

Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region
Governing Board of Directors Work Session
Scott County Administrative Center, Room 605
March 16, 2020

The MH/DS Governing Board of Directors Work Session was called to order at 3:01PM by Chair Beck. Beck, Irwin, Smith, Sorensen, Willey were present. Hilgendorf was absent. Smith left the meeting at 3:02PM and returned at 3:07PM. Management Team present: Lori Elam, Becky Eskildsen, Julie Tischuk, and Felicia Toppert. Lynn Bopes was absent. Fiscal Agent: David Farmer. Guests: Todd Noack, Angela Boelens, Beth Stoffers, Jim Martens, Tim Logsdon, Denise Beenck, Mary A. Petersen, Paul Phares, Jill Westhoff, Jordan Sheese

Moved by Willey, seconded by Sorenson to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes-Beck, Irwin, Sorenson, Willey. Absent-Smith

Chair Beck asked that those participating by phone at the meeting when asked to comment, please announce who is on the line and to mute the line during the meeting to reduce background noise. Chair Beck thanked everyone for understanding having a limited number of people present at the meeting and others participating by phone due to safety concerns regarding the COVID-19 virus.

CEO Lori Elam presented FY21 budget information to the Governing Board. Lori first went through a power point presentation explaining four budget options. The budgets ranged from \$7,533,747.00 to \$8,147,626.00. Lori noted that the four options do not look the same and will have different impacts on people and communities depending on which service(s) are included. Lori then talked about the budget options Plans A, B, C and D individually by reviewing what each plan included, the cost of the plan and what the possible impact will be if certain services are no longer funded. Lori pointed out that in past years we have created budgets that exceeded revenues, used fund balance (one time funds) to meet budget needs, trimmed every county budget, not budgeted funds for required crisis services – subacute beds, 23 hour crisis observation and holding, and the Region will be required to have a contract with another region/provider for Access Center services and intensive Residential Services (IRSH) by 7/1/21. With the current per capita of \$30.78, the FY21 budget has cuts and/or elimination of some safety net services, a reduction in funding for RCFs, a good portion of regional funds are spent in crisis services but there are more to service than just crisis, with the current budget situation it is impossible to plan for new services and there is very little fund balance to start the fiscal year. \$30.78 doesn't work for the Region. Discussion was held. Moved by Willey, seconded by Smith to move forward with Plan C and have the management team and Robert Young Center meet to discuss the figures in the budget line items, add peer drop in services back into the budget, determine if crisis stabilization and mobile crisis services can be provided at a lower cost and review the administrative costs to present at the March 30, 2020 Governing Board meeting. Ayes- Beck, Irwin, Smith, Sorensen, Willey

Other Items: The next Governing Board of Directors Meeting will be March 30, 2020 at 1:30PM.

Public Comment: Todd Noack would like to clarify which line items in the budget peer support services fall under and determine whether or not they are considered core services.

Rich Whitaker appreciates that the board has preserved the crisis system and needs to continue providing core services such as peer support services and crisis stabilization residential services. Rich does not want to see mobile crisis services reduced as well as crisis stabilization residential services reduced or cut. He hopes that new services in the Region will continue to be vetted and allowed to grow and operate at their maximum potential.

Mary Petersen would like to formally request that if Robert Young Center continues managing the crisis system, they would need to be able to negotiate contracts with the providers and take those contracts directly to the board for discussion and approval and the crisis system needs to get back to data driven decision making. She commented that the Region has drifted away from this practice.

Ed Askew asked to clarify Plan C. He wanted to make sure that if the board moves forward with that plan that peer drop in services stay in the budget and Robert Young Center would continue managing the crisis service system.

Angela Boelens wondered if a possible audit of the line items could take place of the FY21 budget. She spoke about utilizing an outcomes based program based on data provided to the Region and having an RFP process to negotiate contracts.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:59 PM

Dawn Smith, Secretary
Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region