



Eastern Iowa MH/DS  
Regional Adult Advisory Committee Meeting  
October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Held Via Zoom Due to COVID- 19

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I. Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by CEO Elam.

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

Member(s) Absent: Luana Gredell, Susie Ruchotzke, Nancy Nauman (who arrived at 2:45), and Holly Parmer

Four vacancies-Scott, Muscatine and Cedar

Guests: None

Quorum not established

II. Discussion about the financial status of the Region:

CEO Elam gave an overview of the current financial status of the Region. The EI Region continues at a \$30.78 cap. Expenditures for FY 20 are roughly 10.5 million compared to FY 19 spending which was 12.9 million. The estimated “savings” account (fund balance) for FY 21 is 2.6 million. Per capita our expenditures by county are Cedar at \$22.98, Clinton at \$27.78, Jackson at \$24.12, Muscatine at \$17.14 and Scott at \$21.28. Lori had addressed the lower expenditures in Muscatine with representative staff and had determined that Muscatine has no individuals currently at the Mental Health Institute, typically a high cost line item, along with moving staff positions to another budget within the county that resulted in lower expenditures.

III. CARES Applications:

CEO Elam then reported on the CARES applications and spending activity on behalf of the EI Region. She said in the first round the Governing Board had approved \$479,000 in expenditures and the second round, the Board had approved \$975,000. The Region is currently in the process of the third round of applications. These applications will be due back to the Region by October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with a special meeting with the Governing Board on schedule for November 9<sup>th</sup>.

IV. Legislative Update:

No new funding has been introduced from legislatures into the mental health system. CEO’s of the Regions, per Elam, are advocating moving the implementation date of a couple of new and costly services, known as the IRSH (Intensive Residential Services Home) and the ACCESS Centers to a future date. Currently, legislation requires Regions to have these services in place by 7/2021.

V. Update on Crisis Services:

Our Region continues to partner with the Robert Young Center (RYC) to oversee and manage the Crisis System. CEO Elam provided informational data during today's meeting on behalf of the Crisis System. She reported that 307 Crisis Evaluations were done in the month of September 2020 although 5 individuals still left our Region for an inpatient bed under a civil commitment court order. Crisis Residential admitted 16 individuals during the month of September and Rhonda's House had 12 admissions also in that same month. A pilot project in Clinton County has been initiated on behalf of the Region's RYC staff to assist the City of Clinton PD in "ride alongs." They will be responding to crisis calls and welfare checks. Currently, the involved staff has been gathering data to see if this program could be sustainable and expanded to Clinton County and the other four counties in the Region.

VI. Other Items:

CEO Elam noted that there is a proposal at the state level for the Department of Human Services and the Department of Public Health to merge. Member Whitaker, who sits on the Commission, reported they are putting out an RFP to figure out how it can be done. Governing Board Member Jack Willey, who sits on the DHS Planning Council, also asked this group whether they, as providers, are continuing to have issues with the MCO's. Member Whitaker mentioned the billing issues appear to have been somewhat resolved although payment continues to be inconsistent whether some services are paid or not. A couple of other concerns were addressed by Member Peterson regarding denial of claims and Vera French spokesperson, Member Whitaker, mentioned denials often show up as "out of network." Member Hilgendorf also agreed with the summaries of both Peterson and Whitaker. She noted an agency still spends hours reviewing and attempting to recollect all monies owed to an agency for services performed.

XII: Public Comment:

No comments

XIII: Dates for next meetings:

CEO Elam noted meeting dates will change for the next Advisory Board meeting due to a holiday in January.

XIV: Adjournment:

CEO Elam adjourned the meeting at 2:49 pm.

Respectfully Submitted-CDS Eskildsen, Clinton County

