

**I. Introductions:**

Lori Elam, CEO, called the meeting to order at 1:00pm

Members Present: Holly Parmer, Jack Willey, Lisa DuFour, Liz Finerty, Michael Terry, Richard Whitaker, Melissa Peterson and Nancy Nauman. Absent: Lynne Hilgendorf, Luana Gredell, Aaron Roome, Jen Armstrong, Jackie Hunt and Susie Ruchotzke. Management Team Present: Lori Elam, Julie Tischuk, Lynn Bopes and Christine Gradert. Absent: Becky Eskildsen and Felicia Toppert.

**II. Discussions:**

- a. Christine Gradert, Coordinator of Children's Behavioral Health Services, reported her activities for May 2023. Christine shared on Monday, June 5, 2023, there will be the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Work Teams Workshop at Rhythm City Casino with Frank Grijalva, MSCC, MSPH Director and founder of Midwest Trauma Services Network (MTSN), Dr. Robert Macy, Ph.D., DMT and founder of The International Trauma Center (ITC), and Dr. Robert Kinscherff, Ph.D., J.D., ESQ., ITC-Senior Vice President, Juvenile Justice/Behavioral Health Initiatives. There are four (4) primary work teams to help determine what adolescent programs are needed in the Region. Christine shared that all four (4) work groups will have a recommendation in September to bring to the Management Team. Christine shared that Linda Cavazos, Early Childhood Care Coordinator for the Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region, assisted to coordinate training to Early Childhood Providers for the Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) to track physical and mental health development for children between the ages of one month to 5-1/2 years. Christine shared that each Provider will receive an ASQ Toolkit for their Early Childhood Center. Christine shared a copy of the children's book, "Dragon Flight School", written by Gary Metivier with Metivier Media. Christine shared that Gary created a video when Jordan Turner, Yoga in the Schools Director and Executive Director of Mindful Minutes for Schools with Challenge To Change, Inc., went to Monroe Elementary School in Davenport, Iowa and read the book to students. Christine shared that Gary is creating an activity book that goes along with the "Dragon Flight School" Book and will feature landmarks from each county in the Region. Christine shared that Family Resources, Inc. Crisis Stabilization Residential for kids ages 8-17 at the Annie Wittenmyer Complex is open and accepting referrals. Christine shared that the Region is reducing the funding for the Family Resources, Inc. Crisis Stabilization Community Based Program for kids due to staffing issues. Christine shared that there is a book club review with school therapists from all five (5) counties in the Region for the "Trauma and Society" module that will be used to teach high school kids, grades 10-12, that choose to take the elective class. Christine shared that Functional Family Therapy (FFT) through Families, Inc. and Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) through Vera French Mental Health Center are both at full capacity. Christine shared that the Direct Family Intervention Program (DFI) through Bethany for Children and Families, and Step-In Program with Lutheran Services in Iowa are also at full capacity and currently have wait lists.

- b. Christine Gradert, Coordinator of Children's Behavioral Health Services shared that there will be Request for Proposals (RFP's) posted on the Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region website for an Education Liaison that will be the Region's connection to all 125 K-12 schools in the Region, and a Licensed Clinical Specialist that will provide comprehensive assessments as well as coordinated psych testing as needed. Christine shared that there is a Lead Children's Care Coordinator position that will be posted on the RYC Website and this person will work closely with Christine.
- c. Rich Whitaker, CEO of Vera French, shared that Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) through Vera French Mental Health Center has expanded to two (2) teams, which are Standard Team, and Prevention Team. Rich shared that the Prevention Team is focused on the Region's younger age groups and centered on referrals from the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Child Protective Services. Rich shared that MST has served 175 youth and families and 65% of youth are still doing well four (4) years after graduating from MST. Rich shared that there will be an MST Booster Training for HHS Caseworkers so they can become familiar with the MST Model. Christine shared that she would like Region Care Coordinators to attend MST Booster Training. Rich shared that he and Joyce will set something up with Christine to get training for Care Coordinators.
- d. Lori Elam, CEO, shared that the FY23 Budget was amended and the budget amendments increased the FY23 Budget to \$18.6 million. Lori shared there were several budget amendments during FY23 and Lori is going to recommend to the Governing Board that the Region have three (3) budget amendment times per year starting with FY24 in the months of October, January and May. Lori shared that Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (IHHS) has approved the FY24 Annual Service and Budget Plan. Lori shared the FY24 Budget is \$17,049,724.00 and the FY24 Revenue is \$12,043,960.00. Discussion was held.
- e. Lori Elam, CEO shared that she has been following Legislative updates. Lori shared that Iowa House File 471, which is an act relating to mental health and disability services provided by the State and Judicial Procedures relating to child in need of assistance proceedings, adoptions, and the confinement of persons found incompetent to stand trial, is currently sitting on Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds desk to be signed. Lori shared that this will change the Regional Governing Board Structure. Lori shared that the Governing Board is still in need of five (5) additional voting members, which will include Law Enforcement, Judicial System, Active Relative/Adult Individual Utilizing Services, Individual Representing Children's Behavioral Health Service Provider, and Parent of a Child Utilizing Services or Active Relative of Child. Lori shared this will create a 12-member voting Governing Board for the Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region. Lori shared that House File 471 will add a new core service for adults that the Region will have to develop and implement which is the Outpatient Competency Restoration Program for people in the justice system who have been declared incompetent to stand trial. Lori shared that House File 471 will also include significant changes to the Mental Health Institutions (MHI) in Iowa. The MHI in Independence, IA will become a specialized treatment of behaviorally complex youth and the MHI in Cherokee, IA will become the specialized treatment and security of adults ordered by court. Discussion was held.

- f. Lori Elam, CEO, shared that two (2) care coordinators walked down to the Davenport building collapse area to hand out Mobile Crisis Information and talk to citizens about the Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region resources that are available. Lori also shared that she and Jennifer Ybarra, Administrative Assistant to the Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region, will be handing out Eastern Iowa Mobile Crisis Information at the Red Cross Resource Fair on Saturday, June 3, 2023 from 10:00am to 4:00pm for the people affected by the building collapse. Discussion was held.

**III. Other**

- a. Rich Whitaker, CEO of Vera French shared that Friday, June 9, 2023 is the Quad City River Bandits Mental Health Awareness Night at the Ballpark. Rich shared that anyone who would like to attend can use code VFF to receive a discount on their tickets.
- b. The next Children's and Adult Advisory Committee Meeting will be Monday, July 17, 2023 from 1:00pm to 2:30pm at the Scott County Administrative Center, Rm 605.

**IV. Public Comment**

- a. No public comment at this time.

**V. Adjournment**

- a. Lori adjourned the meeting at 2:18pm

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

