

Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region  
Special Governing Board of Directors Board Meeting  
Scott County Administrative Center  
Room 605 or by phone/computer through Zoom  
February 4, 2022  
3:00-4:00pm

The MH/DS Governing Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 3:02pm by Chair Beck. Beck, Irwin, Smith, Sorensen, Willey. Cobb, McGovern, Nauman, and Roome were absent. Management Team present: Elam, Bopes, Eskildsen, Toppert, Gradert and Tischuk. Fiscal Agent: David Farmer. Guests present: Amy Groth, Representative Mary Wolfe, Melissa Petersen, Nancy Manfield, Terry Rumsey, Wade Stierwalt, Lynne Hilgendorf, Angela Ganzer-Bovitz, Jill Westhoff, Todd Lange, Scott Dalke, Charla Hollowell, Richard Whitaker, Mahesh Sharma, Todd Noack, John Frey and other call-in guests not identified.

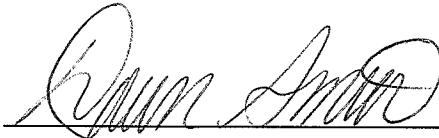
Chair Beck waived the review of the agenda due to only have one agenda item.

Lori Elam, CEO, shared that there have been several conversations through email with the five county attorneys, Board of Supervisors, and the Governing Board regarding the one-time funding agreement between the Eastern Iowa MHDS Region and Life Connections Peer Recovery Services. Lori made sure that everyone had the latest version of the agreement due to minor changes being made to it since the Governing Board met the end of January. Lori also wanted to make sure everyone was able to review the letter that Mike Wolfe, Clinton County Attorney, drafted regarding using public funds as a gift or donation and is that allowable under Iowa Code. Chair Beck shared that most of the county attorneys are on the same page with moving forward with the agreement if the Region follows what Mike Wolfe has outlined in his letter but there are others that are not. Chair Beck doesn't feel that the Region should move forward with the agreement until all the counties are on the same page. Supervisor Sorensen shared that the Muscatine County Attorney felt that this agreement would not stand up to the Constitution of Iowa. Supervisor Sorensen suggested that they seek independent counsel that can review the agreement currently being discussed and draft a new agreement that all the counties are comfortable with how the public funds are being spent on this project. Supervisor Willey, Secretary Smith and Vice Chair Irwin agree that independent counsel should review the agreement and asked the board who should the Region contract with to be a legal representative. Chair Beck stated that the five counties use Ahlers & Cooney, P.C., an Iowa Law Firm, in some form in their county and thought they might be a good choice to get their legal opinion. Discussion was held. Moved by Irwin, seconded by Willey to hire an independent law firm to review the agreement between the Region and Life Connections Peer Recovery Services and provide an opinion on whether the Region can enter into the agreement following Iowa Code and using public funds for the project. Discussion was held and noted that the Governing Board, the law firm, Life Connections Peer Recovery Services and Attorney Frey work together to draft an agreement once the law firm has given their opinion. Ayes-Beck, Irwin, Smith, Sorensen, Willey. Absent-Cobb, Roome

Other- The Governing Board will have a special meeting once they receive an opinion from the law firm. The Governing Board understands that this is a time sensitive matter and will work with the law firm on getting the opinion as quickly as possible.

Public Comment- Todd Noack, Life Connections Peer Recovery Services, spoke to the board about how much he believes in Rhonda's House and the work that the service does for the Region. He is hopeful that a resolution can be found to move forward with the agreement and hopefully in a short timeframe. He asked the board if the agreement falls short, would the other two RFPs granted also fall in the same situation and not able to move forward. Discussion was held that the other two RFPs are slightly different because they are remodels to existing property. The Governing Board agreed that the other two RFPs would also need to be reviewed prior to entering into agreements with those providers and make sure that public funds are being used appropriately.

Moved by Willey, seconded by Smith to adjourn the meeting at 3:31PM. All were in favor.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dawn Smith", written over a horizontal line.

Dawn Smith, Secretary, Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region