

The September 24th, 2020 Mental Health/Disability Services of the East Central Region Governing Board meeting was brought to order at 1:35 pm. The meeting was located at 12007 190th Street, Monticello, Iowa and by Zoom Online Meeting.

Board Members: WAYNE MANTERNACH JONES CO | ANN McDONOUGH DUBUQUE CO | BEN ROGERS LINN Co | DUANE HILDEBRANDT BREMER CO | GARY BIRSCHENK BENTON CO | DON SHONKA BUCHANAN CO - ALTERNATE | PAT HEIDEN JOHNSON CO | SHIRLEY HELMRICHS DELAWARE Co (ABSENT)| JOHN GAHRING IOWA Co | DIANE BRECHT DELAWARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE | JENN DAY ADULT INDIVIDUAL REP | MELISSA O'BRIEN EDUCATOR REP (ABSENT)| ANGELA ZIMPHER PARENT REP (ABSENT) | AMY GRASK PROVIDER REP

M/S/C: Pat Heiden and John Gahring to approve the previous regional governing board meeting minutes.

No conflicts of interest regarding agenda items.

Diane Brecht presented the advisory report. At the meeting Mae Hingtgen provided updates on CARES Act Funds. It was discussed that some legislative education and how to communicate with legislators could be beneficial to committee members. The committee expressed how tired everyone is with working though this tough year. Looking for opportunities to engage people and get them assistance.

Julie Davison requested approval of claims in the total amount of \$1,561,319.28. There were 7 quarterly reimbursements. Total Fund Balance Projects in the amount of \$264,230.03. **M/S/C:** John Gahring & Ann McDonough to approve all claims presented.

Julie Davison requested approval to pay a year old claim from Hillcrest in the amount of \$4,000. **M/S/C:** Duane Hildebrandt & John Gahring to approve payment.

Deb Seymour-Guard presented FY20 County Accrual Reimbursement Requests:

- Benton County \$3,268.47
- Bremer County \$3,303.58
- Delaware County \$10,855.71
- Dubuque County \$15,316.72
- Jones County \$12,323.69
- Johnson County \$31,824.13
- Linn County \$11,180.44

Waiting on Buchanan and Iowa counties. They will not be counted as accruals; due to 9/30 deadline, these will go in as FY21.

Deb Seymour-Guard requested approval of the 2020 Financial Reports. The total August revenues were \$11,729,285 (55%) this is due to the CARES Act dollars received which was not a part of the FY20 budget. Without those funds the revenues would be at 28%. The total cash expenses were \$1,560,546 (18%). Working on a budget amendment for unbudgeted Fund Balance Projects/CARES Act dollars to reflect accurate amounts. Counties carrying over Fund Balance Projects not included in the FY20 budget will also need to do an amendment. The ending cash balance total for August was \$13,772,314. **M/S/C:** Pat Heiden and Gary Bierschenk to approve the 2020 Financial Statements.

Bremer County Fund Balance Projects in the total amount of \$130,000 presented by Jan Heidemann.

M/S/C: Gary Bierschenk and Duane Hildebrandt to approve the Bremer County Fund Balance Projects.

Mae Hingtgen provided an update on the priority initiatives initiated in May. There is a new icon by each Tier to indicate the status of each priority. This can be used as an indicator of the progress throughout the year.

Mae Hingtgen reviewed and presented an update of information about the CARES Act – Mini-Grant approvals, 26 have been received to date and 18 approved. Four have been denied due to eligibility and/or funds available through other means.

Mae Hingtgen presented CARES-Act – Comprehensive Projects. Application to apply for a Comprehensive Project was released about two weeks ago for projects larger than \$10,000. These projects also need to align with the ECR strategic plan. In addition, collaboration and multi-county implementation are encouraged. Two have been received to date. A sub-committee including Coordinators evaluated the applications and used a rubric to score them. One project scored too low to bring to the board for approval and the application was insufficient. The 2nd proposal was from Hillcrest Family Service to implement a referral and resource program called Access Me Care, throughout the region, beginning with Dubuque, Linn, & Johnson Counties. It has been identified there is another similar program being offered in Linn County and Hillcrest will work with this organization to be sure there is not a duplication of services, rather a collaboration of efforts. There are two things important to note about the proposal, building of the system and the expansion to other counties. CEO recommendation is to remove the \$5,000 transportation gap analysis and to reduce the number of laptops provided from 73 to 50, which would reduce the cost by \$20,000, for a total amount to be approved at \$125,000. **M/S/C:** Ann McDonough & Pat Heiden to approve the \$125,000 Comprehensive Project for Hillcrest.

Mae Hingtgen also provided an update for the CARES Act Plan. The mental well-being support joint project for school staff was approved last month and as an extension of this support to Law enforcement and healthcare staff, Hillcrest and Abbe agreed to add on these two groups. Outreach and getting the information shared has been difficult. An increased effort and funds are to be made towards this goal. Long-term care staff and residents also have had significant impact from the COVID-19. This will be included in the healthcare portion of the program. Also childcare staff is an area of need that has been identified, only state licensed facilities will qualify for the program. A total increase of \$78,910 to add to the contract for these additional groups to receive the mental well-being support. An RFP was issued for providers to be able to bid on a project to support families and children, due Monday, announcing the provider October 1st. ECR is working with the Iowa State Extension office to support some opportunities they are already providing. There are 2 programs called, Powerful Tools for Caregivers, which the ECR will be providing scholarships for anyone in the region to attend these programs. Also a one day training, specific to the agricultural community needs, for free to Peer-Support Specialist and at a fee to Mental Health Practitioners. ECR will pay this fee for any Mental Health Practitioner in our region.

Mae Hingtgen discussed the appointment of an ECR Legislative Sub-Committee to provide a consistent message to the legislators from our region. Several ECR Board members expressed interest in this subcommittee. CEO recommends all four people volunteer; Ben Rogers, Pat Heiden, Duane Hildebrandt & Ann McDonough. The first initial meeting will be held via zoom on Oct. 5th @ 2pm. **M/S/C:** John Gahring & Don Shonka to approve the appointment.

Public comment- Todd Lange expressed that many organizations in the region are having some very creative responses to COVID-19 & the Derecho. Great work during some very hard times.

The meeting adjourned at 2:47 PM.