

Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region
Governing Board Work Session
March 5, 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 Roome were present. Nauman arrived late. McGovern and Cobb were absent. Management Team present: Lori Elam, Julie Tischuk, Felicia Toppert, Lynn Bopes and Becky Eskildsen. Fiscal Agent: David Farmer. Guests: Mahesh Sharma, Angela Ganzer-Bovitz, Denise Beenk, Todd Noack, Jill Westhoff, Waylyn McCulloh, Angela Gallagher, Jen Tamayo, Charla Hollowell, Ross Teemant, Cheryl Plank, Mary A. Petersen, Todd Lange, Richard Whitaker and others present by phone.

Chair Beck waived the agenda for today's meeting due to only one item being discussed.

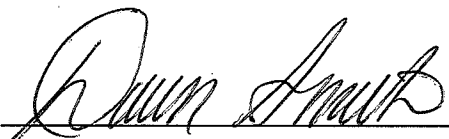
Lori Elam, CEO, and David Farmer, Fiscal Agent, presented the FY22 budget numbers and fund balance projections to show what the impact will be to the Region for the next four fiscal years. David let the board know that he has updated the power point sheets to include Robert Young Center's proposed service agreement numbers and the recommendations from the management team. Lori reviewed what services are in Budget A. She let the board know that it has everything currently being provided as well as the access center, subacute beds, law enforcement liaison, MH court, Peer Warm Line, children's coordinator, administrative assistant, NAMI funds, children's training, and a fidelity reviewer for a total of \$9,775,090.00. She then reviewed that Budget B consists of everything currently being provided, a modified version of Robert Young Center's proposed service agreement numbers, access center, subacute beds, MH court, children's coordinator, NAMI funds, Children's training, and fidelity reviewer for a total of \$9,230,618.00. This budget does not include the Peer Warm line, transportation to subacute beds, law enforcement liaison, and administrative assistant. David Farmer walked the board through Budget A and Budget B power points with the proposed expenditures and revenues for the FY22 budget based on the projected ending FB on 6/30/21. David covered what impact the FY22 budget will have on FY22-FY26 for both budgets and pointed out that if the 40% fund balance is kept in place, three counties will have negative fund balance by FY24. The Region will then have difficulty sustaining Region services and will face cutting services and/or establishing waiting lists. Areas of Discussion: 1) The board is in agreement that they should look at Budget B with the possibility of adding to it if there is money available during the fiscal year. 2) The law enforcement liaison should continue as a pilot project and see what the data looks like as far as the need in all of the counties in the Region. 3) All agreed that the Children's Service Coordinator position should be implemented and if there is money available in the current budget that process should start as soon as possible. 4) The Peer Warm Line is a great service but if the State of Iowa offers it at no expense, then they need to go with that provider. 5) There are other ways to get people to the subacute beds and an extra position would not need to be created. 6) The administrative assistant would be very helpful but the board would like to focus on hiring a children's coordinator first and then look at the possibility of hiring an administrative assistant.

Lori Elam, CEO, gave a legislative update. Lori shared an update regarding the Access Center bill. There was thought that Access Centers could act like hospitals and by adding language to Chapters 125 and 229 regarding commitment policy and procedures. Access Centers don't operate like hospitals and do not have mental health professionals or examining psychiatric advanced registered nurses to provide the care outlined in chapters 125 and 229. This bill will need language changes before it moves forward. She has heard no more about HF661 regarding the 40% fund balance language. She pointed out that it is funnel week and it may not have made it through. Supervisor Smith pointed out that it could possibly be added to the standings bill. Lori will update the Board as she receives more information.

Other Items: The Governing Board members thanked RYC, the management team, David Farmer and Lori Elam for the work they put into the budget process and having everything sent out in plenty of time for review prior to discussing the information. They appreciate how smoothly the process has gone this year.

Public Comment: Richard Whitaker from Vera French commented that today's work session had a lot of great discussion regarding growing and implementing services in the Region. Richard shared an update on the Telehealth Bill. He wanted the board to be aware that no Iowa companies have contracted to provide this service in the State. The bill would open the gates for companies from out of State to do business right here in the Region and take the tax payer dollars back to their home states. Richard stated that legislators need to make sure that the Iowa connections are provided by Iowa Companies that are located right here in the Region.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Sorensen at 4:00PM to adjourn the meeting. Ayes-Beck, Irwin, Smith, Sorensen, Willey, Rome. Absent-Cobb.


Dawn Smith, Secretary, Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region