

ECR Adult Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2023, 11:00 AM

Committee Members Present: Diane Brecht, Cody Brickman, Jenn Day, Stacie Lane, Braxton Morrison, Jean Ohlen, Theresa Phillips, Janae Schmitt, Jenn Wolff, and Lowell Yoder.

Welcome and introductions.

Roll Call – Chelle Klootwyk

Review and approval of prior meeting minutes.

M/S/C: Phillips and Ohlen approved the April meeting minutes.

Todd Lange presented a Peer & Family update sharing information from around the region with Club 520 and Abbe numbers back up to pre-COVID numbers. The Warm Line continues to have a high call volume of over 1,300, with 300 from this region. R Place has a remote peer support that is statewide, also providing the only statewide hearing voices special messages group. A representative from Hillcrest spoke of virtual reality use as a wellness tool. Wrap Recovery in Dewitt will continue to train wrap facilitators. Discussion on an upcoming topic about substance use for peer support.

ECR staff presented regional updates on some marketing going on regionwide to promote brain health, including healthcare workers and teens. A brain health article written by the CEO was published this week in several local newspapers. ECR staff are wearing shirts in support of Mental Health Awareness Month.

Gary Grant provided a regional legislative update with some of the information on the budget from HHS still being finalized. The ECR priorities centered on increasing provider rates and workforce challenges. Highlighting some bills that passed:

- HF183 – requirements for a prescribing psychologist or a psychologist with a conditional prescription certificate.
- HF274 – increase funding for psychiatry residency and fellowship program.
- HF424 – reduce the amount of supervision by a physician of physician assistants.
- HF602 – crisis hotline phone and text number publication on public school student identification cards.
- HF709 – federal block grant spending. Monitoring for greater opportunities to address co-occurring disorders.
- SF561 – \$13 million for support of brain health services.
 - \$3 million for mental health service rate – 85% benchmark
 - \$7 million for mental health therapy provider rates
 - \$3 million for substance abuse provider rates
 - \$5.5 million HCBS waiver

The Brain Health language change verses mental health did not pass. Recommendation is for the community and those working in healthcare to embrace and utilize the language change. Gary explained that some of the language he used with legislators about rural services in Iowa is the need to reflect rates that will support keeping pace with inflation and competitive pay for staff.

Discussion on future agenda items:

- Substance use presentation.
- Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers in the state panel discussion.

- Quality and measurement of services.
- Explore how to foster a culture of mental wellness in our organizations.
 - EMS professionals
 - Veterans Affairs
- Cerebral Inebriate Program.
- Children’s Advisory Committee joint meeting.
- Chronic illness and aging services impact on behavioral health.
- Expanded peer support offerings.
- Law Enforcement Liaisons.

Committee Vacancies/Applications/Appointments/Re-appointment with vacancies for a provider in Jones and Benton County. Peer and Family vacancies in Dubuque, Buchanan, and Delaware.

Committee Updates:

Diane Brecht shared people in her organization are now trained in Teen Mental Health First Aid and starting the program at West Delaware High School.

Janae Schmidt shared that Crescent Community Health Center is expanding dental services in Dubuque and offer care coordination.

Todd Lange is on the Mental Health Planning Council, an advisory committee to HHS. A committee has been formed for the Block Grant application. Years prior there were separate applications for mental health and substance use, but this year is combined, supportive of co-occurring. Some block grant recipients in our region are the University of Iowa, NAMI R Place, and Iowa Peer Network.

Jen Day would like to support the continuation in FY24 of the FY23 Priority Initiative to effectively facilitate an evaluation of the continuum of services in the region are “right sized” to support access.

Public Comment: None

Marilyn Austin shared that her husband had a successful liver transplant, and all went well, which is the reason she could not be in attendance today.

Diane Brecht announced that Cody Brinkman is getting married this weekend and he was congratulated on this good news.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 PM.