

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLK COUNTY REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AND
DISABILITY SERVICES GOVERNING BOARD
MAY 11, 2021**

The Polk County Regional Mental Health & Disability Services Governing Board met May 11, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

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

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 ITEMS:

Adult Advisory Committee Report –Pat Rogness

The committee discussed the Health Policy and Disability Center's 2020 Employee Evaluation. Key points that were noticed in the evaluation was that the population has been significantly impacted by pandemic, unemployment rates have not recovered for persons with disabilities, and prior to 2020 the average hourly wages were trending up and this year they are trending down. The committee will be mindful of all this. They also reviewed applicants for the Adult Advisory Committee and recommend Paula Connolly as a committee member.

Child Advisory Committee Report – Dr. McCann

An RFP was released on April 14th for crisis services for children, and is due May 27th. A call for reviewers has been put out with good responses, but always looking for more feedback. A flowchart (in the agenda packet) has been established to communicate the flow of services. The committee discussed early intervention and early identification from a program standpoint and a streaming tool standpoint and looked at what tools and resources would be ideal. They will continue to discuss this at the next meeting.

Joint Advisory Committee Report – Dr. McCann

The group discussed the continuum of crisis care and how we bridge the adults and children due to the differences in the two groups.

ACTION ITEMS:

Moved by Brownell, Seconded by Hockensmith to approve the April 13, 2021 minutes.

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

Resolution approving Paula Connolly to Adult Advisory Committee.

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

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Legislative Update – Amy Campbell

The Legislature is in overtime now. The House doesn't vote to do anything until May 23rd. Supervisor Brownell has been meeting with the leadership groups and Polk County delegation to talk about Polk County needs under the new Senate proposal where the State would pick up 100% of the cost for the system. There has been a lot of back and forth, but progress has been made on what we need if the State would take over funding of the system. We have one remaining request which is to allow the County to transfer dollars as needed if the State would ever not pick up extra needs. One of the changes allows Broadlawns to share resources, not a mandate yet. They are saying if Broadlawns chooses to help there won't be a law standing in the way to help and Broadlawns and the Supervisors can choose how to spend their money.

Supervisor Brownell said the bill is now Senate File 1276, a very complicated bill, called the Tax Bill. Transfer authority is the big issue now. We are not asking for money this year, due to our partnership with Broadlawns. We are asking for Broadlawns to be able make decisions on these instead of the Legislature or Polk County. Another thing is the Risk Pool (14-18 member committee), now called the Incentive Pool. This would be based on performance. DHS is working with us to make this all come together and work well. Amy said ISAC is still talking about a hybrid model of funding, but this has gone nowhere. Currently we get the \$15M from levy, plus transfer authority and all the other things to fill gap. There are increases each year, starting this July, but we'll still need to fill gap, just less each year. Supervisor McCoy asked about an update on how the House is receiving all of the work of the Senate on this. She said the House does not want to move on a mental health change, more interested in the hybrid. The biggest sticking point with the Tax Bill is the backfill from back in 2018 that they replaced. It's a bigger deal for the smaller counties. The House does not have the votes to pass the Senate bill. Regarding the backfill, the phase out is five years for growing counties/cities and eight years for non-growing (which amounts to about 72 counties in Iowa). This is worth about \$6M for Polk County. Amy also mentioned that between the House and Senate tax plans there are fourteen points of differences. Ten of them are things in the Senate bill that are not in the House bill. They added in an agreement on mental health telehealth parity, which would require private insurers to pay equal for telehealth services to what they pay for in-person services, specific to mental health. Also important for Polk County housing issues, is that they did increase money going into Housing Trust Fund affordable housing homeless program to \$7M (currently \$3M).

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Education System Representative Update – Ms. Wilson, Johnston Community School & Ms. Boens, Children's Advisory Committee/Heartland AEA

Some of the work happening at Heartland AEA is the utilization of mental health dollars from the State. They increased capacity to support youth mental health first aid training with staff and covered cost for training materials. Also, hired additional FTE to support social/emotional behavior mental health throughout the agency and schools they serve. Stacy Warren, Social/Emotional Behavioral Mental Health Aide, said they serve 52 school districts. She spoke about the roles they fill which include looking at a multi-tiered system to provide instruction for social-emotional learning for all students (including meetings, trainings, and programs). They play a significant role in professional development to administrators, teachers, nurses, social workers, etc. and work collaboratively with school based mental health providers.

BUDGET ACTION ITEMS:

Resolution approving MH/ID/DD service expenditures.

VOTE YEA: Van Oort, Brownell, McCoy, Hockensmith, Connolly.

Resolution approving the Allocation of Community Employment Value-Based Incentive Payments.

VOTE YEA: Van Oort, Brownell, McCoy, Hockensmith, Connolly.

Meeting ended early due to room scheduling conflict.
Meeting adjourned 10:35 a.m.
(audio on file in the Auditor's Office)