

The December 14, 2022, Mental Health/Disability Services of the East Central Region Children's Advisory Committee meeting was brought to order at 9:30am. The meeting was located by zoom.

Board Members present: Mae Hingtgen ECR CEO, Tammy Wetgen-Kesterson/ Early Childhood Iowa, Vicki Ries/ Childcare Provider, Melissa Paulsen/Provider RISE, Robin Murphy/Provider Tanager Place, Participants: Tracy Liebermann/Grant Wood AEA, Melissa Lammers IDHHS, Sherri Hunt/ Early Childhood Iowa, Amy Gosnell/Families Inc, Jody Bridgewater/ ECR, Jan Heidemann/ECR, Marilyn Austin/ECR.

Welcome and Introductions.

Mae Hingtgen presented the group with East Central Region Updates. This included the Legislative Priorities for 2023. This document is on the website for viewing. The priorities included focus on workforce issues, allowing regions to have a fund balance of 10% versus the mandate of 5%, and to integrate Substance Abuse and Brain health co-occurring funding structure.

Mae Hingtgen presented the ECR Annual Report which is also listed on the website for viewing. It was noted that Children's Crisis Stabilization Residential with Tanager Place hopes to still break ground in the next few weeks. This will be an 8-bed house.

Lucia Herman and Mae Hingtgen have been meeting with AEA's and Keystone on partnerships to get licensed mental health professionals into more schools. The desire is that they would hire this person themselves with our funding assistance and then present it to schools as they have close working relationships with the schools already. The ECR only received 2 requests when the opportunity was offered by us. The hope is partnering with AEA/Keystone will get this service into more schools.

Amy Gosnell with Families Inc presented. She explained the services they are offering to the ECR through partnership. The ECR is funding children/families -Building Family Strengths as well as Functional Family Therapy. BFS is a "fill the gap" in home program. The ECR funds everyone regardless of income for this service. FFT is a fee for service the child/family needs to complete an ECR application. There are 3 phases of this therapy, usually lasting 3-5 months.

Sherri Hunt with Early Childhood Iowa did a presentation on what ECI is. She represents Jones and Cedar Counties and works closely with Lucia to partner helping children. Early Childhood Iowa is about the first 2000 days of a child's life. There are 38 ECI area boards. Some services they fund are CART Childcare Alliance Response Team- working in childcare programs- assisting classrooms or individual children. Ages and Stages to help with early identification and Sesame Street in Communities. Sherri and Lucia are partnering on Sesame Street in Communities and getting families engaged with prevention and early identification.

Wrap up and the next meeting was scheduled for March 8, 2023.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00am