

NORTHWEST IOWA CARE CONNECTIONS

March 24, 2020 Governance Board Meeting

The Northwest Iowa Care Connections Governing Board met via conference call with the following Board members present: Barry Anderson, Clay County Representative (NWIACC Chair); Jayson Vande Hoef, Osceola County Representative (NWIACC Vice Chair); Craig Merrill, Palo Alto County Representative (NWIACC Secretary) and Dennis Vanden Hull, O'Brien County Representative. Bill Leupold, Dickinson County Representative was absent to an inability to join the conference call due to technical difficulties.

Those also in attendance were: Ken Abrams, Worth County Supervisor; Bill Jensvold, Winnebago County Supervisor, Donnie Loss, Roger Tjarks, Jack Plathe, and Kyle Stecker, Kossuth County Supervisors, Carmen Moser, Palo Alto County Auditor, Kim Wilson NWIACC CEO, Deb Brodersen and Kasee Fear from Spencer Hospital, Leann Blau, Laura Elsenbast and Amanda Morony from Hope Haven, Felicia Bates from I-Start, Sandi Mireles from WHW Community Services, and Melissa Loehr, CEO designee.

Barb Rohwer, Fiscal Agent was unable to access the call due to technical difficulties.

Barry Anderson, NWIACC Chair, provided a welcome and called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM. Introductions were waived in favor of establishing participants on the call as they entered the conference.

Craig Merrill made the motion to approve the published agenda which Dennis Vanden Hull seconded and was approved unanimously.

The Governance Board meeting minutes of February 25, March 10, and March 16 along with the February 25 NWIACC Governance Board Work Group were unanimously approved through a motion from Jayson Vande Hoef which was seconded by Dennis Vanden Hull.

Correspondence: A letter of response from Representative Megan Jones was addressed. A follow-up draft letter has been developed to continue the dialogue regarding state and regional partnership. Board members who had not initially reviewed the follow-up draft were asked to contact the CEO by the end of this week with concerns. Plans are to send a follow up letter following Board review and editing by the end of the week.

COVID 19 Event: There was discussion about the effects this is having on individuals served. There was a conversation about creating a short-term task force team to address issues and possible solutions through the regional service network representatives, including Governance Board members, Service Providers, and regional staff. Kim Wilson will create a request to participate in this team by the end of this week with the first electronic meeting to be held next week.

NWIACC current claims submitted by the Fiscal Agent were reviewed. Craig motioned with support from Jayson Vande Hoef to approve the following claims. The motion was approved unanimously.

ALGONA PUBLISHING COMPANY	ADS	278.00
AVERA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	SERV	896.00
CLAY CO SHERIFF DEPT	SERV	115.00
CORNWALL AVERY BJORNSTAD	SERV	60.00

DEKOTER THOLE DAWSON & ROCKMAN PLC	SERV	126.00
DICKINSON COUNTY NEWS	ADS	233.64
DICKINSON COUNTY TREASURER	MLGE & EXP	467.66
DUHN, SUE	MLGE & EXP	249.84
GAZETTE-TRIBUNE	ADS	139.50
GORDON FLESCH COMPANY INC	EQUIP	164.42
HOPE HAVEN INC	SERV	15,387.87
INTEGRATED TELEHEALTH PARTNERS	SERV	710.00
IOWA INFORMATION INC	BD PROC	470.17
JAAH INC.	RENT	240.00
KATHLEEN'S CARE INC	SERV	5,265.24
KEN BORTH AUTO PLAZA INC	MTG EXP	115.45
LAKE MILLS GRAPHIC	ADS	240.00
LOUGHLIN LAW FIRM	SERV	75.00
MERCY ONE PRIMGHAR MEDICAL CENTER	SERV	2,006.50
MID-AMERICA PUBLISHING CORP.	ADS	118.65
O'BRIEN CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE	SERV	244.50
OSCEOLA CO AUDITOR	PHONE	23.59
PLAINS AREA MENTAL HLTH CENTER	SERV	600.00
SANDY LAW FIRM	SERV	1,741.25
SEASON'S CENTER	SERV	23,163.76
SHELDON, CITY OF	MTG EXP	300.00
THE PRESS INC	ADS	118.66
THE PRIDE GROUP	SERV	20,840.56
THE REPORTER THE DEMOCRAT	ADS	229.50
VERIZON WIRELESS	SERV	82.67
VILLAGE NORTHWEST UNLTD	SERV	3,531.24
WALLIN, ABBY	REIMB	31.50
WILL, BETH	MLGE & EXP	275.32
WILSON, KIM	MLGE & EXP	379.73

NWIACC Contracting -Awaiting word from Sioux Rivers regarding the FY 21 Pride Group Rate increase. Kim shared that Duncan Heights administration had reached out to begin contract negotiations for 7/1/20.

There were no exceptions to policy.

Kim Wilson shared that the NWIACC member counties have all officially completed the review process resulting in approval for the letters of intent for Kossuth, Winnebago, and Worth Counties to join Northwest Iowa Care Connections effective July 1, 2020.

Distribution of the NWIACC Region's 28 Agreement and Bylaws- One element of the 28E regarding Voting Rights of elected vs. non-elected Governing Board members is being determined. A motion was made by Craig Merrill and seconded by Jayson Vande Hoef to either weight the elected member county official with a 2:1 ratio or to have two (2) representatives per member county on the Region's Governing Board. The motion was approved unanimously.

The CEO Selection Process was shared with the Board and the announcement of Melissa Loehr as the next CEO was given. Melissa gave background information and a tentative start date of April 9, 2020 to begin training with Kim Wilson prior to Kim's retirement June 30, 2020.

I-START- Felicia Bates provided additional information regarding Kossuth, Winnebago, and Worth Counties as requested by the Board. She states 10 individuals are receiving the service currently: 5 in an ICF ID in Forest City, and five (5) in host or individual homes. Felicia shared positive comments regarding the effectiveness of the program. CEO Kim Wilson shared with the Board a recent visit with Glenwood Resource Center staff to facilitate admissions into community-based placements. Ken Abrams shared concerns about the value of the program for the costs associated with it. Action was tabled to gather additional information to determine the individual needs and outcomes to make an informed decision on FY 21 funding.

Children's Behavioral Health Services Implementation Plan- Jayson Vande Hoef motioned approval, seconded by Craig Merrill, and approved unanimously. It was noted that sustainable funding is needed to support these services.

Respite-Hope Haven LeAnn Blau, Residential Services Supervisor requested a \$100,000 grant to supplement the revenue losses associated with individuals (under 18- 23 and over 18 -7) served through respite in Clay, Palo Alto, and Osceola Counties. These individuals are Medicaid eligible and have reimbursement rates that are half of the cost of the individual or group respite service. Training and other ancillary costs are not being covered through the current rate. Outcomes include prevention of higher levels of care, relief for caregivers, and skill building to better function in school and community. Board concerns continue for underfunded mandated children's services and a suggestion is made to possibly address the adult side of the service request.

Seasons Contracting-A request was received to fund up to 130 clients with cell phone minutes at a rate of \$30 a month to support client access to behavioral health services due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Contract negotiations between the Region and Seasons yielded a review of the configuration of an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Block Grant to support ancillary services considering inadequate Medicaid reimbursement rates for this core service. Jayson Vande Hoef made the motion with support from Craig Merrill to accept the fee schedule as presented. It passed with all eyes.

Also discussed was a \$30,000 request from Seasons Center to continue Medication Management and Nursing Support (MM & NS) services, a core service to cover indirect costs. Lastly, there was a discussion about the request of \$60,000 to provide a dedicated Early Childhood Clinical Care Coordinator (ECCC) to assess children with behavioral health needs. We will discuss coordination with ECI to determine needs and avoid duplicative efforts.

The Board tabled the requests for respite, the cell phone minutes, the MM &NS and ECCC to evaluate the impact to the FY 21 budget.

Craig Merrill motioned and Jayson Vande Hoef supported the determination that Disability Services Coordinator positions contracted through the Region with member counties will work 37.5 hours a week.

The FY 21 NWIACC Annual Service Budget Plan was provided for review. There was discussion about the various requests impacting the budget that must be resolved before submission. Kim Wilson informed the Board that DHS has extended the deadline for submission to May 1st, 2020 due to the COVID 19 event. Board action was to table this until the April 28th meeting.

Updates-Individualized Placement and Supports (IPS) Employment. There have been disruptions in client employment and concerns for maintaining work and other essential needs due to COVID 19. There were two terminations of employment unrelated to COVID 19 prior to the most recent social distancing.

Kossuth County representatives shared that office space for a regional office is available in their Kossuth County Annex.

A suggestion was made to have a video conferencing option for future meetings, but it was determined that a phone conference call worked well and can be accessed again if restrictions continue.

Dennis Vanden Hull made a motion to adjourn with support from Craig Merrill. Motion carried with all ayes.

Chair Barry Anderson adjourned the meeting at 2:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberly Wilson
NWIACC CEO
NWIACC Board March 24th, 2020 Recording Secretary