PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLK COUNTY REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY SERVICES GOVERNING BOARD
SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

The Polk County Regional Mental Health & Disability Services Governing Board met Sept. 14, 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.

<u>ADULT ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Angela Wacker</u>
Angela reported the committee met last month and had heard from Tessa and David with University of Iowa Law Health Policy Disability Center. They reviewed the IFA facts and key outcomes report. Chair and Vice-Chair nominations were not voted on this meeting (no quorum).

<u>CHILD ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Dr. McCann</u>
Reviewed and discussed new members (will be voted on later in the meeting), Crystal Loving and Christine Burkhart. Reviewed all legislative required contracts are still in place. Still seeking 23 hour observation and additional intensive supports but these are optional, we are in compliance. There are intensive family supports for children under five.

<u>ACTION ITEMS:</u>
Moved by Brownell, Seconded by Hockensmith to approve the August 10, 2021 minutes.
VOTE YEA: Brownell, Hockensmith, Van Oort, McCoy, Connolly, Wilson, Deluhery. ABSENT: Lechner.

Resolution approving MH/ID/DD service expenditures.

Resolution approving the appointment of Christine Burkhart, Juvenile Court Services, to the Child Advisory Committee.

Resolution approving the appointment of Crystal Loving, parent of child who utilizes children's behavioral health services, to the Child Advisory Committee.

Resolution approving Chairperson of the Polk County Mental Health and Disability Services Regional Governing Board to sign provider contract amendments.

Resolution reinstating funding for cost sharing co-payments and deductibles for adults and children who do have insurance and with incomes up to 150% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Resolution reinstating funding for adults with incomes between 150% and 300% of the Federal Poverty Level utilizing a sliding fee scale.

Resolution approving Integrated Service Agencies (ISA), Knowledge Empowers Youth (KEY) and Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) Outcome Value-Based Payments and transfer money to development fund.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

MENTAL HEALTH TRANSITION MEETING – Amy Campbell

ISAC is hosting meetings with regional CEO's and CFO's to get everyone on same page with transition from a hybrid to a fully funded state funded system this year. In the first meeting, issues were brought up, and not all apply to Polk County region, were (1) ending fund balance and left-over money (regional taxpayer dollars) and how it impacts the innovation fund, which can't be over a certain fund balance. Some concern that some supervisors wanted to return money to taxpayers or lower the levy, but they cannot do this. They can amend budgets so they are working on incentives. There will be an update today (2) payroll issue for regions with county employees providing services or partial county employees providing services now that we don't have fund 10. There is a Department of Management staff person that will address that today at the meeting and also talk about the establishment of a uniform set of accounting codes so everyone uses same codes to report certain service expenditures. Department of Management has refused to provide those, they think DHS should. There will be lots of discussion next year about freezing the reserve. Currently it goes down to 5% reserves that is allowed to maintain to get funding from state. Everyone would like to see that at 20%, a 10% minimum. This could be on the ISAC legislative ask for next year. Also discussion on revising the core mandated standards of services. Some rural supervisors don't feel this is needed because they don't have much involvement anymore. But others mentioned they are the constituents and we are the advocates and local voice. We are moving forward on performance based contracts and those issues are being worked out. Also we are looking at a needs assessment over the next year. We will bring up the issue of 20% and the issue of having additional dollars available to fund our region. Legislative asks are starting to be formed. Supervisor Brownell asked about carryover fund balances and if other regions are trying spend down so it's not returned to the State (risk pool). We should get a better report on that today. Yes, some regions have committed their dollars to providers that are starting services. Liz mentioned we should continue the transfer authority conversation because we don't know what will be left in the incentive pool. We'll also need to work on the Broadlawns agreement.
DHS put forward a status quo budget with an additional $70M for MHDS regions, and adding in what we can levy the total is $120M, we don't know if that is enough because we don't know what the new children's services expenditures will be. We would still need to advocate for transfer authority. Steve mentioned Broadlawns serves individuals from over 60 counties, reserving space for Polk County referrals. Supervisor McCoy asked if Steve could get the Board more information on that, a breakdown of service. Liz also mentioned the changes in Telehealth and providers (Broadlawns, etc) very effective providing those services during Covid. But the new law is that you can't use telephone for mental health therapy. Insurance company says it's a HIPAA issue due to verification of the person on the phone and video-based telehealth comes with expenses. Supervisor Connolly asked Steve about staffing issues at Broadlawns and cutting hours. They did have to temporarily cut/restrict hours for psychiatric urgent care due to provider staffing issues. They are in the process of recruiting now and also looking at video options.

DEATH BY SUICIDE – Rachel Adams, Medical Examiner's Office (power point)

Rachel presented death by suicide statistics (see handout).

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS
Board of Supervisors – no report
Education System Representative – no report. Let the record show Chris Wilson left the meeting.

Child Provider – Christina Smith
Children's services started 9/7 with crisis stabilization at Easter Seals as well as 24/7 resource and referral line at CSA. Slow and steady first week, Easter Seal served 4 families and CSA had 12 calls. They are hoping with more marketing things will pick up. They have bee meeting with 2-1-1 and 9-1-1 dispatch to do warm transfer calls to their area/correct area and training. Also working with law enforcement to give out information to persons when they are out on calls. If child is in crisis, who do they call? They are calling 9-1-1, and 2-1-1 extension 8. Work is being done on marketing in schools and others, we are in the general public awareness ad campaign now. Supervisor Brownell asked if we've heard back from Orchard Place on intensive family services. We haven't heard back yet.

Child Parent/Family Member - no report

Adult Provider- Steve Johnson
Mobile crisis calls up for children and overall. The goal is to get to 24/7 once staff is hired. Waiting on one more hire. It will be staffed 24/7 by October 1st. Working with City of DM on enhancing child services to add two mobile crisis staff there and then Broadlawns will meet with Polk County, City of DM and DMPD weekly to move towards the care team implementation. It will start out daytime only, 10AM-7PM, with three care team staff that can go out and meet with persons needing resources that don't require police intervention. That will be for children and adults.

Adult Person Served/Family Member – Mardi Deluhery
Mardi mentioned DSP (Direct Support Professionals) Week and recognized the hard work done that is being done by all.

CEO REPORT – Liz Cox
Written report submitted (pages 52 – 89).

The Drake Program is waiting for a commitment. Renee Chestnut, Dean of Drake University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, appeared and addressed the Board.
The timeframe now for starting the psychopharmacology program has been pushed back until January for approval by Drake Board and then the program could start in May 2022. Faculty are ready to start with curriculum, developed to meet national and state designation requirements and rules. They could start with a minimum of 5–10 students, with a maximum of 10-20 in a class (on-line and in-person). The program is developed to be part-time, two classes each semester, so students could also work. Start-up cost versus scholarship cost was discussed. Drake is looking for start-up costs to get the program up and going (hiring a director). Scholarships could come later. The current ask is for start-up costs of $85,000 for the first year, more the second year due to accreditation ($105,000) and the third year possibly self-sustaining (with partial support). Scholarship program to be discussed later, possibly a grant to Drake to issue scholarships.
Not every state has the opportunity to do this program and that might be an attraction for those to come for the program and then stay in Iowa. A survey was completed of psychologists in the state to determine interest.

About 200 responded and several were interested in the program but cited costs as a barrier. Steve mentioned Broadlawns highly supports the Drake program and feels a highly trained psychologist embedded in a primary care setting would be beneficial. Drake would also offer a certificate program for primary care physicians, PA's, pharmacists and other health care professionals for no additional costs. It's a smaller program.
The rules require school psychologists graduate as a licensed psychologist but could take the certificate program that could be beneficial, but would not be able to take the master's program and prescribe medications.

DHS contract – emergency rules are being drafted. Application will be before the Governing Board in November. We've received the full contract from DHS, but there are some concerns and comments will be sent for review. Meredith and Amy are working on the contract with the final before the Board in November. The Board would like a one-page executive review of the contract if possible. Liz will provide that to the Board.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:
<u>WORKFORCE TASK FORCE – Maria Walker</u>
Employment has been a significant issue with staff in provider organizations.
Sherri Nielsen, Easter Seals and Cody Lewton, Lutheran Services of Iowa, shared stories, concerns and solutions with the workforce shortage and how it affects programs. Maria mentioned there are things we can do to have an impact on this issue, such as working with local school districts and colleges to develop and get training in place and build career paths. Liz mentioned the first phase is six months identifying opportunities, understanding the issues, funding and put together a steering committee to address issues and guide the next steps. Other committees of experts formed will do the work and address specific issues. This is a long-term solution, results could take five years, but it needs to be done. It is a community effort.

<u>BRIDGE PLAN – Liz Cox (handout)</u>
Liz explained that a bridge plan is a short term strategic plan that is typically a tool used to take an agency/organization from a stable historic past to an unknown future and leverage strengths and assets in the region to shape the future. Generally it's a two year plan, limited in scope. Typically the Governing Board would approve the budget and plan in November as the annual plan for region. We will continue to do that but we'll change the scope. Listening sessions were conducted to identify the strengths in the region, what is the vision for the community down the road and what can we do now to achieve that vision. More information and an update will be presented next month to advisory committees, with a draft f to the Governing Board.

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

Meeting adjourned 12:00 p.m.
(audio on file in the Auditor's Office)