



Eastern Iowa MH/DS  
Regional Advisory Committee Meeting  
April 20, 2020 Held Via Zoom Due to Covid 19

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I. Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 1:13 pm by CEO Elam.

Members Present: CDS Eskildsen; CDS Tischuk; CDS Bopes, CDS Toppert, Rich Whitaker, Holly Parmer, Lynne Hilgendorf, Melissa Peterson and Governing Board Representative Jack Wiley

Members Absent: LuAnn Gredell and Susie Ruchotzke

Three vacancies-Scott, Muscatine and Cedar

Guests: Todd Lange-Amerigroup Representative, Todd Noack-Life Connections, Nancy Nauman-Optimae, and Cheryl Plank

Quorum established

II. Review Agenda:

CEO Elam requested the agenda be modified to include :

a). Approval of Nancy Naumann as a new member of the Adult Advisory Committee;

b). Approval of a Provider Member to serve as an Ex-Officio Member on the Governing Board.

Motion made by M. Peterson and a second by H. Parmer to approve the additions to the current agenda.

III. Approval of Minutes from 1/13/2020:

They were submitted from the meeting on 1/13/2020 by CDS Eskildsen. No corrections were noted.

IV. Approve Nancy Nauman as new member of Adult Advisory Committee:

N. Nauman briefly reviewed her background in the provider role. She stated her title is the Regional Director with Optimae Life Services where she has been employed for 17 years. Previously, she worked for 24 years as the Assistant Community Services Director for Muscatine County.

Motion made by R. Whitaker and a second by L. Hilgendorf to approve addition of N. Nauman to the Adult Advisory Committee. All ayes.

V. Approve a Provider Member to serve as an Ex-Officio Member on the Governing Board:

Member N. Nauman expressed interest in serving as an Ex-Officio Member. L. Hilgendorf made a motion to approve with a second by M. Peterson for N. Nauman to represent Adult Service Providers on the Governing Board. All ayes.

VI. Discussion about the financial status of the Region:

CEO Elam gave an overview of the financial status of the Region. Elam mentioned we have proceeded with cost containment measures including ending vocational sheltered workshop

services, starting waiting lists for individuals with DD/BI diagnosis and working with RCF's to move individuals into community based placement. She stated we need to look at the need of the service and not the want of the service.

VII. Discussion on the FY 21 Annual Service and Budget Plan:

CEO Elam noted Muscatine has been re-appointed to the EI Region so the budget is now 8.9 million and revenue of 9.2 million. She discussed no provider rate increases for FY 21. Also, in the Annual Service and Budget Plan the Region plans on partnering with another Region for Access Centers and Sub-acute beds. She noted we show a projected ending fund balance in 6/30/2021 to be 3.1 million dollars due to the elimination of the cost of Sheltered Workshop funding along with reducing funding for Ongoing Rental Subsidy, transportation and Clinical Work Services Experience Programs at the local mental health centers.

VIII. Legislative Update:

CEO Elam stated legislative staff "sent" home due to the COVID 19 pandemic. R. Whittaker shared he had been in communication with Theresa Armstrong of DHS about Medicaid FMAP but no plans were mentioned of how the monies would be redistributed back to providers. Guest member Cheryl Plank added that ISAC is working with legislative staff to develop some sort of retention plan for providers to help stabilize medicaid funded providers. Workforce Development and voluntary shared work at Vera French, per R. Whittaker, are some examples of how that agency is trying to stay fiscally sound during the pandemic. Guest member Todd Lange from Amerigroup also provided some feedback from the East Central Region and noted he is having conversations with legislatures who are looking at spending by the Region and not policy bills.

IX. Discussion about HF 690 Children's Mental Health System:

CDS Elam gave brief overview of the current status of the Children's Mental Health System in the EI Region. The Implementation Plan is now due to the State by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Our Region also needs to amend its 28E to include the Children's system changes. Other noteworthy events are a Stakeholder meeting scheduled to be held on 4/23/2020 to inform, educate and solicit interest from providers of children's services within the Region. Lastly, the Management Plan will be updated to again, to include the provision and addition of children's services.

X. Todd Noack-update on Peer Support:

Noack reminded everyone that monthly meetings are scheduled the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month. Currently, meetings are being held through Zoom because of the COVID issues. Meetings continue to focus on strategies to support each other/healthy behaviors and habits. Also, on March 17, Life Connections also transitioned to a virtual wellness support offering support. He mentioned Rhonda's House had recently gone to a Support Line only due to pandemic.

XI. Update on Crisis Services:

CEO Elam let everyone know Mobile Crisis Outreach is now phone contacts only due to COVID crisis however, Crisis Residential is still available along with Telehealth in the ED's. Community Based Care Coordinators are also limiting contact. Important to remind individuals we are still offering crisis services, just in a different format.

XII. Other Items:

None noted.

XII: Public Comment:  
No comments

XIII: Dates for next meetings:  
Scheduled for July 20, 2020.

XIV: Adjournment:  
CEO Elam adjourned the meeting at 2:18 pm.

Respectfully Submitted-CDS Eskildsen, Clinton County

