

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLK COUNTY REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AND  
DISABILITY SERVICES GOVERNING BOARD  
MARCH 25, 2022**

The Polk County Regional Mental Health & Disability Services Governing Board met March 25, 2022, 12:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Crystal Loving

This meeting was conducted electronically pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.8.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS**

Adult Advisory – Angela Wacker

Discussed the DOJ report, specifically community based crisis stabilization services for IDD population group. Looked at how to establish community support for IDD population ..... Easter Seals is interested in starting this service. The concept would be to allow individuals to stay in their home, maintain routine, with staff going to the home and providing those services. Checking on how this would be billed through Medicaid at the same time the ID waiver services are being billed.

Child Advisory - Dr. McCann

Discussed contracts for children's prevention, targeting the youngest kids and trying to get services as early as possible. The services would serve the whole family. Outcomes can include decrease in child's PPSD symptoms, increase in parent-child relationships. Discussed the parent representative to Regional Governing Board and chose Crystal Loving as the designee.

Joint Advisory – Dr. McCann

Reviewed FY22 and FY23 Annual Service Plan and Budget and participated in the Fraud Waste and Abuse Training Program.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mary Nelle Trefz, 4319 Northwest Drive, appeared and spoke on prevention and early intervention issues.

**ACTION ITEMS**

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

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

ABSENT: Loving

Resolution approving agreement with Drake University for the establishment of a Psychopharmacology/ Psychopharmacotherapy program.

Resolution approving the Community Support Advocates contract amendment.

Resolution approving the Lutheran Services in Iowa contract amendment.

## GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS

### Education System Representative – Chris Wilson

Chris acknowledged deaths in the Johnston schools this past year and the need for support for the schools and students, specifically younger/elementary students. Schools have a harder time accessing these services and there is a need to create a pathway to help access services.

### Child Provider – Christina Smith

Attended the community update/forum on February 3<sup>rd</sup> with updates on the children's system.

### Child Parent/Family Member – no report

### Adult Provider – Steve Johnson

Update on 911 Diversion Program (CARE Team) – staff is hired and 80% trained. Three staff hired – one in the 911 Center and the other two will be out in the community. They have also added additions to the mobile crisis staff, two hired and need one more for overnight. They are responding to all adult and child calls. Work continues on accreditation issues, meeting State requirements. They are appealing to DHS to accept that and not come up with new things. Steve announced that CEO Dr. Coleman has done some reorganization and now Gabe Martinez will work with community based health services and Steve will now be the government liaison. Steve will fulfill this term the rest of this year. Supervisor Brownell asked about the status of Westcom and Sheriff's Office. Steve will talk to DMPD and Westcom and bring back information. Meetings will be held with other municipalities to see if there is interest and work on agreements for next year.

### Adult Person Served/Family Member – Mardi Deluhery

No report. Thanked all for the hard work that is being done and the progress being made.

### Board of Supervisors – Angela Connolly

Polk County will be making a move, similar to the consolidation of IDPH and IDHS, regarding responsibility to provide mental health and disability services to the citizens of Polk County.

Next week on the BOS agenda, the proposed FY21/22 and FY22/23 Annual Service Budget Plans for Polk County Mental Health and Disability service region will reflect a change in governance where the Polk County Board of Supervisors will take direct responsibility for the provision of mental health and developmental disability services. The BOS will become the Regional Administrator, as provided for in Iowa Code, and this Regional Governing Board will become the regional advisory board for the Board of Supervisors in Polk County. This action will bring everything in line with Iowa Code and Administrative Rules and reflects Polk County's direct responsibility for the provision of mental health and disability services for all Polk County Residents. This will create efficiencies and reduce administrative costs by ending the contract with Polk County Health Services employed directly by the County, the mental health and disability service staff and provide clarity for accountability for service providers. This will eliminate the cost of maintaining a separate board of directors, eliminate the cost of maintaining a non-profit foundation and eliminate confusion for utilizing legal documents to maintain a non-profit board of directors. A transition team will be established to navigate this change. There will be no change with providers, things will continue as they do now. The Regional Governing Board members will continue to meet as an advisory board. Board members commented and had questions. It was noted PCHS is a separate organization and owns several properties/group homes, which they will keep for now.

The Foundation is a separate entity with their own assets. Provider contracts will be amended, and approved by the Board of Supervisors, terms are the same and will continue going forward. Steve Johnson commented that Polk County is the leader in the State with mental health, in part due to Liz and the PCHS team.

CEO Report – Liz Cox (handout)

Committals and diversion issues – Steve Johnson said there is a pilot program in Pottawattamie County that Broadlawns is considering and will visit and look at the program.

Progress on workforce task force – there is a pause on this initiative due to the transition of PCHS. We were awarded grants for workforce and will notify the agencies of pending changes.

Suicide Update – Dr. Akers, Helen Eddy and Liz have been working together on this issue, especially children suicides. The CDC is coming to do an epidemiology review/evaluate data for causes, trends, etc.

Budget – There are codes in the Legislature regarding budget. We are not eligible for incentive funds if we don't have a 20% fund balance. In two years we must spend the budget down to 20%. We are not on pace to hit that yet. If we are above 20%, the fix is that the State will withhold a distribution of 5%. The critical component is to be eligible for incentive in two years, which we will need \$5M, we must be below 20%.

Children's contracts will be approved by the Board of Supervisors next week. Supervisor McCoy asked about workforce grants and how much they are. Liz mentioned we've received a promise of funds from United Way and Melina (?). But if we aren't going to move forward with the workforce issues, there is no need to accept those funds.

Thank you to Broadlawns for their commitment. The amendment to the budget concerning Broadlawns funds will be before the Board in June.

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

Meeting adjourned 1:00 p.m.  
(audio on file in the Auditor's Office)