

The Northwest Iowa Care Connections Advisory Board met on Monday, October 17, 2016 from 1-3 pm at the O'Brien County Courthouse in Primghar. Eight members were present.

There were brief updates since the last meeting (7/18/2016) including Governance Board work regarding start-up costs for a rural Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) proposal provided by Seasons Center. The ACT service is one of many required services addressed in the Certified Community Behavioral Health Grant recently awarded to Seasons Center and two other Mental Health Centers (MHCs) in Iowa. In addition, there was information shared about the status of Seasons' Children MH Crisis Services Grant. There was also discussion about the need for Mobile Crisis Response to address the needs of adults and children in our region. Combined with increased Peer Support and Care Coordination, there can be possibilities to meet needs in real time situations.

There was discussion about the status of Managed Care Organization (MCO) billing processes and the concerns about transportation not being considered as part of the service rate for employment. With the requirements of the Work Incentive Opportunity (WIOA) Act, there is more emphasis being placed on younger adults working competitively in the community; transportation is a needed service to assure success in their employment goals.

There was discussion about the focused approach to the Iowa Legislature to building levy equity within the regional MHDS structure.

We also discussed the upcoming regional Transportation Forum tomorrow evening in Spencer. Goals are to address transportation needs and funding needs within the region.

Updates were given on the region's contracting with Turning Point and Sioux Rivers Crisis Stabilization Centers, who can provide from 3-5 days stays for crisis residential services within an hour's distance from our regional counties.

We talked about the website's resource directory, which has information about needed services and a referral operating system, such as TAV, that can help address needs cooperatively throughout the region.

There was an update on the Care Giver Connection Training, which has been offered in Sheldon at NITC this fall for 11 families of children with special needs in the NWIACC and Sioux Rivers region (a joint effort in coordination and funding with the regions and ISU Extension) to provide education about parenting and developing supportive networks. Mental Health First Aid training for community members is in the process of scheduling trainings now that Carolyn Salberg from Hope Haven, who has completed training. Questions can be directed to Carolyn or Kim Wilson.

There was mention made of the ISAC Quality Service, Development, and Assessment (QSDA) and outcomes measurement. There was mention made about ongoing Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services in the Jails and work with the Palo Alto County Jail for a pilot project for voluntary participation of releases from jail in the Integrated Services Pathways (ISP).

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17th, 2017 at 1 pm at the O'Brien County Courthouse Assembly Room.

Respectfully Submitted, Kim Wilson