

The May 22nd, 2025, Mental Health/Disability Services of the East Central Region Governing Board meeting was brought to order at 1:00 pm. The meeting was located at Kirkwood – Linn County Regional Center, 1770 Boyson Rd., Hiawatha, IA 52233 and by Zoom.

Board Members Present: BEN ROGERS LINN CO | DEWEY HILDEBRANDT BREMER CO | DIANE BRECHT ADULT PROVIDER REP | RICK COLPITTS CHILDREN'S EDUCATOR REP (ZOOM) | JONATHAN DEGAN IOWA CO | AMY GRASK CHILDREN'S PROVIDER REP (ZOOM) | SHIRLEY HELMRICHS DELAWARE CO | JOHNNY HILL LAW ENFORCEMENT REP (ZOOM) | LAURA SEMPRINI ADULT & FAMILY PEER REP (ZOOM) | LORI SHEELER PARENT REP | ROD SULLIVAN JOHNSON CO | RON TIPPITT BENTON CO
Board Members Absent: NONE

Public Comment:

Marilyn Austin honored Mae Hingtgen on her birthday and shared how much appreciation her team has for everything she's done.

M/S/C: Hildebrant & Degan to approve the May Regional Governing Board agenda.

M/S/C: Helmricks & Sullivan to approve the previous meeting minutes of the Regional Governing Board.

No conflict of interest noted.

Diane Brecht provided an ECR Adult Advisory Committee update with appreciation in working with Mae and the regional team. Expressing Mae's contributions to moving the region forward but also to all that has been provided to individuals in our communities.

Julie Davison requested approval of April claims in the amount of \$2,121,746.52. There were grants paid in the amount of \$117,756. All but one grant has been paid with several attempts made to notify.

M/S/C: Sullivan & Helmricks to approve the April claims presented.

The board chair acknowledged Kris Lyons, Jones County Representative, has submitted his resignation since he has a conflict with the final two Regional Governing board meetings. Jones County has long been a member of the region and Kris's time on the board has been valuable.

Deb Seymour-Guard presented the April Financial Report including total revenues in the amount of \$6,445,885 with YTD \$26,179,083 (101%). The 4th quarter payment received from the state was \$6,412,402.50. Expenditures in the amount of \$2,121,747(81%) which is \$1 million more than last year at this time due to high accruals. Expenses for adults were \$19,666,048 (79%) and \$3,003,351 (95%) for children. Core Services represent the bulk of services expenses at \$15,125,172 (66%). The sub-domain services highest expenses are for Crisis Services followed by Justice-System Involved, and Support for Community Living. Total revenues less expenses are a net negative of \$1,091,143. The cash balance was \$8,403,565 which is a \$4,324,238 increase from last month mainly due to the 4th quarter payment from the state and will continue to decrease. Total actual county expenses are \$3,341,430 leaving a balance of \$1,324,294 from the amount the Region has paid to counties for personnel and occupancy expenses.

M/S/C: Tippet & Hildebrant to approve the March Financial Report.

Deb Seymour-Guard gave an update on the Disability Access Point (DAP) fiscal agent working with David Theilen in Linn County. An agreed amount of 1% of the DAP budget in the amount of \$38,000 annually will be allocated. A final contract will be approved by the Linn County Board of Supervisors and to be made retroactive for July 1, 2025 implementation. The board authorizes the Regional Governing Board Chair to sign the contract on the region's behalf.

M/S/C: Helmrichs & Sullivan to approve the DAP fiscal agent as Linn County with approval by the Linn County Board and Ben Rogers Regional Governing Board Chair.

Mae Hingtgen shared the resolution from Johnson County to withdraw from the 28E Agreement. Rod Sullivan shared that Johnson County is committed to providing space and employment for staff of the DAP through an MOU.

M/S/C: Hildebrandt & Tippet to approve the Johnson County withdraw from the 28E Agreement effective June 30th, 2025.

Mae Hingtgen shared the resolution from Iowa County to withdraw from the 28E Agreement effective September 1st, 2025, as they have an employee that will continue to complete regional close out work thought that date.

M/S/C: Sullivan & Helmrichs to approve the Iowa County withdraw from the 28E Agreement effective September 1st, 2025.

Mae Hingtgen provided her recommendation to appoint Julie Davison as the interim CEO until the position can be filled.

M/S/C: Helmrichs & Brecht to approve Julie Davison as the interim CEO.

Mae Hingtgen shared entity name options as reviewed by staff for the Disability Access Point (DAP) moving forward. The recommendation by staff is Eastern Iowa Disability Alliance. Doing business as The MH/DS of the East Central Region until the new name can be legally established and a revised 28E Agreement is signed.

M/S/C: Grask & Semprini to approve the DAP name to be Eastern Iowa Disability Alliance.

Mae Hingtgen opened shared amendment changes to the 28E Agreement. This agreement was shared will all regional county attorneys with only feedback from one. Mae reminded everyone that there are a lot of emotions around this decision with the changes being made to the region. This structure is a Governance decision. The other CEOs in the Districts are using the term corporation versus contract with HHS. Today is about discussion and review of feedback from the Linn County Attorney. The next step would be to come back and approve the agreement in June. Mae provided a summary of the changes and walked through each one. The full summary is provided online. Dewey Hildebrandt shared his recommendation in moving forward with the 28E Agreement amendments would be to involve the other counties that will be in District 7. Ben Rogers shared that he understands having a draft agreement to begin the conversation and noted that this board brings twelve years of experience to the table in setting up the Governance structure. Mae shared that all county liability has been removed. The consensus of the board is to send the summary of amendments to the 28E Agreement to all 14 counties in District 7 to be able to provide input at a special work session.

Deb Seymour-Guard reviewed an assessment of assets conducted with information supplied by the county coordinators, along with the needs of the Disability Access Point, as the region transitions towards the fulfillment of the DAP contract. All assets listed were paid for by either the Region directly or through reimbursements to the counties and include:

- Vehicles to be used by Disability Service Navigators and other personnel as needed.
- Computer equipment which doesn't include anything provided to MHDS departments by their county nor any equipment deemed too old to be of good use.
- Cell phones for Navigators and DAP management.
- Furniture and furnishings which may be needed for staff located in one of the hubs.

This property is currently located in the county and vehicles titled to counties. The counties did not contribute to these assets. This was reviewed with the regional attorney, and he has confirmed the region has authority.

M/S/C: Helmricks & Sullivan to approve the DAP asset distribution.

Mae Hingtgen shared that HHS provided feedback to the DAP transition plan and there is not final approval at this time. Mae announced the DAP leadership team positions and shared the full Table of Organization chart.

Chief Operating Officer - Julie Davison

Chief Financial Officer - Deb Seymour-Guard

Business Program Manager – Don Shramek

Service Program Manager/North - Jody Bridgewater

Service Program Manager/South - Lucia Herman

M/S/C: Sullivan & Helmricks to approve the DAP leadership team as presented.

Mae Hingtgen reminded the board that counties regardless of signing on to the 28E Agreement, the DAP would like to have a contract with counties to retain employees, and the MOU would allow employees to continue employment for one year until an RFP can be issued for one employer of record. Julie Davison shared a revised MOU for the counties to retain employees that will continue working with the DAP. There has been language removed that a county would have to be a member county, that the county is a signatory to the 28E Agreement, Region to DAP, Fiscal Year updated and removed any language that related to member counties to a county employing individuals providing services to support the DAP. Mae requested that the Regional Governing Board formally support the employment of these employees with the counties by sending the MOU to each of the counties where DAP employees will be retained. The region has always been a cohesive region, and these employees have worked in these counties, some more than 20 years.

M/S/C: Sullivan & Degan to approve the MOU.

The CEO provided updates:

The MHDS Close Out has not been approved even with the revisions to the budget and accruals will not be paid in July, August, & September is the plan is not approved.

Staffing updates


Jan Shaw is retiring and so is Marilyn Austin. Peggy Petlon is staying with Delaware County Community Services. Samantha Berglin Director of Resident Life and Services with Mt. Pleasant Home in Dubuque and Mona Onken has moved on to the Clinical Program Manager with Maximus. 98% of our original staff have continued employment either through the DAP or who have moved on to other employment.

Ben Rogers shared his sentiment that the hallmark of a true leader is someone that leaves an organization in better condition than when they leave it and Mae has certainly done that but also gone deeper, she has built staff up to be leaders. The hard things should be hard, and the region worked to be collaborative at each step.

M/S/C: Sullivan & Helmricks move to enter closed session at 2:26 pm, pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(c.) to discuss strategy with counsel in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent where its disclosure would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the governmental body in that litigation. Roll Call: Aye: Rogers, Hildebrandt, Brecht, Colpitts, Degan, Grask, Helmricks, Hill, Semprini, Sheeler, Sullivan, and Tippitt.

M/S/C: & move to leave closed session at 2:56 pm. Roll Call: Rogers, Hildebrandt, Brecht, Colpitts, Degan, Grask, Helmricks, Hill, Semprini, Sheeler, Sullivan, and Tippitt.

The meeting adjourned at 2:56 pm and these minutes were approved by the Regional Governing Board.



Signature
Regional Governing Board Chairman



Signature
Submitted by: Chelle Klootwyk, Administrative Assistant