

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLK COUNTY REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AND
DISABILITY SERVICES GOVERNING BOARD
OCTOBER 12, 2021**

The Polk County Regional Mental Health & Disability Services Governing Board met Oct. 12, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: 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.

PROCLAMATION

Supervisor Connolly read the Brain Health Awareness Month Proclamation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Melissa Ahrens, Director of Care Coordination Services for Community Support Advocates, appeared regarding the adult Integrated Health Home (IHH) programs regarding the annual evaluation process, shared the positive impacts of incentive dollars provided to staff and thanked the Board. Supervisor Brownell asked about outreach for Afghan refugees and said CSA might be contacted for help.

ACTION ITEMS

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

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

Resolution approving MH/ID/DD service expenditures.

Resolution designating the Polk County Mental Health and Disability Services Regional Access Center and Intensive Mental Health Services Providers.

Resolution approving the Integrated Health Home and Service Coordination Value-Based Incentive Payments.

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS

Board of Supervisors – Supervisor Connolly

- The Board held the first ARPA public forum last night, several people spoke on workforce and mental health issues

Education System Representative – Chris Wilson

Work is being done on how to access services in schools. There has been triple the usual parent calls to student assistance program, crisis levels concerning committals, assessments are taking a longer period of time and there is a need for a health navigation support system. Human service provider/worker issues are impacting schools. Working on building SEL (social, emotional, learning) support. COVID is probably contributing to some of these issues, there are many other issues contributing to the turmoil too. Liz added the SEL is required for all schools to have in their curriculum for students and staff. Liz met with school superintendents to offer system navigations services to help families/students. Supervisor Hockensmith mentioned his experience, pre-COVID, when spending the day with an SRO (School Resource Officer) and the need for services and support in the schools. Steve Johnson mentioned they are close to hiring two specific clinical positions with the mobile crisis team through the agreement with City of Des Moines and will make sure they make DM Public Schools a priority. They will be able to go in to the schools. Supervisor Brownell asked if people were being served at Clive Behavioral Health. Liz said yes there are children being served, but there are staffing issues and they are not full. The system is working and families are getting served, just limited by workforce.

Child Provider – Christina Smith

LSI is using Healthy Families America program and has hired their staff and is taking new referrals, will start working with families November 1st. New services now have been open 30 days. Targeted marketing has gone out. There has been over 80 calls within the 30 days on the resource and referral line, the majority from parents and person's directly needing services/assistance, but lots of calls from teachers, police and providers too. Easter Seals served 26 kids/families in the first 30 days, most kids started in residential and moved to crisis stabilization. Family engagement has been good. They are working on system issues with transfers post discharge. There are no hospital beds in the State for kids, so they are getting a lot of referrals. Looking at the gaps in care and new services we need to offer. Supervisor Connolly noted we have 5 days for stabilization center by law. If there are no beds, could they stay longer if needed? Do we need to go back to the State to change this? Everyone agrees that 5 days is not long enough. The Code says up to 5 days has to be provided. We, as a Regional Governing Board, would have to assume the cost if it was longer. This is for crisis stabilization only, not intended to be intensive treatment. Steve mentioned the providers could have some input on this. Liz mentioned we could do exceptions to policy, but we would assume the cost. Liz will get more information and bring information back to the Board. Intensive family support is available for those coming out of the 5 days at home, for children and families. There is a gap in the middle for kids ages 7 – 11. Orchard Place has a proposal for ages 12 – 18. LSI has a program for 6 and under. Julie spoke on the 7 – 11 age range and the challenge finding Evidence Based Programs in our community for this age group. Nationally those programs for those ages 7 - 11 are few and far between, working on finding the right model with evidence behind it. Also, the Healthy Families America Program is currently working with the younger kids, 0 – 6, and are looking to expand and serve ages 0 – 8. Healthy Families America is an accredited Evidence Based Program affiliated with the Prevent Child Abuse America national organization. They have been operating in Iowa for 25 years in 13 communities (none in Polk). It is a nationally recognized maternal and infant and early childhood home visiting programs.

Child Parent/Family Member – no report

Adult Provider – Steve Johnson

Mobile crisis calls are up. Urgent care calls trending up. Outpatient/in-patient continuously full. They are currently working and supporting staff right now and will be starting overnight with mobile crisis. One of two positions filled and will start overnights with the one position. Continue to meet the DMPD and Polk County CARE Team model. Steve reviewed out of County services data, how many coming to Polk County from out of county: psych urgent care services had 47 from Dallas County, 17 from Jasper, 17 from Marion, 22 from Story, 71 from Warren. Steve will prepare data and get to the Board. The Crisis Observation Center had 8 from Dallas County, 7 from Jasper, 9 from Story and 14 from Warren. These types of things put pressure on Polk County, who serves everyone, but then it restricts access to Polk County residents. We have 44 in-patient beds which are full. Some of these are out of county: 13 from Dallas County, 9 from Jasper, 17 from Warren. There is concern that this is already happening with the children's mental health system due to a workforce issue. Steve mentioned that they try to prioritize Polk County residents getting a bed and try to work with other regions to redirect people.

Adult Person Served/Family Member – Mardi Deluhery – no report

CEO REPORT – Liz Cox

Written report submitted (pages 20 – 30)

- A draft of the contract was submitted to DHS. Assistant Polk County Attorney reviewed with Amy Campbell and Liz and also worked with ISAC to review the contract and are now waiting to meet with DHS to review before finalized. The final contract will be before the Governing Board in November.
- We received the incentive application (in packet), working on a draft of that.
- Workforce Task Force is looking to add names and assigning people to sub-groups.

CJCC Report – Annie Uetz (included in packet)

Highlights/update from the Stepping up Initiative (presented at last CJCC meeting)

- Completed the set measure achieve community of practice. Data from the jail was pulled and identified who in Jail had a serious mental illness and of those, what was average length of stay, top ten charges and percentage of how many returned to jail. Next step is to query that information of people with a serious mental illness against people with our mental health system and see who is involved/not involved and get them services
- Working with CJCC next month on the next set of goals for Stepping Up Initiative
- 911 center communication dispatcher training in Polk County was completed. This had good reviews and additional training was identified and will be provided.
- Care Team – working with DMPD and Broadlawns to implement. The contract is in process. Once complete, hiring will begin. CAD computers and police radios for individuals have been purchased and office space at DMPD has been located.
- Solution Point Plus from San Antonio came here for a three day de-escalation training for all crisis workers at EasterSeals and some workers at Broadlawns. They had great reviews and Broadlawns staff asked to have them back to train more workers. They will be back in February to train the CARE team and mobile crisis staff.

Liz shared math equations put together for the future of the region which have to do with what's going on with incentive applications and reviewed the slides for FY22 – FY 24 Financial Projections Using FY22 Budget Expenditures (page 30). Baseline of our assumptions of population growth and we know what state funding is and local funding for 2022, then in 2023 and 2024 changes to all state funding. We are assuming the \$3.5M in-kind from Broadlawns this fiscal year because we are incurring it. In the contact, there is an allowance for a cash contribution. We have asked Broadlawns to hold off on cash contribution until we know what we will receive for the incentive. We are asking for \$8.5M which generates enough revenue for us but will stay under the 40% threshold. All regions, at the end of this fiscal year, are only allowed to retain a fund balance of 40%. If we continue expenses as projected, we should come out at \$9.7M at the end of this fiscal year, which is a 33% fund balance. If we don't take the cash, if we would get the entire \$8.5M from State, we would not receive cash from Broadlawns (\$2.8M). If we don't receive the full incentive from State we would want to take the funds from Broadlawns. We should know by December 15th how much incentive the State will pay and then we can let Broadlawns know. Liz reviewed slides with Detail Projections for FY 22 (FY ending 6/30/22), FY 23 (FY ending 6/30/23) and FY 24 (FY ending 6/30/24). When identifying Legislative priorities, we would like to continue transfer authority as an option for us, just in case, and would also like Broadlawns to continue with their commitment to us, just in case. The budgets assume we are going to get an incentive. But we will need to submit budgets, without the incentive calculated, and they will look like prior budgets have looked with cuts to services. We cannot submit a budget that assumes we will get an incentive. We will have that balanced budget with cuts to services, along with the Service Plan, next month. We will need to talk to our legislators about lifting the 5% up to 20% so we can continue to maintain business. Supervisor Brownell commented on the risk pool and that it is being spent down, like we predicted. We will have to work with the legislators on this. Liz isn't sure there will be much cash transferring, and if monies get spent, there won't be much going in to reserve. Steve asked about an estimate of incentive dollars available state-wide. In total for all budgets, in all regions, Liz thinks \$170M total for all budgets for all the regions. Polk County has approximately 23% of all the people that use services. We are the largest service provider. All regions have to report their ending fund balances from last year by December 1st of this year so the State will have a sense of what is in the pool. The FY23 budget presented to the RGB in November will be balanced, without showing incentive funds or funding from Broadlawns. We still have opportunity for transfer authority from the county and cash from Broadlawns this year.

Liz showed Board members cards that were printed, listing resources, which were created for marketing on where to go for mental health help and will make sure the Board receives these to distribute.

Amy Campbell agrees with Liz and thinks we're in a good spot and all the CEO's agree, even the legislators understand there is no way to calculate what will be in the incentive fund.

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

Meeting adjourned 11:15 a.m.
(audio on file in the Auditor's Office)