

Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region  
Children's Advisory Committee Meeting  
Davenport Public Library – Eastern Avenue Branch  
6000 Eastern Ave., Davenport, IA 52807  
Meeting held in person, no Zoom option available  
Meeting Room A  
October 17, 2022  
1:00-2:30pm

**I. Introductions:**

Lori Elam, CEO, called the meeting to order at 1:05pm

Members Present: Jack Willey, Megan Tabor and Aaron Roome. Absent: Michael Terry, Jen Armstrong, Joan McGovern, Jackie Hunt and Lisa DuFour. Management Team Present: Lori Elam, Lynn Bopes, Becky Eskildsen, Felicia Toppert and Christine Gradert. Absent: Julie Tischuk. Guests Present: Diane Martens, Molly Schreiber and Jordan Turner.

**II. Discussions:**

- a. Christine Gradert, Coordinator of Children's Behavioral Health Services shared that Family Resources, Inc. is working on hiring staff for Crisis Stabilization Residential for kids ages 8-17 at the Annie Wittenmyer Complex. Christine shared that Family Resources, Inc. is working on hiring staff for Crisis Stabilization Community Based Services. Christine shared that Lutheran Services in Iowa has hired Linda Cavazos as the Early Childhood Care Coordinator with Eastern Iowa Region Crisis System. Christine shared that Family Resources, Inc. has hired a Juvenile Court Services Liaison and a Complex Families Care Coordinator. Christine shared that a DHS Liaison and two (2) more Complex Families Care Coordinator positions need to be filled. Christine shared that the Step-In Program with Lutheran Services in Iowa is receiving referrals and is very helpful in the rural areas of the Region to get families connected to services. Christine shared the Eastern IA MH/DS Region currently funds the Step-In Program for Scott, Muscatine and Cedar Counties. Christine shared that Clinton and Jackson Counties are DCAT funded for the Step-In Program so there are limitations on who can be served. Lutheran Services in Iowa is asking the Region to begin funding the Step-In Program to all five (5) counties beginning FY24. Christine shared that the Direct Family Intervention Program (DFI) thru Bethany for Children and Families is currently accepting referrals. Christine shared that Functional Family Therapy (FFT) through Families, Inc. and Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) through Vera French Mental Health Center are both currently accepting referrals. Christine discussed recent and upcoming trainings that are happening in the Region. Discussion was held.
- b. Lori Elam, CEO, introduced Molly Schreiber, CEO & Founder of Challenge to Change, Inc. & Jordan Turner, Yoga in the Schools Director and Executive Director of Mindful Minutes for Schools with Challenge to Change, Inc. Molly and Jordan provided a hand out that shows the proposal of what Challenge to Change would offer to all 125 public schools in all five (5) counties within the Region. Molly and Jordan also presented a video to the Committee. Molly shared that currently Challenge to Change is serving 17 schools in Davenport and the funding is being provided by Davenport Community School District.

Molly shared that Challenge to Change is also serving the Bellevue School District in Jackson County. Molly shared they are also working with the County Social Services Region (CSS), East Central Region (ECR) and Cross Region. Christine Gradert, Coordinator of Children's Behavioral Health Services, shared that she introduced Gary Metivier, founder of Metivier Media to Molly and Jordan to begin a collaboration with the children's book that Gary is currently working on for the Region that teaches social and emotional learning. Lori Elam, CEO, shared that she would like to introduce the Challenge to Change Program to Jeremy Kaiser, Director of Scott County Juvenile Detention Center. Lori shared that the Challenge to Change, Inc. proposal will be presented at today's Governing Board Meeting. Discussion was held.

- c. Christine Gradert, Coordinator of Children's Behavioral Health Services presented the New Children's Service, Trauma and Society, that will fund a limited pilot serving 30 students within the Region. Christine shared that Trauma and Society is a high school elective that is primarily for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students and is meant to educate kids on the neurobiology of what is happening in their mind and body when they are stressed out or have had traumatic experiences in their life. Christine shared that there will be an identification mechanism included with this class for students that are triggered by their traumatic experiences and the school will be able to bring in the appropriate resources for that student. Christine shared the total ask from Trauma and Society to get this program into the schools is \$66,770.00, which will cover the cost for the current school year. Lori shared that the Trauma and Society proposal will be presented at today's Governing Board Meeting. Discussion was held.
- d. Lori Elam, CEO, shared the Quarterly Update on the Encumbrance Funds approved by the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services. Lori shared that she is now required to fill out a quarterly report for the Region. Lori shared that there are two services that the Region has not been able to get up and running due to staffing issues. Lori shared that the Region was approved to encumber \$2,742,843.30 and in the first quarter of FY23, the Region has only spent \$133,860.00. Lori shared that we have a lot of money that needs to be spent and staff needs to be hired for providers to get services up and running. Lori shared that she has to write up a narrative for the report and she will send the report to DHHS tomorrow.
- e. Lori Elam, CEO, discussed the FY24 Budget Process Timeline she created with Mary Petersen, Chief Operations Officer, Director of BH Services – UnityPoint Health-Robert Young Center. Lori and Mary agreed that in December the RYC Crisis Team will present the FY24 Crisis Service Budget to the Management Team. During the January Governing Board Meeting, Lori is going to present the regular budget and RYC will present the Crisis Service Budget. In February, Lori will present the entire budget as a whole, which will include both regular services and crisis services. Lori shared that if the Governing Board approves the budget at the February meeting, RYC will have the Amendment at the Board Meeting for Chair Beck to sign. Lori shared that this will be added to the February Governing Board Meeting Agenda. Lori shared this would give RYC the opportunity to take the Amendment back to their Legal Department and start working on negotiations with Providers on sub-contracts. Lori shared that this timeline gives RYC two (2) months to get their signed contracts back in time for services to be ready to go July 1, 2023.

**III. Other**

- a. Lori Elam, CEO, asked the Children's Advisory Committee Members if there was a preference for meeting dates and times and there was no response.
- b. The next Children's Advisory Committee Meeting will be held Monday, January 23, 2023 from 1:00pm to 2:30pm at the Scott County Administrative Center in Room 605.

**IV. Public Comment**

- a. No public comment at this time.

**V. Adjournment**

- a. Lori adjourned the meeting at 2:10pm



---

Jennifer Ybarra, Administrative Assistant, Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region