



POLK COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

BEHAVIOR HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 20, 2025 (* This was a re-scheduled meeting date and time)

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Location: IHYC's Youth Opportunity Center (YSS)- 612 Locust Street, Des Moines
Ember Recovery Residential Addiction Treatment Center, 32385 580th Ave, Cambridge, IA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Annie Uetz (BHDS), Lorna Garcia (DMPD), Alyssa Wilson (Altoona PD), Jerry Evans (CJCC).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rachel Adams (BHDS), Teresa Bomhoff (MindSpring), Danielle Bailey (5th District DOC), Tracy Gryp (Full Circle Recovery), Patrick Coughlin (Bridges),

GUESTS: Kevin Lone (BHDS), Stephanie Schmidt (BHDS)

ACTIVITY:

1. The subcommittee did a tour of two programs associated with YSS, beginning with the IHYC's Youth Opportunity Center in downtown Des Moines. The following information was shared as part of the tour:
 - IHYC's Youth Opportunity Center serves youth 18-24 years-old who have an urgent need for housing.
 - Youth typically stay for up to 60 days as they work with IHYC's Youth Opportunity Center staff to meet immediate needs and plan their next step towards self-sufficiency.
 - IHYC's Youth Opportunity Center presently has capacity to provide housing for up to 40 residents. There are nine low-barrier, single bed units that are separated by sexes.
 - Mental health counselors are available to provide services to those needing help. Additionally, classes on financial literacy and violence prevention are offered.
 - Referrals can be made by law enforcement and youth advocate organizations.
 - IHYC's Youth Opportunity Center provides drop-in services consisting of laundry facilities, showers, a cell phone charging station, clothing, hygiene items, a food pantry, bike repair, job assistance and resume reviews, free haircuts.
 - Youth advocates visit youth on the streets and in camps to provide crisis counseling, service referrals, and emergency need fulfillment.

2. The second program visited was the Ember Recovery Residential Addiction Treatment Center in Cambridge, Iowa. The following information was shared as part of the tour:
 - The Center provides an inclusive, judgement-free residential substance use disorder treatment program for teens youth ages 12-17, and young adults ages 18-24.
 - The Center is located in rural Cambridge, Iowa, and sits on approximately 53 acres of land. There are three cottage-style housing units that will serve up to 70 residents at any given time. ERC had a “soft opening” in the last month and they are slowly bringing in residents for their program.
 - There are designated areas on the campus where families can come and visit their loved ones as they participate in their treatment program.
 - Some of the amenities available to the residents included a gymnasium, outdoor fitness trails, a weight room, and a game room.
 - The duration of the treatment program is 28 days and consists of several different modalities aimed at providing recovery-based therapeutic education.
 - Educators from the Ballard School District provide on-site classes for the residents.
 - The make-up of the staff includes licensed therapists and clinicians, nurses, program staff, and clinical directors.
 - YSS has established relationships with Des Moines Area Community College, Iowa State University, and the Collegiate Recovery Program.
 - Several different entities in Iowa, and out-of-state, are able to make referrals to the program.
 - The total cost of the facility is estimated to be around \$30 million.

Closing:

6. The tour of both facilities concluded at approximately 11:00 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

7. The next meeting is scheduled for April 17th at 8:30 a.m. at River Place, Room #3 West.