

The November 30th, 2021, Mental Health/Disability Services of the East Central Region Governing Board meeting was brought to order at 1:10 pm. The meeting was located at Kirkwood – Linn County Regional Center, 1770 Boyson Rd., Hiawatha, IA 52233 and by Zoom.

Board Members: *GARY BIERSCHENK BENTON CO (ABSENT) | 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 (ABSENT) | 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 (ABSENT) | ANGELA ZIMPHER PARENT REP (ABSENT)*

**M/S/C:** Gahring & Heiden to approve the November Regional Governing Board agenda.

**M/S/C:** Gahring & McDonough to approve the October minutes of the Regional Governing Board meeting.

No conflict of interest regarding agenda items.

Diane Brecht presented an Advisory Committee update on the meeting today where the FY21 ECR Annual Report was presented with a recommendation to move the report forward. Workforce was noted as a high legislative priority, along with Peer Support. There was also discussion on the Provider Operational Supports and Technology Enhancement applications, very helpful and responsive in applying for the funds.

Julie Davison requested approval of October claims in the amount of \$1,041,528.89, with fund balance projects in the amount of \$19,840.48. There were six quarterly reimbursements.

**M/S/C:** Gahring & Helmricks to approve the October claims presented.

Deb Seymour-Guard requested approval of the October Financial Report: October revenues regular operations \$18,451,633. Revenues for the month of October \$2,578,116. Total revenues are \$11,118,950 (53%), 28% higher than last year. Fund Balance Projects are \$4,798, a total of \$1,361,694. Overall revenues are 60%. Expenses regular operations are at \$22,517,570. For the month of October expenses were \$1,018,783 with year to date in the amount of \$4,583,258 (20%), overall 13% below budget. Fund Balance Project budget is \$525,872 with October expenditures in the amount of \$22,746, totaling \$190,677 year to date (36%), overall 8% below budget. Fiscal Agent cash balance is \$19,077,109.

**M/S/C:** Gahring & Heiden to approve the October Financial Report.

Deb Seymour-Guard presented the FY21 County Accrual Reimbursement Request to Buchanan County for \$13,797.71.

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

Deb Seymour-Guard presented the FY22 1<sup>st</sup> quarter payment to the counties, \$85,974.20 to Delaware County.

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

Deb Seymour-Guard presented the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter payment to the fiscal agent in the amount of \$12,114.52 to the Johnson County Auditor. 484 checks written with interest earned in the amount of \$17,913.23.

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

Ann Cameron Williams presented the Dubuque County Fund Balance Projects request in the total amount of \$1,039,369. Eight organizations were presented with an explanation of each project and amount requested.

**M/S/C:** Rogers & Heiden approve the payment for the Dubuque County Fund Balance Projects.

Peggy Petlon presented nine Delaware County Fund Balance Projects in the total amount of \$385,000. An explanation was provided of each project request, including amounts.

**M/S/C:** Rogers & Gahring approve the payments for the Delaware County Fund Balance Projects.

Jan Shaw presented a Johnson County Fund Balance Project request for GuideLink in the total amount of \$713,000 for unreimbursed mental health expenses, electronic health records system, and marketing.

**M/S/C:** Rogers & Gahring approve the payments for the Johnson County Fund Balance Projects.

Marilyn Austin presented the Iowa County Fund Balance Project requests in the total amount of \$259,165. Requesting \$79,000 for mental health counselling in the 4 schools in the county, Therapeutic classroom in Williamsburg School (\$69,000), and for the REA (\$111,165).

**M/S/C:** Rogers & McDonough approve the payments for the Iowa County Fund Balance Projects.

Ben Rogers presented an update to a previously approved Linn County Fund Balance Project switching from a Linn County Board of Supervisors project to a project directly with the consultant, Collective Clarity, to contract with the region, for the Children's Assessment Center strategic planning.

**M/S/C:** Rogers & McDonough approve the adjustment for the Linn County Fund Balance Project.

Jan Heidemann provided a review of the FY21 Annual Report with highlights on what has been accomplished in the region this the year. Deb Seymour-Guard provided an update on the revenues, there are still a few counties that have not provided all the financial detail needed. Accrual fund balance is at \$20 million dollars. Administrative total for the year was \$2,432,429. The county levies total is \$18,907,715. Mae noted that in July when the financials were reviewed for the impact of SF619, the estimated amount of the ending fund balance was \$21,356,000 and the total now is very close. This was the goal set to keep funds local.

**M/S/C:** Gahring & Rogers approve the FY21 Annual Report.

Deb Seymour-Guard presented the FY21 Eide Bailly contract for auditing services in the total amount of \$15,800 for the regular audit with a 3% increase from last year, including an additional amount for the audit of federal awards which was the CARES Act funds.

**M/S/C:** McDonough & Heiden approve the FY21 contract and payment to Eide Bailly.

Mae Hingtgen provided the Performance Based Contract with Iowa DHS which is a requirement from the DHS. The only concerns with the contract were the boiler plate language. There were a few minor changes made to this language and the regional attorney recommends signing the contract. There is a penalty section of the contact that offers many options to become compliant and the CEO also approves recommendations to approve the contact.

**M/S/C:** Gahring & Helmricks approve the contract with DHS.

Mae Hingtgen presented the certification of the FY21 fund balance to the Department of Human Services in the amount of \$21,356,850 (cash, not accrual). The certified document is for the legislators interested in knowing how much regions have in the fund balance to be able to estimate how much will be reverted to the incentive fund.

**M/S/C:** Heiden & Helmricks approve the certification of the FY21 fund balance.

Legislative priorities were highlighted by Gary Grant and Mae Hingtgen with a focus on workforce issues. Each of the three priorities identified included background and recommendations.

- 1) Reduce barriers to availability of Direct Support Professionals and other mental health professionals.
- 2) Direct the state's managed care organizations to develop more sustainable rates, a more streamlined billing process, and quicker certification of providers
- 3) Allow the MH/DS Regions to sustain a fund balance of 10% for FY24 and beyond.

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

Workforce Taskforce report and recommendations were provided by Mae Hingtgen. The committee Utilized the 8-Step Process for Leading Change by Dr. John Kotter. Mae provided an overview of how the team worked through each of the eight steps. Short term and long-term planning were reviewed. The committee recommends:

- The region invests \$1,000,000 in ECR contracted providers who have services that fall under the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise ARPA plan.
- Incentives for providers to encourage staff to go through DSP certificate program (\$50,000)
- Incentives for providers to accept student interns (\$40,000)
- Public relations campaign about the value of human services careers (\$200,000)
- DSP Certificate or Psychopharmacology program startup costs (\$100,000)
- Scholarship for 3 PHD psychologists to participate in Drake Psychopharmacology Program (\$110,000)

A total budgeted amount of \$1,500,000 with some activities that may need to be sustained.

**M/S/C:** Gahrng & Helmrichs approve the Workforce Taskforce report and recommendations.

Mae Hingtgen provided the CEO updates beginning with acknowledgement of all the county fund balance projects approved today totaling 2.3 million dollars and an introduction of the Children's Navigator, Rashell Amos. FY22 Development and Expansion review included the budgeted amounts and current figures. Next steps would be to review if more funds need to be added and a regional budget amendment. Finance sub-committee update including the regionalization of staff was brought forth for discussion. Mae Hingtgen provided some information on what it would take for this process to happen. Duane Hildebrandt thought this may be a good opportunity to have a RGB work session. Ann McDonough brought up the need to look at ways to streamline and make efficiencies within the region. Shirley Helmrichs cautioned the creation of another layer of government and expressed that she is in support of reviewing efficiencies. Pat Heiden supports a work session but wanted to go on record that Johnson County does not support the regionalization of employees. Dates for a work session will be established after the first of the year. The ECR and Member County MOU was reviewed, with a few suggestions to the language in item 14 to change from the counties should to shall. Item 17 to be omitted for further discussion and evaluation.

The Board Chair opened discussion on ARPA updates. Mae Hingtgen requested that counties approving any brain health and disability service projects that could impact the regions operational budget would be shared with the region.

Public Comment: None

The meeting adjourned at 3:18 PM.

These minutes were approved by the Regional Governing Board.



Signature

Board Chairman, Duane Hildebrandt



Signature

Submitted by: Chelle Klootwyk, Administrative Assistant