

The March 25th, 2021 Mental Health/Disability Services of the East Central Region Governing Board meeting was brought to order at 1:02 pm. The meeting was located at 601 Grant Street, Manchester, IA and by Zoom.

Board Members: GARY BIERSCHENK BENTON CO | DUANE HILDEBRANDT BREMER CO | DON SHONKA BUCHANAN CO - ALTERNATE | SHIRLEY HELMRICHS DELAWARE CO | ANN McDONOUGH DUBUQUE CO | JOHN GAHRING IOWA CO | PAT HEIDEN JOHNSON CO | NED ROHWEDDER JONES CO | BEN ROGERS LINN CO | DIANE BRECHT ADULT PROVIDER REP | JENN DAY ADULT & FAMILY PEER REP | AMY GRASK CHILDREN'S PROVIDER REP (ABSENT) | MELISSA O'BRIEN CHILDREN'S EDUCATOR REP (ABSENT) | ANGELA ZIMPHER PARENT REP (ABSENT)

M/S/C: Rohwedder & Rogers to approve the February minutes of the Regional Governing Board meeting.

No conflict of interest regarding agenda items.

Diane Brecht presented an Advisory Committee report. Presentation from ARC on Project SEARCH to assist individuals with disabilities to find employment. Mae Hingtgen also reviewed and asked for feedback on the ECR Priority Initiatives. Jan Heidemann presented the Annual Service & Budget Plan with revisions that will be presented to the ECR Board. An application for a committee vacancy for a peer in Benton County, Jean Ohlen, was reviewed. The Advisory Committee recommends to the RGB to appoint Jean Ohlen to the committee. **M/S/C:** Bierschenk & Heiden to approve the appointment.

Rita Auritt, Senior Governance Advisor with BoardEffect presented on the BoardEffect platform for the board to be able to determine if they would like to use. No motion to move forward at this time.

Julie Davison requested approval of February claims in the total amount of \$1,436,300.21, with 6 quarterly reimbursements. Fund Balance Projects in the amount of \$147,196.81. CARES Expenditures in the amount of \$38.62. **M/S/C:** Rogers & Heiden to approve the February claims presented.

Deb Seymour-Guard requested approval of the February Financial Report. Regular operations revenue budget at \$20,587,010. Revenue received \$10,405,653 (50.5%). Overall budget is at 86% or 20% over budget due to CARES Act Funds. Expenditures total budget is \$21,253,510. Total all expenses is \$12,859,675 (61%) or 6% under budget. Regular operations budget is \$20,587,010 with expenses in the amount of \$9,002,492 (43%) or 24% under budget. Fund balance projects in the amount of \$666,500 with total expenses of \$1,788,494 (268%). Total CARES Act expenditures in the amount of \$2,068,689. Cash balance is \$11,130,676. **M/S/C:** Rogers & McDonough to approve the February Financial Report.

Deb Seymour-Guard requested approval of the 2nd quarter county reimbursements to Buchanan County in the amount of \$76,975.03 and Linn County in the amount of \$153,072.77. **M/S/C:** Gahring & Rogers approve the reimbursement.

Jan Heidemann requested payment of the Bremer County Fund Balance Project extension, a continuation of previously approved mental health counselors in the schools through end of school year 20/21 in the amount of \$2,500. **M/S/C:** Rogers & Bierschenk approve the payment.

The Jan Heidemann and the CEO presented the Annual Service and Budget Plan. Highlighted were the changes to the plan, including children's services, crisis stabilization, and access centers added. Items budgeted for these services was a recap of the budget approved last month. There are 2 items that need corrected:

- Page 14 - 1-5 beds & 6 and over beds ---- Limits/specifications/access standards; from Quality Assurance Coordinator to Utilization Review Coordinator.

- Page 21 - Supported Community Living (Daily) Limits/specifications/access standards; from Quality Assurance Coordinator to Utilization Review Coordinator.

M/S/C: Rohwedder & Bierschenk approve the plan and budget with two changes as noted that will be made.

Gary Grant provided a legislative update on 3 bills:

Senate File 461, related to the voting members of regional governance boards, amended and passed in the senate to confine voting of the region's expenditures to the Board of Supervisors. The only other amendment to be considered is the language about a county supervisors' designee.

Senate File 526, requiring access centers to be capable of secure commitments. More information was provided to the author of the bill explaining that the function of an access centers is more of a triage center to help avoid unnecessary commitments and visited an access center. It is planned to move forward with the bill but with a strike after amendment, which would remove all but the title. The senator that authored the bill is allocating over 2 million to the Department of Human Services for distribution to the regions for crisis services.

Senate Study Bill 1253 is very comprehensive tax bill. The sections that relate to mental health and disability services and the back fill. The money from the backfill will be completely eliminated. Reducing the mental health and disability services levy at the county level and would be a state general fund. Gary noted his comments to the subcommittee about the bill:

- Stable funding, 100% state funding does not mean more reliable.
- Structure may change for county officials as they would lose decision ability.

Gary also spoke about the process for this bill. Gary recommends registering opposed to the bill.

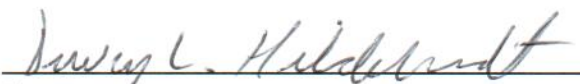
Motion made by Shonka and second by Rogers to have Gary register opposed to bill 1253 on behalf of the MH/DS of the East Central Region. The information presented was information only and the 2nd motion by Rogers was stricken. The East Central Regional Governing Board expressed no opposition to registering opposed and gave the CEO authority to advise Gary in registering the region for this bill.

Mae Hingtgen provided a CEO update on the following items, Priority Initiatives noting the progress from 2nd quarter to 3rd quarter for each tier. CARES Act Projects update on the funds currently approved to be spent. Mae touched on each area of funding and the outlook for the allocation for final numbers. The CEO provided some background on I-START, an organization that provides services for people with co-occurring disorders, a wraparound service, not direct care more like consultants. In 2019 the board approved a pilot project with I-START services. There have been some changes that have taken place since that time, including going without a designated coordinator for our region for many months. The CEO met with I-START to define some outcomes that need to be met. If outcomes were not met by December 2020 the region would not renew the contract. Mae was invited to a meeting to discuss the transfer of I-START as a team from CSS employees to Elevate (CCBHC). There is also a proposal to change the implementation, money from CCBHS, the money from the state that follows the person, and asking the regions to fund at a different structure, a .50 cent per capita from each region = \$300,000 for our region. If we do not move to this funding structure, we may be done. Mae will recommend to the board in April an action plan that best serves the people in our region.

Public Comment: None

The meeting adjourned at 3:22 PM. Minutes submitted by Chelle Klootwyk, Administrative Assistant

Board Chairman, Duane Hildebrandt


Signature