

Agenda Item Report



Winnebago County
The Wave of the Future

DATE: January 30, 2024
FROM: Doug Gieryn, Public Health Director
RE: Budget Transfer \$50,000- 2024 Community Livingroom Project

General Description:

The Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment (AHW) has awarded \$50,000 to support the Community Living Room project launch in Winnebago County. AHW 2024 Community-Led Seed Grants funding opportunity supports community-MCW academic partnership to design new strategies, test innovative ideas, and foster greater collaboration to build on promising efforts and demonstrate the potential for improved health and well-being for Wisconsin residents.

Action Requested:

Approval of the budget transfer.

Procedural Steps:

Committee of Jurisdiction: Public Health
Action taken: Budget transfer approval

Meeting date: 2/23/24
Vote:

Personnel & Finance Committee
Action taken: Vote:

Meeting date:

County Board

Meeting date:

Background:

Public Health, in collaboration with the Community Living Room Project (Karen Iverson Riggers, LLC and Lynn McLaughlin, Dandalliance, LLC), and Dr. Sara Kohlbeck of the MCW applied for the 2024 Community-Led Seed grant opportunity to expand the Community Living Room (CLR) project into Winnebago County. The project seeks to address loneliness and social isolation by creating social connections and belonging through pop-up spaces throughout the county in collaboration with community partners.

Community Living Room was piloted with success in Outagamie County in 2023. This grant opportunity creates expansion into Winnebago County. The Community Living Room spaces will offer opportunities for community members to talk with a trained listener to build relationships and create feelings of connection and belonging in the community. CLR opportunities will be held at specific agency locations as well as opportunities for public participation throughout the county. The sessions are 3 hours in length. A listening space like a Community Living Room serves as crisis prevention and is a complementary addition to other professional and peer-based support resources in the community.

Through this grant, the coordinators, Lynn McLaughlin and Karen Iverson Riggers, will provide Emotional CPR (eCPR) trainings, agency trainings, and CLR Listening Trainings and host pop-up Community Living Room sessions.

Policy Discussion:

The Community Living Room project seeks to enhance services already available in the community and can serve as bridge support while waiting for professional treatment services.

The Community Living Room project has already been piloted successfully in Outagamie County.

Winnebago County is primarily a fiscal agent to help allow this service to be provided in our community.

The project will be evaluated and the results shared with the community.

Attachments:

Budget Transfer