

Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region
Governing Board of Directors Meeting
Scott County Administrative Center, Room 605
December 16, 2019

The MH/DS Governing Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 3:01PM by Chair Willey. Beck, Irwin, Mather, Smith, Willey, Hilgendorf & Whitaker were present. Management Team present: Lori Elam, Becky Eskildsen, Lynn Bopes, Julie Tischuk, and Felicia Toppert. Fiscal Agent: David Farmer. Guests: Todd Noack, Denise Beenk, Kelly Herd, Beth Stoffers, Ed Murphy, John Juhl, Carol Foster, Wade Stierwalt, Jen Tamayo, Matt Adamson, Jonathan Wilcox, Greg Burnett, Jill Westhoff, Representative Norlin Mommsen, Mary A. Petersen

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

Moved by Irwin, seconded by Beck for approval of minutes from the 11/18/19 Governing Board of Directors Meeting. Ayes- Beck, Irwin, Mather, Smith, Willey.

Supervisor Mather gave an update from Muscatine County regarding their position on paying the transfer money to the fiscal agent and whether or not Muscatine County will be leaving the Region earlier than 6/30/20. Supervisor Mather recapped what has taken place during the past couple of months. Areas of updates were: Muscatine submitted a letter to withdraw from the Region on November 4, 2019, a motion was made in November to remove Muscatine County from the Region 12/31/19 and was later tabled, Muscatine determined that they could not determine an actual cost of services for crisis services in the county and will need more time to determine the cost, they spoke with the Region's DHS Community Systems Consultant regarding spending money from Fund 10 as a standalone county and found that if they are not under a 28-E agreement with a region, the fund will be frozen. On 12/16/19 at the Muscatine Board of Supervisors Meeting, it was passed that they will defer their payment of transfer dollars to the Region in the amount owed until May 2020 when they will evaluate their fund balance to see if they have money to pay it. Areas of discussion: 1) Why didn't Muscatine County budget their transfer payment into their budget like everyone else back in March 2019, 2) The amount owed now is \$155,500, everyone else has paid and we expect them to pay on good faith and contribute to services that they are receiving in their county, 3) It was pointed out that Muscatine County didn't levy at the maximum amount due to an error made on their part and aren't able to capture the maximum levy dollars, 4) It isn't fair to the Region if Muscatine is allowed to stay and receive crisis services and not pay while the other counties are covering all of those costs that they should have budgeted for in the first place, 5) Is Scott County going to contribute more funds into the fiscal agent fund to equalize what other counties have contributed, 6) the board was told by Supervisor Mather in a previous meeting that Muscatine County needs to fulfill their obligations and pay the transfer money 7) Supervisor Mather contacted a provider on his own and scared that provider that Peer Support would be dropped with no notice causing the provider to panic and have anxiety. The provider responded to the board that Supervisor Mather should know better than to do this to a person when a decision to cut services hadn't even been made by the Governing Board. The provider stated he was called by the Supervisor and asked if he had received \$200,000 that he requested from the Region.

The provider stated he had not. Supervisor Mather then told the provider that peer support was going to be cut without any notification. Supervisor Mather claims he did not state those things the way it was being described 8) Supervisor Mather updated the board that he attended a management team meeting and wanted to share to the board that the team is not sharing all data with them to assist with board decisions regarding services and cost. Ken Beck proposed to have a special meeting to vote Muscatine out of the Region. Supervisor Mather asked that DHS be present at that meeting. Chair Willey noted Mather's request. All were in consensus to meet this week.

David Farmer, Fiscal Agent, presented the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances sheet ending 11/30/19 to the Governing Board. David reviewed the current statement and let the board know that the Region has collected \$4,988,670.00 in revenue through the levies and miscellaneous fees and has had \$4,237,138.00 to date in expenditures. David let the board know that he will be able to finalize FY19 numbers from each county using the figures submitted to the Department of Management on 11/30/19. David reviewed the Fund Flow Analysis-2nd Amendment with the board. David shared that the Fiscal Agent Fund analysis is indicating a negative balance of \$810,595.00. The deficit is related to the uncertainty of Muscatine Co. paying transfer dollars and contract utilization. David let the board know that in order to bring the Region fiscal fund balance to \$0, the board will need to consider requesting Scott County to contribute more than the planned per capita funding level for 2020, A potential transfer of \$885,000 from Scott Co. to the region would provide funds to the Fiscal Agent Fund and fund a return of funds to Clinton Co. to provide for ongoing services at the local level, and the transfer would project Scott County's fund balance at 10.66% of County plus regional expenditures. This would be an increase from the beginning of the fiscal year of a balance of \$433,125.00. Areas of discussion: 1) If Scott County contributes an extra payment to the Region how will that help to move toward equalization between the counties and get through the FY20 budget, 2) levy amounts for Jackson and Cedar most likely will remain at 50-70% to help bring their fund balance in line with 40%, 3) Clinton Co. most likely will need a draw from the Region to cash flow into FY21, 4) if the fiscal agent fund is at \$0 going into FY21 how will the administration and service costs be paid for until levy dollars are collected in September/October, 5) new services will not be added until there is funding available, 6) if cuts to services are done in one county then all counties must follow. Supervisor Mather asked that the agenda item of requesting Scott County to pay an additional transfer to the fiscal agent fund be added to the special meeting. Chair Willey noted the request. Moved by Mather, seconded by Irwin to approve and place on file the financial reports. Ayes- Beck, Irwin, Mather, Smith, Willey.

CEO Lori Elam presented Service Realignment Options to the Governing Board for possible action within the Crisis Services Contract. Lori reviewed the handout with the Board. Lori, David Farmer, RYC, and the management team have reviewed each line of the contract to see where there may be potential savings and what services can be paused. Those services are: 1) Remove Telehealth services- initially it was felt that this was a service that can be reduced or eliminated because the usage has been low. After discussing this with the hospitals and ED Care Coordinators, there was a large response to keep this in place. 2) Adjustments to Community Care Coordinators- all FTEs were looked at and determined that this needs to be studied further to determine if there can be sharing within the Region, etc. 3) a Co-Occurring Care Coordinator position in Clinton/Jackson Co.- this position has not been filled since 7/2019 and will not be filled at this time. 4) Crisis Hot Line- the State of Iowa has contracted with DHS

and the Department of Public Health to have a statewide crisis line. There is no cost to the Region for this line 5) Crisis Administration RYC- reduction to an 8% Management Fee proposed and Vera French's CMHC Crisis Stabilization Residential bed Admin fee will be reduced to 10%. Lori clarified Supervisor Mather's comment earlier regarding not sharing all data with the Governing Board. She let the board know that at that meeting RYC brought two versions of the metrics to work through and the one was not shared because that was a sample metric packet of what the system would look like with all of the cuts and how that impacts our data. Lori shared that she would recommend realigning options #3-6 with a savings of approximately \$190,000.00. The changes would be retroactive to the contract start date of 7/1/19. Discussion held. Moved by Smith, seconded by Mather to approve the FY20 Service Realignment Options #3-6 within the Crisis Services Contract. Ayes- Beck, Irwin, Mather, Smith, Willey.

Jill Westhoff, Robert Young Center, reviewed the November 30, 2019 Income Statement with the board. Jill reviewed with the board the following: Bridge Appointments will end this month and billing will wrap up in January 2020. In the Peer Support Drop In line item the regular payment was made to Life Connections, MCSA's total peer expenses for build out/startup/ operational were paid in November and they will need to budget accordingly for the remainder of the year. There will be no more funding for this available. This excludes salaries and benefits for them. Crisis Stabilization Residential expenses have been booked for November due to not receiving the invoices from them yet. Mary A. Petersen, Robert Young Center, presented the metrics to the board. Areas discussed: mobile crisis was used in each county and noted that 11 kids and 45 adults used the service, there were 9/89 out of Region committals- 5 adults and 4 children with one adult being appropriately placed while the rest left due to no bed availability, Peer Drop In Services saw 394 people for the month, 10 people were admitted to Crisis Stabilization Residential, regular meetings are scheduled with service providers to work together in the crisis system. Supervisor Irwin wondered if there could be a way to track the availability of stabilization beds and keep the referring providers aware on a regular basis. Mary let the board know that Foundation 2 is able to check in with the provider to get a bed count each day to know if that service is available for referrals. Discussion was held.

CEO Lori Elam presented the FY19 Annual Report for approval. Lori let the board know that it has been sent to DHS for review. They have received it back due to being off \$2 in the financial section. This was corrected. Areas Lori highlighted in the report: all of the regions have decreased fund balance from 122 million to 99 million, unduplicated paid claims saw an increase from 2457 in FY18 to 2644 in FY19, the unduplicated count of individuals increased in FY19 from 3547 to 4054, RCF service usage declined from 132 in FY18 to 121 in FY19, and some of the numbers reported in the report appear to be low for the service being provided. This is due to crisis services being utilized and paid for by the Region and not through the claim process in CSN. Lori let the board know that the report needs board approval, advisory board committee approval and then DHS approval. Discussion held. Moved by Beck, seconded by Irwin to approve the FY19 Annual Report. Ayes-Beck, Irwin, Mather, Smith, Willey

Lori presented the CEO Report to the board. Lori spoke about the Eastern Iowa MHDS Region at the Children's State MH Board meeting, she met with the DHS Director and a few Legislators regarding the struggle to pay for the Children's Mental Health Services when the Region has no money. She was able to share the story of the Region and how we have come to this point.

Lynne Hilgendorf and Richard Whitaker gave updates from the Advisory Committee to the Board. Lynne shared that the issues with MCOs continue with lack of case management, trying to get service authorizations in a timely manner, being denied payment, or not getting paid for many months at a time. Richard is taking information to the committees he is part of at the State level to let them know that agencies are struggling. Richard also shared that all agencies have to implement Electronic Visit Verification by 1/2021. It will record and track how providers are paid depending on the authorization of visits. There is concern that connections with the MCOs won't be in a timely manner and the visits/payments will be denied. The State is seeing more and more people aging in placements and need a higher level of care that Medicare is not prepared for causing the funding to fall back on the Region.

Other Items:

Chair Willey let the board and the public know that the Special Governing Board of Directors Meeting will be this Friday, December 20, 2019 at 10:30AM.

Public Comment:

Matt Adamson let the board know that it saddens him that funding is strapped for Peer Drop In services. He has accessed peer support respite and found that to be very beneficial in helping to get him back on track by linking him to needed services in the community. He shared that he did not receive any benefit from being in the hospital.

Todd Noack shared that through the month of October, Rhonda's house has served 102 people. 86 of those people were from the Region with 16 being from other Regions. 7 of the total people are duplicated. Todd also let the board know that the Region has WRAP facilitators available.

Jonathan Wilcox shared he has been a guest at Rhonda's House and felt that spending 10 days in the hospital was a waste of time. There was no therapy or evaluation of medications and doctors never took the time to talk with him and help him. While he was at Rhonda's House he had peers to talk with who have lived the experience. He understands that the Region has issues to deal with but the board should keep in mind that the people are not just numbers. They are human beings.

CEO Lori Elam reminded everyone that the next Governing Board of Directors meeting will be January 13, 2020 at 3:00PM.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:33PM

Dawn Smith, Secretary
Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region