

ECR Adult Advisory Committee Minutes

Zoom Only

February 25, 2021

Committee Members Present: Jenn Day, Brian Larkin, Tom Morrissey, Theresa Phillips, Lorri Regan, Jessica Gulick, Carrie Merrick, Diane Brecht, Jeannine Scandridge, & Therese Graham-Mineart.

Welcome and introductions – Chelle completed roll call.

M/S/C: Theresa Phillips and Jenn Day to approve the January 2021 meeting minutes.

Mae Hingtgen provided an update on the CARES Act Funds with the announcement that the CARES Act funds have been extended through June 30th, 2021. The ECR will be making these funds available in the following ways:

- School Grants – funds based on enrollment issued for the specific social emotional learning & brain health support.
- Provider Grants – funds specific to the ECR Strategic Plan in areas of access, array of services, & partnerships related to the pandemic.
- Mental Wellbeing Support Project – 5 outpatient coaching sessions open to any person living in the region who presents issues related to the pandemic.
- Brian health support in homeless shelters.
- Juvenile Center Yoga Program Continuation.
- Mobile crisis expansion.
- Suicide prevention and outreach, including care packages with information on services available.
- Brain Health Campaign promotion – working to promote, specifically in our region.

Drew Martel with Foundation2 spoke about the Law Enforcement Liaison Program that helps when people are in crisis. Two positions in Cedar Rapids, hiring one for the Linn County Sheriff's Department, one with the Marion County Police, and one in the Benton County Sheriff's Department; with the intention to have 5 total. The liaison is essentially a crisis counselor embedded with the police and is a support to the officers. The liaison is located at the police station and can ride with officers and be dispatched by officers. This position is meant to be as flexible & accessible as possible. Duties include crisis & grief management, deescalate crisis situations, & divert people from the criminal justice system. The program has been expanded in the past 3 years including outreach to rural areas. Drew expressed some benefits of the program including community relations, inter departmental training/cross training and meeting the goal of diversion.

Todd Lange presented a Peer & Family update and provided a presentation of peer support services in our region, touching on the areas of family support, peer support, warm line, and wellness centers. Todd provided information on where and who is providing peer/family support. Some commonalities they are seeing is that Covid-19 and the Derecho has had an impact on providers, a combination of face to face and remote services has been offered, and the East Central and Eastern Iowa regions have peer/family support committees. Todd also spoke with some providers to learn about some updates within their organizations such as Abbe Health, Hillcrest, Plugged-In Iowa, and R Place. A chart of regional spending on family support over the past 5 years and numbers served was shown. Data on the number of workers in the peer support field, the Warm Line call volume, and wellness center information.

Diane was excited to announce an application was received for Peer & Family in Benton County. The application for Jenn Wolf, was sent to the committee for review prior to the meeting. Jenn shared her interest in joining the committee and her background that aligns with the goals of the committee.

M/S/C: Jenn Day and Brian Larkin recommend Jenn Wolf to the ECR Board for approval as the Peer & Family representative for Benton County on the Advisory Committee.

Brian Larkin requested an update on who is responsible for the waitlist times for waivers. Diane Brecht did reach out to the DHS office to see if someone would come speak to the committee. There has not been a return to her call, but Diane will continue to pursue.

Jenn Day requested the committee present to the Regional Governing Board a request to increase direct service provider wages or pay differential during the pandemic through funds that have been noted by the region such as the CARES Act funds. If reliable pay can be provided, people are more likely to stay in a job and the benefit is services improve. Diane Brecht will follow up with the MH/DS East Central Region CEO.

Public Comment: Jenn Wolf spoke of a house file for home health aides and trying to get language in to include personal care attendant's and DSP's. Also, a care resolution to give framework to build a better care infrastructure in Iowa.

Todd Lange shared information that Amerigroup has a housing flex fund program that is rolling out in Linn County in partnership with HACAP. The idea is flexible short term housing funding for those experiencing crisis. Todd plans to keep the committee updated, as this is a relatively new program, and may roll out to other communities.

Todd Lange also mentioned that the University of Iowa is going to provide an adult peer support training in April. The Department of Human Services has a new contact that is out for peer support training and will announce who will be completing the training moving forward. This will also include recovery coaching for substance abuse.

Jan Heidemann thanked Brian Larkin for reaching out to Jenn Wolf to join the committee.

Diane Brecht will update the committee on the Regional Governing Board decision to move back to in person meetings that will be a discussion at the meeting today.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 25th, 2021