

June 14, 2023, 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: Amy Grask/Children's Provider Rep, Tammy Wetgen-Kesterson/ Early Childhood Iowa, Vicki Ries/ Childcare Provider, Linda Duffy/Provider Rep, Melissa Paulsen/Children's Provider Rep, Lucia Herman/ ECR Children's Coordinator and Mae Hingtgen ECR CEO.

Lucia Herman, ECR Children's Coordinator, presented **ECR Updates:**

An overview of youth services in the East Central Region was presented.

- -Outpatient therapy- this is also available in the juvenile detention center.
- -Medication prescribing and management, assessment, evaluation, and early identification (1 time)
- -Planning, consultation and/or early intervention (2- 15-minute units per month per child)
- -Prevention based Expressive arts- Tanager
- -Contract with Challenge to Change for yoga and mindfulness in schools as well as youth shelter. Offers skills to self-regulate. Live programming – 18 schools, Online programming – 4 schools, introductory lessons- 10 schools, 7 youth shelters.
- -Multi Systemic Therapy and Functional Family Therapy. May 1st Iowa HHS announced to establish Medicaid coverage for MST effective March 1. 2023. Currently the ECR is contracting with Tanager Place to provide this service.
- -Functional Family Therapy is an evidence-based family therapy that provides clinical assessment and treatment for youths and their families to improve communication, problem solving, and conflict management to reduce problematic behavior. Families Inc.
- -Building Family Strengths is provided by Families Inc. as well.
- (CSCBS) Crisis Stabilization Community Based Services
- Crisis Stabilization Residential Services
- -Mobile Crisis Response -designated children's coordinator at Foundation 2 and CommUnity.
- -prevention, outreach, social emotional learning skill development materials.
- -Training for schools and providers for brain health support are available.
- -Virtual Calming Room which can be accessed on our website ecriowa.org
- -To be eligible for the services described. The child must be physically in the state and a resident of Iowa. Children must have a diagnosis of serious emotional disturbance. Diagnosis is not needed for initial assessment appointments but is needed for follow up appointments.
- -A child who is eligible for federally funded services and other support must apply for such services and support. The ECR can provide funding for services while the child is in the process of applying for health insurance and other funding sources.
- -If a child is covered by insurance, the ECR can pay co-pays and deductibles. There are no resource guidelines for children's services. An eligible child whose family's countable household income is at least 150% and not more than 500% of the federal poverty level shall be subject to a cost share.
- -If a child does not have insurance; they need to apply for Hawk-I or Medicaid.

- The procedure to apply for children's services is available on the ECR website. The application is available to submit online or contact Lucia Herman, Rashell Amos to answer any questions.

ECR UPDATES-Continued:

Children's Crisis Stabilization Residential Services update:

- Tanager Place CCSR is in the process of getting furniture ordered. The permit to build arrived early April from the city. They are estimating it will take 7-8 months to build.
- Community Crisis Services will be our second CSRS provider for the East Central Region. Community will subcontract with United Action for Youth (UAY) to provide daily programming to youth admitted to CSRS. This will be in Iowa City.

-Behavioral Health Campership Grant opportunities- The ARC, and Tanager Place received funds to provide camp registration fees to children who qualify.

- Brain Health Retreat Room/ Brain Health Liaison update- The ECR assisted with funding in West Delaware Schools.

-ECR provided training: Resilient Suicide response- there was great attendance. Hope to do this annually.

-Summer outreach. Continue to collaborate with programs to utilize Sesame Street in Communities. Out-reach to daycares hopefully a new focus.

-Licensed Mental Health professionals in schools/ GWAEA and CareSolace

- Grant Wood will do a pilot project with Caresolace. They are schedulers that get agreements with outpatient therapists. They find openings which cut down wait time for kids from 3 months to 2 weeks. 8 school districts will pilot this project with financial assistance from the region. Buying 100 slots to guarantee kids get seen. Grant Wood will be the fiscal.
- We are waiting for a 28 E agreement with Keystone to hire 2 therapists to deploy to schools.

-Williamsburg school district requested support for the 2023-2024 school year for a Licensed Mental Health Professional that the ECR has assisted with funding.

-Funding opportunities were extended to school superintendents for brain health services reimbursement that the district incurred from 7/1/22 to 6/30/23. The goal was to offset the costs of the districts "At-Risk Budgets. 4 of the 6 larger districts schools did take advantage of this opportunity.

ECR UPDATES-Continued:

-Hygiene kit project: these have been distributed to our ACCESS centers, mobile crisis units, array of locations throughout 9 counties with plans to finish up areas this summer.

- ECR 2nd Children's Navigator hired: Nielie Schaeffer she will assist with school, children, and parents in Iowa, Johnson, and Linn Counties.

CEO Update-Mae Hingtgen discussed the HHS Omnibus bill which changes the composition of the Region Governing Board effective 7/1/23. Appointment of Children's Service Provider to the RGB is necessary. The majority committee voted that Amy Grask be appointed as the Children's Provider to serve as a Regional Governing Board member.

- Reminder we still need a parent or family member of a child with SEL on the board composition from Iowa or Jones.

-Mae Hingtgen presented the Financial- FY24 Annual Service and Budget Plan which can be viewed on the ecriowa.org website.

-Scheduled the next Children's Advisory Committee Meeting:

September 13, 2023. 9:30am by zoom. Meeting adjourned at 10:40am