



## Rolling Hills

Community Services Region

Buena Vista \* Calhoun \* Carroll \* Cherokee \* Crawford \* Ida \* Sac

### Governance Board

April 27, 2016 - 2:00 pm

Sac County Law Enforcement Center, Sac City

### Meeting Minutes

**1) Call to Order – Chair, Rick Hecht**

**2) Roll Call of Counties – Introductions**

Buena Vista: Paul Merten

Calhoun: Scott Jacobs

Carroll: Neil Bock

Cherokee: Dennis Bush

Crawford: Cecil Blum

Ida: Curtis Phillips

Sac: Rick Hecht

Advisory Board Representatives: Pat Laursen, Pam Haberl

Regional Staff: Dawn Mentzer, Lisa Bringle, Leisa Mayer, Louise Galbraith

Those in Attendance: Ashley Miller, Melissa Drey, Sandy Pingel, Jim Coats, Deidra Brown, Clay Adams

**3) Minutes of Previous Meeting**

*Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting by Dennis Bush. Second by Neil Bock.*

*Discussion: none. Motion Carried*

**4) Approval of Agenda**

*Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Cecil Blum. Second by Curtis Phillips.*

*Additions/changes: none. Motion Carried*

**5) Old Business**

**a) ICAP Insurance Coverage Clarification on Annual Fee/FY'17 Renewal**

Dawn Mentzer updated the Board that \$250 was added for property plus over and above the coverage. This was prorated to the premium, and that is the discrepancy that Neil Bock found and questioned at the last board meeting. Dawn informed the Board that this coverage was added automatically to the premium and can be removed and be reimbursed back to 2/1/16. Dawn requested the Board to make the decision to keep or decline the “property plus” coverage. Also, the insurance coverage needs to be renewed for FY17 by May 1 (estimate of \$7,000) to avoid penalty. Dawn has to send regional budget information and the insurance company will then provide the actual premium cost for FY17.

*Motion by Dennis Bush to waive the additional coverage of property plus. Second by Neil Bock.*

*Discussion: concerning additional content coverage not being applicable to the region's needs.  
Motion Carried.*

*Motion to submit budget information for FY17 insurance quote by Neil Bock. Second by Curtis Phillips. Discussion: None. Motion carried*

**b) Crisis Stabilization Services Update – Plains Area Mental Health Center**

Ashley Miller, Director of the Turning Point gave an update to the Board. March 2016, 17 individuals were served, and in April (to date) 25 individuals have been served. Two people have been readmitted since Turning Point opened. Admission criteria has been modified and disseminated to access points. Referrals are increasing from various providers and agencies. Most referrals come in on Mondays and Fridays. Ashley and staff are working with ER departments in the Region to provide education for doctors as to the difference between crisis home and hospital services. Referrals from outside of the region are coming in, (Woodbury, Plymouth, Greene, Webster and others) and Ashley is keeping a list of where the referrals are coming from.

Cecil Blum would like to know bed nights, for capacity data. Neil Bock asked what the highest number has been at one time. Ashley reports the highest census was 7 individuals for about 5 days and decreased to 6. Longest stay is 2 months and continuing.

Neil Bock would like to look at out of region admissions to help keep the home close to capacity, and would also like a report next month if they are ready or not.

The Board discussed a per-diem rate for out of region admissions and possibly keeping one bed reserved for our region.

Dawn Mentzer would like to get a true per-diem rate. The Crisis task force recommended 6 months before out of region admissions were taken, which is in July.

Rick Hecht would like to see this started as to not lose referrals.

Dawn Mentzer updated the Board concerning the local hospital (Loring) and meetings that have been held with the CEO to produce a flow chart of how to handle individuals that may need the services of the hospital when at the Turning Point.

Discussion of transitioning people from the crisis home to a transitional home and then to the community to counteract long term stays at Turning Point.

**6) New Business**

**a) Strategic Planning Summary Report**

Dawn provided the summary from the April 1, 2016 strategic planning session with Jeff Schott. This is looking out 3-5 years and help plan priority needs going forward. The plan also lists the accomplishments and progress of the Region since July 2014. Top priorities identified were Transitional Housing, tied for second were a behavioral support specialist, and implementing quality assurance improvement processes.

Concerning quality assurance, this includes tracking outcomes of programs and monitoring the quality of services that are funded by the Region. Dawn suggested pulling a committee together on how to strategize this process, it could be a full time position within the region.

Dawn was impressed with the overall process of the strategic session and the outcome report.

Rick Hecht attended the session and is impressed with the quality of Jeff Schott's work and Dennis Bush concurred. Paul Merten commented that it was interesting to see how the priorities have changed as we are developing new services and planning, to make sure that it is done right and is a quality service.

**b) Clay Adams, Wesco Executive Director – Transition Services Proposal**

Dawn Mentzer and Lisa Bringle met with Clay Adams and Deidra Brown concerning the proposal submitted for transitional living that was originally presented at the March Board meeting.

Clay Adams updated the proposal to include year two and three cost projections. Increases expected are salaries and benefits, food, and general inflation items.

Clay envisions the crisis home, jail diversion and transitional living linking together, and will drive each other in moving individuals into independent living situations.

Discussion/questions:

Cecil Blum- met with Clay concerning the proposal. He believes that Clay did his best on being accurate with the proposal – even though he was surprised by the cost. Cecil believes that Wesco knows housing and that they excel in that area.

Rick Hecht – There is not a belief that the need is not there, but it is more how are we going to fund it. Would revenue from the clients offset the amount from the Region?

Clay responded that we would not know who will have funds or not until referral and admission. The guess of a revenue amount is wide open. Clay shared that people will be expected to participate monetarily in their cost of stay or by helping the chores to offset if they do not have funds.

Dennis Bush stated that this looks like a systems approach that the person moves along the system to a more successful result.

Scott Jacobs asked about the sustainability of the home with St. Ann's church. The lease will be 1 year at a time. The church may be moving to not having regular services, just weddings and funerals.

Rick Hecht asked if Wesco would consider owning the home if the church sold the property? Clay answered that they would be interested in that option.

Dawn Mentzer was anticipating that Habilitation funding would be utilized to offset the cost, however, the proposal came back at 100% region funded (due to the amount of beds in the home). After meeting with Clay and Deidra, it might be problematic not to have the 24 hour staff. Also, this is not a core plus service, and Dawn was concerned how would the State look at it. The State told Dawn that they would not restrict the region from this proposal. Dawn lends her support to the project, this falls into the continuum of care. Dawn would like to tap into a Medicaid funding stream in the future and trust Clay and Deidra to keep looking for that opportunity.

Dawn provided board with funding projections since the additional expense is not in next year's budget. The Budget would be increasing from \$3.1 million \$3.6 million, and would lead to a negative balance in 2021 at current funding of \$32.55 per capita. The other budget projection is with the three counties that can fund at \$47.28, then it would make it sustainable.

Rick Hecht stated that the inequity (in county contributions) is not acceptable. His hope is that the legislature will allow all the counties to all fund up to \$47.28 and it wouldn't be an issue.

Cecil Blum commented that if we have inequity with the levy there will be more problems than just funding this project. The crisis home and the transitional living home would be at \$1.1 million which is a large portion of the budget. We have a need for the project but questioned the sustainability of both projects.

Rick Hecht stated that the crisis home and transitional living are the two largest needs of the region. That doesn't mean that in a few years another service may not trump one of these.

Dennis Bush questioned will this be an ongoing expense, such as the job coaching and supported employment, will there be savings that can go toward this project. Dawn Mentzer believes we may need to continue funding the supported employment grant but the cost should go down. Sandy Pingel doesn't see cost being as high again, but can't give a dollar amount.

Discussion of the levy and legislation.

Dawn Mentzer asked about going through the supported employment grant/proposal to see there will be dollars available to go toward this proposal for transitional living. Rick Hecht would like this information to help make a better decision.

Dennis Bush asked if we are heading toward making the crisis home accredited to bring in Medicaid funding. They are re-writing the rules, we do not know what the rate would be and what MCO's will fund. The home in Woodward has a per-diem rate that the MCO's have approved.

*Motion to table the transitional living project till next month by Dennis Bush. Second by Curtis Phillips. Discussion: the board asked Clay if tabling for another month would jeopardize the home. If approved today when would it be open and ready. Clay estimates August 1, 2016 for an opening date. The church is onboard with construction changes proposed by Wesco. Discussion on funding. If the program cannot be funded by the Region, Clay has opportunities for other service projects at Wesco. Dennis Bush withdraws the motion and Curtis Phillips withdraws the second. Motion withdrawn.*

*Cecil Blum made a motion to accept Wesco's proposal under a one-year contract, to be renewed if finances are such. Second by Paul Merten. Discussion: fear of levy not being equal and causing concern in the future, we may have to look at all the programs not just this one. Vote: Aye: Rick Hecht, Dennis Bush, Cecil Blum, Curtis Phillips, Paul Merten. Against: Neil Bock and Scott Jacobs. Motion carried, 5-2 vote.*

**c) DLA Funding Request – Plains Area Mental Health Center**

Dawn Mentzer received a request from PAMHC to partner with the Sioux Rivers Region to invest in a DLA assessment. Patrick Schmitz is available by phone if the board would like more information from him. Dawn does not know how this assessment would work with the region as the State is going to mandate an assessment for the Regions. Dawn has not talked to Patrick about this and encourages the Board to talk to Patrick for more information.

*Motion by Neil Bock to table the request until the next meeting. Second by Cecil Blum.*

*Discussion: none. Motion carried.*

**d) FY'17 Contract Discussion**

Dawn Mentzer would like to send out contracted rates to providers to have rates set by July 1, 2016. Dawn questioned which approach the Board like her to take, in terms of block grants vs. fee for service. Dawn asked the Board if they would like contracts sent out status quo.

Neil Bock feels there is a time when the block grants need to be looked at for fee for service. Neil encouraged the board to look at the PAMHC audit as their financial status is very good, most likely in part due to the block grants from the regions their overall bottom line has increased. He wants them to be profitable but doesn't want to overpay either.

Paul Merten believes the services PAMHC is providing is increased to go along with the block grants.

Dennis Bush reports the IHS program has been a lucrative program for PAMHC.

Dawn Mentzer discussed tracking information and financials in CSN. The state does not want us inputting "dummy" numbers into the system. The payment for block grants are entered under one "dummy client" and the payments are all going there, not under the actual person receiving the service. If looking at part fee for service rates DHS will get the information they need and the Region can track the data as well.

Discussion of fee for service at the mental health centers leading them toward a more private practice situation which would be a hindrance for some of the services that community mental health centers provide.

Cecil Blum stated it may be too soon to evaluate now, maybe in year it can be evaluated and possibly by an outside agency.

Paul Merten stated the contracts (block grants) should be streamlined by now as start-up costs should be taken care of now.

Dawn will send out the contracts to providers for renewal.

**e) MH/DS Funding bills**

No updates from the Conference Committee meeting yesterday.

**7) Next meeting - 5/25/16 – 2:00pm Sac County Law Enforcement Center**

*Motion to adjourn at 4:31 pm by Cecil Blum, second by Dennis Bush. Motion Carried.*