

Mental Health/Disability Services Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: September 26, 2019
Location: Jean Oxley Public Services Building, 935 2nd St. SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

The Mental Health /Disability Regional Governing Board meetings was held September 26, 2019. Members present: Chairman Wayne Manternach, Jones Co; Ann McDonough, Dubuque Co; Ben Rogers, Linn co; Duane Hildebrandt, Bremer Co; Gary Bierschenk, Benton Co.; Gary Gissel, Buchanan Co; Lisa Green-Douglass, Johnson Co; Shirley Helmrichs, Delaware Co, John Gahring, Iowa Co; Jenn Day and Diane Brecht; Advisory Committee. Lucia Herman; Secretary and Coordinator.

Unless otherwise noted, all actions were approved unanimously. There was no conflict of interest acknowledged by board members regarding agenda items.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wayne Manternach at 1:30pm.

M/S/C: Duane Hildebrandt, Lisa Green-Douglass to read and approve the August governing board meeting minutes.

Public comment: There was none.

Advisory report: Diane Brecht requested RGB approval for Lorri Regan and Ellie Gould to for Johnson county to fill the vacancy for the Advisory Committee member for Dubuque county peer and family. **M/S/C:** Ben Rogers, John Gahring to approve application to fill Advisory Committee vacancy. Diane noted that Advisory committee still needs members for peers to represent for Linn, Benton, Bremer, Buchanan, and Jones for peer members.

Julie Davison presented August claims for amounts: \$2,006,320.53, There were fund balance projects of about \$213,000. ISAC dues were paid: \$150,000. **M/S/C:** Shirley Helmrichs, Gary Bierschenk to approve claims. Julie requested payment of a claim over one-year-old of: \$4725 for Imagine the Possibilities for services in April of 2018. **M/S/C:** Ben Rogers, John Gahring to approve the claim to Image the Possibilities for \$4725.

Deb Seymour-Guard presented county reimbursement requests. Buchanan County 4th Quarter FY19 amount of \$60,443.45. Requests for FY19 accruals for counties: Benton County \$2,292.86, Delaware \$9,385.78, Jones \$12,993.47, and Linn \$9,249. The only out of ordinary expense was to update much needed computer hardware in Jones County \$3,157.74. **M/S/C/:** Ben Rogers, Lisa Green-Douglass to approve reimbursement requests.

Deb Seymour-Guard presented the August 2019 financial report: There were revenues in the amount of \$39,944.74. This was 19% of the budget through the end of August which is about 2% over budget. This was due to payment to the fiscal agent that actually occurred in the 1st quarter. There were expenses of \$2,005,300.53. Through August 31st we have expended 12% of the budget which is approximately 5% under budget. There were fund balance projects in the amount of \$199,436 for about 10% of monthly expenditure. Fiscal agent cash balance as of August 31st was \$5,257,387.44 **M/S/C:** Ben Rogers, Gary Bierschenk to approve the financial report.

Jody Jansen requested approval for 3 new contracts: Invigorating Services; for supported community living services in Linn County, Life Connections; for out-patient therapy, Life Connections Peer Recovery Services for Peer Respite located in Clinton county. The peer run respite house in Clinton is used if we have people from our region that need this services. We do not offer this service in our own region. **M/S/C:** Ann McDonough, Duane Hildebrandt to approve the contracts.

Jody Jansen presented Rate Setting, Negotiations, and finalized fate sheets for the before mentioned 3 new contracts: Invigorating Services and Life Connections now accepts the Medicaid fee. The Peer Recovery accepts has a \$243 daily rate. A re-peat contract for the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics for in-patient and out-

patient therapy for FY20 which did not have changes to their rates. **M/S/C:** Lisa Green-Douglass, Ann McDonough to approve the Rate Setting/Negotiations and finalized rate sheets presented.

Mechelle Dhondt announced that Kristie Clark is leaving in December so there will be an opening for a Coordinator in Linn County. Mechelle discussed that this region is at the point where we need to hire for specific positions. We will need a new Child Coordinator soon. This is something for the new CEO but Mechelle wanted it brought to the attention of the regional governing board. Mechelle noted if this position was hired in the Linn County office, it would be budget neutral for us as a region. It was requested that Linn County put off hiring of this new coordinator position until the new CEO comes on and has the chance to discuss this. Ben Rogers noted that they would not hire yet because the person in the Linn County position has not left yet. Lisa asked for confirmation as to if this position was housed in Linn county and would go through Linn's human resource department etc. but would continue to be a Region position? The answer was yes. Lisa Green-Douglass also asked to confirm that hiring should come before the regional governing board first rather than just through the county even though they are located in Linn County. The response was yes.

Mechelle Dhondt gave an update on the expired Apartment Program RFP searching basically to see if there was provider interest. We are having difficulties with getting people placed when they are coming out of hospitals in particular. We don't have the ability to get someone in a program so people are having to stay longer than they need to; waiting for an opening. The RFP was asked providers if they had ideas how to get people into housing quicker. We were looking for a range of \$50,000 to \$75,000. One proposal was submitted but it came in at around the \$300,000 range. At this point Mechelle did not want to bring it forward to the RGB as the region is not in the position until January to really know where we are with the budget. Mechelle noted that all providers in the region were solicited for the RFP.

Mechelle Dhondt said it was a topic for the next CEO to address, but she wanted to make the board aware that the current Region Coordinators of Disability Services have about a \$35,000 difference in wage for the same position. Mechelle noted we are looking at a huge gap for the same position and this was why she brought the topic of Standardization of Wage Reimbursement to the board again- Noting Johnson county was the highest and Jones County was the lowest. She wanted the information to be passed on to the next person (CEO).

Wayne Manternach gave an update that the hiring committee. He noted that they interviewed 5 candidates and narrowed it down to 2. The full RGB conceded to offer the position to Mae Hingtgen- who accepted the position and will start October 24, 2019. He thanked all for applying and all who help with the hiring process.

The topic was brought to arrange for an interim CEO for coverage until the new person is hired. Marilyn Austin accepted to do this. John Gahring noted that Iowa County is fine with this arrangement. **M/S/C:** Ben Rogers, Lisa Green-Douglass to appoint Marilyn Austin as interim CEO for the region.

Public comment: Wayne Manternach, John Gahring, and Gary Bierschenk stated they wanted to thank Mechelle Dhondt for her many years leading the East Central Region as CEO.

Other comment from Marc Hines with the University of Iowa Hospital: He explained they have 2 kids in the hospital for over 71 days now with no community placement options. He noted rates are not high enough. He asked they consider to the RGB think about supplementing a daily rate possibly for discussion at the next RGB meeting. He also pointed out there have been at least 25 kids not able to access acute hospitalization because these 2 kids before mentioned are there.

Systems Unlimited staff in Iowa City wanted to ask that the region re-consider funding day habilitation for clients on Brain Injury waiver. Mechelle noted that the region is not required to fund Brain Injury and that it isn't a Core Service. Ben Rogers offered to talk to these staff after the meeting to get more information.

M/S/C: John Gahring, Ben Rogers to adjourn at 1:58pm.

