

ECR Adult Advisory Committee Notes
September 23, 2021, 11:00 AM

Committee Members Present: Diane Brecht, Cody Brinkman, Jenn Day, Elley Gould, Jessica Gulick, Stacie Lane, Carrie Merrick, Theresa Graham Mineart, Theresa Phillips, Jenn Wolff.

Welcome and introductions – Jan Heidemann completed roll call

Due to not having a quorum present in person, no action will be taken today and there will notes taken, not minutes.

Todd Lange provided a Peer & Family update - Todd noted that all are welcome to be on the Zoom just prior to the Advisory Committee meeting every month. Eastern Iowa region peer support committee update from Todd Noack. Life Connections has been providing WRAP trainings. The Adult and Family Peer Support Committee is willing to assist the ECR committee working on the utilization of Peer Support services. The University of Iowa has a website showing the training opportunities available for Peer Support Specialists.

Mae Hingtgen presented the ECR Service Development and Expansion Plan and provided a quick review of SF 619 implications for regions. Regions are committed investing in Service Development and Expansion, especially this fiscal year with the additional funding that is available. After a provider network meeting this summer, the Regional Governing Board prioritized children's services, specifically prevention services, as well as overall prevention services. During the August Regional Governing Board meeting, the board recommended the additional \$6 Million above the regular budget of \$23 Million that was set in March. There will be a re-evaluation in January. There are 9 areas that the region is focusing on. Workforce Development \$1.5 Million; Crisis Services (Mobile Outreach Coordinator for Children) \$500,000; Public Outreach (grant-like programs to brain health providers) \$200,000; Operational Supports for Providers \$750,000; Technology Enhancements for Providers \$1 Million; New Services for Complex Needs (IRSH-Intensive Residential Service Home and CSCBS-Crisis Stabilization Community Based Services) \$750,000; Services for those with co-occurring disorders (ID-Intellectual Disabilities or Developmental Disabilities/Brain Health or Substance Use Disorders/Brain Health) \$300,000; Residential Stability (transitional setting) \$750,000; and Transportation (especially for rural areas and nights and weekends across the region) \$250,000. Theresa Graham-Mineart asked when the money must be spent by; 6/30/2022 although Mae is still waiting for DHS and Department of Management to agree on the definition of "encumbrance" and how that may work). Diane encouraged the region to make the process for applying simple, like the CARES Act applications were. Jenn Day appreciative of transportation being expanded. Theresa also commented that many of the other items hinge on the workforce shortage issue and how it may be more than a one-year need. Mae acknowledged that even though this year's funding may end, it doesn't mean the region can't keep looking at this. Diane brought up that covering startup costs is great but then providers need to be able to sustain the service and the same with workforce; there needs to be the ability to sustain the workforce. Diane noted that we want to keep our money at home because we have needs in our own region and we should exhaust our funds by having people in our region benefit. Carrie asked if programs could be sustainable after June 30, 2021. Mae answered that IRSH and CSCBS are billable to Medicaid and should be self-sustainable. The formula the state has instituted for fund balances includes the ability to invest some, although not as much as this year, for 2 more years. Diane noted that this is hopeful information and that this is somewhat of a 3-year plan so that there can be data gathered to show to the legislators the use and to advocate continued funding. A question was posed if streamlining hiring process might be an appropriate use of the technology enhancements. The committee working on this process does have software on the list of acceptable expenses.

Committee Updates: Out of Johnson County, a comment that people are cognizant of mask wearing as university students have returned. There was \$850,000 of CARES Act funds returned to the state. Of that, there was \$250,000 that was set aside for a possible research study through the University of Iowa on the effects of the pandemic on youth 18-24 as they are a population that was severely impacted by the pandemic's social and emotional tolls. The governor had to approve of the funding of the research and it appears that she will, although the funding may now be part of the American Rescue Plan instead of CARES Act. Jenn Wolff reported on a Whitehouse Roundtable that is happening today at 4 PM through Upgrade Medicaid. Please join if you can. Information will be on the ECR website. Jenn Day reported that there was a change in procedure with Social Security Administration that allows someone that applies for a waiver of student loans due to receiving disability be able to have their student loans forgiven rather than having to reauthorize their disability status multiple times. Theresa Graham-Mineart said she is watching the Executive Order closely as billers of Medicaid and Medicare will be required to have their workforce vaccinated. This will again play into the workforce shortage issue. Cody asked if providers can stockpile rapid tests for those that are exempted from the vaccine. Mae believes that providers could ask for funding for that. ECR staff will research whether attendance at this meeting can be hybrid and still be considered a quorum as some cities (Williamsburg) are allowing for that. Is there a different time of day that will work better for this meeting as some people are not able to leave their job during the day to attend. This will be added to next month's agenda.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 28th 2021