



Rolling Hills

Community Services Region

Governance Board Meeting

Cobblestone Inn and Suites, Holstein

January 15, 2021– 1:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1) Call to Order –Chairman, Paul Merten

2) Roll Call of Counties – Introductions

Buena Vista: Paul Merten

Calhoun: Scott Jacobs

Carroll: Rich Ruggles

Cherokee: Wane Miller

Crawford: Jean Heiden

Ida: Absent

Sac: Brent Wilhelm

Woodbury: Rocky DeWitt

Joan Hansen (voting member)

JaMaine Wamberg (voting member)

Joleen Schmit (voting member) Absent

Brittany Krause (nonvoting member)

Kim Keleher (nonvoting member)

Regional Staff: Dawn Mentzer, CEO; Louise Galbraith, Lisa Bringle, Leisa Mayer, Theresa Jochum, Julie Albright, Coordinators

Guests: Clarence Siepker, Pocahontas County Supervisor; Sandy Loney, Humboldt County Supervisor; Nicolle Eaton, Sheila Martin, Mark Monson, Siouxland Mental Health; Sue Gehling, Classroom Clinic; Melissa Drey, Ashley Miller, Kim Keleher, Plains Area Mental Health; Steve Kremer, Juvenile Court Services; Jean Drey, Seasons Center; Ben Shuberg, Amy Jepsen, Crossroads;

Theresa Magnussen, Imagine the Possibilities; Courtney Cook, Prairie Lakes AEA, Karen Rosengreen, ITP

3) Minutes of Previous Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes as presented by Brent Wilhelm. Second by Scott Jacobs.

Discussion: none. Motion carried unanimously

4) Approval of Agenda

Changes/additions: Dawn Mentzer requested to add election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Board (4b). Also, requests for funding from Wesco and Sue Gehling (items 6ai and 6aii)

A motion to approve the agenda as amended by Rich Ruggles. Second by Wane Miller. Discussion: none. Motion carried unanimously

b) Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Motion by Scott Jacobs to nominate Paul Merten as Chair and Brent second. No other nominations. Motion carried (Paul Merten abstained)

Motion by Scott Jacobs to nominate Brent Wilhelm as Vice-Chair. Second by Rich Ruggles. No other nominations. Motion Carried (Brent Wilhelm abstained)

5) Comments from the Public: Everyone will have an opportunity to speak. Therefore, comments may be limited to three minutes on any one item.

None

6) Unfinished Business

a) Plains Area Mental Health Center – ACT reduction – Kim Keleher, Executive Director

Kim Keleher – May 1, 2020 PAMCH was awarded the CCBHC grant which is a 2 year grant of \$4,000,000. The ACT program needs funds, which can be drawn down from the grant and relieving the Region from funding \$234,855 for the ACT program. Funds will also be decreased by the same amount next fiscal year as well.

i) Sue Gehling – from Classroom Clinic. Sue had applied and received Cares funds from the region last fall for services in South Central Calhoun and Albert City Truesdale Schools. The funding requested today of \$21,000 is to cover the rest of the school year.

Discussion:

Paul Merten asked if this would be continued support from the region and not Cares Act funds? Yes, Sue is seeking regional funding however, she will apply for Care funds if they are available.

Scott Jacobs asked if there is any reimbursement from Medicaid or insurances? Sue confirmed that there is but it is not enough to cover the cost of the services, staff and so forth. They do bill Medicaid and Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Dawn Mentzer asked about the amount of services and cost for team-based care activities (\$175 per hour). Sue explained what the services cover, including follow-up with families, teachers and schools which is outside of the time of providing the telehealth services. Dawn asked if this could be drawn down on a fee for service basis rather than block grant, and we will need demographic information for those using the services. Sue said in the middle of the school year she would be hesitant to switch to fee for service at this time.

Kim Keleher reminded the board that PAMHC reduced school-based service to nothing, and she believes there have been cuts in Woodbury County schools as well. She is questioning why other providers would be funded when they are not.

Paul Merten commented that Cares funding is one-time funding, and he is not comfortable continuing with regional funding.

Dawn Mentzer asked if other regions provided Cares funding. Sue replied that Northwest Iowa Cares Connection provided Cares funds of around \$80,000 for 12 schools in that region.

Scott Jacobs asked if other providers are in the schools (Calhoun County). Sue said that only therapy was provided, her program provides more than that. New evaluations are done with Nurse Practitioners at a cost of \$100 and for follow-up is usually around \$56. She has had problems with Medicaid paying and there are claims not paid or paid less by the MCO's. Sheila Martin believes the \$175 per hour rate is too high.

Rich Ruggles asked how many students are in the two schools. Sue does not have those numbers but can get them. She thinks 5% of students use the services.

Paul Merten stated that we can take this under consideration as this is an extra expense that is not budgeted at our next meeting.

ii) Wesco Funding Request.

Dawn Mentzer reported to the board that Stepping Stones did get approval for Stepping Stones 2 and will drawing down Medicaid funding and should be self-sustaining. However, there will be persons in the regions who do not have access to Medicaid, the region will have to fund those who have a gap in Medicaid funding. Any Medicaid funds they receive will come back to the region as a reimbursement. They are requesting a 4% increase for staff (raises) and one-time needs (repairs and furniture) of \$8,000. We can look at the return on our investment based on what funds are returned to the Region, and possibly look at it at that time when we know what will be reimbursed. Stepping Stones has been critical to the Regional service network, the expansion will be able to serve more people.

Paul Merten asked if the amount of Cares funds awarded to Wesco if items were not covered? Dawn reviewed the items covered under Cares Act funds; it is not a duplicate request.

Clay Adams was available by phone at this time.

Clay stated that his employees are unionized so raises that are negotiated also cover Stepping Stones staff (who are not union members). Negotiations are once a year in June, so this is an educated guess for Stepping Stones employees. The 4% is roughly \$20,000. If they need to make adjustments to the one-time expenditures of \$8,000, they can relook at those. Possibly some of it can qualify under Cares Act when it is opened back up.

Paul Merten responded that this will be taken under consideration at our next meeting.

b) Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Work Session – Action

- **Possible Budget Reductions – Action**

Last year a target of the Governor’s office was funding non-core services when core services have not been started by the regions.

Impacts on the budgets: Stepping Stones, ACT (which the funds requested have been reduced by PAMHC), I-Start, children’s services, and the access center, all of which impact the budget. We need to look at which services provide the greatest impact to the regions.

Dawn Mentzer discussed services that can be reduced or cut next year:

I-Start: Per Member Per Month fee of \$800 is costing \$10-12,000 per month. Dawn has requested that I-Start look at the rate structure especially for those who have been in the program for a long time (up to 2 years or more). This would cut \$150,000 next year and add the savings from PAMHC ACT it would meet the funding need to cover next year’s budget projection. \$139,000 is budgeted for the year, and Dawn believes they will be at \$150,000 for this fiscal year.

Dawn Mentzer reviewed the budget projections through FY24:

Projected ending fund balance for FY21 is \$3,259,445 (43%). FY 22 expenditures including elimination of I-Start and PAMHC reduction in ACT funding, is \$8,876,228 which provides a healthier future. Dawn has \$1.5 million for additional core factored into the budget.

Dawn reviewed a \$39 per-capita, 40% per-capita (which is better) and \$42.79. We have to have our fund balance under 40% this year, or it will have to go back to counties in property tax relief in FY24.

Dawn Mentzer recommends to set the per capita at \$39.00 and work toward reductions (negotiate with I-Start). Dawn does not want to overspend the budget. Wane Miller asked if administrative costs have been looked at for reduction. Rich Ruggles is concerned about a hard stop with I-Start and its impact on providers.

- **FY'22 Salary Discussion on Regional level or County – Action**

Since the region began, salary increases have been set by this board. There was a discussion after a meeting last year to have the counties set the coordinators salary increases, it was not in board minutes. Discussion of regional increases versus county salaries. The board will compile the percentages of each county and come to an average. Each county needs to give their average increase to Dawn Mentzer for the next meeting.

Other discussion included mileage (currently 80% of the IRS rate), \$30 cell phone stipend and meals and lodging which is determined per each county.

7) New Business

a) none

8) Schedule next meeting February

A motion by Jean Heiden to set the next meeting on January 28, 2021 at 1:30 pm via Zoom. Second by Brent Wilhelm. Discussion: none. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to adjourn at 4:01 pm by Rich Ruggles. Second by Wane Miller. Meeting adjourned