

I. Introductions:

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

Members Present: Jack Willey, Aaron Roome and Nancy Nauman. Richard Whitaker arrived at 1:10pm. Absent: Melissa Peterson, Susie Ruchotzke, Lynn Hilgendorf, Holly Parmer, Luana Gredell, Michael Terry, Elizabeth Finerty, Jen Armstrong and Lisa DuFour. Management Team Present: Lori Elam, Julie Tischuk, Lynn Bopes, Felicia Toppert, Jessica Bopes and Christine Gradert – Coordinator of Children's Behavioral Health Services. Absent: Becky Eskildsen.

II. Discussions:

- a. Christine Gradert, Coordinator of Children's Behavioral Health Services, shared that the final stage of the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) has been completed and recommendations were presented to the Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region Governing Board of Directors in September 2023. Christine shared that she has been working on proposals for: 1) Classroom Clinic, 2) Children's Hub, and 3) expansion of Co-Responders.
- b. Christine Gradert, Coordinator of Children's Behavioral Health Services, shared that she and Mikka Mills, Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region Children's Lead have been working with a group of people at Growing Forward Together on course preparations for Trauma and Society. Christine shared that Marin Seng with Growing Forward Together will be teaching the first course and Mikka will be co-teaching.
- c. Christine Gradert, Coordinator of Children's Behavioral Health Services, shared that she has been working with Gary Metivier with Metivier Media on events for FY25.
- d. Christine Gradert, Coordinator of Children's Behavioral Health Services, shared that Mikka Mills, Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region Children's Lead has been working with Team WTI on redesigning the Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region Website.
- e. Christine Gradert, Coordinator of Children's Behavioral Health Services, shared that she has been working with providers on staff shortages.
- f. Christine Gradert, Coordinator of Children's Behavioral Health Services, shared that she has been working behind the scenes with Beyond Behavior ABA Agency regarding children in the Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region that require more intense services. Christine shared that Beyond Behavior is now able to bill Medicaid and private insurance for autism assessments and services. Christine shared that Beyond Behavior has nine (9) clinic locations in Iowa: Bettendorf, Cedar Rapids, Clinton, Dubuque, Muscatine, Harlan, Decorah, Denison and Burlington.
- g. Christine Gradert, Coordinator of Children's Behavioral Health Services, shared that the Early Childhood Iowa State Board has asked Diane Martens, Early Childhood Coordinator with Scott County Kids, Linda Cavazos, Early Childhood Care Coordinator with Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region, Mikka Mills, Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region Children's Lead and Christine to give a presentation of the Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region's Early Childhood

Services on March 1, 2024. Christine shared that this will be a hybrid meeting and she will send a link to the meeting if anyone would like to attend.

- h. Lori Elam, CEO, updated the Advisory Committee on the HHS Alignment and the new Behavioral Health Districts. Lori provided a copy of the State of Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) 2024 Behavioral Health System Alignment PowerPoint. Discussion was held.
- i. Lori Elam, CEO, shared that Management Team and Mary Petersen, Chief Operations Officer with UnityPoint Health - Robert Young Center are currently working on the FY25 Budget and it should be ready to present to the Eastern Iowa MH/DS Region Governing Board of Directors at the February Governing Board Meeting.

III. Other

- a. The next Children's and Adult Advisory Committee Meeting will be Monday, April 15, 2024 from 1:00pm to 2:30pm at the Scott County Administrative Center, 1st Floor Board Room, 600 West 4th Street, Davenport, IA.
- b. Felicia Toppert, Muscatine County MH/DS Coordinator announced she is retiring on Friday, February 16, 2024.
- c. Rich Whitaker, CEO of Vera French, shared that Vera French will begin renovating their Central Park location beginning April 2024 and hope to be done by December 2024.

IV. Public Comment

- a. No public comment at this time.

V. Adjournment

- a. Lori adjourned the meeting at 2:16pm



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