

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLK COUNTY REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AND
DISABILITY SERVICES GOVERNING BOARD
NOVEMBER 9, 2021**

The Polk County Regional Mental Health & Disability Services Governing Board met Nov. 9, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Brownell, Tom Hockensmith, Steve Van Oort, Angela Connolly, Matt McCoy, Mardi Deluhery, Steve Johnson, Christina Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chris Wilson, Brenda Lechner

This meeting was conducted electronically pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.8. The current circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor's proclamation directing that no more than ten individuals may meet in a public gathering and the CDC guidelines regarding social distancing, are of such circumstances where this meeting in person is impossible or impractical.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ADULT ADVISORY – Angela Wacker

The committee elected Michelle Vaughn as Vice-Chairperson and Angela as Chairperson.

JOINT ADVISORY – Angela Wacker

The Annual Report and Service Plan report was presented to the group and Liz reviewed the 3 – 5 year projected budget.

CHILD ADVISORY – Dr. McCann

Reviewed proposed annual report. Biggest accomplishment was launching the core children's services. Discussed the advisory group make up around meeting schedule now that building of services is in place. Also received contract updates from services. Advisory board is aware of continued need for intensive family support services and the contracts are progressing for implementation at the start of the year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Katie Payne, with Candeo, spoke on community living outcomes for 2021. The biggest issue faced as community living providers includes staff shortages. She did note that client satisfaction has remained the same, which speaks volumes about staff they currently have. Education and training outcomes were also issues that had to be addressed. One of the positive things that came out of this pandemic is that a group of clients starting meeting virtually, with staff leading, to stay connected. Currently, that group meets on their own and decides what activities they will do, 100% client lead. She thanked the Board for the value-based payments. The incentive it gives staff is extremely positive.

ACTION ITEMS

Moved by Brownell, Seconded by Hockensmith to approve the September 14, 2021 minutes.

VOTE YEA: Brownell, Hockensmith, Van Oort, McCoy, Connolly, Deluhery. ABSENT: Wilson, Lechner.

Resolution approving MH/ID/DD Service Expenditures.

Resolution approving the expenditure of Risk Pool dollars to Eyerly Ball Integrated Services Program.

Resolution approving the allocation of value-based incentive payments to Community Living Service providers.

Resolution adopting the Polk County Mental Health and Disability Services Regional FY 20/21 Annual Report.

DEFERRED:

Resolution adopting the Polk County Mental Health and Disability Services Regional FY 22/23 Budget Request.

GOVERNING BOARD REPORTS

Board of Supervisors – no report

Education System Representative – Julie Gibbons

State Department of Education held a conference on social and emotional skills and learning for kids and had about 800 participants from around the state for the three day conference.

Child Provider – Christina Smith

- Calls have doubled on the resource and referral line. Marketing is going well. Working on getting translation services for the line for about 400 different languages.
- Easter Seals Crisis Stabilization very busy and has experienced at capacity a couple times due to workforce shortage, which dictates capacity.
- As a system, working on building providers for family supports, exploring group supports such as a parent café model which is a parent support group as well as nurturing positive parenting, etc., working with CFI (Children and Family Services).
- County Attorney reviewing contract with Orchard Place for family therapy, services to start in January.
- Sherri Nielsen, Easter Seals, mentioned the need for more therapists and helping people get services. They've had 68 children since going live in September. They are looking at advocating for more than the five day stay. Fifteen days seems to be more accurate nationally.

Child Parent Family Member – no report

Adult Provider - Steve Johnson

- Turnover and vacancy issues with providers is ongoing. Three 24-hour homes have been closed due to lack of staff. There is some drift in some of the service coordination IHH programs. Medicaid is looking for feedback and Broadlawns will address this. IME did release \$6.4M across the State to mitigate the cost of overtime payments.
- Broadlawns continues to negotiate with City of Des Moines on the CARE Team and child mental health services and should be done within a week or so.
- There is increase in court orders and emergency waiting room times. Liz and staff are working with the judicial system on this. He thanked Liz and staff for helping.
- Steve will attend the NAMI virtual conference. They will have an overview on the Johnson County Access and Sobering Center.
- Also, there have been conversations with the Jail on nursing and passing of medications, working on helping to resolve that (open nursing positions, etc).
- Supervisor McCoy asked for an update on sobering center at Broadlawns. Broadlawns is looking at where to do that on campus, specifically medical examiners area if they are relocated. But the Broadlawns Board doesn't think that is appropriate for a sobering center, prefer somewhere off-site. Discussion about Fort Dodge facility and the Prelude facility in Iowa City. Johnson County has a new access and sobering center. Prelude has land on Easton Blvd and looking into expanding their site. This could be a possibility for a center. Also, Supervisor Connolly mentioned CISS is still discussing Haven House (a 24 bed sobering living facility).

Adult Person Served/Family Member – Mardi Deluhery

Mardi expressed concern about the staffing shortage and facilities/programs having to close due to staff shortages. She mentioned for older family members it is alarming about what would happen to family and those in residential centers if the system collapses and there isn't support for those persons. This could become a big community problem in the future.

Mardi asked about Polk County no longer doing crisis intervention and de-escalation training at the Law Enforcement Academy and that Dallas County is now doing the training. Annie clarified that PCHS does not go to Law Enforcement Academy but Polk County Sheriff's Office still provides trainers at the academy to assist with that. PCHS does do de-escalation training for crisis staff (Easter Seals, etc). They also do some CIT training with DMPD for their academy staff. PCHS is still doing training, just not coordinating all of it at the Law Enforcement Academy.

Legislative Advocacy Priorities – no report

CEO Report – Liz Cox

Written report submitted (pages 52-130)

Highlights – Annie was asked to participate in a State oversight committee studying the impact of the states public health decisions on the criminal justice system and public safety.

MIS transition is completed Phase 1, middle of Phase 2, expected to be done Jan. 1st and fully transitioned to CSN July 1st which will be a savings to the region in overhead when this is done.

Performance based contract from DHS – Governing Board will meet in December to sign contract. Final revisions were received last Wednesday and Liz and Meredith will meet with them tomorrow to review.

Regional dashboard handout (in packet) – this is compiled by DHS and is data from last year as of June 30th.

Work continues on FY 23 strategies, due to DHS April 15th along with the budget. In March Governing Board will see final strategic plan for the region and the budget. Note: In February the Governing Board will meet the 3rd Tuesday (instead of the 2nd).

Steve asked if the new CSN system is able to track persons throughout the State. Liz said yes and there will be training at a later date.

Supervisor McCoy asked if we're getting numbers on the ARPA money. Liz said there is a report showing where they intend to put the dollars. Most dollars will be put towards workforce and research, etc. That information should be out in January.

LET THE RECORD SHOW all Resolutions, including Public Hearings if any, were approved unanimously, unless otherwise noted.

Meeting adjourned 11:00 a.m.
(audio on file in the Auditor's Office)