

The October 22nd, 2020 Mental Health/Disability Services of the East Central Region Governing Board meeting was brought to order at 1:32 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 BIERSCHENK BENTON CO | GARY GISSEL BUCHANAN CO (ABSENT) | PAT HEIDEN JOHNSON CO | SHIRLEY HELMRICHS DELAWARE CO | JOHN GAHRING IOWA CO | DIANE BRECHT ADULT PROVIDER REP | JENN DAY ADULT & FAMILY PEER REP | MELISSA O'BRIEN CHILDREN'S EDUCATOR REP (ABSENT) | ANGELA ZIMPHER PARENT REP (ABSENT) | AMY GRASK CHILDREN'S PROVIDER REP

M/S/C: Duane Hildebrandt and Ben Rogers to approve the previous Regional Governing Board meeting minutes with a correction noted that Shirley Helmrichs, Delaware County, was present via phone at the September ECR Board Meeting.

No conflicts of interest regarding agenda items.

Diane Brecht presented the advisory report. There is still a primary focus on Cares Act Funds and how they can be used to help providers. Mae Hingtgen presented information on how dollars can be spent and how providers can recoup some expenses related to the pandemic. Mae also presented information on the Sigma Reduction Campaign which the committee is excited to support. Also discussed were the complex needs legislation that will need to be implemented in 2021.

November and December ECR Board Meeting dates reviewed with the holiday schedule. A decision was made to have a combined meeting @ 1:30 on Wednesday, December 9th.

Julie Davison requested approval of September claims in the total amount of \$1,365,664.03. Total Fund Balance Projects in the amount of \$379,132.80. Two quarterly and seven accrual reimbursements. CARES Act expenditures will be included in October claims next month. **M/S/C:** Gary Bierschenk & Pat Heiden to approve all claims presented.

Deb Seymour-Guard presented FY21 1st Quarter County Accrual Reimbursement Requests:

- Benton County \$34,662.03
- Bremer County \$31,127.92
- Dubuque County \$108,547.52
- Iowa County \$17,737.35
- Jones County \$47,199.00

M/S/C: Ben Rogers and Shirley Helmrichs to approve the FY21 1st Qtr. County Accrual Reimbursements.

Deb Seymour-Guard requested approval of the September Financial Reports. September regular budget total \$20,587,010, less CARES Act \$5,152,000 (25.03%) Fund balance reduction is at 234% of budget due to \$666,500 budgeted and \$1,559,240 collected. The total cash expenses were at 24%. The closing cash balance total for September was \$13,089,874. **M/S/C:** Duane Hildebrandt and Ben Rogers to approve the 2020 Financial Statements.

Deb Seymour-Guard provided information on the FY20 Accrual Reimbursements, the final two being received; Buchanan County \$1,500.89 and Iowa County \$883.32. All the county auditors did a great job getting this information submitted early.

Provider Contracts presented by Jody Jansen, three CARES Act Services previously approved and one from North Iowa County requesting to continue services with the region. **M/S/C:** Ben Rogers and Pat Heiden to approve the provider contracts.

FY21 Provider services and rates were presented by Jody Jansen for North Iowa Counseling. **M/S/C:** Pat Heiden and Ben Rogers to approve the FY21 provider rates and services.

Mae Hingtgen presented a Comprehensive Project for board approval of CARES Act funds to be used. One applicant applied for funding for the use of a vehicle that was not related specifically to the pandemic needs. The committee has provided feedback and given the organization the opportunity to

make another request that can be tied to the pandemic needs. The Comprehensive Project recommended for approval is from Systems Unlimited for a Technology Integrationist Position for staff and clients to have greater access to technology. **M/S/C:** Duane Hildebrandt and Shirley Helmrichs to approve the Comprehensive Project for Systems Unlimited.

Mae Hingtgen requested approval of the process for future Comprehensive Projects be approved by the sub-committee and Board Chair, to expedite the use of funds, as we near the deadline date that funds can be used. **M/S/C:** John Gahring and Pat Heiden to approve future Comprehensive Project approval process with information to be included and ratified in future meetings.

Motion by Ben Rogers for organizations that have already received funds for mini-grants though the ECR be allowed to apply for a 2nd mini-grant. These funds can be applied for as of November 1st, 2020 and entities that have not previously applied for funds will be given processing priority. **M/S/C:** Ben Rogers and Ann McDonough

The CEO provided an update to CARES Act budget, spreadsheet included budgeted amounts and funds spent to date. Mae encourages the board to share ideas about other ways to spend these funds since there is still a surplus and a limited timeframe in which these funds can be used. **M/S/C:** Shirley Helmrichs and Gary Bierschenk approve the update to the budget.

Mae Hingtgen presented the Support for Families and Children Project. An RFP issued and ECR received 6 applications. One was not approved due to the narrow scope of the project and the other was not a provider that was ready to provide the service. Four were approved and all nine counties will be represented.

- Would Maker International - \$200,000
- Tanager Place - \$93,420
- Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque - \$50,000
- United Action for Youth - \$9,972

Mae Hingtgen gave an update on the ECR Legislative Priorities for 2020. A survey was sent out to gauge the priority levels. The highest priority indicated was Stable Long Term Funding. Gary Grant provided more details on each priority and their meaning. **M/S/C:** Ben Rogers and John Gahring.

Mae Hingtgen provided a CEO Update, noting no additional documentation has been received regarding the Chatham Oaks Downsizing discussion that was tabled at the August ECR Board Meeting. The downsizing took place effective October 1st. Mae provided a breakdown of the cost savings to the region.

Information was also shared about the Access Centers, the Access Center of Linn County is planning a “soft opening” date in November. Tours of the facility will be available soon. GuideLink the Access Center for Johnson County has hired a director and will open in February. ECR is developing a contract for both of these organizations.

Public comment – Wayne wishes everyone a happy & healthy Thanksgiving. Also that he encourages everyone to join the December meeting in person.

Lezlie Carpenter commented her enthusiasm about the legislative priority to increase reimbursement rates for professionals and direct care staff. As to the delay of implementing the Complex Needs Law and the Children’s Mental Health Law she opposes a delay if it is proposed.

Blake Stephenson, as of January 1st, 2021 managed care organizations are decreasing the reimbursement rate for IHH on the adult side, but not on the children’s side. This will impact several things & expect to see some increased costs.

The meeting adjourned at 3:13 PM.