

Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region
Special Governing Board of Directors Board Meeting
Scott County Administrative Center
Room 605 or by phone/computer through Zoom
April 4, 2022
3:00-4:30pm

The MH/DS Governing Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 1:31pm by Chair Beck. Beck, Irwin, Smith, Sorenson, Willey, Roome were present. McGovern arrived late. Absent: Cobb, Nauman. Management Team present: Bopes, Elam, Eskildsen, Gradert, Toppert and Tischuk. Fiscal Agent: David Farmer. Guests present: Lisa DuFour, Wade Stierwalt, Jen Craft, Angela Ganzer-Bovitz, Richard Whitaker, Mahesh Sharma, Bill Decker, Marc Hines and other call-in guests not identified.

Review of the Agenda was waived by Chair Beck due to only one item being discussed today. All were in favor

Lori Elam, CEO. shared with the Governing Board the proposal for Therapeutic Classrooms. Lori let the board know that funding can be applied for and granted to school districts to assist in setting up therapeutic classrooms that will work with students, their families, and community agencies to help students with social-emotional needs and provide coping strategies to help them stay in school. The management team is recommending \$1.0 million be put toward this proposal. The Region would be able to give one time funding for classroom materials, staff development training, furniture, training and supports across educational settings and respite for parents to attend trainings and classroom meetings. The application, proposal guidelines and scoring rubric were tailored from the Department of Education's similar grant application process that awarded funds to 6 school districts recently. Aaron Roome, District Support Administrator- Mississippi Bend AEA, that funding would be based on the number of classrooms they are establishing and the number of students participating in the program. For example: if 1-5 students are listed in the application as participating in the program, the school district would be awarded \$55,000.00 and so on. The highest number of students that would be recommended in a classroom is 15. The amount awarded for 15 students would be \$165,000.00. Aaron and the management team developed a tight time frame to get the applications out and back in time to score the applications and make recommendations to the board by the May Governing Board meeting for approval and start distributing the funds by the end of the fiscal year. The management team would like to see the money be encumbered into FY23, so the schools have time to implement the classrooms by the start of school in the fall. Aaron shared that he would train the management team on the process of using the rubric to score the applications and make sure that they understand definitions and how to reach a consensus on scoring. If a threshold is met by all the applicants and the dollar amount is no higher than the \$1.0 million, then all the applicants would be awarded what they requested. If there are requests that go over the \$1.0 million, then it would be a competitive grant and the Region could look at awarding money to large, medium, and small districts to distribute the money that way and make it more equitable. Lori and Aaron also discussed outcome data collection being a requirement once the classrooms are operational. The hope is that a collaboration network will develop that other schools can use this information and replicate the classroom in their district. Discussion was held. Areas of discussion were the concern of making this equitable across all the students in the 22 school districts

to have this available to them, the classrooms are only serving a maximum of 15 kids and how do others access it, the funding will not be enough for the demand of this type of classroom, how will this be sustained if there is only one time funding and how do the rural, small counties compete with the larger districts on implementing the classroom and having the funding to sustain it long term. It was suggested the board would like to send out a letter of intent to see what interest there is in therapeutic classrooms prior to starting the application process. Moved by Willey to send out a Letter of Interest to all the school districts in the Region and determine if an application process will take place based on the response of the letters. All were in consensus to send out the letters as soon as possible. Aaron let the board know that he will be meeting with the Superintendents in the Mississippi Bend AEA area and will discuss the letter of intent with them and let them know that it will be mailed to them soon. The management team will adjust the timeline to include the letters of intent.

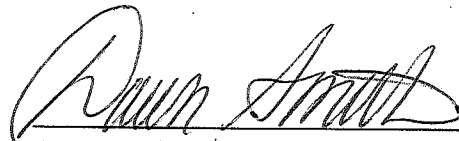
Other Items- Jen Cobb has resigned her position on the Region Governing Board and Children's Advisory Committee. Lori Elam, CEO, and the management team will begin the process of recommending a person to fill this vacancy.

Lori asked everyone to look at their calendar and select a meeting date and time that the All Board of Supervisor Meeting can take place. It was determined that the meeting will take place after the regularly scheduled board meeting on May 16, 2022 at 6:30 PM. Invites will go out soon to the Board of Supervisors in the 5 counties.

Lori let the board know that SolutionPoint + will be coming to the Region April 20, 2022 through April 22, 2022 to meet with law enforcement and other entities to talk about crisis training opportunities.

Public comment: None

Moved by Smith, seconded by Irwin to adjourn the meeting at 4:34PM. All were in favor.


Dawn Smith, Secretary, Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region