the school year, which was a huge  
 3 success with our family members too.  
 4 So that's kind of the year in review.  
 5 We also did a Mom's Day Out in place of  
 6 our Mom's Retreat in the fall, which was just a  
 7 day that we did at the Nash Rec Center with  
 8 Florissa and Starnet. We did the Mom's Yoga and  
 9 we did some essential oils and stuff like that,  
 10 that the moms got to take home with some salt  
 11 baths.  
 12 We are actually doing the Mom's Retreat in  
 13 Galena this weekend. So we will leave for that  
 14 tomorrow. I have been busy getting all the  
 15 crafts and everything ready for that. So we  
 16 have 35 moms that will be attending that.  
 17 MS. BOWERS: How many from Ogle County?  
 18 MS. STARR: I believe we have eight, I  
 19 want to say. Yeah, we did have nine, but she  
 20 had to drop out. Her son is having some medical  
 21 issues right now, so. She's actually the one  
 22 that was in the success story, and she was not  
 23 able to attend, so, but yeah.  
 24 MS. BOWERS: Renee, do you have any  
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1 questions for them?  
 2 MS. BARNHART: I just -- just a real quick  
 3 question about the Sensory Santa. You have  
 4 staff hours but you don't have how many Ogle  
 5 County families that participated.  
 6 MS. STARR: It's up at the top. It was  
 7 six.  
 8 MS. BARNHART: Was it at the top? Okay.  
 9 I didn't see that, I was -- okay. I hope that  
 10 expands. I hope there's more families that --  
 11 MS. STARR: We do too. I think it was, we  
 12 were -- we didn't get enough notification out  
 13 this time, just because it was kind of thrown  
 14 together at the last minute. But, yeah, I  
 15 absolutely hope that we get more. We were  
 16 surprised, due to the fact that it was on the  
 17 day of your big Christmas celebration in town  
 18 too, so. I do hope we get more, because I  
 19 really think it is a great, great thing for the  
 20 kids, so.  
 21 I know last -- the year before there was a  
 22 bigger turnout for that. So they were kind of  
 23 surprised by that.  
 24 MS. BOWERS: Anybody on Zoom have any  
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1 questions for Easter Seals?  
 2 MS. MESSENGER. Amy is no.  
 3 Jenae?  
 4 MS. BOTHE: No.  
 5 MS. MESSENGER: Kathe?  
 6 MS. WILSON: I had something, but I forgot  
 7 it already. So it probably wasn't important.  
 8 Thank you.  
 9 MS. BOWERS: Marcy, do you have any  
 10 questions?  
 11 MS. HAUSHAHN: No questions.  
 12 MS. BOWERS: Cindy?  
 13 MS. BERGSTROM: No, other than, I'm  
 14 thankful that you broke it down so specifically  
 15 about how many Ogle Counties for each program.  
 16 That was great.  
 17 MS. WILSON: I remembered.  
 18 MS. BOWERS: Go ahead, Kathe.  
 19 MS. WILSON: Would you say that most of  
 20 your programs in Ogle County are family support?  
 21 MS. STARR: No. We have -- we have  
 22 sibling support, we do mom support, and then we  
 23 have just -- and then we have the respite, which  
 24 is separate as well too, which is only Ogle  
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1 County. And then, like, the Sensory Santa was  
 2 just for -- you know, more for the kids, I would  
 3 say. I guess you could call it a family event,  
 4 but I would say it was more for just the child.  
 5 MS. WILSON: Okay. Thank you.  
 6 MS. BOWERS: Joe, do you have any  
 7 questions?  
 8 MR. SIMMS: The family fun night at the  
 9 Carlson Ice Rink, did that return?  
 10 MS. STARR: Yes. We had it -- we did have  
 11 it in February of this year. Yeah, it was a big  
 12 success.  
 13 MS. BOWERS: I've got a question about  
 14 that, the Carlson. How many families from Ogle  
 15 County attended that?  
 16 MS. STARR: For this year, let me see, I  
 17 have it right here. Six.  
 18 MS. BOWERS: Joe, anything else?  
 19 MR. SIMMS: No.  
 20 MS. BOWERS: I just have one other  
 21 question for you, too.  
 22 Prior to this, Patti always said that they  
 23 had to do a waiting list. Do you still keep a  
 24 waiting list for the respite program?  
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1 MS. STARR: So I don't have the waiting  
 2 list, but I know the families that are  
 3 interested. And I have an application and  
 4 everything set so that I can send out for them  
 5 to fill it out.  
 6 MS. BOWERS: Okay. All right. I really  
 7 appreciate how you labeled everything. That was  
 8 just fantastic. Very well put together.  
 9 MS. STARR: So much easier to just find it  
 10 than just thumbing through it.  
 11 MS. BOWERS: That's the only thing that I  
 12 had.  
 13 Anything else?  
 14 (No verbal response.)  
 15 MS. BOWERS: Thank you.  
 16 (The hearing was concluded at  
 17 8:57 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 Easter Seals )  
 6 Ogle County, Illinois ) Ogle County  
 7 ) Sheriff's Office  
 8 ) Oregon, Illinois  
 9 ) May 4, 2023  
 10 I, Callie S. Bodmer, hereby certify that I  
 11 am a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of  
 12 Illinois; that I am the one who, by order and at the  
 13 direction of the Chairperson, Dorothy Bowers,  
 14 reported in shorthand the proceedings had or  
 15 required to be kept in the above-entitled case; and  
 16 that the above and foregoing is a full, true and  
 17 complete transcript of my said shorthand notes so  
 18 taken.  
 19 Dated at Dixon, Illinois, this 4th day of  
 20 May, 2023.  
 21 *Callie S Bodmer*  
 22 Callie S. Bodmer  
 23 Certified Shorthand Reporter  
 24 Registered Professional Reporter  
 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 )  
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1 MS. BOWERS: Do you want to give a little  
 2 spiel first.  
 3 MS. CARTER: Sure. I know we have a  
 4 couple new Board members, so I wanted to give a  
 5 little background on HOPE's services. It is in  
 6 there, but it's sometimes nice to hear it from  
 7 us talking a little bit about what we do.  
 8 So we are the domestic violence agency and  
 9 shelter for Ogle County, and in the northeast  
 10 Lee County is our catchment area, but it doesn't  
 11 mean that that's all we serve. We do serve some  
 12 folks from out of county with our shelter  
 13 services, specifically, because of the fact that  
 14 people who are fleeing from domestic abuse  
 15 situations sometimes cannot stay in the counties  
 16 that they live in or the cities or towns that  
 17 they live in, so they seek out other shelter  
 18 opportunities.  
 19 And then also because Win shelters are  
 20 full in Illinois, they don't have any bed space,  
 21 there's the Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline  
 22 that refers folks over to open bed space  
 23 shelters. So we all share in that way so that  
 24 we can find a safe place for folks to go when  
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1 they're fleeing from an abusive situation.  
 2 But I'll list our services first.  
 3 Probably our largest service component, and it  
 4 produces the most hours, is our counseling  
 5 services. So we have two adult counselors that  
 6 provide adult counseling and teen counseling  
 7 here at the HOPE office, Leah and Carol. And  
 8 then we have a children's counselor we just  
 9 hired for our open position, her name is Misha,  
 10 and she provides children's counseling for kids  
 11 and teens. And then we have our rural outreach  
 12 counselor, Addy, who provides counseling  
 13 services in our Polo office. She also provides  
 14 advocacy and resource education, just like all  
 15 of our counselors, needing referrals to  
 16 different agencies for economic assistance,  
 17 transportation, childcare, anything to help a  
 18 person get back on their feet and find a path to  
 19 a safe life.  
 20 And then we have our Latinx outreach  
 21 counselor, whose name is Dolce, and she provides  
 22 our counseling services for mainly our Spanish-  
 23 speaking clients or Latino/Hispanic clients,  
 24 don't have to necessarily have a language  
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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 barrier, but there's also cultural components to  2 meeting with somebody from your own culture. So  3 Dolce provides the majority of the counseling  4 for our clients there. She also provides  5 additional family counseling and children's  6 counseling as needed for our Latinx families as  7 well.  8 So those positions provide a majority of  9 our counseling service hours, but also our  10 advocates in shelter who answer our hotline.  11 Our hotline is 24/7. So that means that anybody  12 can call HOPE anytime, day or night, weekends.  13 There's always somebody to answer the phone. We  14 don't use voicemail, we don't patch over our  15 phone line to anybody else. There's always an  16 advocate who's 40-hour trained and provides  17 emergency crisis counseling and safety planning  18 24/7.  19 So our advocates provide a portion of  20 those counseling services as well. You do an  21 intake here at HOPE on the phone, oftentimes  22 you're spending a good hour or more with  23 survivors when they're calling for the first  24 time, giving them information, education,  <p style="text-align: center;">In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 really just understanding how to access funding  2 or maybe they need DHS assistance, TANF, housing  3 choice assistance through the Housing Authority.  4 They really help them with all those different  5 access points too, reaching out to different  6 agencies and services. Like Tri-County, which  7 is another one that helps us out quite a bit.  8 Our clients reach out for their services for  9 financial and economic assistance all the time.  10 So we work pretty closely with those agencies  11 here at HOPE.  12 Then we also have our court advocacy  13 services. That is solely for Ogle County. And  14 our court advocates, Vaughn and Kelly, they  15 guide and support survivors who are interested  16 in the order of protection option, to help them  17 through the court system. They're not  18 attorneys. They're advocates. But they guide  19 them through the paperwork process, they guide  20 them to show them where to go to court, they sit  21 with them in the courtroom and every court date  22 for the order of protection process, and they  23 support them. They also provide support for  24 additional criminal justice court dates. So  <p style="text-align: center;">In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p></p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 referrals, information about the order of  2 protection option that we offer, and then also  3 shelter access, if that's what they're seeking  4 is shelter assistance.  5 So our advocates cover 24/7. So our  6 agency always has a person here or two people  7 here at the center. So that service is  8 available for coming into shelter as well. So  9 if there's somebody that needs shelter in the  10 middle of the night or on the weekend, they can  11 call and they can access shelter. So they don't  12 have to wait until the next day, as long as  13 there's shelter bed space available and then  14 they're appropriate for our shelter services;  15 meaning, there's no conflict of interest or that  16 we know that it is after doing the intake  17 domestic abuse-type situation.  18 Yeah, so the shelter services are another  19 large component. The main reason why the  20 domestic violence agency started to be 24/7 is  21 because of shelter services. They do everything  22 from advocacy, giving information and referrals  23 to our clients day and night. They work with  24 our clients on the very basic things, like  <p style="text-align: center;">In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 when there's a domestic violence charge.  2 Whether it's felony or whether it's misdemeanor,  3 they will sit with our survivors in the  4 courtroom, if they want that additional support  5 and if they have time to do that, if they're not  6 assisting with other orders of protection.  7 The judges in Ogle County, they provide  8 the answer for the order of protection. They're  9 the ones who grant the order of protection. We  10 just help and guide and assist them in reaching  11 out to the judge and filling out the paperwork  12 and presenting in front of the judge in the  13 courtroom about why they need this emergency  14 order of protection.  15 So, yeah, so the court advocates do far  16 more than that. I could go on and on. They  17 provide counseling and access to resources as  18 well.  19 We have other administrative staff, who  20 we're always busy and we never stop. I don't  21 need to go into all of that. We have four  22 supervisors here at HOPE -- five supervisors  23 here at HOPE. I had to count again -- that  24 supervise administrative staff and counseling  <p style="text-align: center;">In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p></p>

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1 staff and then shelter staff.  
 2 So that is the bulk of our services. I  
 3 mentioned the Polo office. We have the office  
 4 there in Polo. We also have an office in Oregon  
 5 for our counseling services. The court  
 6 advocates have an office across the street from  
 7 the Old Courthouse at the -- what's the name of  
 8 the building -- Commerce Building, there we go,  
 9 at the Commerce Building so that they can help  
 10 folks there in Oregon be able to get the order  
 11 of protection process started, paperwork filled  
 12 out, all of that.  
 13 There's also an extra room there for kids.  
 14 So if the parent has to bring their kids with  
 15 and they don't have the option of having  
 16 childcare or family members or friends to  
 17 assist, they can bring their kids and we'll work  
 18 something out with our staff to be able to watch  
 19 their kids while their parent goes into the  
 20 courtroom.  
 21 We try to, you know, provide that service  
 22 so there isn't kids running around in the  
 23 courtroom if possible. Every so often it's  
 24 unavoidable, but most of the time the judges  
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1 appreciate when there's not kids running around  
 2 in an order of protection court date.  
 3 So, yeah, that is --  
 4 MS. JOHNSON: Our LEP office.  
 5 MS. CARTER: We have an LEP office, which  
 6 is located in Rochelle at the Ogle County  
 7 Services Building. It's where the Health  
 8 Department is located. And there's a small  
 9 office there for our -- Dolce, our Latinx  
 10 outreach counselor, to provide counseling, as  
 11 well as some of our other counselors. We have  
 12 some clients that really just need a little bit  
 13 of additional confidentiality and anonymity in  
 14 our small community, to be able to meet  
 15 somewhere where they are not walking into the  
 16 HOPE doors.  
 17 And it's been really nice to have, but  
 18 this upcoming fiscal year we have had quite a  
 19 huge budget cut from our VOCA, our federal  
 20 funder services, and we're predicting -- they  
 21 have pretty much told us, but predicting a  
 22 52.7 percent cut across the board for domestic  
 23 violence agency services with their VOCA  
 24 funding.  
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1 So we are going to let go of that office  
 2 because the rent is quite high. That was by  
 3 choice, to a certain extent, because we had the  
 4 funds to be able to have a higher rent, and now,  
 5 with this huge cut, that's quite a bit to be  
 6 paying every month for something that isn't  
 7 utilized as much as our other office spaces. So  
 8 we are going to let go of that office in FY24,  
 9 unless something changes with IDHS funding. But  
 10 we don't foresee enough funding coming through  
 11 in addition to make up for the differences in  
 12 that.  
 13 Yeah, it's so we can hold onto our staff,  
 14 really. We want to make sure to make the cuts  
 15 in places so that we can hold onto the staff  
 16 that provide these essential services for our  
 17 clients.  
 18 And that is a quick recap. Any questions  
 19 so far?  
 20 MS. BOWERS: Renee, do you have any  
 21 questions for them?  
 22 MS. BARNHART: So the only question I  
 23 really had was, how -- when you're talking about  
 24 a 52 percent cut in your budget, that is huge.  
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1 So are you able to have any other funding  
 2 streams or any fundraisers, or how are you going  
 3 to make up that difference? I understand  
 4 cutting costs is one portion of it. But how are  
 5 you, as an agency, going to try to make up the  
 6 difference?  
 7 MS. JOHNSON: It's a 52.7 percent cut in  
 8 our one grant, which is 168,000, is what we're  
 9 going to be cut. It's not across our total  
 10 budget.  
 11 MS. CARTER: Thank God.  
 12 MS. JOHNSON: Or else we would have to  
 13 shut the doors, if that were the case.  
 14 So we did request more funding from 708,  
 15 we did request more funding from DHS, and we're  
 16 just making cuts like, you know, getting rid of  
 17 the LEP office and we're just going to have to  
 18 tighten our belts a little bit more on other  
 19 financial things.  
 20 MS. CARTER: As far as office supplies,  
 21 and we didn't hire an additional advocate that  
 22 we are lacking right now. Just things like  
 23 that.  
 24 MS. BARNHART: So, but, I mean, as far as  
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1 to try to increase revenue streams, there's  
 2 no -- other than the cuts and not hiring, you  
 3 don't have any other -- except for the increase,  
 4 you said you didn't think you were probably  
 5 going to get from DHS, there's --  
 6 MS. CARTER: Well, let me clarify that.  
 7 We applied for an additional 30,000, which we  
 8 think we will get in FY24 -  
 9 MS. JOHNSON: Well, they actually --  
 10 MS. CARTER: They did confirm it?  
 11 MS. JOHNSON: They confirmed it. That's  
 12 why I had to put the budget in for that.  
 13 MS. CARTER: They confirmed it. That one  
 14 we asked -- they had mentioned that there might  
 15 be some additional funding streams through DHS  
 16 in FY24 that might come through later, but we  
 17 have no idea about whether that's going to  
 18 happen or not.  
 19 MS. JOHNSON: And this coming weekend we  
 20 do have our major fundraiser, our Cinco K.  
 21 MS. BARNHART: Okay. That was all I had.  
 22 Thank you.  
 23 MS. BOWERS: Anybody on Zoom have any  
 24 questions?  
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1 MS. WILSON: Kathe.  
 2 MS. BOWERS: Go ahead, Kathe.  
 3 MS. WILSON: Not so much a question, but  
 4 reading about safe parking, and that's great.  
 5 That's such a blessing to have, is the parking  
 6 upgraded and the upgrades that have been put  
 7 into the shelter. So thank you for doing that.  
 8 MS. CARTER: Very excited about the  
 9 upgrades.  
 10 MS. JOHNSON: Yeah.  
 11 MS. CARTER: It's been a long time coming.  
 12 It really does -- I forgot to mention that, but  
 13 it does allow us to be able to provide shelter  
 14 to folks who have an animal that provides  
 15 support to them. So it's not just assistance  
 16 animals, but also we consider an assistance  
 17 animal an animal that lives in the home where  
 18 there's domestic abuse that has provided a  
 19 comfort to the client or the children. And so  
 20 if that animal is appropriate for shelter,  
 21 meaning nonaggressive and doesn't urinate or  
 22 defecate in the shelter, then they are very  
 23 welcome to come with them if we have the space  
 24 available. So we had floors put in,  
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1 ventilation, increase in ventilation --  
 2 filtration, there we go, and then we also have  
 3 some handicapped accessible changes that are  
 4 made to the shelter as well.  
 5 So it's been really nice. When it's all  
 6 done, it will look really, super nice. We are  
 7 waiting on the cabinets to be installed still  
 8 and the countertops, but yeah.  
 9 And our blinds, we did get a grant from  
 10 the Rochelle Area Community Foundation which  
 11 allows us to do safety blinds, which are a  
 12 lot -- you can't see through them and they are a  
 13 lot more economical, as they will block out a  
 14 lot of the wasted heat and air conditioning that  
 15 goes on in shelter.  
 16 MS. HAUSHAHN: Marcy has a question.  
 17 Is that cut coming every year now,  
 18 permanent?  
 19 MS. CARTER: They are saying -- it's a  
 20 federal funding that comes -- they make the  
 21 decision, like, two years prior. They are  
 22 saying it's going to be at least two years where  
 23 these cuts will be in place and there won't be  
 24 any additional VOCA funding for two years. So  
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1 they are hoping that third year, but we'll see.  
 2 This is a competitive year for our VOCA  
 3 funding, and it's usually three years. So my  
 4 guess, it's going to be at least three years of  
 5 VOCA cuts.  
 6 MS. HAUSHAHN: Thank you.  
 7 MS. BOWERS: Kathe, did you have any other  
 8 questions?  
 9 MS. WILSON: No, I'm good. Thank you.  
 10 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Any other person on  
 11 Zoom that has questions?  
 12 (No verbal response.)  
 13 MS. BOWERS: Cindy, do you have any  
 14 questions?  
 15 MS. BERGSTROM: I don't. But it was very  
 16 clear to read and it was very well laid out.  
 17 For a first-time person looking at it, thank  
 18 you, I appreciate it.  
 19 MS. CARTER: You're welcome.  
 20 MS. JOHNSON: Thanks for saying that  
 21 because we never really know, you know.  
 22 MS. BERGSTROM: Just a comment, just to  
 23 let you know, I think your email address -- or  
 24 the HOPE email address is -- there's a typo on  
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1 it on the front page. I think it's supposed to  
 2 be hopegle, O-G-L-E, but it's O-G-E-L.  
 3 MS. CARTER: Oh, yeah.  
 4 MS. JOHNSON: Yup. Thank you. That's our  
 5 administrative email.  
 6 MS. MESSENGER: I don't have a signed copy  
 7 from you either. It's just got your name on it.  
 8 I don't know if the rest of them are signed or  
 9 not?  
 10 MS. BOWERS: I have a couple questions for  
 11 you too.  
 12 MS. CARTER: The signed copy of the  
 13 application, you mean?  
 14 MS. MESSENGER: Yeah. There's no  
 15 signature for you on the back. It's got your  
 16 name on it, but there's no signature.  
 17 MS. CARTER: We'll get it to you.  
 18 MS. BOWERS: I have a couple questions.  
 19 How many shelters do you think there are  
 20 in the state of Illinois that are similar to  
 21 yours?  
 22 MS. CARTER: Well, just really quick,  
 23 there's two different versions of shelters.  
 24 There's domestic violence and sexual assault  
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1 agencies -- well, actually, they all serve  
 2 sexual assault survivors, so it's -- but those  
 3 are larger, usually, domestic violence  
 4 facilities, because they have two huge pots of  
 5 funding that come through that -- VAWA funding  
 6 and VOCA funding -- that support all of that.  
 7 So they are usually a bit larger.  
 8 There are single domestic -- they call  
 9 them single domestic violence agencies and  
 10 shelters, and, I want to say, throughout the  
 11 state there are probably only, like, eight of  
 12 them. And then the rest of the shelters -- I  
 13 wish I had the number in front of me, but I want  
 14 to say there's, like, 60 shelters, something  
 15 like that. Some shelters down south cover,  
 16 like, three counties because of the ruralness of  
 17 the area. So some folks have to drive in the  
 18 southern area quite a distance to get to a  
 19 domestic violence shelter, unfortunately.  
 20 MS. BOWERS: Just another quick question.  
 21 It's not showing any funding from The United Way  
 22 of Ogle County, and I know they incorporated  
 23 with Rock -- they incorporated with Lee County?  
 24 MS. CARTER: They did.  
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1 MS. JOHNSON: Yes.  
 2 MS. CARTER: They did. We still have not  
 3 heard about funding for this --  
 4 MS. BOWERS: Okay.  
 5 MS. CARTER: -- this fiscal year coming  
 6 up. It's been kind of odd. They have -- I  
 7 haven't checked their website this week, but I  
 8 know that they released the funding application  
 9 for Lee County but they haven't released it for  
 10 Ogle yet.  
 11 MS. JOHNSON: We usually have that  
 12 application filled out in January. We haven't  
 13 heard anything, so.  
 14 MS. BOWERS: Okay.  
 15 MS. CARTER: So we'll see.  
 16 MS. BOWERS: Joe just came into the room.  
 17 Joe, do you have any questions?  
 18 MR. SIMMS: Not at the moment.  
 19 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Thank you.  
 20 MS. CARTER: We'll get that signed copy to  
 21 you, Justine.  
 22 MS. MESSENGER: If you just want to send  
 23 me an email copy of it, that will be fine. I'll  
 24 just print it out.  
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1 MS. BOWERS: Thank you, Ruth.  
 2 MS. CARTER: Thank you.  
 3 (The hearing was concluded at  
 4 7:26 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 )

6 Ogle County, Illinois ) Ogle County  
7 ) Sheriff's Office  
8 ) Oregon, Illinois  
9 ) May 4, 2023

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

19 Dated at Dixon, Illinois, this 4th day of  
20 May, 2023.

*Callie S Bodmer*

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 of ) Ogle County  
 Illinois ) Sheriff's Office  
 6 ) Oregon, Illinois  
 Ogle County, Illinois ) May 4, 2023  
 7 )

8  
 9 Testimony of Witnesses  
 Produced and  
 10 Examined on this 4th day  
 of May, 2023,  
 11 before the Ogle County  
 Community Mental Health Board

12  
 13  
 14 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:  
 15  
 16 Marcella Haushahn  
 Amy Henkel (via Zoom)  
 17 Renee Barnhart  
 Cindy Bergstrom  
 18 Kathleen Wilson (via Zoom)  
 Jenae Bothe (via Zoom)  
 19 Joe Simms  
 Dorothy Bowers, Chairperson  
 20 Justine Messenger, Secretary  
 21 Reporter: Callie S. Bodmer, Present via Zoom  
 22  
 23  
 24

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1 MS. BOWERS: Chris, go ahead and give your  
 2 little spiel and we'll ask questions.  
 3 MS. MILLS: Sure.  
 4 In this year's application, as in past  
 5 years', I included three programs. They are all  
 6 programs that are grant funded by the Department  
 7 of Human Services. So they have their own  
 8 challenges, just in terms of having set funding.  
 9 And the first one I'll talk about is what  
 10 we call CCBYS. And you'll find that there's a  
 11 lot of acronyms with our programs. But it  
 12 stands for Comprehensive Community Based Youth  
 13 Services. And it is a program that is dedicated  
 14 to serving youth who run away or are locked out  
 15 of their home or are at risk of that.  
 16 There's two different populations that are  
 17 kind of focused on in that program. One is the  
 18 crisis population, and that is what is  
 19 considered our mandatory population. And so  
 20 when -- a lot of times what happens is, when a  
 21 youth is either locked out or runs away from  
 22 home and there's some sort of family discord  
 23 that results in either the youth refusing or the  
 24 parents refusing to allow them back in the home,  
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 3 Lutheran Social Services of Illinois . . . . 3  
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1 they usually end up in our local law enforcement  
 2 offices.  
 3 And so that's when they call us. And we  
 4 come in and do that crisis work, to see if this  
 5 family can get reunified or if there's some type  
 6 of situation that would be unsafe, that would  
 7 require a DCFS hotline call, or if the family is  
 8 just at such a point in their conflict right now  
 9 that they need some time away from each other.  
 10 And we can either help them figure out a  
 11 placement so that they can get those one to two  
 12 nights away from each other and continue to work  
 13 on the crisis during that time, and we are able  
 14 to find that placement.  
 15 So if they don't have a family-generated  
 16 placement, LSSI has placements so that they can  
 17 go ahead and find a safe place for the youth to  
 18 stay for that one to two nights while the crisis  
 19 is being addressed.  
 20 The other sector that we work in within  
 21 this program is what's called our Discretionary  
 22 Services. And really that's just a fancy title  
 23 for saying that if a teacher were to refer to us  
 24 and say, "I think I have a youth who may think  
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<p>1 about running away, they mentioned in class that  2 they are having thoughts of running away, things  3 aren't good at home," we can go ahead and get  4 started with that youth so that we can prevent  5 the crisis from even happening. So that is more  6 focused on what we consider typical counseling  7 instead of the crisis services.  8 So we are able to do both parts of that  9 within the CCBYS program. The CCBYS program  10 does have a Nash Fund that we are required to  11 meet. So that's another reason that we include  12 it in the application.  13 The other program is Project LEAD, and  14 that is -- stands for Leaders Encouraging  15 Abstinence from Drugs. This are prevention  16 based services that are evidence based. So we  17 do use an effective and researched curriculum to  18 prevent education to both middle schoolers and  19 some high schoolers.  20 Also a lot of community work is done  21 within this program for youth. We're in schools  22 doing committees with the youth so that we can  23 get their perspective on what drug trends are  24 going on, what kind of challenges they're  In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p>1 to 24. So we have a wider range of who we serve  2 for violence prevention in terms of just getting  3 them educated and doing activities with them  4 that are -- have been shown to reduce violence  5 in our communities. And that one also has  6 solely an Ogle-based worker.  7 MS. BOWERS: Is that it?  8 MS. MILLS: In a nutshell, yes.  9 MS. BOWERS: Joe, do you have any  10 questions for Chris?  11 MR. SIMMS: What is the -- do you know the  12 success rate for Project LEAD?  13 MS. MILLS: Project LEAD, in terms of  14 success rate, is determined because the  15 curriculum itself has been researched, shown to  16 be effective if we follow what's called -- all  17 the rules and things that they give us. So as  18 long as we keep that intact and follow all the  19 guidelines within the curriculum, we have over a  20 90 percent effective rate.  21 If they -- if a student does not attend  22 over 80 percent -- attend and participate in  23 80 percent of those lessons, they are not  24 considered successful. So the fact that we can  In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>
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<p>1 facing.  2 We also do community campaigns. We have  3 our Hidden in Plain Sight exhibit that we get  4 lots of requests for throughout the counties.  5 Another unique component of the Project  6 LEAD program is that it is separated out by  7 counties. And so there is -- there used to be  8 one designated worker for Ogle County, but Ogle  9 County seems to be our county that grew  10 tremendously, the most, in this program. And so  11 now we have grown to have three different  12 workers from expansion opportunities for this  13 program that they are all dedicated to Ogle  14 County alone.  15 The last program is called Youth WORKS,  16 and Youth WORKS is focused on violence  17 prevention. It also uses a curriculum, and it  18 is part of the Too Good series that we also use  19 in Project LEAD. It is also research based by  20 the Mendez Foundation, which is very renowned.  21 And it also does a lot of community work. It  22 partners with Project LEAD a lot, but definitely  23 has its own set of goals and objectives that it  24 needs to meet in order to serve youth, ages 11  In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p>1 get over 90 percent of students there at least  2 eight or more times is pretty significant.  3 MR. SIMMS: Yeah, I like the concept of  4 we're moving -- you know, finding a solution  5 before the problem.  6 MS. MILLS: Yes, agree.  7 MR. SIMMS: Thank you.  8 MS. MILLS: Yeah, thank you.  9 MS. BOWERS: Cindy, do you have any  10 questions?  11 MS. BERGSTROM: I don't believe so. I  12 think the questions I had that -- when I kept  13 going, I found my answers later.  14 MS. BOWERS: Marcy, how about you?  15 MS. HAUSHAHN: No.  16 MS. BOWERS: Anybody on Zoom have any  17 questions for Chris?  18 MS. MESSENGER: Amy says no.  19 Jenae?  20 MS. BOTHE: No.  21 MS. BOWERS: Kathe? Kathe, do you have  22 any questions?  23 MS. WILSON: No questions right now.  24 Thanks.  In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>

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1 MS. BOWERS: Renee?  
 2 MS. BARNHART: Yes, I have a couple.  
 3 Okay. So I was wondering if you can  
 4 expand a little bit on -- for the CCBYS, you  
 5 said there's actually two programs or two -- you  
 6 have the crisis portion and the other portion.  
 7 Can you expand a little bit about that?  
 8 Because I realize there was actually -- and I  
 9 forget what you called it. Discretionary?  
 10 MS. MILLS: Yes.  
 11 MS. BARNHART: Can you expand on that a  
 12 little bit more and provide some information  
 13 specifically about that, or is it just all  
 14 encompassed in the CCBYS?  
 15 MS. MILLS: It is definitely all  
 16 considered part of the CCBYS program. And the  
 17 reason why CCBYS has historically kind of  
 18 separated that out is, ultimately we have to  
 19 serve our crisis population no matter what. If  
 20 we get that call from law enforcement, we can't  
 21 say, "Oh, we're full," or, "We already have too  
 22 many clients." That is not an option. It is  
 23 our mandatory population.  
 24 Now, for the discretionary, at some point  
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1 if all of our workers had caseloads of eight to  
 2 ten, we might say, you know, "Sorry, we don't  
 3 have the capacity" to take on more of the  
 4 discretionary clients. And so there is a limit  
 5 that way.  
 6 And in those cases, we would refer out.  
 7 Depending on location, we may refer to  
 8 Sinnissippi, we may refer to LSSI in Sterling,  
 9 or the Whiteside County Health Department, if it  
 10 is that particular county. But we would look  
 11 for those who would be able to serve if we were  
 12 at capacity for our discretionary.  
 13 MS. BARNHART: And would you include a  
 14 little more about that in the future? You know,  
 15 because I didn't realize that was even a part of  
 16 the CCBYS program.  
 17 MS. MILLS: Absolutely.  
 18 MS. BARNHART: My next question is about  
 19 the lack of, basically, number of foster homes.  
 20 So how do you address that? When you have, you  
 21 know, these children in crisis, what  
 22 organization do you work with?  
 23 MS. MILLS: We at one point did have to  
 24 use a shelter in Rockford, and that ended up  
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1 being a mess, quite honestly. Because what  
 2 happened is, we didn't have a placement, but  
 3 this parent was absolutely set that, "I have no  
 4 interest in having this child in my home."  
 5 And we're hearing more of that. And  
 6 that's really the concerning part, is -- this is  
 7 a new thing for us. When we used to get these  
 8 crisis calls, it was, they were mad at their  
 9 child, they didn't want to see their child that  
 10 night, and then they would have some time to  
 11 cool off and we would be able to go in and do  
 12 the counseling with both of them and kind of  
 13 just say, "What can we do to make this so this  
 14 doesn't happen again?" "What kind of rules can  
 15 we help you set as a family that you can all  
 16 agree upon?" You know, those types of services.  
 17 And the success rate with that was really good.  
 18 What we are running into now more and more  
 19 is parents that say that they won't even talk to  
 20 us. "I have no interest in that kid. Wash my  
 21 hands. Don't want to see him. Don't want to  
 22 hear from him or her."  
 23 So in hopes of them having some time to  
 24 cool off, we did go ahead and find that shelter  
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1 opening. And we stayed heavily involved with  
 2 this shelter. But what happened is, the parents  
 3 continued to refuse, continued to refuse. DCFS  
 4 is, at this time, not responding to these  
 5 hotline calls. That's just what they're telling  
 6 us, that they won't.  
 7 And, again, historically that didn't  
 8 happen. It used to be that if we couldn't get  
 9 done what we needed to get done to reunify the  
 10 family, it's a hotline call when you shut your  
 11 kid out of your house and don't give them  
 12 anyplace to live. They're saying, "No, we're  
 13 not responding to that. We're not getting  
 14 involved in that."  
 15 So that left us in a really tough spot.  
 16 And that kid ended up in that shelter for weeks  
 17 and we didn't know what to do. And so we had to  
 18 reevaluate how we're going to handle this, what  
 19 we're going to do. Because our program  
 20 doesn't -- isn't supposed to work that way.  
 21 And so one of the solutions that we came  
 22 up with is trying to secure a home that could --  
 23 would sign a contract with us to be at our call  
 24 so that we don't ever have a kid sitting in a  
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1 shelter again.

2 MS. BARNHART: So like long-term

3 placement?

4 MS. MILLS: Well, and we're only able to

5 really get what's called limited custody for 48

6 hours. And after 48 hours, we have to do

7 something to return that kid home or get DCFS

8 involved.

9 So we -- we're trying -- we have also

10 worked on that angle and how to navigate that.

11 MS. BARNHART: Especially if DCFS isn't

12 responding in 48 hours.

13 MS. MILLS: And so we're going to be in

14 contact -- once we get all this sorted out for

15 next fiscal year, we're going to be in contact

16 with law enforcement so they know any new

17 procedures that we have had to kind of

18 implement. Because things might look a little

19 bit different, because the way it's supposed to

20 work, the handoffs in the system, there's a

21 breakdown right now, and no one is taking the

22 baton at certain times and that's causing some

23 problems.

24 So that's what we're out to solve.

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1 Because the frequency of these needed stays for

2 kids that are locked out are becoming

3 overwhelming and costly, of course.

4 MS. BARNHART: So are there organizations

5 that you could work with? I know there's --

6 what is it, Believe in the Children in

7 Forrester, are you able to work with them at all

8 or other organizations?

9 MS. MILLS: Well, we -- right now, by the

10 standards of the program, which, of course, go

11 back way before we started encountering this

12 problem, is that it has to be an LSSI licensed

13 home. Which is why -- you know, LSSI has had

14 this grant for so long, because of it being

15 known for their foster care program which would

16 provide homes and historically has definitely

17 had enough homes for us. But not only are

18 foster care programs across the state seeking

19 out more homes, because they're in need of them,

20 so the extra inability to get homes that are

21 available is just across the board.

22 So, yeah, we are hoping that those maybe

23 who are thinking -- maybe who have adopted and

24 thinking of giving up their license would be

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1 interested in something like this. Because it

2 is not long-term, it is short-term, but they

3 have the experience to know what it's like, in

4 working with kids and the rules and regulations

5 that come along with being a licensed foster

6 home. Those types of things are important,

7 because we want to ensure that any youth we

8 place is in a safe place.

9 MS. BARNHART: My last question is, on

10 Page 8 of your application, the top paragraph,

11 it says: There are several options that are

12 being considered and costs are estimated to be

13 between 12- and \$15,000 a year for the four

14 counties that are served.

15 So can you break that down between the

16 four counties and kind of what you're looking

17 at? Because, you know, all those counties are

18 very different in size. So kind of a cost

19 breakdown per county?

20 MS. MILLS: Well, that's why -- for Ogle,

21 that's why we requested 5-. That would go

22 towards this specific cause of finding homes.

23 I don't know the exact costs. That's

24 another thing I'm considering. Ogle is one of

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1 our bigger counties. So that's what I factored

2 in, in coming up with the 5-. But I am going to

3 be honest with you, there was nothing scientific

4 there when I tried to come up with what would be

5 a fair number. Because this is a request that

6 I'm going to take to the other counties as well,

7 because I think every county should have a part

8 in helping us with this, if at all possible.

9 MS. BERGSTROM: Can I add something to

10 that?

11 MS. BOWERS: Sure, Cindy.

12 MS. BERGSTROM: So as far as -- I'm the

13 director of Court Services, which is the

14 Probation Department in Ogle County. And by

15 law, anytime we get a call from the police

16 department that they want to -- they have a kid

17 in custody under the age of 13 that they want to

18 seek detention, which is jail for kids, we

19 cannot just put them in jail, in detention. We

20 have to call CCBYS and use that as an

21 alternative for every single kid under the age

22 of 13, 13 and other.

23 So that's for Lee, every -- it's part of

24 the State law. So that's another thing that

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1 they filtered through for us. We're seeing more  
 2 and more, unfortunately even younger than ten,  
 3 getting police calls for batteries, domestic. I  
 4 mean, it's not a good state right now.  
 5 So, I mean, that's another avenue that  
 6 they are forced to take on as well by law. So  
 7 just to add to that.  
 8 MS. MILLS: Thank you.  
 9 MS. BERGSTROM: Yup.  
 10 MS. BOWERS: I don't have the top page. I  
 11 can ask Jessica to --  
 12 MS. MESSENGER: Who?  
 13 MS. BOWERS: The front page.  
 14 MS. MESSENGER: Jessica?  
 15 MS. BOWERS: Oh, my gosh. I do that all  
 16 the time.  
 17 MS. MILLS: It's got my notes on it, but  
 18 you can have mine.  
 19 MS. MESSENGER: I have to give you a hard  
 20 time.  
 21 MS. BOWERS: I know you do.  
 22 MS. MILLS: You win the prize. You got  
 23 the one that didn't have the front page.  
 24 I'm sorry about that.  
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1 MS. BOWERS: That's okay.  
 2 MS. MILLS: I'm making a little note about  
 3 what I need to do better for next year.  
 4 MS. BOWERS: I really don't have any  
 5 questions for you, Chris.  
 6 MS. MILLS: Okay. Thank you. I  
 7 appreciate all your support throughout the  
 8 years, and so thank you for this opportunity.  
 9 (The hearing was concluded at  
 10 8:40 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 of )  
 6 Illinois ) Ogle County  
 7 ) Sheriff's Office  
 8 Ogle County, Illinois ) Oregon, Illinois  
 9 ) May 4, 2023  
 10 I, Callie S. Bodmer, hereby certify that I  
 11 am a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of  
 12 Illinois; that I am the one who, by order and at the  
 13 direction of the Chairperson, Dorothy Bowers,  
 14 reported in shorthand the proceedings had or  
 15 required to be kept in the above-entitled case; and  
 16 that the above and foregoing is a full, true and  
 17 complete transcript of my said shorthand notes so  
 18 taken.  
 19 Dated at Dixon, Illinois, this 4th day of  
 20 May, 2023.  
 21 *Callie S Bodmer*  
 22 Callie S. Bodmer  
 23 Certified Shorthand Reporter  
 24 Registered Professional Reporter  
 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 Rockford Sexual Assault ) Ogle County  
Counseling, Inc. ) Sheriff's Office  
6 ) Oregon, Illinois  
Ogle County, Illinois ) May 4, 2023  
7 )

8  
9 Testimony of Witnesses  
Produced and  
Examined on this 4th day  
10 of May, 2023,  
before the Ogle County  
11 Community Mental Health Board

12  
13  
14 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:  
15  
16 Marcella Haushahn  
Amy Henkel (via Zoom)  
17 Renee Barnhart  
Cindy Bergstrom  
18 Kathleen Wilson (via Zoom)  
Jenae Bothe (via Zoom)  
19 Joe Simms  
Dorothy Bowers, Chairperson  
20 Justine Messenger, Secretary

21 Reporter: Callie S. Bodmer, Present via Zoom  
22  
23  
24

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24 In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)

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1 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Give you about five  
2 minutes to talk about your program and then  
3 we'll ask questions. So go ahead.  
4 MS. ENGLER: Okay. I am Erica Engler. I  
5 am the executive director of Rockford Sexual  
6 Assault Counseling.  
7 MS. PAULEY: I am Michelle Pauley, Ogle  
8 County Advocate.  
9 MS. ENGLER: So Rockford Sexual Assault  
10 Counseling, we provide free comprehensive  
11 services to survivors of sexual assault and  
12 abuse and their significant others, age three  
13 through adult, and as well as outreach to the  
14 communities that we serve. We serve Ogle, Boone  
15 and Winnebago Counties.  
16 I'll go through our services pretty  
17 quickly. We do crisis -- oh, I am sorry. I do  
18 want to point out, so Michelle is our Ogle  
19 County therapist full-time, and after --  
20 MS. BOWERS: I wish she would stay  
21 un-pregnant for a while.  
22 MS. PAULEY: Oh, I'm done. I assured  
23 that, so we're good.  
24 MS. BOWERS: I'm sorry.  
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1 MS. PAULEY: No, I appreciate you bringing  
2 that up.  
3 MS. ENGLER: We are just, as an  
4 organization, very grateful to have Michelle.  
5 She's been with us for nine years. And, you  
6 know, the amount of training and the amount of  
7 advocacy and connections that she has in Ogle  
8 County is just irreplaceable. So we love that  
9 she's here and she is a part of our community.  
10 She loves Ogle County, so.  
11 But we provide all of our main services in  
12 Ogle County the same as we do to Winnebago and  
13 Boone. Crisis intervention by phone and in the  
14 hospital, that's 24 hours a day, 365 days a  
15 year, and that's staff and volunteers. We do  
16 counseling, child, adolescent and adult  
17 survivors and their significant others,  
18 individual, group and family sessions. We do  
19 those in the office, and we do it on an outreach  
20 basis at schools.  
21 Michelle has even gone to places that we  
22 can ensure that there's confidentiality that the  
23 survivor is okay with, like libraries, churches.  
24 Because Ogle County is a large area. Our office  
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<p>1 is in Oregon, and so we always -- we don't want  2 there to be any barriers for survivors to have  3 services.</p> <p>4 As I mentioned earlier, she's been here  5 nine years. She's highly trained.</p> <p>6 MS. PAULEY: So there's lots of different  7 modalities of therapy and approaches,  8 techniques. So I'm trained in a variety of  9 them. Most recently, EMDR, which is Eye  10 Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing. And  11 that's been amazing to be trained in that and  12 then apply that to survivors and their trauma.</p> <p>13 Also, we are client centered. So the  14 client comes in. We, you know, assess safety  15 first and then explore different types of  16 options for therapy approaches and techniques.  17 So EMDR I use. I use CBT, DBT. So pick and  18 choose from a lot of places, very eclectic, but  19 meet the client where they are at.</p> <p>20 MS. ENGLER: We also do legal advocacy.  21 And so legal advocacy is really serving kind of  22 as a support and a resource to help follow the  23 survivor through the system, which, you know, as  24 we know, it takes a long time to go through the  In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p>1 have, kind of, continuity of care, but we only  2 do that with the survivor's written consent.  3 We're very, very big on confidentiality, and so  4 we're very careful about that.</p> <p>5 We also do institutional advocacy, which  6 is collaborating and working with area agencies.</p> <p>7 MS. PAULEY: I do a lot of institutional  8 advocacy and advocacy in the schools, talking  9 with school counselors, and then networking  10 agencies. So work closely with a lot of  11 agencies in the area, as well as other counties.</p> <p>12 And then on the Social Determinants of  13 Health Grant, meeting through the Ogle County  14 Health Department, I attend those meetings and  15 network there. Then I do Ogle County Coalition,  16 I attend those meetings. Ogle County Services  17 Network, which is primarily targeted towards  18 older adults, held at the Rock River Center.</p> <p>19 There's a lot of them. I'm on the Youth  20 WORKS Health Board.</p> <p>21 MS. ENGLER: So she's really -- you know,  22 besides doing direct services, you know, she  23 really is getting out there in the community so  24 that other, not just community members, but  In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>
Page 6	Page 8
<p>1 court process. For those that do make it to  2 trial, Michelle provides that legal advocacy in  3 Ogle County.</p> <p>4 MS. PAULEY: I have had a few cases this  5 past fiscal year resolve finally. And as Erica  6 mentioned, I am going on nine years. I am,  7 hopefully, for, you know, the victim and their  8 family. In this case going on seven years now,  9 and hopefully it's going to resolve in a few  10 months. So I help advocate and follow through  11 the process and hearings and all that, work with  12 the State's Attorney's Office as well.</p> <p>13 MS. ENGLER: And as you can imagine, over  14 seven years of having a case, you know, to have  15 to take off of work every time, you know, to  16 have to be pulled from school every time. So  17 with legal advocacy, we can go through and, you  18 know, kind of be in there to get the information  19 and share that with them so that they don't have  20 to constantly go, miss out on their, you know,  21 regular life and trigger it over and over. It  22 can be a very long process.</p> <p>23 Other advocacy, interacting with other  24 social service agencies. We always want to  In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p>1 organizations know. Because, you know, we know  2 that there's a high level of survivors out there  3 that aren't seeking services yet. So any way  4 that we can kind of get out there and get that  5 education out there about our youth services is  6 important.</p> <p>7 I should mention, when we do have  8 Spanish-speaking clients or when we have  9 Michelle seeing a family member where she can't  10 see other family members, we do bring other  11 therapists in from our Winnebago office.</p> <p>12 We do prevention education. That's  13 bringing age-appropriate prevention education --  14 not sex education, but prevention education --  15 to school-aged kids in a very age-appropriate  16 way, and it's to increase awareness about sexual  17 assault abuse and to talk about consent, healthy  18 relationships and services, you know, that we  19 provide. And those prevention educators --  20 Michelle doesn't do that, but we have prevention  21 educators who cover our three-county area.</p> <p>22 And then professional training. You know,  23 I know Michelle has done training with other  24 social services agencies.  In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>

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1 MS. PAULEY: Yes. Play therapy and  
 2 therapy techniques with OCEC. So that was  
 3 really well received. We had a lot of positive  
 4 feedback on that.  
 5 So my goal for the summer is to continue  
 6 some of that outreach prevention professional  
 7 training and getting into Sinnissippi again. So  
 8 I have done trainings at Sinnissippi. They have  
 9 asked me to come back. So just continuing some  
 10 of those training approaches, talking about  
 11 trauma, disclosures, when to refer, when to use  
 12 play therapy techniques.  
 13 MS. ENGLER: So then on the back sheet of  
 14 your paper I just put some Ogle County  
 15 statistics. So January 1st of last year through  
 16 December 31 we did eight hours of -- this is  
 17 specifically for Ogle County -- eight hours of  
 18 crisis intervention, 522 hours of counseling,  
 19 32 hours of legal advocacy, 68 hours of general  
 20 institutional advocacy, 259 hours of prevention  
 21 education and that reached over 7,000 kids,  
 22 5 hours of professional training, and 34 hours  
 23 of outreach.  
 24 And then if we can just -- you know, I  
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1 know I told the Board, I think the last meeting,  
 2 about the big cuts that we have coming, starting  
 3 July 1st, through the federal government. So we  
 4 are one of 37 -- sorry, one of 30 centers,  
 5 sexual assault centers, in Illinois who receive  
 6 funding from the Illinois Coalition Against  
 7 Sexual Assault. Those VOCA cuts, already we  
 8 have 40 percent of centers saying that they are  
 9 going to be closing their satellite due to the  
 10 budget cut. And we are facing that issue in Lee  
 11 County right now, but we don't face that issue  
 12 in Ogle County if we continue to receive the  
 13 local support that we do receive here. It makes  
 14 a huge, huge difference in being able to help  
 15 pay for our operational costs here. So we  
 16 appreciate all the years that you have supported  
 17 us, and this year especially is more important  
 18 due to those cuts, so.  
 19 MS. BOWERS: Joe, do you have any  
 20 questions for them?  
 21 MR. SIMMS: I don't actually -- well, you  
 22 know, I do.  
 23 The cuts that are going on right now, is  
 24 there an explanation why the cuts?  
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1 MS. ENGLER: Yes. So the Victims of Crime  
 2 Act is a federal fund that is a non-taxpayer  
 3 fund. And how it got funded is through white  
 4 collar crime fines, and what happened about -- I  
 5 want to say about four or five years ago is,  
 6 they started diverting funds to the Treasury to  
 7 do something over there, and so they basically  
 8 drained the fund.  
 9 And then what happened is, they also were  
 10 not -- the federal prosecutors were not  
 11 prosecuting at as high of a rate as they were  
 12 before. So that means less people prosecuted,  
 13 less fines, less money going back. They did  
 14 pass what they're calling the VOCA Fix last  
 15 summer.  
 16 So this fund covers the whole United  
 17 States. And so other states are suffering much  
 18 more than us. They got cut completely. But  
 19 because with our pass-through with ICJIA, the  
 20 Criminal Justice Authority, they kind of  
 21 balanced the money a little bit better. So  
 22 Illinois, even though we're being cut  
 23 50 percent, wasn't as bad as some states faced.  
 24 But they are looking at replenishing --  
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1 they are getting the money replenished now.  
 2 These funds operate on a three-year cycle. So  
 3 right now, July 1st is the start.  
 4 So that's what happened.  
 5 MS. BOWERS: Does anybody have any  
 6 questions? Amy?  
 7 MS. HENKEL: No.  
 8 MS. BOWERS: Marcy?  
 9 (No verbal response.)  
 10 MS. BOWERS: Anybody on Zoom have  
 11 questions?  
 12 MS. MESSENGER: Amy? No.  
 13 Jenae?  
 14 MS. BOTHE: No.  
 15 MS. MESSENGER: Kathe? Kathe, questions?  
 16 MS. WILSON: No, not right now. Thank  
 17 you.  
 18 MS. BOWERS: All right.  
 19 MS. MESSENGER: Renee?  
 20 MS. BARNHART: So my only question is to  
 21 follow up on that. So instead of budget cuts, I  
 22 mean, are you looking at reducing any other  
 23 expenses or adding any additional revenue  
 24 streams?  
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1 MS. ENGLER: So as -- so we found out  
 2 early February, and I had just turned in our  
 3 Attorney General grants. Luckily, I turned it  
 4 in early. I was able to call them, so they  
 5 released it, and so we did ask the Illinois  
 6 Attorney General for more money. We have not  
 7 heard from them yet. If we do get the amount we  
 8 asked for, that would get us -- so our overall  
 9 amount that we're losing is \$328,000, which is  
 10 about 26 --  
 11 MS. PAULEY: A year.  
 12 MS. ENGLER: A year.  
 13 -- which is about 26 percent of our  
 14 overall budget. And so that would be about  
 15 74,000 more than we got last year if we get  
 16 that.  
 17 We -- the Winnebago County Mental Health  
 18 Board, just yesterday we had asked -- we had  
 19 already turned in that grant for a lesser  
 20 amount, not knowing that we were going to get  
 21 cut, but they actually doubled our amount. So  
 22 we are increasing by 90,000 in that fund for  
 23 Winnebago County.  
 24 And so -- and then we're waiting on -- we  
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1 had -- the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual  
 2 Assault made a request to the State to increase  
 3 our line item funding. Right now all Illinois  
 4 sexual assault centers are collecting  
 5 \$8 million, and so they had asked -- and that  
 6 has stayed stagnant for about 20 years -- well,  
 7 I think about a 2 million increase in 20 years,  
 8 and it's been at that. So they are asking to  
 9 increase it up to 20 million.  
 10 So have been talking to our legislators,  
 11 trying to ask -- there is a whole process that  
 12 I'm learning more and more about. They go to  
 13 the budgeteers and go through by line item. So  
 14 they're working on that right now. So there's  
 15 kind of a lot of little bits and pieces that,  
 16 you know, the Coalition and individual agencies  
 17 are trying to advocate.  
 18 My main goal, honestly, is to keep staff  
 19 employed. You know, and so we are very --  
 20 because we are service-driven, about 80-some  
 21 percent of our budget is based on funding our  
 22 staff, so.  
 23 MS. WILSON: Erica, this is Kathe.  
 24 So I noticed that you did not ask for any  
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1 more money from us this year than you asked for,  
 2 for the last four or five years.  
 3 Was this because you didn't know about the  
 4 VOCA when you put in your application?  
 5 MS. ENGLER: I believe we -- because this  
 6 was due -- April, yeah. So we did know, Kathe.  
 7 I just -- you guys are very, very supportive to  
 8 us. I know that there was another place coming  
 9 in to ask for money. I didn't want -- I'm very  
 10 big about trying to be fair and think about  
 11 things in a fair way. And so I -- you know, I  
 12 guess I did -- you know, I didn't --  
 13 MS. WILSON: If you don't ask, you don't  
 14 get.  
 15 MS. ENGLER: I'm sorry, what?  
 16 MS. WILSON: I said, if you don't ask, you  
 17 don't get.  
 18 MS. ENGLER: Yeah, I appreciate that. You  
 19 know, I kind of went back and forth about that,  
 20 honestly, and I just -- I know kind of how every  
 21 year when you guys talk about the budget and  
 22 everything, you guys balance out pretty well at  
 23 the end of the year. So that was kind of my  
 24 reasoning, so.  
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1 MS. WILSON: Thank you.  
 2 MS. BOWERS: Anything else?  
 3 (No verbal response.)  
 4 MS. BOWERS: That was my question, is why  
 5 you didn't ask for more funding. I knew that a  
 6 lot of agencies were being cut in part of their  
 7 funding.  
 8 Thank you for coming today.  
 9 (The hearing was concluded at  
 10 10:05 a.m.)  
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2 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD (708)

3 In the Matter of the Application)

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6 Rockford Sexual Assault )  
Counseling, Inc. ) Ogle County  
7 ) Sheriff's Office  
8 Ogle County, Illinois ) Oregon, Illinois  
9 ) May 4, 2023

10 I, Callie S. Bodmer, hereby certify that I  
11 am a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of  
12 Illinois; that I am the one who, by order and at the  
13 direction of the Chairperson, Dorothy Bowers,  
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19 Dated at Dixon, Illinois, this 4th day of  
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*Callie S Bodmer*

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 2 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD (708)

3 In the Matter of the Application)  
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 5 Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery ) Ogle County  
 6 Ogle County, Illinois ) Sheriff's Office  
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 Dorothy Bowers, Chairperson  
 20 Justine Messenger, Secretary

21 Reporter: Callie S. Bodmer, Present via Zoom  
 22  
 23  
 24

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1 MS. BOWERS: You can do your presentation  
 2 and then we'll ask you questions.  
 3 MR. LOTT: That's fine.  
 4 MS. BOWERS: Since you are new, state your  
 5 name and who you are with.  
 6 MR. LOTT: My name is Gerald Lott. I'm  
 7 executor director and founder of Sauk Valley  
 8 Voices of Recovery. G-E-R-A-L-D, L-O-T-T.  
 9 So I guess I'll just dive right in, if  
 10 that's okay. We are a recovery community  
 11 organization; meaning that we work with people  
 12 in recovery to try to build the recovery  
 13 community. We don't fight the drug problem; we  
 14 support the recovery solution, if that makes any  
 15 sense. Right?  
 16 You know, the other side of your addiction  
 17 is just as important as the addiction side. I  
 18 often say that it's very easy to stop using  
 19 drugs and alcohol. Get arrested, run out of  
 20 money, pass out, all those different things that  
 21 happen. The hard part is staying stopped. And  
 22 we believe that a strong recovery community is  
 23 what allows someone to stay stopped. That means  
 24 support for your family, that means social  
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1 activities to help you to find new playmates, of  
 2 a sort, that means recovery coaching, that means  
 3 possibly sober housing, that means access to  
 4 treatment.  
 5 We work as a partnership with Sinnissippi  
 6 and we work with the Safe Passage Program. We  
 7 have helped over 350 people in the last two  
 8 years find treatment for drug and alcohol  
 9 addiction.  
 10 Unfortunately, though -- we were started  
 11 from a program called Project Open that was  
 12 through KSB as a consortium of people from Lee,  
 13 Whiteside and Ogle County. For some reason, we  
 14 really picked up steam in Lee and Whiteside, and  
 15 we've never really been able to crack Ogle  
 16 County.  
 17 We've worked with Ogle County Probation,  
 18 we've worked with, you know, probably 30 or 40  
 19 people from Ogle County, but we feel that the  
 20 problem is that we're not here. And so our ask  
 21 of you is that you help us to create an office  
 22 in Rochelle, which we know has a drug problem  
 23 and needs to have their recovery community  
 24 uplifted, so that I can station someone there  
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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 and their focus can be on building the Ogle 2 County portion of it. 3 So through this PowerPoint -- and I'm not 4 going to go page by page. Everybody can see it. 5 But we know that what we're doing helps. We 6 know that growing social events, we know that 7 Safe Passage, we know that our newsletter and 8 our outreach programming, our advocacy and 9 recovery coaching works. We have seen that. 10 It's evidence based. 11 We don't gauge our wins by, Did somebody 12 stay absolutely abstinent? We gauge our wins 13 by, Did they know they can come back for help? 14 So just as a success story, there was a 15 young woman we worked with about a year and a 16 half ago. And truthfully, she didn't like the 17 coach. The coach was kind of setting some 18 boundaries for her, and she didn't like 19 boundaries. So she was like, I don't want to 20 work with that lady. Then she worked with 21 another coach, and she didn't want to work with 22 that lady either. But that's okay. 23 Eventually we were able to help her get 24 her son back into the home with her, we were In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 there's help there, even if she's not using it 2 day to day. And that's what we would like to 3 provide to people, more people, in Ogle County. 4 Now, I understand that \$20,000 is a lot of 5 money for an organization that's only two years 6 old. We don't necessarily need \$20,000. We 7 need office space. So if there's a way that we 8 can get office space, with utilities included, 9 and not have to charge you all any money, then 10 our ask is much, much, much less. 11 We have secured about \$700,000 in grants 12 from the Department of Human Services for our 13 work and then to set up a ROSS Council for 14 Lee-Whiteside County and for Ogle-DeKalb County, 15 and the two will actually work together. But 16 the State does not want the ROSS Councils to be 17 any more than two counties. 18 "ROSS Council" being groups of 19 stakeholders that come together, look at the 20 problem, do an assessment of needs and then come 21 up with plans on how we're going to work 22 together to try and make some kind of impact on 23 these issues. 24 And we would like to house the Ogle-DeKalb In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 able to help her get a job, and then she kind of 2 went away and we would just see her from time to 3 time. Just this last Monday she called us and 4 she said there was an incident, something 5 happened, DCFS had come to the house. She 6 didn't know what to do, she felt like using but 7 she didn't want to. Ex was accusing her of 8 doing drugs. Would we be willing to do a drug 9 test for her so she could prove that she was not 10 using? Which we did. We took her to a third 11 party, we took her to Value Lab to have that 12 done, because we didn't want anybody to say that 13 we were biased. 14 And then we were able to help her find out 15 who the DCFS worker had been that had come to 16 the house the night before at 11 o'clock at 17 night, because she was so upset that she had 18 never even asked the woman her name. 19 So these are the things that people drink 20 over. These are the things that people return 21 to use over. I feel out of options. I feel 22 like I don't have anywhere to go. I don't know 23 what to do. In this case, she called us. So to 24 us, that's a win, you know, that she knows that In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 County ROSS out of this office we're describing. 2 That will actually bring about \$400 budget money 3 itself for that rent. So according to what we 4 have asked, we would have 700 from the grant 5 from 708, and then we would have 300. We 6 believe we can get an office space in that, kind 7 of, main business section of Rochelle, establish 8 an office and use it not only for counseling and 9 such but also possibly for small groups in 10 another type, affinity grouping, support groups 11 for family. 12 In fact, we just started a group that will 13 be launching on the 23rd in Prophetstown. So 14 we're just kind of spreading this thing out as 15 far as we can, as wide as we can, and casting a 16 huge net. 17 All of our staff are trained to refer 18 people to resources if you need housing, if you 19 need employment, if you need investigating what 20 happened with a DCFS issue, but also they know 21 how to refer people out to available 12 Step and 22 other support groups for counseling. 23 We would say probably 90 percent of our 24 people go to Sinnissippi. So I'm hoping he gets In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>

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1 that center, because I'm going to try to fill it  
 2 up. That's what we are doing, is just shoveling  
 3 people along and helping.  
 4 So as I said, we have secured that 140,000  
 5 specifically for Ogle and DeKalb. The funds  
 6 that I'm requesting from you would just kind of  
 7 be on top of that. And I wanted you to know so  
 8 that you know you're not the only stakeholder in  
 9 the game and that we are continuing to try to  
 10 diversify our funding sources.  
 11 We will be working with the DeKalb Mental  
 12 Health Board. We're also looking at opioid  
 13 settlement funds in the future. Our goal is to  
 14 just build a very robust recovery community in  
 15 Ogle County.  
 16 I guess that's kind of the end of my  
 17 report. So thank you for allowing me to present  
 18 to you and for your possible support.  
 19 MS. BOWERS: Did you have anything? I'm  
 20 sorry, I didn't get your name.  
 21 MS. TOOMSEN: I'm Sandy. I'm the outreach  
 22 coordinator.  
 23 He just kind of covered everything. We  
 24 have got a lot of programs that we have talked  
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1 about with the Ogle County Probation Office and  
 2 along with, like, starting a Phoenix group here  
 3 at Nash with -- and I suggested using some funds  
 4 for, like, the Pelican kayaking thing through  
 5 Phoenix and stuff.  
 6 In Ogle County, it really offers a lot of  
 7 extra opportunities to do groups and stuff to  
 8 support community needs that we don't have in  
 9 Dixon and Sterling. I mean, it's a great  
 10 community over here too, so. And I know the  
 11 need is necessary, so any support that we can  
 12 get we'd love.  
 13 MS. BOWERS: Renee, do you have any  
 14 questions?  
 15 MS. BARNHART: I have got several.  
 16 On your first page, second paragraph, you  
 17 use the acronym SUD.  
 18 MR. LOTT: Substance Use Disorder.  
 19 MS. BARNHART: And in Number 6, on the  
 20 second page, you talk about -- let's see, where  
 21 am I at here? In the last paragraph: Over the  
 22 last two years you helped over 300 people. We  
 23 count that as a success. We also consider the  
 24 fact as of today, we are over two dozen entry  
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1 points for Safe Passage across Lee, Whiteside,  
 2 Ogle and DeKalb Counties.  
 3 What entry points and how many for Ogle  
 4 County?  
 5 MR. LOTT: I, unfortunately, did not look  
 6 up that exact number. Let me see if I could  
 7 tell you.  
 8 Can you look through that list and see how  
 9 many you can identify as Ogle County?  
 10 So originally when Safe Passage was  
 11 created by Prism in Ogle County, Prism was  
 12 essentially a ROSS. It was a group of  
 13 stakeholders that got together to come up with a  
 14 solution to a problem. It didn't work through  
 15 the Project Open. Project Open's funding ended.  
 16 So now we're hoping to revitalize that effort.  
 17 But originally Danny Langloss set up Safe  
 18 Passage as a police deflection program and your  
 19 entry points were essentially Sinnissippi and  
 20 Dixon Police Department. You wanted help, you  
 21 went to those places, you asked for help. They  
 22 would try to help you.  
 23 KSB Hospital became a part of that.  
 24 Because often you would go to the police  
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1 station, you were in such bad shape, they took  
 2 you to the hospital. So you had three entry  
 3 points when we came into the thing.  
 4 We came in because we were called in by  
 5 Sinnissippi originally to help when they lost  
 6 their workers. But then we realized, along with  
 7 the police department, that having a peer in the  
 8 car was better than having an officer for that  
 9 hour and a half drive.  
 10 And so what we then did was start building  
 11 out this network. Now you can go to Rock Falls  
 12 Police, Sterling Police, Morrison Hospital, CGH  
 13 Hospital, LSSI in Sterling, and all these other  
 14 different places that know that if somebody  
 15 walks in and says, "I need help," they  
 16 immediately call Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery.  
 17 In fact, very few people go to Dixon  
 18 Police Department anymore. They now come to our  
 19 office, which is not far away. We do get calls  
 20 from Rochelle Hospital. To be honest, I don't  
 21 know all the places in different counties that  
 22 we have, but when we counted, there were 24.  
 23 MS. TOOMSEN: And we have Ogle County  
 24 Police Department -- well, Oregon Police  
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1 Department, the Byron Police Department,  
 2 Rochelle Police Department, Ogle County Jail,  
 3 and then --  
 4 MR. LOTT: Probation.  
 5 MS. TOOMSEN: Yeah, Ogle County Probation  
 6 and Rochelle Hospital so far.  
 7 MR. LOTT: So our goal is to build those  
 8 entry points throughout the Ogle County  
 9 community.  
 10 Right now, as I said, we have done about  
 11 350 people to date, with about 10 percent coming  
 12 from Ogle County. And that's really because we  
 13 have very few places where they can interface  
 14 with us in Ogle. By having somebody here who's  
 15 daily out making connections in the community,  
 16 explaining how this helps, we believe we can  
 17 open up more entry points. We would like to see  
 18 probably 20 to 25 just in Ogle and DeKalb.  
 19 MS. BARNHART: My next question is, you  
 20 know, you talk about your base office in Lee  
 21 County. So with you opening up -- hopefully  
 22 opening up an office in Rochelle, how are you  
 23 going to serve all of Ogle County?  
 24 Transportation can be an issue. So what's your  
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1 plan for targeting, you know, the entire county?  
 2 MR. LOTT: That's why we're going to  
 3 dedicate a recovery coach to Ogle County. And  
 4 then we have Recover Core people. We have four  
 5 staff coming beginning August 28th from Recover  
 6 Core. At least one, possibly two, of them will  
 7 be dedicated to Ogle County. As well as, when  
 8 we bring in the ROSS, we'll have our ROSS  
 9 coordinator who's full-time and we'll have a  
 10 part-time ROSS assistant coordinator who's going  
 11 to be there probably about 30 hours a week. So  
 12 we're looking to have four, possibly five,  
 13 people in Ogle, and at least two of them will be  
 14 100 percent dedicated to Ogle.  
 15 Also, the people in our main office still  
 16 support. It's not like they're going to shut it  
 17 off. They will still be there.  
 18 So our goal is to just build on what we  
 19 are already doing, not divvy it up in those  
 20 ways.  
 21 MS. BARNHART: My last question is --  
 22 anyway, it's Section 2. On the second page of  
 23 that, it's -- I think it's in -- I should have  
 24 marked this.  
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1 Anyway, my question is this, it says --  
 2 you talk about the average -- here we go.  
 3 40 percent repeat rate among those you helped.  
 4 What's your rate versus the national  
 5 repeat rate?  
 6 MR. LOTT: Unfortunately I don't have that  
 7 documentation. And the reason being is, what we  
 8 do is very unique, and so I have not been able  
 9 to find the equivalent. I have seen  
 10 documentation of success rates based on how many  
 11 people stay abstinent for a year. I have seen  
 12 how many people actually get from a police  
 13 deflection program to treatment, and we exceed  
 14 that probably by double. And that's because we  
 15 are people in recovery that do this all the  
 16 time, where most police deflection programs are  
 17 run by police officers, who, you know, when the  
 18 time comes, they pick up a manual and they start  
 19 calling but they haven't maintained those  
 20 relationships.  
 21 But as for how many people have stayed in  
 22 recovery, as defined by SAMHSA, which is not  
 23 abstinence, but it's in the process of moving  
 24 their lives forward, I just haven't seen that  
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1 data collected in a way that I can present.  
 2 MS. BARNHART: Okay. Thank you. That's  
 3 all I had.  
 4 MS. BOWERS: Anybody on Zoom have any  
 5 questions? And please identify yourselves.  
 6 MS. MESSENGER: Amy says no.  
 7 Jenae?  
 8 MS. BOTHE: No.  
 9 MS. WILSON: Kathe.  
 10 MS. MESSENGER: Jenae said no.  
 11 Kathe, do you have questions?  
 12 MS. WILSON: Yes, I do.  
 13 In Exhibit 2.3 -- and I will put a bug in  
 14 your ear, Gerald. If you could number the pages  
 15 up until your financial report, that would  
 16 really help.  
 17 So in Exhibit 2.3, you have not put down  
 18 the cost of services for your other -- for Ogle  
 19 County people that have come from other sources  
 20 other than the 708. Are you getting some money  
 21 for those?  
 22 MR. LOTT: Can I make sure that I'm  
 23 answering the question?  
 24 MS. WILSON: Sure.  
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1 MR. LOTT: Are you asking are we receiving  
 2 any other funds dedicated specifically to Ogle?  
 3 Is that the question?  
 4 MS. WILSON: Well, you have in here last  
 5 year's unduplicated clients, 43. And so I'm  
 6 assuming that's 43 from Ogle County, since  
 7 that's what you're asking for?  
 8 MR. LOTT: Yes, correct.  
 9 MS. WILSON: Okay. 118.23 hours of  
 10 service. But you don't have anything about  
 11 what -- how many -- how much money you got for  
 12 that from anybody.  
 13 MR. LOTT: Right. So we received \$385,000  
 14 from the Department of Human Services, we  
 15 received approximately 70,000 from Project Open,  
 16 and we received about 20,000 from Rush Hospital  
 17 Medical School.  
 18 Unfortunately, because we don't charge for  
 19 any of our services other than our house, we  
 20 don't allocate funds in that way. So that data  
 21 just does not exist. We look at it as basically  
 22 Ogle County is one-third of our area, and  
 23 therefore should cost allocate to one-third of  
 24 the funds that come in. The problem is, we are  
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1 not in Ogle County enough to actually spend that  
 2 money in a way that we think makes sense, and  
 3 that's why we want to open this office, so that  
 4 when we come back for this fiscal year, those  
 5 funds are actually going where they should.  
 6 I hate -- I hope you guys can charge it to  
 7 us being charming rather than being lazy, but if  
 8 we have to do a bowling event like we did last  
 9 week, we do it close to our office. And we  
 10 would like to now, knowing the bowling lane down  
 11 the road in Rochelle, and decide to use it  
 12 instead of just sticking to our own backyard.  
 13 So this is exactly why the office is needed  
 14 there in Rochelle.  
 15 MS. WILSON: Okay. So what I'm hearing is  
 16 that you have \$500,000 maybe to spend on the  
 17 counties that you serve?  
 18 MR. LOTT: Essentially, yes.  
 19 MS. WILSON: Okay. And so you would like  
 20 to spend a third of it in Ogle County?  
 21 MR. LOTT: That would be our goal, yes.  
 22 MS. WILSON: Okay. All rightly. So right  
 23 now you're spending, what, maybe 10 percent of  
 24 that in Ogle County? And so are the other  
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1 counties going to suffer? Or are you putting  
 2 money away for Ogle County? Or how are you  
 3 handling that?  
 4 MR. LOTT: No, our budget is actually  
 5 going up this year. So whereas last year we had  
 6 about 500,000, this year we're going up to 700-  
 7 So the pie is getting bigger.  
 8 MS. WILSON: Okay. All rightly. So if you  
 9 don't have an office here next year, which I'm  
 10 hoping that you will have, the pie will be set  
 11 up elsewhere?  
 12 MR. LOTT: No. We're going to get an  
 13 office in Rochelle. And if I can get support in  
 14 doing it here, I will do that. If not, then we  
 15 will just have to find a way.  
 16 But it really -- our goal was to be able  
 17 to get to a hospital within about a half an  
 18 hour. When somebody is in the hospital and they  
 19 finally say, "I need help," you don't want them  
 20 sitting for an hour and a half, waiting for  
 21 somebody to come talk to them.  
 22 So that's our critical need, is to be  
 23 close. We need to be someplace where people can  
 24 walk to us, ride a bicycle to us, to sit down  
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1 and talk to somebody and ask for help. And so  
 2 it just -- we just have to do it. If we can't  
 3 get support from organizations like yours to do  
 4 this, then we will make a way. We have to do  
 5 what we have to do. We'll do fundraising or we  
 6 will do something, I don't know, but there has  
 7 to be an office.  
 8 MS. WILSON: Okay. Thank you. And I  
 9 appreciate that you are going to bat for Ogle  
 10 County. You know, we all appreciate that.  
 11 In the Number 8, Section 8 -- where did it  
 12 go? Section 8, there was some additional funds  
 13 required -- or additional -- are you increasing  
 14 your financial streams? That doesn't apply.  
 15 Are you using an efficiency program to  
 16 reduce costs?  
 17 MR. LOTT: Yes. We just went through a  
 18 State audit. That was the first one our  
 19 organization had ever been through. We  
 20 definitely were given some pointers on  
 21 governance. And we are working with CPAs to try  
 22 to bring our costs down, to utilize each dollar  
 23 the best we can. I mean, we just -- we don't  
 24 have any room to lose, especially if we're going  
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1 to have to open this office on our own. So we  
 2 are running what they call the prosperity  
 3 program in Europe, I think.  
 4 MS. WILSON: Okay. So the State audit  
 5 points to areas where prosperity could help,  
 6 areas where efficiency could help?  
 7 MR. LOTT: Right. It was -- I mean, it  
 8 was not that they were saying that we were doing  
 9 anything inefficient, so much as there were  
 10 things that we didn't know we didn't know.  
 11 I'll give you a great example. I didn't  
 12 know that I needed to have a job application for  
 13 myself in my employee file. I figured I founded  
 14 the company, I would probably give myself a job.  
 15 They said, "You still have to put that in  
 16 there."  
 17 We didn't have certain clauses in our  
 18 employee handbook, such as a property use  
 19 clause. You know, we give out cell phones to  
 20 our staff. And when the staff would break them,  
 21 we would just go fix them. They said, "No.  
 22 Make the employee go fix it. They broke it."  
 23 So just little things like that.  
 24 MS. WILSON: Okay. All right. Thank you  
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1 very much. And thank you for what you're doing,  
 2 and I hope we see you here soon.  
 3 MR. LOTT: I appreciate that. Thank you.  
 4 MS. BOWERS: Marcy? Cindy?  
 5 MS. BERGSTROM: I don't have a question,  
 6 but I have, being the director of probation,  
 7 worked with -- not directly but indirectly, with  
 8 their organization.  
 9 Just to make it clear to everyone on the  
 10 Board, with the changes with bail reform and  
 11 less people being locked up, come probably in  
 12 the next couple months, more people are going to  
 13 be in the community, more people in the  
 14 community with drug and alcohol issues. To have  
 15 someone local would be extremely useful.  
 16 The numbers of substance abuse cases  
 17 continue to rise. So hopefully we can have some  
 18 more services at our fingertips. So it's  
 19 appreciated what you do. Thank you.  
 20 MS. TOOMSEN: Just a side note. You work  
 21 with drug court here in Ogle County?  
 22 MS. BERGSTROM: Correct.  
 23 MS. BOWERS: Joe, do you have questions?  
 24 MR. SIMMS: Rochelle really needs it, I  
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1 will say that.  
 2 You know, your sober events, I see a  
 3 couple of them here. Sober events are very  
 4 vital in early recovery, you know, so.  
 5 When you have these events, does it come  
 6 out of the budget? Is there no cost for the  
 7 individuals, for them and their families?  
 8 MR. LOTT: Right, so we cover the cost of  
 9 it. Sometimes, depending on what it is, we have  
 10 had to ask people to pay. I think we took about  
 11 40 people to Great America one time, and that  
 12 one you had to pay, like, \$30. But that  
 13 included everything, like bus trip from LSSI,  
 14 Sterling, to the park and back, \$30.  
 15 But mostly -- like, last Friday or the  
 16 Friday before we just took 36 people -- it's  
 17 always 36 -- we took 36 people bowling. We  
 18 bought pizzas. Just whoever comes. You want to  
 19 come, come.  
 20 MS. TOOMSEN: The month before that,  
 21 there's a new place in Sterling called Whoop  
 22 Your Axe. It's an axe-throwing place. We did  
 23 that for the first time.  
 24 MR. LOTT: On a night when there's a  
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1 tornado coming. So you want to be in an axe  
 2 place when there's a tornado coming.  
 3 Next month we are going to go roller  
 4 skating at White Pines. So we will pay for  
 5 everything for those, and that does come out of  
 6 the budget.  
 7 MR. SIMMS: I see The Phoenix Program.  
 8 What does that consist of? I know I believe --  
 9 has it already been implemented at Nash? And I  
 10 believe you guys are trying to possibly -- the  
 11 Rec Center?  
 12 MR. LOTT: It has not been. We are  
 13 working on that, kind of getting to it.  
 14 But The Phoenix is a national organization  
 15 based out of Denver that is a sober community or  
 16 sober activity group. I often call it, like,  
 17 Peloton for drunk people. Right?  
 18 You can go online and you can put in your  
 19 ZIP code and you can find activities that are  
 20 going on in that area, but you can also find  
 21 recorded yoga workouts, those sort of things, or  
 22 you can do meditation, or you can do one where  
 23 it's just a remote class. All of it is  
 24 absolutely free. They are all over the country,  
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1 actually all over the world.  
 2 We brought them to Sauk Valley because of  
 3 their system allowing us to see who's coming.  
 4 So whereas before we would say, "We're going  
 5 roller skating," and then we would just hope a  
 6 bunch of people would come. Now we can have  
 7 people sign up in advance and we can see who's  
 8 coming. Also, if they register through the  
 9 program, Phoenix insurance will cover them if  
 10 something were to happen to them. And there's  
 11 no cost to us, there's no cost to them.  
 12 So it really was the best of both worlds.  
 13 And by bringing people into that app which is on  
 14 your phone, not only do they get to see our  
 15 stuff, but they also get to see some of this  
 16 other stuff that's available.  
 17 I did an interview or podcast with a  
 18 representative of Phoenix, and he said one of  
 19 the reasons he was so excited about it and  
 20 joined it was because he and his fiancee went to  
 21 San Diego, and they just said, "Let's see what's  
 22 on Phoenix, just for giggles." And there was  
 23 free paddle boarding on the ocean. You know,  
 24 just show up and do it. He went and did it.  
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1 And he was like, I think this should be  
 2 everywhere. So that's what Phoenix is.  
 3 As we grow their numbers in this area,  
 4 they are now bringing resources to the  
 5 community, like Facebook ads and such, for our  
 6 events. So it's a great partnership.  
 7 I really want to do a quarterly open mic  
 8 so that people with musical talents, comedy,  
 9 poetry and everything can do it. I met with  
 10 them yesterday about how to do that, and they  
 11 have got some great ideas on that. And then  
 12 when we do the Nash Center events, they will do  
 13 Facebook ads for that targeted at Ogle County.  
 14 So it's exciting. There's a lot of really  
 15 cool stuff out there right now in the recovery  
 16 world. It's a great time to be a part of what  
 17 we're doing. I love it.  
 18 MS. TOOMSEN: And anybody that didn't know  
 19 about Phoenix, the only thing for membership is  
 20 48 hours of sobriety. So, like, our -- we have  
 21 basketball every Saturday from 8 to 10 in Dixon  
 22 at the YMCA, which if you're not a member you  
 23 usually can't use the facility. But through The  
 24 Phoenix, you know, you can use the facility,  
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1 actually I heard the whole building, from 8 to  
 2 10, as long as you're a Phoenix member.  
 3 We also just started a running group in  
 4 Sterling. So I know there's a judge here in  
 5 Oregon that was familiar with one of the people  
 6 on the Board of The Phoenix and was very  
 7 interested in starting something here in Oregon  
 8 at the Nash. So that is definitely something  
 9 that is in my, you know, immediate attention to  
 10 start.  
 11 And I didn't know -- I talked to him about  
 12 what is exciting or prominent here in Oregon. I  
 13 know in Dixon another thing that has a big  
 14 starting/calling is pickleball. Like, everybody  
 15 is starting to do pickleball. And it's, like,  
 16 our group, men's group, of, like, 20 people for  
 17 pickleball, is that something that we want to  
 18 start, you know, a program here in Oregon?  
 19 I know that Nash has a lot of different  
 20 courts, volleyball courts and wallyball.  
 21 MS. MESSENGER: They actually have a new  
 22 pickleball court at Park West.  
 23 MS. TOOMSEN: And that West Park is  
 24 amazing. So, yeah, so, I mean, there's a -- we  
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1 don't have a Park West. So there's -- yeah, I  
 2 mean, I think Oregon and Byron are included.  
 3 Both have really amazing facilities.  
 4 So I think it opens the door for a lot of  
 5 opportunities.  
 6 MS. BERGSTROM: Rochelle just opened -- I  
 7 mean, not "just," but a couple years ago a huge  
 8 rec center too.  
 9 MR. LOTT: See, I didn't know. That's why  
 10 I need an office there. Who knew?  
 11 MS. BOWERS: Joe, any questions?  
 12 MR. SIMMS: No, but I would like to talk  
 13 to you later though.  
 14 MR. LOTT: Absolutely. That would be  
 15 great. Thank you.  
 16 MS. BOWERS: Just a couple things.  
 17 I love Danny Langloss. I used to work  
 18 with him, and I just -- he's so fantastic about  
 19 all his ideas and everything he comes up with.  
 20 He's just marvelous.  
 21 My question to you is, do you feel like  
 22 there's any duplication of services? I know you  
 23 have worked with Sinnissippi. Do you feel like  
 24 you have duplicate services that you provide for  
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1 your people, as well as Sinnissippi provides the  
 2 same services?  
 3 MR. LOTT: Well, now you hit a nerve.  
 4 MS. BOWERS: I'm sorry.  
 5 MR. LOTT: That's all right.  
 6 So we believe that there should be -- our  
 7 voice needs to be expressed in this conversation  
 8 for us by us; FUBU, if you will.  
 9 And so nationwide there's a movement among  
 10 peer support to pull peer support, of itself,  
 11 away from clinicians. Because peer support is  
 12 necessarily nonclinical. I do not diagnose  
 13 anything; I support it.  
 14 I often tell people that if somebody says  
 15 they're claustrophobic and they don't like to be  
 16 in close spaces, it's not my job to figure out  
 17 why. My job is to tell them, "Don't take a job  
 18 as an elevator operator." Right? Does that  
 19 make sense?  
 20 What's happening now is, because of budget  
 21 changes at the federal level, there was some  
 22 money added for peer support. HB 2060, I  
 23 believe, is now working to try to make peer  
 24 support in the drug realm. Because in the  
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1 mental health realm, it's already available to  
 2 Medicaid. But in the drug world, it is not.  
 3 CBPRS is not billable, but they are  
 4 working to get there. So we are starting to see  
 5 all of the treatment centers rush in and hire on  
 6 peer support services.  
 7 And so Chestnut and Rosecrance and all  
 8 these places are all of the sudden hiring people  
 9 to be peer support, and that's great, but  
 10 because you're attached to that agency, you  
 11 really don't have the autonomy or the freedom to  
 12 refer to anybody else.  
 13 Whereas, our organization, we're not  
 14 beholden to any treatment center. If somebody  
 15 comes through our door and they need help, we  
 16 get them the first bed available and then we  
 17 work with them from there.  
 18 So there is a little bit of overlap.  
 19 Don't know what we're going to do about it. As  
 20 an industry, we're hoping that we can become  
 21 strong enough that the treatment centers focus  
 22 on what they do and don't do the money grab and  
 23 allow us to create this.  
 24 Because not only is this better when it is  
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1 peer-driven, but it also provides a lot of  
 2 opportunities to people that would never have  
 3 jobs, people who would -- you know, I have a  
 4 felony conviction from 1994. The State of  
 5 Illinois is lovely about giving me \$700,000 to  
 6 do whatever I want, but they won't let me have a  
 7 \$2500 handgun. Why? I'm not trustworthy?  
 8 Apparently I am.  
 9 This allows people with histories like  
 10 mine to rise up and to take a great role in  
 11 society. So we're fighting it, and it's going  
 12 to be what it's going to be. But I think that  
 13 we are a little more nimble, we're a little bit  
 14 in the streets, and we can move a little better  
 15 and I think we have an advantage.  
 16 MS. WILSON: This is Kathe. I would like  
 17 to make a comment.  
 18 MR. LOTT: Yes.  
 19 MS. WILSON: You were talking about points  
 20 of access and that you work with LSSI; is that  
 21 correct?  
 22 MR. LOTT: Yes, we do.  
 23 MS. WILSON: Okay. So perhaps instead of  
 24 a duplication of services, it would be more like  
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1 a collaboration of services, where someone like  
 2 Sinnissippi, instead of you duplicating or they  
 3 duplicating your services, that they would hand  
 4 off somebody to you or you would hand off  
 5 somebody to them, to make it more of a  
 6 collaboration.  
 7 MR. LOTT: Sinnissippi actually has --  
 8 their Safe Passage coordinator has his office in  
 9 our office in Dixon with us as part of our team.  
 10 MS. WILSON: There you go.  
 11 MR. LOTT: I meet with Rebecca --  
 12 MS. WILSON: You're already collaborating.  
 13 That's great.  
 14 MR. LOTT: Absolutely.  
 15 I meet with Rebecca every Thursday, along  
 16 with Chief Howell, and we kind of make sure that  
 17 we're all going in the same direction.  
 18 Our goal, obviously, for our Rochelle  
 19 office is as many of our intensive outpatient  
 20 referrals as we can do would go to Sinnissippi.  
 21 It's the residential that is the problem. When  
 22 we have to take somebody to residential, we take  
 23 them anywhere that has a bed because the beds  
 24 are so hard to find right now.  
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1 When we do eventually open up DeKalb and  
2 have somebody dedicated to DeKalb, we'll  
3 probably route those people to Ben Gordon.

4 Thank you guys so much. It's been a  
5 learning experience. And I will make sure  
6 there's page numbers on it next time. Thanks,  
7 guys.

8 (The hearing was concluded at  
9 9:47 a.m.)

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In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)

1 OGLE COUNTY  
2 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD (708)

3 In the Matter of the Application)

4 of )  
5 Serenity Hospice and Home )

6 ) Ogle County  
7 Ogle County, Illinois ) Sheriff's Office  
8 ) Oregon, Illinois  
9 ) May 4, 2023

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

19 Dated at Dixon, Illinois, this 4th day of  
20 May, 2023.

21 *Callie S Bodmer*  
22 Callie S. Bodmer  
23 Certified Shorthand Reporter  
24 Registered Professional Reporter  
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 Serenity Hospice and Home ) Ogle County  
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7  
 8  
 9 Testimony of Witnesses  
 10 Produced and  
 11 Examined on this 4th day  
 12 of May, 2023,  
 13 before the Ogle County  
 14 Community Mental Health Board

15 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

16 Marcella Haushahn  
 17 Amy Henkel (via Zoom)  
 18 Renee Barnhart  
 19 Cindy Bergstrom  
 20 Kathleen Wilson (via Zoom)  
 21 Jenae Bothe (via Zoom)  
 22 Joe Simms  
 23 Dorothy Bowers, Chairperson  
 24 Justine Messenger, Secretary

Reporter: Callie S. Bodmer, Present via Zoom

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1 MS. BOWERS: Give us your presentation and  
 2 then we'll ask questions.  
 3 MS. KNODLE: That sounds wonderful.  
 4 Many of the programs we have talked about  
 5 a lot that Serenity does for bereavement, we  
 6 have continued all of the regulars. So we still  
 7 do our visits and our calls and our letters.  
 8 One thing we did do with the letters this  
 9 year is, there are times when we'll get  
 10 something back from somebody that says, you  
 11 know, "I was doing fine, then I got the card on  
 12 my loved one's birthday and it made me sad  
 13 instead of making me happy. Please take me off  
 14 your list."  
 15 So what we have done this time is, we send  
 16 out something in advance saying, Would you like  
 17 to get letters on special holidays, things like  
 18 that? So they can basically opt out, if they  
 19 don't want to. So that saves them grief, if  
 20 it's causing grief. It also save us postage, of  
 21 not sending something when you know somebody is  
 22 just going to drop it in the garbage. So we at  
 23 least give them the option of whether they want  
 24 to receive those things.

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1 We still have our monthly groups. We did  
 2 five last year. Our Alan Wolfelt Group, which  
 3 is for that textbook six-week group, we did  
 4 three of those, and we continue to do those  
 5 throughout the year at our annual memorial  
 6 service and our Butterfly Release.  
 7 Serenity Shed is still going strong. So  
 8 we still have the ability for people just to  
 9 walk into the center at any time.  
 10 Our Kids Grief Camp is very popular. And,  
 11 in fact, we have had some donors this year step  
 12 up and donate money for -- which would be this  
 13 year's camp. So last year they donated, it was,  
 14 like, \$500 here and there. But it's people that  
 15 it's very dear to their heart of what we're  
 16 doing in these grief camps. And those have been  
 17 held at the Rec in Rochelle, and it's just a day  
 18 camp.  
 19 We did start, as we had talked about last  
 20 year, the Grief Group for Moms. So that was  
 21 just for any mom who's lost a child, no matter  
 22 how old the child is. Because I know we all  
 23 feel like we should go before our kids. So it's  
 24 a different kind of grief when you lose your

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 child, no matter how old they are.</p> <p>2 And then a Young Widows Group, for those</p> <p>3 spouses who lost their loved one when they were</p> <p>4 still pretty young, and that group is going</p> <p>5 strong as well. And that actually met the needs</p> <p>6 even of our bereavement coordinator's daughter.</p> <p>7 Who lost her husband at a young age. I think</p> <p>8 that's really what put in her mind that there</p> <p>9 was a need there, and so she started that group.</p> <p>10 The Mens Coffee Group is led by a</p> <p>11 volunteer, and that's going really well; a male</p> <p>12 volunteer.</p> <p>13 We are doing two support groups at the</p> <p>14 Rock River Center. We have been doing a</p> <p>15 Caregivers Support Group for quite some time.</p> <p>16 Now they asked us to do a Diabetes Support</p> <p>17 Group. And our education manager, actually her</p> <p>18 expertise was in diabetic education. She came</p> <p>19 from CGH three or four years ago. So she has a</p> <p>20 lot of expertise in that, and she's doing that.</p> <p>21 Still have our library books that can be</p> <p>22 taken out by individuals in the community at any</p> <p>23 time.</p> <p>24 And then this year we added our Blue In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 therapy program for our patients going forward.</p> <p>2 We really have expanded our integrative</p> <p>3 therapies this last year. Really exciting.</p> <p>4 Most of it is through grants.</p> <p>5 And then I'm really happy to report that</p> <p>6 we opened our Angel Treasures III store in Dixon</p> <p>7 this Monday. And, I mean, it had a fabulous</p> <p>8 first day, way exceeded my expectations, and</p> <p>9 then the second day was even better. I didn't</p> <p>10 check yesterday because I want to be surprised.</p> <p>11 But doing as well as our Mt. Morris store, like,</p> <p>12 from the beginning, and that's almost unheard</p> <p>13 of. So we are really, really excited about</p> <p>14 that.</p> <p>15 And the whole plan behind that was to be</p> <p>16 able to sustain all of these programs once we</p> <p>17 used all of that grant money. I always think</p> <p>18 it's important that -- it's great to get an</p> <p>19 influx of money, but if you can't keep the</p> <p>20 program going, if you don't have that influx of</p> <p>21 money, then you will lose that service. So we</p> <p>22 wanted to make sure that that didn't happen.</p> <p>23 Another thing that we are doing this year</p> <p>24 that we just started last Monday is our Cooking In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 Christmas event, and that was just a Christmas</p> <p>2 service for those who have lost a loved one in</p> <p>3 the last year. And it was so well received. We</p> <p>4 were asked to continue to do that each year. So</p> <p>5 we are going to continue to do that.</p> <p>6 As far as some of the new things we did,</p> <p>7 we talked about our Virtual Reality for Peace.</p> <p>8 We received a grant from the Rochelle Area</p> <p>9 Community Foundation to do virtual reality for</p> <p>10 patients and those caregivers and those who are</p> <p>11 bereaved. We're expanding that program this</p> <p>12 year. We got another grant from the Rochelle</p> <p>13 Area Community Foundation to use to train some</p> <p>14 volunteers so we can use it more often. It was</p> <p>15 difficult for our nurses and our CNAs, because</p> <p>16 the visits are already so filled, to be able to</p> <p>17 do that as well. So we're hoping to get some</p> <p>18 volunteers. I actually already have some</p> <p>19 volunteers who are training to be able to</p> <p>20 provide that service.</p> <p>21 Comfort Art at the Shed, we got a grant</p> <p>22 from the Rockford Area Arts Council to do a</p> <p>23 class at the Shed through Romy Golan, and he's</p> <p>24 also going to be helping us develop an art In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 for One Class. This is for individuals who have</p> <p>2 lost a spouse and are now living alone and</p> <p>3 having to eat alone, having to cook alone, and</p> <p>4 just all of the emotions that come with that. I</p> <p>5 know my mother-in-law -- we lost my</p> <p>6 father-in-law probably eight years ago -- and</p> <p>7 she was very excited as a part of that group,</p> <p>8 and she's -- her friend from my church is going</p> <p>9 with her, who lost her husband a couple of years</p> <p>10 ago.</p> <p>11 We actually had to cap it, and then we're</p> <p>12 going to start another one. We didn't want it</p> <p>13 to get too big that it didn't -- it wasn't an</p> <p>14 intimate group. So we'll probably keep that</p> <p>15 going, because it appears to be a real need for</p> <p>16 that.</p> <p>17 We also are looking at adding an</p> <p>18 additional staff member to our team which will</p> <p>19 help some in bereavement, help some in</p> <p>20 administration, help some with fundraisers, et</p> <p>21 cetera. But we would like to have a person just</p> <p>22 to be able to be at the Shed one full day to be</p> <p>23 able -- just for walk-ins or maybe doing the --</p> <p>24 we used to have a volunteer that went and did In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>

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<p>1 the diamond art, and just do some classes where                  2 people can just walk in and know somebody is                  3 going to be there and that they'll have people                  4 that they can work with.                  5 Then I guess I just want to end with,                  6 being able to see our bereavement sort of up                  7 close and personal. We have a patient -- and as                  8 we have talked about, we're doing pediatric                  9 patients, where other hospices in our area are                  10 not. This patient has a very similar diagnosis                  11 to what my son had. And one of the things that                  12 I got back from Ogle County Hospice 33 years                  13 ago -- because Jonathan would have been 36 this                  14 year, and I don't know how I got that old -- but                  15 a volunteer would come once a week, like every                  16 Wednesday, and just let Doug and I go out to                  17 dinner or go pick up medical supplies. Whatever                  18 we needed to do, we had that evening, that two                  19 hours, to ourselves to go do something.                  20 And I wanted to provide that for this                  21 family. And they are an hour away, but I go                  22 every Tuesday night, and they go out and eat.                  23 And our nurses, they're so wonderful, they'll                  24 come and hand me, like, \$40 and tell them dinner                  In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p>1 Lynn. You talk about the kitchen thing, about                  2 cooking and everything, I'm just curious how you                  3 guys are doing the cooking and whatnot if you're                  4 doing it there.                  5 MS. KNODLE: That's a great question. So                  6 it is -- the class is at Serenity, but that's                  7 okay because we're not doing the cooking there                  8 even.                  9 MS. MESSENGER: No, it's fine if you were.                  10 I was just curious, because I know your guys'                  11 setup all too well.                  12 MS. KNODLE: She's making the dish ahead,                  13 and then there's a book that goes along with it,                  14 like a Grieving Cooking for One book. So                  15 there's a lot of counseling that goes throughout                  16 it, but then she -- it also has the recipes for                  17 it, this book. And so Kathy makes it ahead, and                  18 then everybody gets to have a taste of it.                  19 MS. MESSENGER: I was just curious because                  20 I was like, you guys don't have a kitchen there.                  21 MS. KNODLE: No, we don't have a kitchen                  22 there.                  23 MS. BOWERS: Anybody from Zoom have any                  24 questions?                  In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>
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<p>1 is on me tonight. So I'll get there, and the                  2 mom is in primping and getting ready to go, and                  3 it's beautiful.                  4 Well, my bereavement coordinator went with                  5 me, I guess it was two weeks ago. And her whole                  6 mission -- and I didn't realize that she's                  7 always looking ahead -- was there are two                  8 younger -- one older son and one younger son in                  9 this family. She's like, I want to make a                  10 connection with them now. They are grieving                  11 already because their sister is dying, but also                  12 I want to be able to be there for them                  13 afterwards, so I want to build a relationship.                  14 So she's going to go with me on occasion,                  15 too, just to start to see what it is that this                  16 family is going to need. Because it's a long                  17 journey for them.                  18 But those are the types of things that we                  19 do on an everyday basis, and we're so blessed to                  20 be able to do that.                  21 MS. BOWERS: Renee, do you have any                  22 questions for Lynn?                  23 MS. BARNHART: No.                  24 MS. MESSENGER: I do have a question,                  In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p>1 MS. MESSENGER: Amy, did you shake your                  2 head?                  3 MS. HENKEL: Nope.                  4 MS. MESSENGER: Okay. Cool.                  5 Jenae?                  6 MS. BOTHE: No.                  7 MS. BOWERS: Kathe?                  8 MS. WILSON: Kathe, yes.                  9 Hi. Thank you so much for what you do.                  10 On Page 12, there's Section 8, Additional                  11 Items, and I am not finding the answer to those                  12 questions anywhere. Is it someplace in there?                  13 MS. GROENHAGEN: As of right now, there                  14 are no efficiency programs to reduce costs.                  15 Everybody is aware that labor costs and health                  16 benefits costs and those expenses have increased                  17 everywhere. So we have not found any way to                  18 reduce those.                  19 As far as increased or new financial                  20 streams, Lynn has spoken about the grants that                  21 we have received to help with our integrative                  22 therapy programs, and we are working with those.                  23 As far as directly for bereavement --                  24 MS. KNODLE: It's still unfunded.                  In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>



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1 MS. GROENHAGEN: Yeah, there's -- short of  
 2 our fundraising events that we have and the  
 3 grants that we receive, there are no new  
 4 additional fundraising streams that we have  
 5 identified, short of the new third store, but  
 6 that will be for integrative therapies.  
 7 MS. KNODLE: And then also memorials and  
 8 donations are also part of -- so all of our  
 9 unfunded programs are funded through the  
 10 foundation, through grants, through donations,  
 11 memorials and all those things.  
 12 MS. WILSON: So there's nothing new  
 13 though? Or nothing that's grown?  
 14 MS. KNODLE: Well, the store, adding the  
 15 third store, as Kathy said.  
 16 MS. WILSON: Some of that will go to  
 17 bereavement?  
 18 MS. KNODLE: Well, it all goes into the  
 19 foundation, and the foundation is -- funds the  
 20 bereavement program, so.  
 21 MS. WILSON: Okay.  
 22 MS. BOWERS: Anything else, Kathe?  
 23 MS. WILSON: No. Thank you.  
 24 MS. BOWERS: Everybody else shook their  
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1 head no?  
 2 MS. MESSENGER: Everybody else is no.  
 3 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Joe, any questions?  
 4 Cindy? Marcy?  
 5 MS. BARNHART: I actually do, just two  
 6 minor things.  
 7 Where's the store at in Dixon? I know  
 8 it's on Galena, right?  
 9 MS. KNODLE: You know where the Jimmy  
 10 Johns -- it's 847, is the address. But where  
 11 the Jimmy Johns is, it's right next door. So  
 12 when you're in the store, you smell Jimmy John's  
 13 bread, and it is fabulous. It's better than,  
 14 like, a flower smell. It just makes you hungry  
 15 all the time.  
 16 MS. BARNHART: With the new staff that's  
 17 coming on for the Shed, are you going to be able  
 18 to expand hours? Because I would love to be  
 19 able to shop the Shed, but they're never open  
 20 when I'm available.  
 21 MS. KNODLE: That's a really good -- we  
 22 have not given that consideration, but we will.  
 23 I hadn't thought about -- even if we could do  
 24 some Saturday hours.  
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1 MS. BARNHART: That would be great.  
 2 MS. KNODLE: One of my other plans is to  
 3 take at least one or two items from the Shed  
 4 over to Angel Treasures III, because we have got  
 5 kind of an empty corner, and sell stuff there  
 6 and then also add -- the things we do in all  
 7 stores is, we have brochures about all of our  
 8 programs. But I would like to be able to do  
 9 that.  
 10 And then also with the Coliseum, because  
 11 I'm also part of the -- helping them start a  
 12 consignment shop for the new Coliseum's Museum  
 13 of Arts, Antiques, and Antiquities. And so  
 14 we'll have Shed items over there as well.  
 15 So that is another income, because we  
 16 actually can sell things in that store  
 17 commission free because I'm helping with that  
 18 effort. So I hadn't even thought about putting  
 19 that in here, but -- and that's getting really  
 20 close to opening.  
 21 MS. BOWERS: I don't have any questions,  
 22 Lynn.  
 23 I see where you had posted that job that  
 24 you were talking about. Someone applied for it.  
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1 MS. KNODLE: Oh, has someone applied for  
 2 it?  
 3 MS. BOWERS: She said she put her  
 4 application in.  
 5 MS. KNODLE: Yes, she did. I was going to  
 6 say, I just heard that somebody applied for it.  
 7 MS. BOWERS: Leave her alone.  
 8 MS. KNODLE: Uh-oh. Okay. I'm taking  
 9 that hint. Note to Mandy, do not take that one.  
 10 MS. BOWERS: I want her.  
 11 MS. KNODLE: You want her. I understand.  
 12 MS. BOWERS: Thank you very much.  
 13 MS. KNODLE: Thank you. I know this is a  
 14 long day for all of you, and I really, really  
 15 appreciate it.  
 16 (The hearing was concluded at  
 17 8:16 a.m.)  
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1 OGLE COUNTY  
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10 I, Callie S. Bodmer, hereby certify that I  
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18 taken.

19 Dated at Dixon, Illinois, this 4th day of  
20 May, 2023.

*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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 24 Justine Messenger, Secretary

Reporter: Callie S. Bodmer, Present via Zoom

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Page 3

1 MS. CASH: So I am Jessica Cash. I'm the  
 2 director at Shining Star Children's Advocacy  
 3 Center.  
 4 So we serve children and families who have  
 5 been affected by child abuse in Lee and Ogle  
 6 County. Our main office is in Dixon, and then  
 7 we also have a counseling office here in Oregon  
 8 that we can provide counseling to families so  
 9 they don't have to travel quite as far, to go to  
 10 Dixon.  
 11 Some of the services we offer, we work  
 12 with law enforcement and DCFS on child abuse  
 13 investigations. So we provide forensic  
 14 interviews to kids so they don't have to be  
 15 interviewed at a police station, in a hospital,  
 16 or in the home, where the offending person might  
 17 be. We provide counseling, court advocacy,  
 18 community advocacy, and community education on  
 19 child abuse and preventing child abuse.  
 20 We also contract with a specialized doctor  
 21 out of MERIT that provides specialized medical  
 22 exams at our center when needed for kids for  
 23 physical and sexual abuse.  
 24 One of the areas we also started  
 In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)

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1 interviewing kids is kids that have witnessed  
 2 violent crimes, so homicides, sibling deaths,  
 3 severe domestic violence, things like that. We  
 4 are seeing more kids that are exposed to those  
 5 things as well.  
 6 So in our application this year we are  
 7 requesting \$11,409.92. In the application I  
 8 kind of put in there what it would be used for.  
 9 Get my cheat sheet here. Our counselor --  
 10 obviously all of us are based out of Dixon. So  
 11 when we use the Oregon office, our staff are  
 12 traveling from Dixon to Oregon to that office.  
 13 So we do pay mileage obviously to the counselor  
 14 when she comes back here. So \$1,089.92 of that  
 15 I was requesting for mileage for her.  
 16 Our Oregon office has been really  
 17 successful getting more kids from Ogle County  
 18 counseling. Our family advocate uses it if  
 19 she's meeting a family for court and they can't  
 20 meet at the courthouse for some reason, she'll  
 21 use it for that reason. I have done training  
 22 with some groups in that office that are over  
 23 here in Ogle County. So it really has been  
 24 beneficial for us to be able to serve more  
 In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 people in Ogle County.  2 Our rent there is \$275 a month. So that  3 comes out to \$3,300 for the year, to help pay  4 the rent for that. Our office is located right  5 up on the highway on Washington Corner. If you  6 guys know, like, where Blackhawk Nutrition is,  7 we're upstairs on the corner office there.  8 Then we also did hire a bookkeeper last  9 year because we are -- a high percentage of our  10 funding is grant funding, and some of the State  11 and federal grants have gotten very lengthy in  12 their reporting requirements. So we did hire  13 someone five hours a week, \$27 an hour, for 52  14 weeks. She also, for financial reasons,  15 segregation of duties so that there's multiple  16 people looking at finances and less chance of  17 any misconduct, she does process our payroll,  18 our bills, things like that with me. So she  19 helps a little bit with the grant tracking, and  20 then she also helps with some of the  21 bookkeeping, bills, things like that.  22 So I did request \$7,020 for her pay for  23 that. She is contractual. So she's not an  24 actual employee; she's contractual. So we don't  In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 met several times on this. So all the CACs in  2 Illinois are going to get at least a 20 percent  3 cut. So for us for that grant, it will be  4 roughly, like, 25,000 that we will get cut.  5 On the other end of that, we also have a  6 State grant through DCFS because we do do all  7 the forensic interviews, counseling, all that  8 stuff. They are -- because there has been such  9 a large increase in child abuse cases and kids  10 needing services, our State Chapter has asked  11 for an increase in funding from DCFS.  12 We're hoping that will balance a little  13 bit of the cut that we're going to get, but  14 definitely we're looking at other areas to make  15 up for it.  16 MS. BOWERS: Anything else?  17 MS. BERGSTROM: No.  18 MS. BOWERS: Marcy?  19 MS. HAUSHAHN: No. It was very good.  20 Thank you.  21 MS. CASH: Thank you.  22 MS. BOWERS: Anybody on Zoom that has  23 questions for Jessica?  24 MS. MESSENGER: Amy says no.  In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 have benefits or anything like taxes or anything  2 on her.  3 One of the reasons I had asked for that --  4 last year I had asked for money for counseling.  5 Some of our State and federal grants this year  6 are pushing more to ask for a direct service.  7 Like, they want to pay for our counselor, they  8 want to pay for our advocate, our interviewer.  9 They don't want to pay for all the other things  10 that also are necessary to do what we do.  11 So that's why this year I went from,  12 instead of the counselor salary, to the  13 bookkeeper salary. No State or federal grants  14 really want to pay for anybody to help do all  15 the paperwork they require us to do. So that's  16 kind of why I put that in this year instead of  17 the counselor salary.  18 That's kind of what I requested in a  19 nutshell, if anybody has any questions.  20 MS. BOWERS: We'll start with Cindy this  21 time.  22 MS. BERGSTROM: Are you going to be  23 affected by the VOCA grant?  24 MS. CASH: Yes. So our State Chapter has  In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 MS. BOWERS: Kathe?  2 MS. WILSON: Not at this time, thank you.  3 MS. MESSENGER: Jenae, do you?  4 MS. BOTHE: I do not.  5 MS. BARNHART: I actually do.  6 So I was reading through when you talked  7 about the medical exams. So you provided 45  8 medical exams, and you said that there's a  9 specialized -- or a doctor that specializes in  10 this. But each exam is \$640, which at 45 exams  11 is almost \$29,000. Is there any way to, I mean,  12 see about partnering with KSB, since you're in  13 KSB -- I mean, explain how this is -- this  14 specialized -- this cost seems like a lot.  15 MS. CASH: Yeah, that's a great question.  16 So when kids are seen by them at our  17 center, they charge that fee. If kids go to  18 their office in Rockford, we don't get charged  19 for that. So we didn't necessarily pay for  20 every single one of those exams, just the ones  21 that happened in our office.  22 If they go to Rockford to their office,  23 it's considered, like, a doctor visit, like, in  24 clinic. So they can bill -- if the family has  In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> <p>1 Medicaid or something like that, they can bill  2 that, so they don't charge us. If they come to  3 us offsite, they can't bill insurance, so then  4 we end up paying that fee. And that fee is if  5 they see one kid or if they see five. If we  6 have a whole family that has a lot of kids, they  7 may see all five kids in the family and it's one  8 fee. That includes their mileage, that includes  9 all of their time for the nurse practitioner,  10 and they have to bring an office person with  11 them to do all the paperwork.  12 So it seems like a lot, but it really is  13 worth it. Our accreditation requires  14 specialized doctors. They have to have an  15 extensive amount of training. Like, there's  16 State laws, they have to be SANE certified in  17 pediatrics. Like, north of Peoria there is only  18 this clinic that we use that has that  19 certification. Then there's another clinic in  20 Peoria that has doctors; they don't travel this  21 far.  22 But it is required by the State that  23 they're SANE certified in pediatrics. So,  24 unfortunately, we're -- in the past we had  In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1 standards, you have to have at least two people  2 looking at, you know, all your bills, all that,  3 to make sure nobody is embezzling money, things  4 like that.  5 We have four staff. And our three, other  6 than me, are a hundred percent direct client  7 services all the time. So that doesn't leave  8 anybody else to do that piece of it, so yeah.  9 So I appreciate that this grant does not  10 require a lot of paperwork and reporting on it.  11 MS. BOWERS: Jessica, I'm going to put you  12 in the hot seat.  13 MS. CASH: Sure.  14 MS. BOWERS: I'm on the Board of Shining  15 Star, so I get updated every two months. Next  16 week we'll have another meeting, won't we?  17 You didn't list anybody that -- what am I  18 trying to say -- that got out of your program  19 that --  20 MS. CASH: A success story?  21 MS. BOWERS: There you go, a success  22 story.  23 I didn't see a success story in here.  24 MS. BARNHART: I thought there was a  In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> <p>1 worked with KSB and we had trained one of their  2 doctors to do all of it, and they were coming to  3 our center and we didn't have any fees. But  4 when the State statute changed, we had to  5 accommodate that.  6 MS. BARNHART: Thank you.  7 MS. BOWERS: Anything else, Renee?  8 MS. CASH: Part of that, Renee, I think I  9 put in there. That we have been -- when people  10 are sentenced, if they are getting a big portion  11 of their bond back, we have been asking for a  12 piece of that restitution to help offset that  13 cost.  14 MS. BOWERS: Anything else?  15 MS. BARNHART: No. That's all I have.  16 MS. CASH: Joe, I didn't mean to skip you.  17 Did you have any questions for Jessica?  18 MR. SIMMS: The Funding applications that  19 are extensive, where you have to hire somebody,  20 how much was that? \$27 an hour, five hours a  21 week?  22 MS. CASH: Right. And she does more than  23 just the grant reporting. She does, like, our  24 payroll, like our -- for financial auditing  In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> <p>1 little -- let's see.  2 MS. BOWERS: Did I miss it? Oh, okay.  3 Never mind, Jessica.  4 MS. HAUSHAHN: It's on the third page.  5 MS. BOWERS: Never mind, Jessica.  6 MS. CASH: We do have success stories.  7 MS. BOWERS: I know you do.  8 MS. CASH: We do have a lot of success  9 stories.  10 MS. BOWERS: Oh, right here. I was  11 reading General Information and I just glanced  12 over that.  13 MS. CASH: One quick success story I'll  14 share with you that I didn't put in here. So I  15 started Shining Star in 2014, so I have been  16 there a while and seen kids, kind of, grow up a  17 little bit.  18 We had -- when I started, we had a girl  19 that had come through who was a teenager. She  20 had been sexually assaulted twice. She was in  21 high school at the time. Really struggled with  22 her program, her interview, had a ton of  23 counseling, was coming to our teen support  24 group. As she got older, she ended up being a  In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>

1 mentor for the support group for younger kids.  
 2 She just recently graduated with her nurse  
 3 practitioner for mental health. So she can see  
 4 kids, diagnose meds and all of that. Her focus  
 5 is kids who have been through trauma. She is  
 6 our biggest success story at this time. She  
 7 invited myself and Tracy and Shelly, who were  
 8 the previous staff there, to come to her  
 9 graduation. We went to her graduation at Sauk  
 10 for the nursing program, and then she invited us  
 11 to go to her graduation for this.

12 So it was kind of a unique, special  
 13 success story that we recently had as well.

14 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Thank you very much.

15 MS. CASH: All right.

16 (The hearing was concluded at  
 17 7:43 a.m.)  
 18  
 19  
 20  
 21  
 22  
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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 Shining Star )  
 6 Ogle County, Illinois ) Ogle County  
 7 ) Sheriff's Office  
 8 ) Oregon, Illinois  
 9 ) May 4, 2023

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 4th day of  
 19 May, 2023.

20 *Callie S Bodmer*  
 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)  
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 5 Sinnissippi Centers, Inc. ) Ogle County  
 6 Ogle County, Illinois ) Sheriff's Office  
 ) Oregon, Illinois  
 ) May 4, 2023

7  
 8  
 9 Testimony of Witnesses  
 10 Produced and  
 11 Examined on this 4th day  
 12 of May, 2023,  
 13 before the Ogle County  
 14 Community Mental Health Board

15 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:  
 16 Marcella Haushahn  
 17 Amy Henkel (via Zoom)  
 18 Renee Barnhart  
 19 Cindy Bergstrom  
 20 Kathleen Wilson (via Zoom)  
 21 Jenae Bothe (via Zoom)  
 22 Joe Simms  
 23 Dorothy Bowers, Chairperson  
 24 Justine Messenger, Secretary

Reporter: Callie S. Bodmer, Present via Zoom

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 20 End . . . . . 13  
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 24 In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)

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1 MR. PHELAN: Thank you for having us  
 2 again. You know, as always, we so greatly  
 3 appreciate the support of the Ogle County 708  
 4 Board. It really helps us to -- you know, I  
 5 always talk about our funding as, you know,  
 6 combing through the couch cushions to find all  
 7 of the nickels and dimes and quarters so we can  
 8 pull together to make this thing work. And this  
 9 is such a huge chunk. It's more than nickels  
 10 and dimes. It's a critical piece of our  
 11 funding.  
 12 So as you look at our application, just a  
 13 couple of quick notes here. What we have talked  
 14 about at recent meetings and you see, through  
 15 the application, is our services are expanding  
 16 tremendously.  
 17 And I was just reminding myself of the  
 18 numbers, and looking on Page 3, and it's  
 19 interesting to see that in Ogle County last year  
 20 we expanded staffing by 13 percent, services by  
 21 14 percent, and client services by 44 percent.  
 22 As an agency in 2020, we served about 5,000  
 23 people. I think in 2023 it's going to be 10,000  
 24 people. So that's double, essentially, over the  
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1 course of three years.  
 2 Part of that is the demand from just  
 3 increasing mental health concerns in our  
 4 community that have arisen because of the  
 5 pandemic. We see these increasing overdoses,  
 6 suicides and just -- but part of it also, on a  
 7 positive note, is we're talking about mental  
 8 health and substance abuse differently. You  
 9 know, we have addressed some of the stigma, and  
 10 people are coming to seek services that probably  
 11 wouldn't have.  
 12 I think the final piece to that is, we are  
 13 doing so much more outreach and work in the  
 14 community than we have in the past. You know,  
 15 so we're -- one of our big pushes in the last  
 16 few years has been to increase our presence in  
 17 schools. So, you know, we talk about being in  
 18 41 schools across our four counties, and what we  
 19 know is that 80 percent of those kids that we're  
 20 seeing in schools we wouldn't have seen in the  
 21 office if they had to call us up and make an  
 22 appointment and do it that way. So that's a  
 23 great part of the expansion.  
 24 But as you note, services increased  
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<p>1 14 percent, volume served increased 44 percent.</p> <p>2 So what that tells you is, we're stretched thin.</p> <p>3 And we're stretched thin on space and on staff</p> <p>4 and, you know, really maxed out on everything</p> <p>5 we're doing. And so, you know, one of the</p> <p>6 things that we have been doing is evaluating,</p> <p>7 Where do we go from here?</p> <p>8 We have our two offices in Ogle County, in</p> <p>9 Oregon and Rochelle, and we have maxed out space</p> <p>10 completely. We have built out new offices in</p> <p>11 what were old work rooms and closets. You know,</p> <p>12 we have maintained the bathroom at this point,</p> <p>13 but that may be next. We're not going to be</p> <p>14 able to add on to them because they're pretty</p> <p>15 landlocked.</p> <p>16 So this year, we talked about this a</p> <p>17 couple meetings ago, we're looking at opening a</p> <p>18 third office in Ogle County in the northern area</p> <p>19 of Ogle County. We have been really analyzing</p> <p>20 where our clients are coming from, and we have</p> <p>21 got a big chunk of clients who are coming from</p> <p>22 that northern part of Ogle County and to the</p> <p>23 sort of northwest of the county that we think</p> <p>24 would be served well by a new office in Byron.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p>1 Byron, or not?</p> <p>2 MR. PHELAN: We have not.</p> <p>3 MS. BOWERS: Have not.</p> <p>4 MS. BARNHART: You were close though. I</p> <p>5 thought that you found a space that you thought</p> <p>6 might work.</p> <p>7 MR. PHELAN: We're sort of iffy on that,</p> <p>8 so we are still working.</p> <p>9 The caveat there is, I recognize I'm</p> <p>10 asking for assistance for something that we</p> <p>11 haven't secured yet. So I fully appreciate</p> <p>12 that.</p> <p>13 MS. BOWERS: Joe, do you have any</p> <p>14 questions for Pat?</p> <p>15 MR. SIMMS: Out of the 44 percent served,</p> <p>16 only 14 percent are actually getting services?</p> <p>17 Is that what that is?</p> <p>18 MR. PHELAN: No. So we take our total</p> <p>19 service client count and our total service</p> <p>20 count. So if we provided -- what was that total</p> <p>21 number of services we provided? Let's say in</p> <p>22 adult mental health it's 1281 this year, it</p> <p>23 would have been approximately 14 percent less</p> <p>24 last year. We've got 44 percent more clients.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>
Page 6	Page 8
<p>1 So as noted, we are actively looking for</p> <p>2 real estate. Our intention is to open a new</p> <p>3 office in the next -- if I can find a place, in</p> <p>4 the next three to six months, but definitely in</p> <p>5 the next year.</p> <p>6 So, you know, hence the additional ask of</p> <p>7 \$50,000 to run a new office. I know that the</p> <p>8 budget is always tight and that, you know, the</p> <p>9 funding coming from the County Board and the HEW</p> <p>10 is always -- you know, if there are additional</p> <p>11 funds this year, we would love the opportunity</p> <p>12 to have that bit of support for opening that new</p> <p>13 office. Because I -- you know, we saw a</p> <p>14 44 percent increase last year. I think the</p> <p>15 increase this year is going to be probably close</p> <p>16 to the same. It is just expanding</p> <p>17 exponentially. We're really trying to play</p> <p>18 catchup to cover it all.</p> <p>19 So there's a lot of details in here and</p> <p>20 welcome any questions about any of it, but just</p> <p>21 wanted to preface things so that I can get a bit</p> <p>22 of an outline. And welcome your questions and</p> <p>23 thoughts.</p> <p>24 MS. BOWERS: Have you secured a place in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p>1 So what's happened is, because of the rush and</p> <p>2 the inability to expand staffing as fast as the</p> <p>3 need expanded, each person is getting slightly</p> <p>4 less.</p> <p>5 Overall we're providing more services, but</p> <p>6 not at the rate we need to, to keep up with that</p> <p>7 44 percent. We don't ever -- "ever" is a strong</p> <p>8 word. We have not in my tenure ever considered</p> <p>9 the possibility of turning people away. You</p> <p>10 know, the need is there. You can't tell</p> <p>11 somebody that, you know, You're going through</p> <p>12 this crisis and you're going to have to wait six</p> <p>13 months for services. We see that all over the</p> <p>14 place. It just -- we get them in, we do</p> <p>15 everything we can to serve them.</p> <p>16 MS. BOWERS: Anything else, Joe?</p> <p>17 Cindy, do you have any questions?</p> <p>18 MS. BERGSTROM: No. And I apologize,</p> <p>19 trying to get into a doctor's office. Getting a</p> <p>20 specialist, and then they can't fill the day of</p> <p>21 the appointment. You know, that's fine. Sorry</p> <p>22 about that.</p> <p>23 MS. BOWERS: Marcy?</p> <p>24 MS. HAUSHAHN: No questions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>



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1 MS. BOWERS: Anybody from anybody on Zoom?  
 2 Amy?  
 3 MS. HENKEL: I was just thinking about  
 4 your additional office in Byron, I know it's  
 5 been a struggle, too, just to find certified  
 6 providers, like you said. So would this be  
 7 trying to also expand counselor -- counseling  
 8 therapy positions as well as to fit that need?  
 9 Is that what we're hearing?  
 10 MR. PHELAN: Yes. So, Amy, I think what  
 11 we hope, and we believe, is that with an office  
 12 in that area we're going to be able to draw some  
 13 folks from the employment pool in Rockford that  
 14 we haven't necessary been able to tap into  
 15 before.  
 16 MS. HENKEL: Yeah, okay.  
 17 MR. PHELAN: There are -- I don't -- I  
 18 don't want to name names, but there are  
 19 organizations who we have people looking for new  
 20 positions. We were able to pull several people  
 21 to our Freeport office from that area. So we  
 22 think we're going to tap into a little bit of a  
 23 new labor market.  
 24 MS. HENKEL: That makes sense. Excellent.  
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1 MS. BARNHART: How many are you possibly  
 2 looking to staff that office with?  
 3 MR. PHELAN: Ultimately we would be  
 4 looking at four to five clinicians, one or two  
 5 peer support, you know, of course psychiatric  
 6 services with psych techs. When you put all of  
 7 the support services, it would look like maybe  
 8 12 to 13 staff. We're always hopeful. We think  
 9 we can pull it off.  
 10 MS. MESSENGER: Jenae, questions?  
 11 MS. BOTHE: No.  
 12 MS. MESSENGER: Kathe, questions?  
 13 MS. WILSON: I just wanted to say thank  
 14 you for breaking out on Page 23 the -- all the  
 15 different programs by, you know, client and how  
 16 much -- and, again, how much more expensive  
 17 crisis service is. And, you know, you've said  
 18 time and again, you know, getting to people  
 19 before they're in crisis is so important so that  
 20 you don't have to go over that \$440-an-hour  
 21 crisis service. So thank you for breaking that  
 22 up that way.  
 23 MR. PHELAN: Thank you, Kathe, and you're  
 24 welcome. We'll keep doing that.  
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1 You know, the cost of crisis is not  
 2 responding to crisis; it's being prepared for  
 3 it. So 24/7 we have essentially three levels of  
 4 response. So you're paying three people,  
 5 sometimes two, to be doing five evaluations at  
 6 one time and sometimes waiting for the next one  
 7 to come in.  
 8 MS. WILSON: Yeah, thank you.  
 9 MS. BOWERS: Pat, I really don't have any  
 10 questions for you. The only thing I have is, do  
 11 you want your audits back?  
 12 MR. PHELAN: I will take them and  
 13 redistribute them, if you don't want to keep  
 14 them in your archives.  
 15 MS. BOWERS: I'd hate to tell you what I  
 16 do with them.  
 17 MR. PHELAN: No, I'll take them back.  
 18 Thank you all very much.  
 19 MS. BOWERS: We will keep looking for you  
 20 for a place in Byron.  
 21 MR. PHELAN: You know, ultimately we would  
 22 love to buy a building so we can sort of tailor  
 23 it for our needs, but what's for sale now is not  
 24 great.  
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1 MS. BOWERS: Do you have to have a  
 2 handicapped accessible facility?  
 3 MR. PHELAN: Yes.  
 4 MS. BOWERS: That's what I thought. I'll  
 5 keep that in mind.  
 6 MR. PHELAN: Sounds good.  
 7 Hope the rest of the day keeps going fast  
 8 for you.  
 9 (The hearing was concluded at  
 10 9:09 a.m.)  
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1 OGLE COUNTY  
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 3 In the Matter of the Application)  
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 6 Ogle County, Illinois ) Ogle County Sheriff's Office  
 7 ) Oregon, Illinois  
 8 ) May 4, 2023

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 4th day of  
 19 May, 2023.

*Callie S Bodmer*

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)

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1 OGLE COUNTY  
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 20 Kathleen Wilson (via Zoom)  
 21 Jenae Bothe (via Zoom)  
 22 Joe Simms  
 23 Dorothy Bowers, Chairperson  
 24 Justine Messenger, Secretary

Reporter: Callie S. Bodmer, Present via Zoom

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1 MR. BROOKS: I don't have a lot really to  
 2 say. I think the biggest -- and you see this a  
 3 couple times in the report that I gave you. The  
 4 biggest difference in the Village over the last  
 5 few years has been the difference between  
 6 bringing people in and sending people out.  
 7 For its 50 years of existence, the Village  
 8 was very good at bringing people in, sheltering  
 9 these fragile people from the outside world.  
 10 And over the last five years or so, the shift  
 11 has been to send our folks out into the world  
 12 and to give them experiences that you and I take  
 13 for granted. Going through a McDonald's  
 14 drive-in. You and I think, Okay, we're going to  
 15 the McDonald's drive-in. We take a couple of  
 16 our folks to the McDonald's drive-in and they  
 17 are craning their necks to see what goes on in  
 18 the kitchen because they have never experienced  
 19 it before.  
 20 But here's what's -- and I don't mean to  
 21 get preachy or soft, because I -- it's a funny  
 22 request. I was just filling out a grant  
 23 application yesterday for a \$10,000/\$20,000  
 24 grant, and one of the questions it had is: How  
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 20 End ..... 18  
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1 does your agency improve the community/benefit  
 2 the community? And the traditional answer to  
 3 that sort of thing for an agency like ours is,  
 4 "We benefit the community by having people,  
 5 adults with disabilities, reach their maximum  
 6 potential." That's the standard language that  
 7 every agency like ours uses, "reach their  
 8 maximum potential."  
 9 And I thought about it and I thought, yes,  
 10 that's how we -- that's how we help this segment  
 11 of the community, the people with disabilities.  
 12 But it goes beyond that. I would suggest that  
 13 we help the general population, not just people  
 14 with disabilities.  
 15 And the reason is this: When we have a  
 16 person with a disability go to a restaurant, for  
 17 example, and order food off the menu, they have  
 18 to talk to the waitress, right? This is a  
 19 waitress that might be in her 20s and has never  
 20 had any contact with a person with disabilities  
 21 before in her life. And guess what? Now she's  
 22 trying to figure out how to communicate with  
 23 somebody that might not speak well, that might  
 24 not read well. She might be able to crack a  
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1 joke or make light of something. And now for  
 2 maybe the first time in her life she's getting  
 3 the experience of dealing with someone that's  
 4 not like her. And even if it's a small change,  
 5 that's got to make a change in her, hopefully  
 6 for the better.

7 I have told people, the Bakery, you know,  
 8 what we always -- our first mission is to help  
 9 people with disabilities learn to work in a  
 10 competitive, real-world environment at the  
 11 Bakery. And that's true, we do do that. But  
 12 the sneaky mission that we have at the Bakery is  
 13 to get people from the community to come in and  
 14 have one-on-one interactions with people with  
 15 disabilities. Because every time you have an  
 16 interaction with a person with a disability, and  
 17 you don't have them in their daily life  
 18 otherwise, you have the possibility of  
 19 increasing your horizons, seeing things in ways  
 20 that you have never seen things before.

21 I remember one guy at the Bakery we had.  
 22 You'd order a small drink, you know, when we  
 23 used to have fountain drinks, and he'd give you  
 24 a straw. You'd order a large drink, he'd ask,  
 In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)

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1 Do you want a wide straw? Because it was a  
 2 large drink, you'd want a wide straw. It was  
 3 kind of funny, but it was his way of thinking  
 4 about things.

5 And I just -- in answering that question  
 6 to that grant application, I really came to the  
 7 conclusion that we help the community by making  
 8 the community -- giving the community an option  
 9 to be more compassionate, to see that it's not  
 10 just the weak that need the strong but it's also  
 11 the strong that need the weak.

12 Because otherwise, how do you grow as a  
 13 community? How do we learn to accept others in  
 14 this world where it's always us versus them?  
 15 How do we learn to see past that? And one way  
 16 to do that is by interacting with people who are  
 17 not like you that don't necessarily pose a  
 18 threat.

19 And maybe in the process we learn that  
 20 their goal isn't to make those people more like  
 21 us, the goal is to see how we can benefit from  
 22 becoming more like them in some ways, to be  
 23 content with our lives, like they generally are,  
 24 instead of always fearful of someone or  
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1 something taking away our perceived freedoms.  
 2 So that's the preacher in me, you know,  
 3 giving you my little sermon. I don't want to  
 4 make too big a deal, but I do think we, like a  
 5 lot of other non-profits, really have the  
 6 ability to be a catalyst in the community. And  
 7 the fact that we are sending more and more  
 8 people out every day in small groups to interact  
 9 with the community, I think just plays to that  
 10 really well.

11 So I don't have a lot more to say. I know  
 12 you guys have shortened these down to 15  
 13 minutes. Happy to answer questions that you  
 14 might have.

15 MS. BOWERS: Brion, I just want to give a  
 16 success story. I have a disabled sister that  
 17 was involved with Village of Progress until she  
 18 aged out, and then she went into the community.  
 19 Eventually the Village got her a job and her own  
 20 apartment, and she has been at that job for  
 21 almost 40 years now.

22 MR. BROOKS: Is that right?  
 23 MS. BOWERS: Yes.  
 24 MR. BROOKS: That's really cool. That's  
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1 really cool.

2 We have a couple people like that that  
 3 have -- you know, and we have got some people  
 4 that have not -- that we don't receive funding  
 5 for but they have disabilities. And we have had  
 6 so many parents that were so grateful to the  
 7 Village because this kid of theirs has gone from  
 8 job to job to job to job to job because of his  
 9 or her disability, and we can keep giving them  
 10 second, third and fourth chances so they can  
 11 finally get themselves together and, you know,  
 12 stand on their own two feet.

13 So, yeah, I love those stories too.

14 MS. BOWERS: She's had her own apartment  
 15 now for about 30 years.

16 MR. BROOKS: I think we've talked about  
 17 the Attendance Grant Program, which helps fund  
 18 people until they get funding from the State.

19 We just had a young man -- we got the  
 20 letter this week -- that he's now got funding  
 21 from the State. He's been taken off the waiting  
 22 list. He's got funding. So it's really pretty  
 23 cool to see that too.

24 MS. BOWERS: Renee, do you want to start  
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1 with questions?  
 2 MS. BARNHART: I actually don't have any.  
 3 MS. BOWERS: Anybody on Zoom have any  
 4 questions for Brion?  
 5 MS. MESSENGER: Amy says no.  
 6 Jenae?  
 7 MS. WILSON: Kathe.  
 8 MS. BOWERS: Do you have questions?  
 9 MS. WILSON: No, I don't have questions,  
 10 but I do have a comment.  
 11 I'm really glad about the Attendance Grant  
 12 Program. I think it's a wonderful idea. And to  
 13 keep the people that can't get the State funding  
 14 yet connected to the Village, I think that  
 15 that's so important, that you have a connection  
 16 to your peers and to your friends. And so I'm  
 17 really happy about that.  
 18 Thank you.  
 19 MR. BROOKS: Thank you.  
 20 MS. BOWERS: Joe, do you have any  
 21 questions?  
 22 MS. WILSON: It's wonderful.  
 23 MS. BOWERS: I am sorry.  
 24 MS. WILSON: And their cookies are  
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1 wonderful.  
 2 MS. SIMMS: The reason for the increase?  
 3 MR. BROOKS: Just, we have not asked for  
 4 an increase in three or four years, and it's  
 5 about a 3 percent increase. With inflation, we  
 6 just thought it was time for it.  
 7 MR. SIMMS: Kind of what I figured.  
 8 MR. BROOKS: Yeah.  
 9 MS. BOWERS: Cindy, do you have any  
 10 questions?  
 11 MS. BERGSTROM: Joe took mine.  
 12 MS. HAUSHAHN: On that one page about  
 13 funding for -- funding will likely fall short of  
 14 what is hoped for, where is the short?  
 15 MR. BROOKS: What page?  
 16 MS. HAUSHAHN: Page 30.  
 17 MR. BROOKS: Page 30.  
 18 MS. HAUSHAHN: Last paragraph.  
 19 MR. BROOKS: So the -- the only reason for  
 20 the shortfall is, it used to be the funding that  
 21 we would get, the way the State figured it was,  
 22 you would get funding for a person to be there  
 23 five days a week throughout the year. The State  
 24 has changed it now to something called  
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1 home-based services, where families can  
 2 determine how they want the funding split up,  
 3 whether to have the person at the Village  
 4 receiving services or at home receiving  
 5 services.  
 6 So a lot of families who are poor find  
 7 that it's nice to have their son or daughter at  
 8 home and now they can get paid to give the  
 9 quote-unquote services.  
 10 So we have some people that are opting not  
 11 to come five days a week, but three or four days  
 12 a week. That just decreases the funding a  
 13 little bit.  
 14 MS. HAUSHAHN: My sister-in-law had a  
 15 disability and she -- her mother decided to keep  
 16 her home some days.  
 17 MR. BROOKS: And that's common across  
 18 Illinois right now for community service  
 19 programs.  
 20 MS. BOWERS: Any other questions for  
 21 Brion?  
 22 (No verbal response.)  
 23 MS. BOWERS: I just have one quick  
 24 question.  
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1 Have you negotiated Pinecrest any more  
 2 about the co-mingling?  
 3 MR. BROOKS: No. The Mt. Morris project  
 4 -- just between us, I hope -- they are a  
 5 for-profit, and they are happy to continue on  
 6 with that 10 acres that they were going to  
 7 donate.  
 8 MS. BOWERS: Okay.  
 9 MR. BROOKS: With small extras, which is  
 10 that they would like to see some revenue from  
 11 it.  
 12 So Jeff Stauter, from Kreider Services,  
 13 and I felt more comfortable to start looking for  
 14 a different location, where we didn't have to  
 15 have a silent partner in the background. So we  
 16 have actually negotiated, with the Village of  
 17 Mt. Morris's help, we located a farmer who has  
 18 15 or 20 acres who is willing to sell that to  
 19 us. And in the cost of a 9 or \$10 million  
 20 project, the money that he wants for it is  
 21 pretty small. It's like one living unit worth  
 22 of cost.  
 23 So we're in negotiations with him. We  
 24 have agreed on a price. We are now working with  
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1 the Illinois Housing Development Authority to  
 2 make sure we get a package of financing that  
 3 would help to build this.  
 4 So the bad news is, for Pine Crest, I  
 5 don't think we're going to go with that 10-acre  
 6 lot. The good news is, we may go with a 15 or  
 7 20, which would virtually double the size of the  
 8 project that we're looking at.  
 9 MS. BOWERS: That's wonderful.  
 10 MR. BROOKS: It is.  
 11 MS. BOWERS: Absolutely.  
 12 MR. BROOKS: So hopefully before I retire,  
 13 or at some point I'll be able to drive my golf  
 14 cart through that.  
 15 MS. BOWERS: Is it close to the Village  
 16 limits or is it out farther?  
 17 MR. BROOKS: It's no secret.  
 18 It's on the north side of Mt. Morris.  
 19 MS. BOWERS: Okay.  
 20 MR. BROOKS: One other thing real quick.  
 21 We're trying to get into high schools and grade  
 22 schools more. We find a lot of parents who have  
 23 kids with disabilities don't know that there's  
 24 this long waiting list. So they wait until  
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1 their kid turns 21 or 22. Oh, now we'll sign  
 2 them up for services. Well, surprise, it's  
 3 going to be seven years before you get them.  
 4 So we have been working with Amy at the  
 5 OCEC. We're trying to get in the schools more  
 6 with the special-ed needs with parents. We have  
 7 come up with these couple of brochures. One is  
 8 explaining the Attendance Grant Program, and  
 9 then the other one is just a short, little  
 10 pamphlet on what disability services are in  
 11 Illinois and how to correctly apply for them.  
 12 I will leave these here with you. If you  
 13 guys want to break them apart, take a few of  
 14 them back to work with you, that's fine too.  
 15 MS. BOWERS: Thank you, Brion.  
 16 MR. SIMMS: Have you given any to the  
 17 schools yet?  
 18 MR. BROOKS: I'm sorry?  
 19 MR. SIMMS: Have the schools received any  
 20 of those pamphlets yet?  
 21 MR. BROOKS: We have met with OCEC, with  
 22 Amy and the director, and we gave them a few  
 23 dozen.  
 24 We have a guy at the Village, a Mark  
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1 Probasco, who is our liaison with the schools,  
 2 so he takes these into the meetings. He also  
 3 has a child with disabilities, which gives him  
 4 the chance to talk to parents on a first-hand  
 5 basis instead of theoretical, which helps.  
 6 MS. HENKEL: Brion, this is Amy. We have  
 7 been able to hand out those brochures at  
 8 meetings already within the schools. It's been  
 9 amazing. And Mark's been out and met with every  
 10 one of our life skills teachers, both in Oregon  
 11 and in Rochelle, from elementary all the way up  
 12 to the transition programs. So it's been really  
 13 awesome having him come meet our staff and get  
 14 it linked in with us.  
 15 MR. BROOKS: That's great to hear.  
 16 MS. HENKEL: Yeah, thank you.  
 17 MS. BOWERS: Anything else for Brion?  
 18 MS. MESSENGER: I just want to mention, I  
 19 don't know if Sherri had anything she wanted to  
 20 present?  
 21 MR. BROOKS: She'll be highly disappointed  
 22 that she couldn't help.  
 23 MS. BARNHART: I only wanted to make a  
 24 quick comment about, you know, you talked about  
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1 the interaction with, you know, public and  
 2 adults with disabilities. I, too, have  
 3 experienced that. I have a disabled brother.  
 4 You know, taking him into a restaurant, and the  
 5 waitress will look at me, wanting me to talk for  
 6 him. And it's like, you can talk to him. He's  
 7 able to, you know, communicate with you. And,  
 8 you know, it's -- like you say, it's that  
 9 learning experience and exposure for the public  
 10 to understand that these are people too. And so  
 11 I appreciate that.  
 12 MR. BROOKS: One of our caseworkers went  
 13 with a person to see a doctor, and the doctor  
 14 kept talking to her as if the patient --  
 15 MS. BARNHART: Doesn't exist.  
 16 MR. BROOKS: -- wasn't able to understand  
 17 anything. So, yeah.  
 18 (Sherri Egan now present.)  
 19 MR. BROOKS: We're almost done.  
 20 MS. BOWERS: We were ahead of schedule.  
 21 So do you have anything to bring up?  
 22 MS. EGAN: I'm sure Brion did a  
 23 magnificent job.  
 24 MS. MESSENGER: He said you would be so  
 In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)

1 heartbroken.  
 2 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Thank you, Brion and  
 3 Sherri.  
 4 MR. BROOKS: Thank you.  
 5 (The hearing was concluded at  
 6 8:02 a.m.)  
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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 )  
 6 Ogle County, Illinois ) Ogle County  
 7 ) Sheriff's Office  
 8 ) Oregon, Illinois  
 9 ) May 4, 2023

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 4th day of  
 19 May, 2023.

*Callie S. Bodmer*

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)

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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 18, 2023  
 6 Ogle County, Illinois )  
 7  
 8  
 9 Testimony of Witnesses  
 10 Produced and  
 11 Examined on this 18th day  
 12 of May, 2023,  
 13 before the Ogle County  
 14 Community Mental Health Board  
 15  
 16 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:  
 17 Dorothy Bowers, Chair  
 18 Joe Simms  
 19 Marcy Haushahn  
 20 Amy Henkel (via Zoom)  
 21 Renee Barnhart (via Zoom)  
 22 Jenae Bothe (via Zoom)  
 23  
 24 Justine Messenger, Secretary  
 Reporter: Callie S. Bodmer

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1 MS. BOWERS: Okay. It's 7:30. I am going  
 2 to go ahead and call this meeting to order.  
 3 Justine, could you do roll call?  
 4 MS. MESSENGER: Certainly.  
 5 Renee Barnhart?  
 6 MS. BARNHART: Present.  
 7 MS. MESSENGER: Cindy Bergstrom?  
 8 (No verbal response.)  
 9 MS. MESSENGER: Jenae Bothe?  
 10 MS. BOTHE: Here.  
 11 MS. MESSENGER: Dorothy Bowers?  
 12 MS. BOWERS: Here.  
 13 MS. MESSENGER: Marcy Haushahn?  
 14 MS. HAUSHAHN: Here.  
 15 MS. BOWERS: Amy Henkel?  
 16 (No verbal response.)  
 17 MS. BOWERS: Joe Simms?  
 18 MS. SIMMS: Here.  
 19 MS. MESSENGER: Kathleen Wilson?  
 20 (No verbal response.)  
 21 MS. MESSENGER: Five.  
 22 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Great.  
 23 Okay. I need to apologize. If we aren't  
 24 done by 8:10, I have to leave because I have  
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1 another meeting at 8:30.  
 2 So what we're going to do now is go  
 3 over -- do the discussion on the funding  
 4 requests -- oh, you want to do that first?  
 5 Okay. All right. Justine just told me  
 6 that we have to do the election of officers  
 7 first. We already nominated them. So can I  
 8 have a motion for approval for the officers that  
 9 were nominated?  
 10 MS. HAUSHAHN: I'll make a motion to  
 11 approve the officers that were nominated.  
 12 Marcy.  
 13 MS. BOWERS: Do I have a second?  
 14 MR. SIMMS: Joe seconds.  
 15 MS. MESSENGER: Thank you.  
 16 (Amy Henkel now present via  
 17 Zoom.)  
 18 MS. BOWERS: Any discussion?  
 19 (No verbal response.)  
 20 MS. BOWERS: All those in favor signify by  
 21 aye.  
 22 (All those simultaneously  
 23 responded.)  
 24 MS. BOWERS: Any opposed?  
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1 (No verbal response.)  
 2 MS. BOWERS: Motion carries.  
 3 Okay. Now we'll go on to discussions for  
 4 funding.  
 5 We did all of them together.  
 6 MS. MESSENGER: Oh, you did all of them  
 7 together?  
 8 MS. BOWERS: Yeah, we did them all  
 9 together.  
 10 MS. MESSENGER: Sorry. I didn't hear you  
 11 do that. Okay. All good. All right.  
 12 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Now we'll do funding.  
 13 The first we have on the agenda is HOPE.  
 14 Do we want to do these all together or do  
 15 we want to do them separately? Any suggestions?  
 16 (No verbal response.)  
 17 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Let's do HOPE first  
 18 then. Do I have a motion for approval or a  
 19 suggestion for approval?  
 20 All right. I'll make a motion that we  
 21 approve HOPE in the amount of \$130,000.  
 22 MS. BOTHE: Jenae seconds.  
 23 MS. BOWERS: Any questions or concerns?  
 24 (No verbal response.)  
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<p>1 MS. BOWERS: We have to do a roll call on 2 all of these. 3 MS. MESSENGER: All right. Renee 4 Barnhart? 5 MS. BARNHART: Yes. 6 MS. MESSENGER: Cindy Bergstrom? 7 (No verbal response.) 8 MS. MESSENGER: Renee Bothe? 9 MS. BOTHE: Yes. 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: Joe Simms? 17 MR. SIMMS: Yes. 18 MS. MESSENGER: Kathleen Wilson? 19 (No verbal response.) 20 (By voice vote six ayes.) 21 MS. BOWERS: Next we have Shining Star. I 22 make a motion for approval in the amount of 23 \$11,409.92. 24 MS. HENKEL: I'll second.  In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p>1 I make a motion for approval of \$38,000 for 2 Serenity. 3 MS. BARNHART: Renee seconds. 4 MS. BOWERS: Any questions or concerns? 5 (No verbal response.) 6 MS. BOWERS: Roll call, please. 7 MS. MESSENGER: Renee Barnhart? 8 MS. BARNHART: Yes. 9 MS. MESSENGER: Cindy Bergstrom? 10 (No verbal response.) 11 MS. MESSENGER: Jenae Bothe? 12 MS. BOTHE: Yes. 13 MS. MESSENGER: Dorothy Bowers? 14 MS. BOWERS: Yes. 15 MS. MESSENGER: Marcy Haushahn? 16 MS. HAUSHAHN: Yes. 17 MS. MESSENGER: Amy Henkel? 18 MS. HENKEL: Yes. 19 MS. MESSENGER: Joe Simms? 20 MR. SIMMS: Yes. 21 MS. MESSENGER: Kathleen Wilson? 22 (No verbal response.) 23 (By voice vote six ayes.) 24 MS. BOWERS: Next we have Village of  In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>
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<p>1 MS. MESSENGER: I'm sorry, who was that? 2 MS. HENKEL: Amy. Sorry. 3 MS. MESSENGER: Okay. Great. 4 MS. BOWERS: Any questions or concerns? 5 (No verbal response.) 6 MS. BOWERS: Roll call, Justine. 7 MS. MESSENGER: Renee Barnhart? 8 MS. BARNHART: Yes. 9 MS. MESSENGER: Cindy Bergstrom? 10 (No verbal response.) 11 MS. MESSENGER: Renee Bothe? 12 MS. BOTHE: Yes. 13 MS. MESSENGER: Dorothy Bowers? 14 MS. BOWERS: Yes. 15 MS. MESSENGER: Marcy Haushahn? 16 MS. HAUSHAHN: Yes. 17 MS. MESSENGER: Amy Henkel? 18 MS. HENKEL: Yes. 19 MS. MESSENGER: Joe Simms? 20 MR. SIMMS: Yes. 21 MS. MESSENGER: Kathleen Wilson? 22 (No verbal response.) 23 (By voice vote six ayes.) 24 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Next we have Serenity.  In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p>1 Progress. I make a motion for approval in the 2 amount of \$417,000 for Village of Progress. 3 MS. HAUSHAHN: Marcy seconds. 4 MS. BOWERS: Any questions or concerns? 5 (No verbal response.) 6 MS. BOWERS: Roll call, please. 7 MS. MESSENGER: Renee Barnhart? 8 MS. BARNHART: Yes. 9 MS. MESSENGER: Cindy Bergstrom? 10 (No verbal response.) 11 MS. MESSENGER: Jenae Bothe? 12 MS. BOTHE: Yes. 13 MS. MESSENGER: Dorothy Bowers? 14 MS. BOWERS: Yes. 15 MS. MESSENGER: Marcy Haushahn? 16 MS. HAUSHAHN: Yes. 17 MS. MESSENGER: Amy Henkel? 18 MS. HENKEL: Yes. 19 MS. MESSENGER: Joe Simms? 20 MR. SIMMS: Yes. 21 MS. MESSENGER: Kathleen Wilson? 22 (No verbal response.) 23 (By voice vote six ayes.) 24 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Next we have LSSI. I  In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>

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<p>1 make a motion for approval in the amount of</p> <p>2 \$50,000 for LSSI.</p> <p>3 MS. HAUSHAHN: Marcy seconds.</p> <p>4 MS. MESSENGER: Okay.</p> <p>5 MS. BOWERS: We're sharing agendas today.</p> <p>6 Roll call.</p> <p>7 MS. MESSENGER: Renee Barnhart?</p> <p>8 MS. BARNHART: Yes.</p> <p>9 MS. MESSENGER: Cindy Bergstrom?</p> <p>10 (No verbal response.)</p> <p>11 MS. MESSENGER: Jenae Bothe?</p> <p>12 MS. BOTHE: Yes.</p> <p>13 MS. MESSENGER: Dorothy Bowers?</p> <p>14 MS. BOWERS: Yes.</p> <p>15 MS. MESSENGER: Marcy Haushahn?</p> <p>16 MS. HAUSHAHN: Yes.</p> <p>17 MS. MESSENGER: Amy Henkel?</p> <p>18 MS. HENKEL: Yes.</p> <p>19 MS. MESSENGER: Joe Simms?</p> <p>20 MR. SIMMS: Yes.</p> <p>21 MS. MESSENGER: Kathleen Wilson?</p> <p>22 (No verbal response.)</p> <p>23 (By voice vote six ayes.)</p> <p>24 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Next is Easter Seals. In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p>1 (A discussion was held off the</p> <p>2 record.)</p> <p>3 MS. BOWERS: I'd like to make a motion for</p> <p>4 approval of \$410,550 for Sinnissippi.</p> <p>5 MS. BARNHART: Renee seconds.</p> <p>6 MS. BOWERS: Any questions?</p> <p>7 (No verbal response.)</p> <p>8 MS. BOTHE: Justine.</p> <p>9 MS. MESSENGER: Renee Barnhart?</p> <p>10 MS. BARNHART: Yes.</p> <p>11 MS. MESSENGER: Cindy Bergstrom?</p> <p>12 (No verbal response.)</p> <p>13 MS. MESSENGER: Jenae Bothe?</p> <p>14 MS. BOTHE: Yes.</p> <p>15 MS. MESSENGER: Dorothy Bowers?</p> <p>16 MS. BOWERS: Yes.</p> <p>17 MS. MESSENGER: Marcy Haushahn?</p> <p>18 MS. HAUSHAHN: Yes.</p> <p>19 MS. MESSENGER: Amy Henkel?</p> <p>20 MS. HENKEL: Yes.</p> <p>21 MS. MESSENGER: Joe Simms?</p> <p>22 MR. SIMMS: Yes.</p> <p>23 MS. MESSENGER: Kathleen Wilson?</p> <p>24 (No verbal response.) In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>
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<p>1 I make a motion for approval of \$30,200 for</p> <p>2 Easter Seals.</p> <p>3 MS. HAUSHAHN: Marcy seconds.</p> <p>4 MS. BOWERS: Any questions or concerns?</p> <p>5 (No verbal response.)</p> <p>6 MS. MESSENGER: Renee Barnhart?</p> <p>7 MS. BARNHART: Yes.</p> <p>8 MS. MESSENGER: Cindy Bergstrom?</p> <p>9 (No verbal response.)</p> <p>10 MS. MESSENGER: Jenae Bothe?</p> <p>11 MS. BOTHE: Yes.</p> <p>12 MS. MESSENGER: Dorothy Bowers?</p> <p>13 MS. BOWERS: Yes.</p> <p>14 MS. MESSENGER: Marcy Haushahn?</p> <p>15 MS. HAUSHAHN: Yes.</p> <p>16 MS. MESSENGER: Amy Henkel?</p> <p>17 MS. HENKEL: Yes.</p> <p>18 MS. MESSENGER: Joe Simms?</p> <p>19 MR. SIMMS: Yes.</p> <p>20 MS. MESSENGER: Kathleen Wilson?</p> <p>21 (No verbal response.)</p> <p>22 (By voice vote six ayes.)</p> <p>23 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Next we have</p> <p>24 Sinnissippi. In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>	<p>1 (By voice vote six ayes.)</p> <p>2 MS. BOWERS: Village of Progress is not</p> <p>3 here.</p> <p>4 MS. MESSENGER: We did Village of</p> <p>5 Progress.</p> <p>6 MS. BOWERS: Oh, did we? I didn't think</p> <p>7 we did.</p> <p>8 MS. MESSENGER: Yeah, approved, 417,000.</p> <p>9 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Sorry. I didn't cross</p> <p>10 them off.</p> <p>11 All right. Next is Rockford Sexual</p> <p>12 Assault. I make a motion for approval of -- to</p> <p>13 Rockford Sexual Assault in the amount of</p> <p>14 \$12,000.</p> <p>15 MS. HAUSHAHN: Marcy seconds.</p> <p>16 MS. BOWERS: Any questions or concerns?</p> <p>17 (No verbal response.)</p> <p>18 MS. MESSENGER: Renee Barnhart?</p> <p>19 MS. BARNHART: Yes.</p> <p>20 MS. MESSENGER: Cindy Bergstrom?</p> <p>21 (No verbal response.)</p> <p>22 MS. MESSENGER: Jenae Bothe?</p> <p>23 MS. BOTHE: Yes.</p> <p>24 MS. MESSENGER: Dorothy Bowers? In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)</p>

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1 MS. BOWERS: Yes.  
 2 MS. MESSENGER: Marcy Haushahn?  
 3 MS. HAUSHAHN: Yes.  
 4 MS. MESSENGER: Amy Henkel?  
 5 MS. HENKEL: Yes.  
 6 MS. MESSENGER: Joe Simms?  
 7 MR. SIMMS: Yes.  
 8 MS. MESSENGER: Kathleen Wilson?  
 9 (No verbal response.)  
 10 (By voice vote six ayes.)  
 11 MS. BOWERS: Next we have Sauk Valley  
 12 Voices of Recovery. I'm going to just put this  
 13 out there. I'd like to make a motion for  
 14 approval in the amount of \$5,000 for Sauk Valley  
 15 Voices of Recovery.  
 16 MS. HAUSHAHN: Marcy seconds.  
 17 MS. BOWERS: Discussion. The reason I did  
 18 that: We don't do bricks and mortar. If you  
 19 would have came in here and said, We want to pay  
 20 our consultant or counselor or whatever in the  
 21 amount of \$20,000, I would have had no problem  
 22 with giving you the \$20,000. But for you to  
 23 open up a facility in Ogle County, I just don't  
 24 agree with doing the bricks and mortar part of  
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1 it.  
 2 Okay. Come back next year with your  
 3 counselors.  
 4 Okay. Any other questions or concerns?  
 5 (No verbal response.)  
 6 MS. BOWERS: Go ahead.  
 7 MS. MESSENGER: Renee Barnhart?  
 8 MS. BARNHART: Yes.  
 9 MS. MESSENGER: Cindy Bergstrom?  
 10 (No verbal response.)  
 11 MS. MESSENGER: Jenae Bothe?  
 12 MS. BOTHE: Yes.  
 13 MS. MESSENGER: Dorothy Bowers?  
 14 MS. BOWERS: Yes.  
 15 MS. MESSENGER: Marcy Haushahn?  
 16 MS. HAUSHAHN: Yes.  
 17 MS. BOWERS: Amy Henkel?  
 18 MS. HENKEL: Yes.  
 19 MS. MESSENGER: Joe Simms?  
 20 MR. SIMMS: Yes.  
 21 MS. MESSENGER: Kathleen Wilson?  
 22 (No verbal response.)  
 23 (By voice vote six ayes.)  
 24 MS. BOWERS: Do we need a motion for  
 In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)

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1 administrative expenses?  
 2 MS. MESSENGER: We never have in the past.  
 3 If you want to just do it, since it's funding,  
 4 go for it.  
 5 MS. BOWERS: Then I'll make a motion for  
 6 approval for funding for the administrative  
 7 expenses for the 708 Board in the amount of  
 8 \$10,000.  
 9 MS. HAUSHAHN: Marcy seconds.  
 10 MS. BOWERS: Any questions about that?  
 11 (No verbal response.)  
 12 MS. MESSENGER: Renee Barnhart?  
 13 MS. BARNHART: Yes.  
 14 MS. MESSENGER: Cindy Bergstrom?  
 15 (No verbal response.)  
 16 MS. MESSENGER: Jenae Bothe?  
 17 MS. BOTHE: Yes.  
 18 MS. MESSENGER: Dorothy Bowers?  
 19 MS. BOWERS: Yes.  
 20 MS. MESSENGER: Marcy Haushahn?  
 21 MS. HAUSHAHN: Yes.  
 22 MS. MESSENGER: Amy Henkel?  
 23 MS. HENKEL: Yes.  
 24 MS. MESSENGER: Joe Simms?  
 In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)

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1 MR. SIMMS: Yes.  
 2 MS. MESSENGER: Kathleen Wilson?  
 3 (No verbal response.)  
 4 (By voice vote six ayes.)  
 5 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Anything else for  
 6 funding?  
 7 (A discussion was held off  
 8 the record.)  
 9 MS. BOWERS: Okay. We have no meeting in  
 10 June or July. August 3rd will be our next  
 11 meeting.  
 12 MS. HENKEL: What time is that?  
 13 MS. BOWERS: It will be 7:30.  
 14 And then after the meeting today, people  
 15 can tour the Rockford Sexual Assault building,  
 16 at 412 West Washington, for anybody who's  
 17 interested in touring that.  
 18 Anything else?  
 19 MS. BARNHART: My only comment is, I would  
 20 like to see some of the agencies next year that  
 21 have been cut by the VOCA funding, I would like  
 22 to see them, you know, maybe ask for a little  
 23 bit more money next year.  
 24 MS. BOWERS: Absolutely. I totally agree  
 In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)

1 with that. I totally agree with that.  
 2 Anything else?  
 3 (No verbal response.)  
 4 MS. BOWERS: Okay. Seeing no further  
 5 business, I consider this meeting adjourned.  
 6 (The hearing was concluded at  
 7 7:44 a.m.)  
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In Totidem Verbis, LLC (ITV)

1 OGLE COUNTY  
 2 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD (708)  
 3 RE: )  
 4 ) Zoom Meeting  
 4 708 Funding Hearings )  
 5 )  
 5 Ogle County, Illinois ) May 18, 2023  
 6 )  
 7 )

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

17 Dated at Dixon, Illinois, this 25th day of  
 18 May, 2023.

19 \_\_\_\_\_  
 20 *Callie S Bodmer*  
 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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