

Mental Health/Disability Services Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes January 23, 2020 Meeting

Wayne Manternach called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

M/S/C: Duane Hildebrandt, John Gahring to approve the December regional governing board meeting minutes.

There was no conflict of interest acknowledged by board members regarding agenda items.

Public Comment: Steve Miller expressed to the RGB that mental health is a human condition of suffering. Miller advocated for the RGB to support Access Centers. Andrea Behrens expressed that as a region we are working together with the focus being to connect and help people; that money is not the issue. Behrens said we have to help people that need the help and asked the board to support access centers. Deb Lang commented that she wants the board to know how important crisis services are for this region; that sub-acute and access centers are needed and should be supported. Leslie Carpenter expressed she is a family member of person with mental health and noted that having funding for access centers is needed. Carpenter noted that everyone will benefit from these Access Centers-all counties and asked the RGB to vote in favor to help save and improve lives by funding Access centers. Lisa Green-Douglass urged the RGB to come together and support access center as it will benefit everyone in the region. Green-Douglass suggested to do so in an equitable way in order to open access centers. Theresa Graham Mineart concurred that there is ebb and flow between counties and to keep in mind our region will have a lot of overlap with such services. Graham Mineart noted she has loved one with mental illness and an access center would have made a huge difference in helping them. Graham Mineart asked as a tax payer that she wants the RGB to spend her tax money on things that work and that access centers work. Becci Reedus noted the only way she feels Access Centers can be successful is for the RGB to financially support them and urged they do so. Reedus noted she recalled in the past; the lack of funds when establishing mobile crisis for example but believes mobile crisis services are the best dollars spent. She suggested cost saving with co-utilizing staff; and to have in mind that we are stewards of public dollars and they should be used in the best way-helping to support people with mental illness. Emily Blomme expressed that Access Centers are the next step in crisis services and helping people who are suffering. Blomme noted this RGB has the opportunity to be progressive and improve quality of life for people.

Diane Brecht presented that Advisory Committee report. She noted the committee supports Access Centers and noted that not every county needs the same thing. But counties can work collaboratively with partners to connection people with services. She noted she has already seen the value of the services that will be part of the access centers- that Jail Diversion is important; keep people out of ERs and jail that don't need to be there. Brecht reminded that mental illness is a human condition and Access would increase opportunity for people in rural counties to have an alternative model of service that works. She asked the RGB to focus on what people need and doing the right thing by them; in the short term it will cost money but in the long term the region will also benefit financially. More importantly those people suffering with be better served.

Jan Heidemann noted it was time for election of the Regional Governing Board chair and vice chair. Ben Rogers proposed interest in becoming the RGB Chair. **M/S/C:** Shirley Helmricks made motion to nominate Wayne Manternach as Chair and Duane Hildebrandt as Vice Chair.

Julie Davison requested approval of December claims in the amount of \$1,573,413.84 and fund balance projects in the amount of \$80,262.32. **M/S/C:** Ben Rogers, Ann McDonough to approve claims presented.

Deb Seymour Guard presented the 2nd quarter reimbursement requests. There were six reimbursement requests: Bremer \$40,792.25, Benton \$46,474.69, Dubuque \$116,268.74, Iowa \$26,147.52, Johnson \$175,294.87, and Jones \$63,754.69. **M/S/C:** Ben Rogers, Duane Hildebrandt to approve the quarter reimbursement requests.

Deb Seymour Guard presented the FY19 December financial report. There were revenues in the amount of \$274,226.74. Expenses in the amount of \$1,573,413.84. The cash balance as of 12/31/2019 was \$4,215,134.78. She expects to request the 3rd quarter payment. **M/S/C:** Ben Rogers, John Gahring to approve the financial report.

Deb Seymour Guard presented the 2nd quarter fiscal agent payment request in total of \$17,821.36. **M/S/C:** Ben Rogers, John Gahring to approve the fiscal payment request.

Jody Jansen and Mae Hingtgen requested approval of a new provider contract with Midwest Keta fusion located in Johnson County with plans to open another office in Linn County in the future. The previous provider of Ketamine service closed. The contract and rates were presented to be in effect for 6 months because it is the last half of year then contract renewal times align. **M/S/C/:** Ann McDonough, Ben Rogers to approve the contract.

The agenda item- Request for approval for Benton County fund balance projects was asked to be moved to a future RGB meeting. No action.

Access Center Budget and Operations expenses were presented and explained by Matt Miller, Erin Foster and Mae Hingtgen. Mae Hingtgen pointed out that the RGB had requested a break down to be given of costs, shortfalls, funding streams and a projection for sustainability of the access centers. Miller presented estimates of operational costs around \$491,000 for the next fiscal year with a reduction to \$420,000 for 7 months of services if 25% is allocated to substance abuse. Miller noted they will try hard to find ways to be more efficient. The final request was funding up to \$450,000. Diane Brecht commented that Penn Center is building an 8 bed sub-acute; and services compatible with the rates that Medicaid will reimburse. Brecht said budget projections don't anticipate any loss. Erin Foster presented information on the access center located in Linn County. They plan to be open the entire fiscal year. Erin requested \$857,000 of funding from the region for the entire year. Deb Seymour Guard and Mae Hingtgen presented the FY21 financial report draft budget and per capita report. There was discussion regarding the per capita to help support access centers and other crisis services and special projects. Mae Hingtgen made recommendation that the per capita cover everything budgeted for including the requests for funding access centers and special projects such as sub-acute or other access center locations in other counties. **M/S/C:** Ben Rogers, Pat Heiden to fund the FY21 budget at a per capita rate of \$34 and approval of the financial report. Ann McDonough nay.

Wayne Manternach and Mae Hingtgen led discussion regarding a region attorney. Manternach noted that the Jones County Attorney agreed to assist until the RFP is out another attorney has been selected. Megan, the previous attorney extended her deadline until Jan 31st. The RFP is prepared with proposals due by March 5th, which will allow the RGB to vote on it in March. Services for April 1, ending June 30th but will be renewable. **M/S/C:** Shirley Helmricks, John Gahring to approval action to send out an RFP and Kristopher Lyons will cover until finalization of RFP.

Manternach and Hingtgen set the February Regional Governing to be held February 21, 2020. The location will be at the ISU extension office, 800 North Maple Street, Monticello, Iowa 52310 at 10am. Mae noted that the strategic plan work session will be that days as well with a start time of 12pm. There was consensus of all board members of this change.

Public comment- Lisa Green Douglass reminded that counties could raise their per capita higher than region. Leslie Carpenter thanked the board for increasing the levy and supporting Access Centers. Emily Blomme thanked the board for their efforts and noted that lives will change as a result. Emily thanked Mae Hingtgen for advocating for providers. Diane Brecht thanked the Advisory Committee for their supportive efforts.

Wayne Manternach adjourned the meeting at 3:48pm.