



Eastern Iowa MH/DS
Regional Advisory Committee Meeting
April 15, 2019

I. Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 pm by CEO Elam.

Members Present: CDS Eskildsen; CDS Tischuk; CDS Bopes, Lynne Hilgendorf, Melissa Peterson, Rich Whitaker, Kyle Avis, Holly Parmer, and Jack Willey-Gov Board Representative

Members Absent: Susie Ruchotzke and LuAnn Gredell

Three vacancies-Scott, Muscatine and Cedar

Guests: Todd Lange-Amerigroup Representative, Barb Robinson-DHS TCM Representative, Christine Hamilton-Vera French Peer Support Committee Representative, Ed Murphy-Representative from Rhonda's House Life Connections and John Juhl-Peer Support Staff Representative from Life Connections.

Quorum established

II. Review Agenda:

Agenda item added to include an update on the MCO's.

III. Approval of Minutes from the meeting on January 14, 2019. Petersen made a motion and seconded by Hilgendorf with no discussion. All ayes.

IV. Presentation from Vera French CMHC:

Advisory Board Member Rich Whitaker presented information on the Vera French Mental Health Center two new programs: Peer Drop In Center and Crisis Residential Beds. In regard to the Peer Drop In Center, he mentioned it is meant to be a comfortable and inviting service with staff that are "low pressure problem solvers." They will be serving approximately 75-100 individuals per day. New address is at 808 N Harrison and May 15 is the grand opening and will be keeping the Carol Center name. He also updated the group on the Crisis Stabilization Residential Services. This home will be located at 2357 W 11th Street in Davenport and is a 5 bed home for individuals transitioning out of jail, leaving the hospital or accessing the ED when an ED presentation is not appropriate. Short term stabilization and linkage are the key goals. He also elaborated on the admissions criteria which is an individual needs to be 18 and over, voluntary and willing to engage, not a danger and not acutely under substance abuse, medically stable and they need to be able to follow simple commands. There will be a prescriber and an RN on call 24/7. CEO Elam noted we still need to discuss transportation to get individuals there from the other 4 counties within the Region.

V. Presentation from Pathway Living Center:

Melissa Petersen, Advisory Board Member, talked about the rental program offered by their agency. She provided a brief background of PLC services when it began in 1983 from a small grass roots

effort in Clinton, IA to serve adults in a community setting. She noted that in 2015, with the impact of Medicaid tiers for services, the agency was discovering some individuals had to remain in the Group Homes due to no income from either work or disability. They believed developing a concept that put a housing first model to individuals made sense. Currently they serve 2 individuals in the group homes and 5 individuals in the community under the rent subsidy program. The individuals have expectations to apply and maintain eligibility for all programs such as Section 8 housing, food stamps and Medicaid. She stated they have served over 30 people in the last three years through the program.

VI. Update on the Peer Support Committee (PSC):

Todd Lange, Representative from Amerigroup, in lieu of Todd Noack, presented information to the Regional Advisory Committee. A few other staff from the PSC also in attendance at today's meeting to address and inform the Region Advisory Board of their function. They should be viewed as a resource to the Region and to assist in a complimentary approach to the Region's Crisis Services. The PSC wants to look at additional training opportunities and are available as a resource. Anyone is invited to attend meetings and they are held the 1st Thursday of the month at 9 a.m. at the Dewitt Methodist Church.

VII. Update on Regional Financials:

CEO Elam provided spreadsheets from our fiscal agent, David Farmer, that were presented to the Governing Board. She noted we are estimating an ending fund balance of 4.7 million. Elam mentioned there is a bill that recently passed out of the House to increase the fund balance to 40% and extended the time frame to be below the 40% by FY 2024. She is hopeful the levy issues will be addressed with the next legislative session as by FY 2021, several new services need to be developed and implemented within our Region that will be costly such as the Access Centers and the Intensive Residential Service Homes. And lastly, the Children's Mental Health System bill is being promoted heavily at the State level and expected to be signed with no new funds appropriated to Regions.

VIII. Update on Crisis Services:

CEO Elam presented an overview of the Regional Crisis Services System managed by the Robert Young Center. She stated we have entered Year 4 of the Agreement and many new and exciting services will be implemented such as mobile crisis expansion to all 5 counties, and the crisis stabilizations residential beds. She informed the group that the State recently passed legislation that they will be "manning" the crisis lines. She is hopeful our current line will roll up to the new line. We continue with a Warm Line which is separate. Also, a new service called "peer liaison" for law enforcement is expected in the near future.

IX. Legislative Update:

CEO Elam reported on the HHS Appropriations bill that was passed out this week in the House and headed to the Senate. She noted there is a one-time fix for Polk County to allow them to transfer money from General Funds into Mental Health funds. They continue to battle, remarked Elam. And the Children's Mental Health bill has passed out of the House and is sitting with the Senate.

X. Other Items:

An MCO update was provided as UnitedHealth is leaving as of June 30, 2019. A new MCO, Iowa TotalCare will be starting July 1, 2019.

XI. Public Comment:

Member Petersen mentioned their agency is struggling with individuals that qualify for Elderly Waiver and Habilitation. She feels DHS is not supporting the program.

XI. Next meeting:

Scheduled for Monday, July 15th from 1-3 pm at the Scott County Administration Building

XII. Adjournment: 2:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted-CDS Eskildsen, Clinton County

