

The May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Mental Health/Disability Services of the East Central Region Governing Board meeting was brought to order at 1:00 pm. The meeting was located at 601 Grant Street, Manchester, IA and by Zoom.

Board Members: *GARY BIERSCHENK BENTON CO | DUANE HILDEBRANDT BREMER CO | GARY GISSEL BUCHANAN CO | 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 | MELISSA O'BRIEN CHILDREN'S EDUCATOR REP | ANGELA ZIMPHER PARENT REP*

A moment of remembrance was observed for Mechelle Dhondt, Former Regional CEO.

**M/S/C:** Bierschenk & Gissel to approve the May Regional Governing Board agenda.

**M/S/C:** Heiden & Rohwedder to approve the April minutes of the Regional Governing Board meeting.

No conflict of interest regarding agenda items.

Diane Brecht presented an Advisory Committee report with updates on the access centers. Highlights included 96 individuals in the Linn County Mental Health Access Center have been served in crisis stabilization since they opened, half were referrals from law enforcement and would have gone to jail or the emergency room if it had not been for the center and benefits are already being noticed. The sobering unit at GuideLink opened May 12<sup>th</sup>. Linn County has had 24 walk-ins served since opening a few weeks ago. Peer Support is also available at both centers. Service expansion is being worked on, but workforce is a huge barrier. The Advisory Committee has discussed guest speakers providing information on the ID wait list, a presentation will take place next month about federal regulations that may be a factor. The committee recommends continuation of in-person and virtual meetings to the RGB.

Julie Davison requested approval of April claims in the total amount of \$1,661,444.84. There was one quarterly reimbursement and Fund Balance Projects in the amount of \$68,705.95. CARES expenditures in the amount of \$231,174.40. **M/S/C:** Helmricks & Gissel to approve the April claims presented.

Deb Seymour-Guard requested approval of the April Financial Report. Regular operations revenue budget is \$20,587,010 with revenues at \$14,696,675 (71%). All counties were accessed their 4<sup>th</sup> quarter payment to the fiscal agent, and we will exceed 100% of budget. Total CARES Act expenditures are \$2,381,975. Fund Balance Project budget is \$666,500. Fund balance expenditures are \$1,924,591 (289%). Regular operations are at \$20,587,010 and has expenses at \$11,256,387 (55%). Cash balance is \$13,089,926. **M/S/C:** Rohwedder & Bierschenk to approve the April Financial Report.

Deb Seymour-Guard requested approval of the 3rd quarter county reimbursements:

- |            |             |           |              |        |              |
|------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|--------|--------------|
| ● Buchanan | \$65,223.28 | ● Iowa    | \$19,169.45  | ● Linn | \$144,553.18 |
| ● Delaware | \$87,201.31 | ● Johnson | \$172,871.38 |        |              |

**M/S/C:** Gahring & Rogers approve the reimbursements.

Ann Cameron Williams presented the MHAC of Linn County Contract for approval. All contract information was provided for consideration for FY21. A written report will be provided each time the Access Center Contracts are presented for renewal to the Regional Governing Board. **M/S/C:** Rogers & Heiden approve the contract for FY21.

Gary Grant along with the CEO presented the Heartland Strategies Contract for FY22.

**M/S/C:** McDonough & Rogers approve the contract.

Gary Grant provided a legislative update on Senate File 619 and Mae Hingtgen shared a summary of the changes. Gary spoke about the intent of the bill, to create a stable funding source through state general funds. Some Immediate implementations take place; eliminate the MHDS tax levy over a 2-year period. All county levies reduced to \$21.14 per capita for FY22 and \$0 beginning FY23. Gary states there are some questions that the bill does not clarify, including the elimination of the levy completely. The State contribution for FY22 will be \$15.86 per capita, about \$9.5 million to the ECR. In FY23 at \$0 levy it will be \$38 per capita, FY24 \$40, FY25 \$42. Beginning FY26 there is a growth factor indexed to sales tax growth to the state not to exceed 1.5% of the regional budget. A Regional Incentive Fund will be used if the fund balance is above 40% at end of FY22, the state will withhold payment until a region is at 40%. If a region is not at 40% the state will confiscate anything over that amount to go into the Incentive Fund. The language of the bill states "not to exceed" a levy of \$21.14. DHS will now be the approving authority for regional service plans and budgets and allows DHS to do performance-based contracting, with penalties if not met. Beginning July 1, 21, quarterly reporting is to be provided to the general assembly, including a summary of core services, accessibility, use of funding and any recommended improvements. A study by the DHS to evaluate the structure and operations is also to be presented to the general assembly and governor by December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Gary summed up the goal of this bill is to reduce the ability to levy property taxes to provide mental health and disability services.

Deb Seymour-Guard and Mae Hingtgen requested that the FY22 per capita levy rate approved at the January 2021 RGB meeting at \$30.20 be reconsidered due to the recently passed bill. All 9 counties set a rate higher than the allowed amount (\$21.14) required by the bill. Mae reiterated that the bill states up to the amount noted of \$21.14 and that FY22 is the only year that the region can set the levy rate. Mae shared a table of a fund analysis with options that the region has in light of this change, including a zero levy or at the \$21.14. A breakdown of the impact of a zero levy for each of the nine regional counties was reviewed. The bill mandates at the end of FY22 that all counties transfer funds to the regional services fund. Recommendation from the CEO and Finance Coordinator is to reduce the levy to \$0 per capita. **M/S/C:** McDonough & Heiden approve to table the decision for up to two weeks to allow more review. Roll call vote taken 5 to 5 failed, due to tie. **M/S/C:** Gissel & Rohwedder approve a recommendation to the nine counties to set a revised per capita at \$0 for July 1, 2021. Roll call vote taken 6 to 3 passed.

The CEO identified priority initiatives for FY22. Mae expressed the intention that the region continue to expand and improve services and these priorities will help to determine those areas. A chart was provided of ECR strategic goals, outcomes, and current realities. With feedback from Regional Coordinator's and the Advisory Committee these priorities were developed. Mae highlighted the priorities including suggested priorities which she has categorized into the 3 tiers similar to how they were categorized last fiscal year. **M/S/C:** Bierschenk & Gissel approve the Priority Initiatives for FY22.

Mae Hingtgen provided information on the Crisis Stabilization Community-Based Services Development. An RFP was issued in March and no proposals were received from providers. The region could reissue the RFP with some changes or the RGB could authorize the CEO and regional staff to work with providers to develop this service. **M/S/C:** Bierschenk & Heiden approve the CEO and regional staff to negotiate a contract for this service.

Mae Hingtgen provided CEO updates:

CARES Update – presentation of budgeted projects, funds spent to date, and remaining funds that are planned to be spent prior to the final deadline of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

MOU with Eastern Iowa Region for Designation of Access Centers – The Eastern Iowa Region would like to formally designate both the Linn and Johnson County Access Center for their region and provide funding for operational costs. Data will be monitored quarterly to see if an adjustment in funding is needed to meet the Eastern Iowa Region need.

Intensive Support for People with Co-Occurring Disorder – I-START has come back to the table to

offer this service at no charge until April 2022. Input on enrollment and services from the ECR would not be an option. Board consensus is to continue with the previously approved decision to hire an Applied Behavioral Analyst.

Future ECR Board Meetings – There will be a virtual option. June meeting will be in Linn County. The August meeting has a conflict with another regional event, a revised date will be considered at the June meeting.

Ann Cameron Williams gave an update on the task force for the America Rescue Plan Act. Formation of a task force was an action requested by the RGB last month. There have been 10 participation invitations sent and June 1<sup>st</sup> will be the first meeting. Ann asked that 2 members of the RGB attend, Ann McDonough and Ben Rogers will participate.

Public Comment: Todd Noack, Life Connections Peer Recovery Services in the Eastern Region, spoke about the operation of Iowa's first and only operation of a respite house. They have seen over 216 people in the last 2 years. He thanks the ECR and specifically Jan Heidemann for the use of a training facility for 5 new WRAP facilitators and Jan created a contract. WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Planning) has been lacking in the state. Peer Support Specialists should have their own WRAP plan. Many working do not have their own WRAP Plan. You do not have to be a Peer Support Specialist to be a WRAP facilitator. WRAP is great for mental health but can benefit your daily life. Expressed thanks for support of these facilitators.

The meeting adjourned at 3:43 PM.

These minutes were approved by the Regional Governing Board



Signature

Board Chairman, Duane Hildebrandt



Signature

Submitted by: Chelle Klootwyk, Administrative Assistant