

The February 23rd, 2023, 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 Kirkwood – Linn County Regional Center, 1770 Boyson Rd., Hiawatha, IA 52233 and by Zoom.

Board Members: GARY BIERSCHENK BENTON CO | DEWEY HILDEBRANDT BREMER CO | DAWN VOGEL BUCHANAN CO | SHIRLEY HELMRICHS DELAWARE CO | ANN McDONOUGH DUBUQUE CO | JONATHAN DEGEN IOWA CO | ROD SULLIVAN 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 (ABSENT) | ANGELA ZIMPHER PARENT REP (ABSENT)

M/S/C: Bierschenk & Rohwedder to approve the February Regional Governing Board agenda with the removal of the item for Jenn Day – Peer Technical Assistance Services contract for further review.

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

No conflict of interest regarding agenda items.

Jan Heidemann presented the Conflict-of-Interest Policy and Disclosure Statement. The Disclosure Statement is signed annually and if other conflicts come up throughout the year it would be noted at the beginning of the board meetings. This will be sent to all ECR staff electronically.

M/S/C: Sullivan & Rogers to approve the Conflict-of-Interest Policy and Disclosure Statement.

Diane Brecht presented an ECR Advisory Committee update with a lengthy discussion on the Mathematica report completed for HHS. Further discussion by the committee will be needed at the March meeting. Mae Hingtgen shared updates: an RFP issued, proposed eligibility changes to crisis services and crisis service expansion in the region. A statewide CEO committee working to develop a formula that could be used to fund empty beds. A need to develop services to move people out of beds into the community and intensive residential homes. The ECR Advisory recommends an application for Steve Miller as and At Large Representative to the ECR Advisory Committee.

M/S/C: Sullivan & Rogers to Steve Miller to the ECR Advisory Committee.

Julie Davison requested approval of January claims in the amount of \$925,539.48.

M/S/C: Rogers & Sullivan to approve the January claims presented.

Deb Seymour-Guard presented the January Financial Report including total revenues at \$100,158, with YTD total of \$17,488,098 (75%) of that total \$2,936,201 are attributed to County Fund Balances received after June 30th, 2022. Deb noted 5-year revenue trends. Regular operations expenses for January were \$917,229 (40%). The 5-year expense trends were shared with a breakout of expenses by group type, HHS category, and service type. Cash revenues less cash expenses equal a net cash of \$5,836,614 a change in position from 12/31/22, a decrease of \$817,071. Fiscal Agent cash balance at \$22,358,714.

M/S/C: Rohwedder & Bierschenk to approve the January Financial Report.

Deb Seymour-Guard and Mae Hingtgen shared the FY24 Draft Budget Presentation 7/1/23 through 6/30/24. Available funds are based on the population and a chart showing the change in population from FY20 to FY24 was shared. Deb recapped the projected FY23 fund balance with a current approved budget of \$29,414,204 and ending fund balance target of \$5,285,253, with fund balance scenarios shown. Revenue changes over the last 5 years was broken down. County reimbursement expenses for Social Workers, MH Advocates, and Administration has a total of \$6.28 per capita. The FY24 proposed expense budget by disability group, HHS category, and ECR Strategic Plan goal areas were reviewed.

Mae Hingtgen highlighted long term solutions to invest in the region's system meaningfully and strategically focusing on areas of community integration, prevention, and children's services. A FY25 outlook for startup and service development was outlined to reduce the budget by \$2.5 million with further reduction ideas in the areas of prevention, RCF fees, and public education. There was a robust conversation on the funding for the regional Access Centers. The regional Finance Coordinator provided funding amounts verses amounts billed to the region by the Access Centers, noting there is still unspent funds that can be utilized. The CEO shared a history of support of the Access Centers. Direction from the board is to finalize the budget in support for sustainable projects and consider financial support for medication in jails, with consideration to begin budget planning sooner.

Deb Seymour-Guard provided a draft of a Credit Card Policy for the region. This will allow the region to acquire regional credit cards for the purchase of regional expenses. Only three cards would be issued based on regional job positions. Johnson County is the Fiscal Agent for the region and would obtain the cards on behalf of the region. There would be a review of purchases by the regional Finance Coordinator and a designee of the Fiscal Agent to protect against fraud or misuse.

M/S/C: McDonough & Day to approve the Credit Card Policy as presented.

Deb Seymour-Guard discussed the FY22 Eide Bailly Audit Engagement & Process Letters prior to completion of the audit.

M/S/C: Bierschenk & Rohwedder to approve the board chair to sign the letter of engagement and process.

Jan Heidemann & Mae Hingtgen presented the regional MOU with member counties, with review and suggestions from each county attorney and the regional attorney. These will be sent to each county for final review and signatures.

M/S/C: Sullivan & Vogel to approve the regional MOU with member counties as presented.

Peggy Petlon presented contracts, MOUs, and a rate sheet for the following providers and services:

- Fresh Start Ministries MOU – Staff Support and Programing
- Inside Out MOU – Staff Support and Programming
- Catholic Charities MOU – Staff Support and Programming
- Jenn Day Contract – Peer Technical Assistance Services – tabled.
- Tanager Place Rate Sheet – Multi Systemic Therapy

M/S/C: Sullivan & Rogers to approve the contracts, MOUs, and rate sheet as presented with Jenn Day contract for Peer Technical Assistance Service to be tabled for further review.

Kelly Zepeda, Mental Health Access Center, and Law Enforcement Liaison Program Manager from Foundation 2 shared information on the Law Enforcement Liaison Program. She identified areas in the region that currently have this program, noting some new additions in the Marion Police Department and the Dubuque County Sheriff. She shared how they bridge the divide between mental health and law enforcement highlighting all the ways they have helped. A Co-Responder Conference is planned in 2023 that several of the LE Liaisons will be attending.

The CEO provided updates:

An invitation to bid for Data Analytics was issued to all regional county IT departments with two received. The Johnson County bid was selected and will be presented at a future RGB meeting for consideration. Mae Hingtgen also presented FY23 Projects including revisions based on feedback from last month's meeting with updates to the project area and amounts.

Public Comment:

Dave Thielen – Director of Linn County Community Services - offered suggestions for public comment and RGB packet.

Staci Meade - Finance Director for Linn County Community Services - provided context on the financial information regarding the access center.

Dawn Schott – Director of Juvenile Detention & Diversion Services Linn County - appreciative of support for medication in jails and provided history for juvenile medication for kids in detention centers.

Kathy Johnson - Abbe Center – thankful for recognition of good services at the access centers. Excited to hear work on the reallocation of funding for access centers, changes to income eligibility, and the creation of a formula to fund unfilled beds.

Abbi Ferenzi – Director Guidelink Center – appreciate the conversation about the access centers, more analysis of unspent funds and reallocation of funding to managing entity. Shared a positive story about access center use.

Todd Lange – Amerigroup – shared the great work in the region that is being done to support the peer support.

The meeting adjourned at 3:42 PM.

These minutes were approved by the Regional Governing Board.



Signature

Dewey Hildebrandt, Board Chairman



Signature

Submitted by: Chelle Klootwyk, Administrative Assistant

ATTACHMENT

Per the request of the Regional Governing Board on 3/23/24 provided by Ben Rogers regarding the FY24 Draft Budget Presentation.

-Discussion by regional CEO on exploring spending up to \$100k on tablets for individuals with brain health issues who frequently do not make it to appointments. The regional CEO and staff discussed these tablets are not connected to the internet, cannot download apps and can only be used for the purpose of connecting with a provider. Regional CEO stated she became aware of an organization in Oklahoma who utilize these tablets. ECR board members asked CEO and staff what happens if tablet is lost, stolen or sold? Feedback from ECR board members were not in favor of exploring new spending on tablets. CEO also discussed new services for a co-occurring brain health and substance use disorder facility.

-Concern was expressed by ECR board members regarding the proposed appropriations of \$1,250,000 to each of the regional access centers. ECR board members representing Linn and Johnson Counties discussed these appropriation amounts were far below the proposals submitted by Linn County and Guidelink to maintain current operations and expansion to 24/7 services. ECR board members asked CEO how the funding amounts were determined.

-Regional CEO discussed HHS is pressuring regional CEO's to create statewide uniformity for mental health access centers. Supervisors Sullivan and Rogers stated waiting for other regions in the state who have different population and needs is not in our best interest as a region. Supervisor Sullivan gave an example of not wanting to wait for Creston, Iowa to get up to speed to our region.

-Supervisor McDonough discussed the need to support existing access centers and the need for an access hub in Dubuque County. McDonough stated she would not have voted in favor of approving the draft budget as presented if it was the final budget.

-Supervisor Rogers inquired if the region could start budgeting earlier in the early so we have more than two meetings to review, discuss and vote on a budget.