

The Northwest Iowa Care Connections' Governance Board Working Group met on December 9th, 2019 via conference call with the following members present: Jayson VandeHoef, NWIACC Governance Board/Osceola County, Barry Anderson, NWIACC Governance Board/Clay County Representative, Craig Merrill, NWIACC Governance Board/Palo Alto County Representative present via phone. Kim Wilson, NWIACC CEO was also on the phone line as was Marge Pitts, Clay County Auditor. Additional invited guests on the conference call were: Ken Abrams, Worth County Supervisor, Bill Jensvold, Winnebago County Supervisor, Jack Plathe, Roger Tjarks, as well as Donnie Loss, Kyle Stecker, and Galen Casey, Kossuth County Supervisors, Amber Garman, Kossuth County Auditor, Dona Nielson, County Social Services (CSS) /Kossuth County staff, Jan Heikes, Department of Human Services, Community Services Consultant, and Sandi Mireles, Worth/Winnebago Community Services. Todd Holmes, Kossuth County Attorney, joined the conference call at a later time.

After some initial technical difficulties with the conference call line, Jayson VandeHoef called the conference call meeting to order at 8:20 AM. A welcome and introductions were made. Since the minutes of the December 3rd NWIACC Governance Board Working Group were distributed to Supervisor Representatives of Kossuth, Winnebago, and Worth County, along with a copy of the proposed Regional Transition Plan, and the Fund Balance Equity Document, Chair VandeHoef requested questions and comments about these documents.

There were initial concerns expressed regarding the conditions of the CSS 28 E agreement for fund balance distribution, citing that assets bought by the CSS Region on behalf of member counties, must also be included in addition to any cash, in any settlement when a member county leaves the CSS Region. As there are concerns from current CSS member counties that CSS Administrative Staff are bringing forward special allocations for CSS Board vote, there are suspicions that reserves will decrease because of CSS investments. Thus, in theory, there are concerns for the reduction of available fund balance settlement dollars to departing counties.

Because of these concerns, it was suggested that the timelines for CSS Counties entering NWIACC be considered much sooner than suggested. February or April 1, 2020 were some of the dates recommended in addition to July 1, 2020. Through this discussion, Jan Heikes recommended that any or all County Auditors consult with the Department of Management, Carrie Johnson, to understand the ramifications of a mid-year entrance. Jan Heikes stated the necessity of a special audit, which requires additional expense to conduct, would be part of this process should it be adopted.

Because a new 28E must be signed to add member counties to an existing Region, there was considerable conversation about the amount of per capita funding needed to provide fund balance equity between NWIACC member counties and any additional counties seeking membership.

In addition, there was conversation about plans to recommend adjusting the NWIACC 28 E Agreement to bring forward a per capita distribution formula recommendation to the NWIACC Governance Board for action at the December 17th, 2019. The necessity for this action meets the need to position future releases of members of the Region to prescribed and more consistent reserve funds dispersal procedures.

Also discussed with the consideration of the NWIACC Governance Board December 17th meeting to address action on the letters of intent from Kossuth, Winnebago, and Worth Counties for membership into NW IA Care Connections. Since all the member counties need to approve these letters of intent, a

30 day window is in place for those actions to take place. Resolution regarding the equity in fund balances as well as the per capita levies to build sustainable funding for services, are conditions to Member County approval. With all NWIACC member county Board approval, a more formal process will begin to take shape.

The distributed Regional Member County Transition Plan was reviewed to show the various milestones needed for completion prior to June 30th, 2020. Hiring staff, including the CEO, as well as staff, is part of the transition process but will not begin along with any contracting agreements until a 28E is nearing time for signature. It is still strongly recommended by quite a few on the call that we set our sights on July 1, 2020 to assure a workable and efficient timeframe to deliver all the necessary levels of compliance to this extensive program compliance.

There was conversation about the limitations of the \$30.30 levy cap imposed on NW IA Care Connections through SF 504 legislation and its effects on available revenues going forward for the sustainability of services funding. Some of the group members assembled were not as clear about these policies dictating County/Regional Revenues and how hamstrung Regions are with a lower levy cap. CSS counties levying at a higher rate was discussed to address any shortfalls or revenues necessary to provide equity among all counties.

Additional conversation is needed between the County Social Services attorney, the NW IA Care Connections attorney, which Todd Holmes, Kossuth County attorney, will initiate in the near future to determine the actual FY 20 fund balance amounts leaving CSS and the potential for increasing CSS departing Counties' per capita rates beyond the fixed Region rate to support the transition of these three counties to a new Region. There was some brief discussion that Hancock County may wish to join the Region but it was suggested they would not provide a letter of intent until before December 1st, 2020 for FY 22 entry if approved.

It was agreed to have the next NW IA Governance Board Working Group meeting immediately following the Governance Board meeting December 17th, 2019 at 1 pm at a space to be determined. For those who can attend in person versus those who must participate by conference call, arrangements will be made.

Respectfully submitted:

Kim Wilson Recording Secretary