



Eastern Iowa MH/DS  
Regional Advisory Committee Meeting  
July 20, 2020 Held Via Zoom Due to COVID- 19

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I. Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by CEO Elam.

Members Present: CDS Eskildsen; CDS Tischuk; CDS Bopes, CDS Toppert, Rich Whitaker, Holly Parmer, Lynne Hilgendorf, Melissa Peterson, Susie Ruchtozke, Nancy Nauman and Governing Board Representative Jack Willey

Member(s) Absent: Luanna Gredell

Four vacancies-Scott, Muscatine and Cedar

Guests: Ed Murphy from Life Connections

Quorum established

II. Review Agenda:

No changes made to the Agenda.

III. Approval of Minutes from 4/20/2020:

They were submitted from the meeting on 4/20/2020 by CDS Eskildsen. No corrections were noted. A motion to approve was made by S. Ruchtozke and second by R. Whitaker.

IV. Discussion about the financial status of the Region:

CEO Elam gave an overview of the financial status of the Region. Because of the COVID-19, the legislative session ended mid stream and resumed in early June. She reported they just attended to a few budget bills but did not change any of the Region's funding woes. The EI Region continues at a \$30.78 cap. She reports many phone calls from legislatures asking about the Region's "shortfall" however, as Elam stated, we developed a balanced budget so have fixed our own issues. Currently on track to end the fiscal year with a 2.7 million dollar fund balance. J. Willey reminded the group this budget is without the Children's Mental Health Coordinator position being filled.

V. Legislative Update:

As reported above under the Financial Status of the Region, CEO Elam stated legislative staff "sent" home due to the COVID- 19 pandemic but returned mid June. R. Whittaker spoke about troubling times for providers but noted their agency continues to provide services and in fact, is having tremendous success with their Multi Systemic Therapy. This program has 32 individuals that have completed the program and sees working with families as the key to success with this program. Questions were posed by N. Nauman in regard to the radius they would travel and he reported it is up to a 25 mile radius. They utilize a variety of funding sources and have on staff 4 therapists along with 1 FTE social worker.

- VI. Discussion the Children's Implementation Pan and Children's Advisory Committee:  
CEO Elam gave brief overview of the current status of the Children's Mental Health System in the EI Region. The Implementation Plan was due to the State by July 1, 2020 as this date had been pushed back further from the previously reported meeting minutes. The Region has developed a Children's Advisory Board and has had one meeting with another slated for the following week in July. A pediatrician is now on board with the group. Elam noted there will be some new members added to the Governing Board of Directors to include a parent of a child who utilizes children's behavioral health services or an actively involved relative of such child, a member representing the education system and a service provider from a Children's Behavioral Health services. These will be in addition to L. Hilgendorf, in her role as a family member, and N. Nauman, in her role of an Adult Service Provider. Voting membership follows the Code of Iowa.
- VII. Discussion about the Revised Management Plan:  
The EI Region's Management Plan has been revised per CEO Elam. Notably, revisions included the addition of the Children's Mental Health Services System. This document was approved by the MHDS Commission on June 18<sup>th</sup> of 2020. The document is available for review on the Eastern Iowa MHDS website.
- VIII. Discussion about the Amended 28 E Agreement:  
Recently, the 28E Agreement for the five counties in the Region was revised to include, notably, the Children's Advisory Committee membership and voting rights but also an alternate voting member from the member counties. Specifically, the Agreement now states each member county shall appoint one of its supervisors to serve as a Director on the governing Board as well as an alternate who would fill in during an absence. This document is also available for review on the Eastern Iowa MHDS website per CEO Elam.
- IX. HIPAA Update:  
CDS Tischuk updated this group on the Pledge of Confidentiality forms and that most have been returned. CEO Elam also noted there will be a Conflict of Interest Policy for all members to complete after the Governing Board has approves the document at the 3 pm Governing Board meeting.
- X. Todd Noack-update on Peer Support:  
Ed Murphy from Rhonda's House updated the group today as Todd not available. Still getting many calls, per Ed for Rhonda's Peer Run Respite Home however, a lot of the referrals are for individuals that are homeless so they have been denying the requests. He also updated the group on upcoming trainings to include an "Emotional" CPR Class, a Peer Support Training Class for veterans and also another WRAP Class.
- XI. Update on Crisis Services:  
CEO Elam stated crisis services have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic during the months of March to June. This included a lapse in face to face contacts by the F2 for Mobile Crisis Outreach along with many other crisis services that were provided telephonically or by Zoom. Also, we noticed a decline in the numbers of individuals accessing services however, are hopeful they will begin to rebound. All Crisis Services staff positions continue to be full as well as admissions at the Vera French Crisis Stabilization home during these last months.

XII. Other Items:

Several members reviewed their agencies struggles during the last several months because of the pandemic. N. Naumann mentioned many of their consumers do not have access to telehealth, especially those receiving hourly services. L. Hilgendorf also questioned voting rights and how that will impact her role due to the changes to the 28E. CEO Elam reviewed the positions that are affected by the ability to vote. She noted they are: a member representing the education system, the parent of a child who utilizes behavioral health services or an actively involved relative of such child and an adult person who utilizes mental health and disability services or an actively involved relative of such person. CEO Elam further explained the elected officials strongly felt they are responsible for tax payer monies and policies and the voting has been weighted to reflect this new system.

XII: Public Comment:

No comments

XIII: Dates for next meetings:

Scheduled for October 19, 2020 from 1-2:30 pm.

XIV: Adjournment:

CEO Elam adjourned the meeting at 2:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted-CDS Eskildsen, Clinton County

