

Northwest Iowa Care Connections Board Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2015 1:00 p.m. O'Brien County Courthouse

The Northwest Iowa Care Connections Board met with the following members present: Bill Leupold, Dickinson County Representative (NWIACC Chair); Linda Swanson, Clay County Representative (NWIACC Secretary); Mark Behrens, Lyon County Representative, Tom Farnsworth, O'Brien County Representative Phil Bootsma, Osceola County Representative, Ron Graettinger, Palo Alto County Representative, and Barry Whitsell, Village NW Adhoc Provider Representative. Those also in attendance were: Barb Rohwer, O'Brien County Auditor, Kim Wilson, NWIACC CEO, Beth Will, NWIACC DSC. Visitors: Deb Broderson of Spencer Hospital, Scott Witte and Donna Reit, Hope Haven; Bill Glienke, Compass Pointe; Kim Scorza, Christina Eggink-Postma, and Dan Reis, Seasons Center.

Moved by Ron Graettinger, seconded by Tom Farnsworth to approve the agenda. Motion carried by all ayes.

Moved by Linda Swanson, seconded by Mark Behrens to approve the minutes of May 15, 2015. Motion carried by all ayes.

Correspondence – Approval from DHS of the Region's Annual Service & Budget Plan for Fiscal 2015 was received.

There were no claims for payment today.

There were no exceptions to policy presented.

Legislative update – The Iowa Legislature appropriated \$2 million for Polk County and the Southern Hills Region which is now being reviewed by the Governor's office. Equalization is still in the code, but there are no funds appropriated for Fiscal 2016. SF 440 offers the option for out-of state mental health treatment for adults subject to civil commitments. HF 468 determines the County Board of Supervisors' role to appoint mental health advocates as county employees.

Kim Wilson gave a financial overview. She reviewed the Fiscal 2015 current status, the proposed Fiscal 2016 budget and potential Fiscal 2017 outlook. There was considerable discussion regarding the 50% reduction on the work activity services that will go into effect July 1, 2015. There was a debate of whether to continue with the strategy of increasing capacity to provide mandated core services for persons with mental illness and intellectual disabilities prescribed by the state with unpredictable state funding to regions or "spend down" reserves to reflect increased need for state appropriations.

Advocate – discussion of a 28E for the Mental Health Advocate due to the passage of HF 468. The Administrative rule making process is estimated to take approximately a year to complete. It has been suggested that we wait to do a formal 28E agreement until rules are drafted and that

perhaps we should look at an “assignment letter” in the interim to address our local expectations for this position.

Crisis Services – The Board reviewed the options for services to be provided for Fiscal 2016. The need for quicker response time for services was discussed. Phil Bootsma asked the question of how does Seasons get reimbursed by Foundation 2 when they are called after hours?

Moved by Phil Bootsma to rescind the previous motion to contract with Foundation 2 because of incomplete information at last month’s meeting. This includes the lack of reporting requirements requested by regional staff from Seasons Center. Linda Swanson seconded the motion to rescind. Mark Behrens stated that he had seconded the motion last month based on a misunderstanding that the Region would be saving a considerable amount of money that may not be correct. Mark Behrens stated that he feels that the decision to is being made under duress because of time constraints due to the end of the fiscal year. Roll call vote: Ayes – Phil, Linda Nays Ron Mark Tom. Motion defeated.

Moved by Ron Graettinger, seconded by Tom Farnsworth to authorize the Chairman to sign the contract with Foundation 2 for 24-7-365 crisis phone services pending review by the Region’s attorney. Motion carried by all ayes, except Phil Bootsma and Linda Swanson, who abstained from the vote.

Deb Broderson of Spencer Hospital stated that Spencer Hospital and Seasons Center met. Spencer Hospital will pay for a consultant to come in to work with any of the entities for coordination of services. Spencer Hospital is the only regionally based provider available for inpatient mental health services.

Moved by Linda Swanson, seconded by Phil Bootsma to forward the language presented to the member county boards for the amended 28E regarding administrative costs less payroll be included in the regional expenses. Motion carried by all ayes.

Moved by Ron Graettinger, seconded by Mark Behrens to adjourn at 4:23 p.m. Motion carried by all ayes.

Respectfully submitted:

Barb Rohwer, NWIACC Recording Secretary