



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

I. Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 pm by CEO Elam.

Members Present: CDS Eskildsen; CDS Tischuk; CDS Bopes, CDS Watkins, Lynne Hilgendorf, Rich Whitaker, Susie Ruchotzke, Holly Parmer and Jack Willey-Gov Board Representative

Members Absent: Melissa Peterson 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, John Juhl-Peer Support Staff Representative from Life Connections.

Quorum established

II. Review Agenda:

No changes to current agenda.

III. Approval of Minutes from the meeting on April 15, 2019. Whittaker made a motion and seconded by Ruchotzke with no discussion. All in approval.

IV. Approve and Re-approve Members of Advisory Committee:

CEO Elam reviewed the current county memberships. Melissa Peterson, provider representative from Clinton County has indicated she was still interested in serving in the provider role. Holly Parmer, representing the individual or family member role from Jackson County, has also voiced she was still interested. Motion made by Hilgendorf to have Melissa Peterson and Holly Parmer continue to serve in their current capacity. A second was made. The Governing Board also needed to fill a vacancy created by Kyle Avis for the position of provider representative. Hilgendorf made a motion to nominate Rich Whittaker in the role of a provider representative to serve as an ex officio, non-voting member. Seconded by Ruchotzke. All ayes.

V. Discussion on the FY 2020 Annual Budget and Service Plan:

CEO Elam briefly reviewed the current Annual Budget and Service Plan that had recently been approved by the Governing Board and sent to the Department of Human Services for their final approval. Highlights are two counties in the Region, Cedar and Jackson, had decreased levies to decrease fund balances in response to SF 504 from advice by Fiscal Agent. She also noted we are projected to have an ending fund balance for FY 2020 of \$1.1 million while expenditures are projected to be \$12.3 million. Amerigroup Representative, Todd Lange, questioned the RFP's and moneys set aside for Peer Support and Wellness Centers under the RYC contracts. Elam noted they are under the column representing Regional Crisis Services.

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

Again, CEO Elam lead the discussion about the recent bill signed into law on May 1st, 2019 by Governor Kim Reynolds. She reported the population served will be children a diagnosis of Serious and Emotional Disturbances. The Regions are to ensure access to core and crisis services. She also noted a report is due to DHS by 4/1/2020 for a transition plan. The financial eligibility looks different than existing funding for adults as it will have a ceiling of 500% based upon a sliding fee. Also, the Governing Board structure will change to include new voting and non- voting members. We will also have to form a Regional Advisory Committee for children. She commented there are over 144 schools in the Region not including private schools and 1 in 5 children will report some sort of mental health issue. Elam also noted that most children are insured with approximately 3% uninsured however, not all these services are Medicaid funded services including administrative costs.

VII. Discussion about HF 691 MHDS Region Funding Modifications:

This bill, per Elam, modified SF 504 to allow Regions and counties additional time to spend down fund balances. Under this modified bill, two counties in the Region, Cedar and Jackson, had lowered the FY 2020 levy to decrease their current fund balances. Elam noted there are concerns with this bill that if not in compliance, the Department of Management may have the authority to set levies which takes away local control.

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

Todd Noack , CEO of Life Connections, discussed the Medicaid reimbursement rate for Peer Services and noted it currently has a capped amount. He commented this is a serious problem that needs to be a legislative priority. Todd Lange, Representative from Amerigroup, talked about data and numbers of individuals trained as he is gathering data to do a comparable study from all 14 Regions. Currently, the State of Iowa has 220 staff trained as Peer Support Specialists. Also, as mentioned above, he is also looking at all 14 Regions and comparing dollars spent in 4 categories to determine where gaps exist. Todd requests accurate numbers of dollars spent at the October meeting broken out by provider.

IX. Update on Regional Financials:

CEO Elam provided spreadsheets from our fiscal agent, David Farmer, which had been presented to the Governing Board at the recent Board meeting. She provided information as to ending cash and ending accrual dates. Crisis services are costing approximately \$4.1 million. She also noted that levies across the state continue to be disproportionate with dollar amount ranging from \$47.28 to \$25.84. The EI Region current levy is capped at \$30.78. Hilgendorf questioned whether any additional dollars are available for the anticipated Children's Mental Health Services and Elam responded no additional funds have been added. Whittaker noted that AEA's received an increase in funding of \$2.1 million this current year along with the Managed Care Organizations to serve individuals with complex needs as well as children's services.

X. Update on Crisis Services:

CEO Elam presented an overview of the Regional Crisis Services System managed by the Robert Young Center. Mobile Crisis Outreach has recently started in Scott and will soon expand to the other 3 counties. Also a Crisis Stabilization Residential Home, operated by Vera French, opened its doors in July.

XI. Other Items:

None.

XI: Public Comment:

Todd Noack remarked they have had two calls recently about individuals with severe needs and commented hospitals seem to be discharging patients before they are well enough. Elam wonders if Strategic Behavioral Health will have an impact and Whittaker noted they will at least be another layer to the crisis system. Todd Lange also wondered where legislatures were with the sales tax and bottle bill. He feels we need to target the Ways and Means committee members as they appropriate funding.

XII. Next meeting:

Scheduled for Monday, October 21st from 1-3 pm at the Scott County Administration Building

XIII. Adjournment:

Whittaker made a motion to adjourn. All ayes. Meeting concluded at 2:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted-CDS Eskildsen, Clinton County

