

Eastern Iowa MH/DS  
Regional Advisory Committee Meeting  
Handicapped Development Center  
October 22, 2018

I. Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 pm by CEO Elam.

Members Present: CDS Eskildsen; CDS Tischuk; CDS Anderson-Noel; Lynne Hilgendorf; Luanna Gredell; Melissa Peterson; Rich Whitaker; Susie Ruchotzke; Holly Parmer, Catherine Hahn

Members Absent: Tina Harper; Lynn Bopes; Jack Willey; two vacancies

Guests: Tania Deal-ACT Team Lead from Vera French CMHC

CEO Elam noted member Tina Harper, representative from Scott County has asked to be excused from this Board citing obligations.

II. Review Agenda:

Nothing was added or deleted. Motion made by Melissa Petersen and second by Holly Parmer. No Discussion.

III. Presentation by Vera French Mental Health Center in regard to ACT:

Member Richard Whitaker and ACT Team Lead, Tania Deal, presented to the Advisory Board members what ACT is and how it can impact our Region. ACT stands for Assertive Community Treatment. Typical treatment, per Whitaker, is for an individual to seek services at a center, go to an appointment and then schedule another. ACT fills the void for those slipping through the cracks- individuals that are sometimes unable to keep employment, resistive to treatment, have housing issues etc. ACT services are rendered in a community setting and based on the needs of the individual with 24-7 availability. Staffing is comprised of 1 program supervisor, a Substance Abuse specialist along with a Peer Support Specialist. In addition, a Community Support Specialist, an RN and a prescriber. ACT is voluntary and the individual referred must have a psychiatric diagnosis. Currently, ACT is expanding to all 5 counties within the Region.

IV. Update on Regional Financials:

CEO Elam reviewed the regional financial report, compiled by Budget Director David Farmer, which is handed out to the Governing Board at each monthly meeting. She reviewed expenditures and revenues and projected fund balances. Also, reminded group about the fiscal draw from member counties of Clinton and Muscatine.

V. Update on Crisis Services:

CEO Elam presented an overview of the Regional Crisis Services System managed by the Robert Young Center. Year 1 and Year 2 created services such as a crisis hot line, mobile crisis services in Cedar County, Justice Involved staff were hired and put in place along with Community Based Care Coordinator's. Trainings were provided to include CIT for Law enforcement as well as Trauma Informed Care. Also, in Year 2, "Bridge" Appointments, which are access to a prescriber post discharge from either jail or hospital was added. Year 3 services to be rolled out are: warm line,

expansion of mobile crisis to all 5 counties, “bridge” appointment expansion, peer drop in center, and development of a crisis stabilization center.

VI. Other Items:

Member Hahn enquired as to the status of the waiting list for ID Waiver services and our Region’s position. CEO Elam responded we are willing to fund, pre ID Waiver, for individuals that are in need of either SCL or Day Hab if they are in an unsafe situation. Member Hilgendorf talked about her daughter’s MCO Case Manager. Due to the number of staff turnover, there is no relationship aspect. She believes it is emotionally abuse. Hilgendorf also added she does not believe tiers are supporting ICF/ID level of care. This makes it difficult for providers to take on individuals with challenging issues and/or medically fragile. CEO Elam mentioned it would be helpful to have these first hand types of issues brought to the MHDS Commission. Member Whitaker stated the next meeting is December 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 in Des Moines. Elam also suggested sending letters, writing editorials to make the public aware of the situation, especially in Muscatine.

VII. Public Comment:

None

VIII. Next meeting:

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup> from 1-3 pm. Location yet to be determined.

IX. Adjournment:

4:44 pm

Respectfully Submitted-CDS Eskildsen, Clinton County