

Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region  
Governing Board Work Session  
February 19, 2021  
2:00-4:00PM  
ZOOM Meeting

The MH/DS Governing Board of Directors Meeting was called to order at 2:01 PM by Chair Beck. Beck, Irwin, Smith, Sorensen, Willey, and Rome were present. Nauman, McGovern, and Cobb were absent. Management Team present: Lori Elam, Julie Tischuk, Felicia Toppert and Lynn Bopes. Becky Eskildsen arrived late. Fiscal Agent: David Farmer. Guests: Mary A. Petersen, Jill Westhoff, Todd Lange, Jen Tamayo, Ross Teemant, Michael Terry, Cheryl Plank, Richard Whitaker, Angela Gallagher, Beth Stoffer, Denise Beenk and others present by phone.

Moved by Sorensen, seconded by Willey to accept the agenda as presented. Ayes-Beck, Irwin, Smith, Sorensen, Willey and Roome. Cobb was absent.

Lori Elam, CEO, and David Farmer, Fiscal Agent, presented a power point using FY22 budget numbers and fund balance projections to show how that will impact the Region for the next four fiscal years. Lori explained that she will put together new documents with updated information for the next work session and will include the power point information that David is sharing today. David reviewed the power point with the board and answered questions. Supervisor Willey asked if the numbers presented today are based on the maximum levy amounts. David said they were and the expenditures stayed the same each year from 2022-2026. Supervisor Irwin asked if FY22 and FY23 were at the max levy of \$30.78 for all 5 counties and then in Fy24-FY26 the levies were decreased because three counties were over the 40% fund balance. David shared that was correct and the fund balance projections are based on the current legislation in place and Iowa Code. David pointed out that Department of Management will use FY22 ending fund balance numbers to determine if they will step in and set a levy amount in FY 24 to reduce fund balance to 40% for those individual counties that are over. Areas of Discussion: 1) The Board would like to use this presentation to give to Legislators to quickly explain to them the Region's current situation and what happens to the Region's ability to fund services due to the capped levy amount and the 40% fund balance requirement. 2) All Board members discussed that when they are talking with legislators there needs to be a consistent message they are giving in order for them to understand and take a look at fixing the issues. The power point would help the board stick to the same message. 3) When looking at trying to reduce fund balance to meet the 40% requirement and implement mandated, core and additional core services based on the \$30.78 levy cap there won't be enough money to sustain the services long term if there are no changes at the legislative level and how to balance both requirements.

Mary A. Petersen, Robert Young Center (RYC), Jill Westhoff, RYC, and Jen Tamayo presented the Contract Year Six Proposal to the Governing Board. Mary reviewed the current Crisis System Components with the board and gave an explanation of each service. Mary then talked about New Crisis System Components that they are proposing be implemented in FY22. Those components mentioned were: Workforce Development & Training Strategies, Subacute Bed-Peer Transporter, Peer Warm Line, Sequential Intercept Mapping, and Law Enforcement Liaison. Mary described to the Board

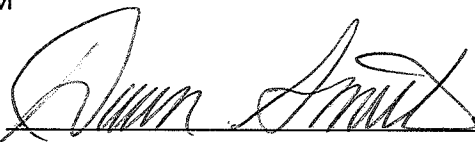
what each service is and how that service would fit into the Crisis System of Care. Jill Westhoff reviewed the estimated cost for the new services with the Board. Jill let them know that costs listed in the proposal are at the highest estimate and when negotiating contracts with providers the rate will not be higher than the proposed rate listed. Jill shared that the Peer Warm Line has been accessed nationwide and after looking at the data, RYC determined that about 20% of the calls to the warm line are from the Region. Mary noted that they will look at trying to arrive at a cost that would cover the residents in the Region to access the warm line and not the entire cost that includes nationwide usage. Jill reviewed the proposed budget sheet with the new services included and stated that the proposed total for Year Six is: \$3,785,172.00. Mary noted that the figures do represent a 5% increase. She shared that there has not been a rate increase since crisis services started and now recognizes that the cost of living built into the rates for the past five years is no longer available and it is time to look at a rate increase. She also pointed out that the employees that are hired by RYC are not included in the rate increase and are included in the management fee line item. **Areas discussed:** 1) The Peer Warm Line would most likely be funded at the full cost because the usage by the residents in the Region will fluctuate from month to month and it is hard to determine what a flat rate should be. 2) There may be grants available for the Peer Support Warm line to access and cover the costs of operating it and 3) Whether or not the new services listed in budget A & B are the same as what RYC proposed for the crisis system. Lori clarified that the services listed in the budget sheets are in addition to RYC crisis system services. Those services she reviewed are: MH Court, Access Center, Subacute, Family Support Services, Public Education and Awareness, Fidelity Reviewer, Children's Coordinator and an Administrative Assistant. With the new crisis system services and the new region services listed in the budget, the total increase would be \$521,000.00

Lori Elam, CEO, gave an update on Legislative Bills that are being watched. She shared that she has not heard anything new from last week's update. Discussion was held.

Other Items: the work session meeting for February 26, 2021 from 2-4:00PM has been cancelled and will now be held on March 5, 2021 at 2:00PM. Lori will be sending out a new invite for that meeting.

Public Comment: Todd Noack from Life Connections shared with the Board that there are grants available at the Federal Level and he has looked into them for the peer support warm line. He is also having conversations with legislators and advocating for Peer Support services to be sustainable through a State funding stream such as the mental health funding. Todd did want to clarify peer support language that was used today when describing Subacute Bed-Peer Transporter. Todd struggles with this language and asked that the Region consider "Mobile Transport" instead. Mary Petersen apologized for using that language today and said that she would call him to discuss what would be a better term to use for the service.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Irwin to adjourn the meeting. Ayes- Beck, Irwin, Smith, Sorensen, Willey, Cobb. Absent: Roome. Meeting Adjourned: 3:44PM

  
Dawn Smith, Secretary, Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region