

Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region
Special Governing Board of Directors Meeting
Scott County Administrative Center
November 18, 2020
1:00PM
ZOOM Meeting

The MH/DS Governing Board of Directors Meeting was called to order at 1:02 PM by Chair Beck. Beck, Smith, Sorensen, and Willey were present. Supervisor Irwin arrived late. Management Team present: Lori Elam, Julie Tischuk, Felicia Toppert and Becky Eskildsen. Lynn Bopes was absent. Fiscal Agent: David Farmer. Guests: Brietta Collier, Cyndie Johnson, Novia Anderson, Maria Brown, Nikki DeFauw, Jacie Wherry, Barbara Robinson-Lagarde, Janet Huber, Tina Marx, Beth Stoffer, Ryan Bobst, Susan Downs, Jen Cobb, Jen Tamayo, Pam Morman, Amy Groth, Cindy McAleer, Cheri Sexton, Jason Wester, Angie Bloomfield and others present by phone.

Chair Beck felt there was no need to review the agenda due to only a few items being on it.

Lori Elam, CEO, shared with the Governing Board she mistakenly overlooked the Compassion Counseling Application that was submitted for CARES ACT funding. She apologized to the board and to Compassion Counseling. Lori let the board know that the application was turned in on time and would like to bring it before them today. Lori let the board know that they are requesting \$1,500.00 for additional child/teen therapy items. Discussion was held. Moved by Willey, seconded by Smith to approve the full amount requested for child/teen therapy items. Ayes-Beck, Irwin, Smith, Sorensen, Willey.

Lori Elam, CEO, let the Governing Board know that Aaron Roome, Mississippi Bend AEA, was able to share with the Region that there are approximately 7,374 students with IEPs in the Region. Lori reminded the board that they wanted to get an idea of how many students in the school districts there would be if they were to divide the remaining CARES ACT Funding among the school districts in the Region. Lori shared that some school districts have not applied for funding due to not needing the extra money and that is why we haven't seen applications from them. She wasn't sure if they would accept the money and a few schools aren't sure if they have the correct documentation to support an audit from the State of Iowa. The Management TEAM wasn't sure how to contact each school to determine if they need the funding and to get the receipts and tracking documents to Lori in time to process and get a check out. Lori let the board know that they have approved \$2million to providers and would have about \$545,239.00 left to put toward the school districts. Supervisor Willey introduced Pam Borman, from the State of Iowa Auditors Office, who joined the meeting today to help the board determine if school districts are able to accept the funding. Pam shared that CARES ACT dollars need to be COVID related and the schools need to be very careful that they are not double dipping with the funding that has been sent to them. Pam shared that the Iowa Department of Education has sent funding to the schools as well. Pam pointed out that the schools are required to have IEP meetings throughout the school year and noted that the State of Iowa did ask for schools to plan prior to the school year starting how they would provide in school learning as well as virtually if that was needed. The board asked Pam if the schools are able to provide documentation that the meetings were outside the normal year meeting requirements would that be sufficient for an audit. Pam said that they will need to document

specific meetings that were in addition to the yearly required meetings. Supervisor Willey asked Pam if substitute teachers were able to receive CARES ACT dollars if they are assisting a teacher that is quarantined or sick with COVID so that the children can continue with classroom instruction. Pam said that is allowable because the substitutes are taking the place of the teacher who continues to be paid while out of the classroom. Pam recommends keeping very detailed documentation to prove how the funding applied is appropriate for CARES ACT funding. She said that documentation is key to showing that it is necessary and reasonable and it is COVID related. The board wanted to make it clear that the school districts will need to have the documentation in the event of an audit and if it is found that the funds were not appropriate for how they were applied, the recipient of the funds would be paying the money back to the State of Iowa not the Region Governing Board. Discussion was held on how to best distribute the funding. The board felt the best way to distribute the money would be to divide the remaining funding by the number of IEP students per school and that would be the amount the school district receives. Lori asked how the schools will be contacted. Supervisor Smith thought that each Supervisor could contact the school districts in their county to let them know about the CARES ACT funds and that the receipts and documentation would need to be to Lori by 12/7/20. Discussion was held. Moved by Irwin, seconded by Smith to reimburse the remaining CARES ACT funding to all school districts in the Eastern Iowa MHDS Region, based on the number of IEP students, for IEP meetings and substitute teachers working with students with special education needs in classrooms that are above the usual contracted amount. Ayes-Beck, Irwin, Smith, Sorensen, Willey.

Public Comment: None

Meeting Adjourned: 2:15 PM

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dawn Smith", written in black ink. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Dawn Smith, Secretary, Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region