



## LINN COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

Held via Zoom

Tuesday, April 13 – 12:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Diane Daubenmier      Bob Hebl      Mike Hines  
Sr. Susan O'Connor      Ben Rogers      Robin Shelby

**STAFF:** Nichole Baker-Jones      Ashley Balias      Jody Bridgewater  
Erin Foster      Jim Fox      Staci Meade  
Dawn Schott      David Thielen      Gloria Witzberger

### CALL TO ORDER

Bob Hebl called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

### MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING

The minutes of the March meeting were approved. MSC: O'Connor/Shelby (6-0).

### MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT

Staci presented the monthly budget report. Staci noted an adjustment to the spreadsheet to reflect changes in reporting. CYD programs reflect expenses in line with expectations and additional on revenue due to grant funding. GA reflects an increased spend down as discussed. Ryan White program look high in contrast with the original budget but this is due to increased grant funding. Home Health also reflects additional expenses due to Covid, and they have fully billed for the public health grant. JDDS is an area of monitoring and may require adjustments moving forward. Options shows at 43% of expected budget from the original budget and 33% of expected revenues due to Covid shutdowns and layoffs, but this is largely stabilizing with increased attendance. ECR and MHAC are broken out. Receipts from the ECR reflects 46.7% but there was a recent billing that has not been fully received. The ECR has been billed for the MHAC's operating expenses. The monthly budget report was approved MSC: Hines/Daubenmier (6-0).

Staci noted that she is working on the spring amendment and some reallocation of unspent funds. There will be updates on this in the May meeting. There were additional funds received by ECI that are normally allocated as part of the spring surplus. Bob Hebl noted that there has been an increase in federal funding of some Medicaid funded services.

### GENERAL ASSISTANCE STIPEND TEMPORARY POLICY CHANGE

Ashley presented information regarding how they can better utilize the budget. Ashley noted the changes that were approved previously and noted that there has been a limited population that has

utilized the change in policy. She also noted that this may have been attributable to the timing with the release of stimulus checks, tax refunds, and IFA.

Ongoing clients were identified as a potential area of assistance. GA is reimbursed for all assistance but this is capped below the maximum. The majority of clients win their cases resulted in SSI reimbursement. Community data was provided that reflected that median rent has increased 21% since the assistance amount was adjusted and that utility costs are rising. Sr. Susan asked how many ongoing clients are being worked with. Currently it is about 33 individuals but this fluctuates with a typical volume around 50. Ashley requested that the reimbursement rate be temporarily increased to \$794 through the end of the fiscal year. This will be voted on by the GA board at tomorrow's meeting. Mike Hines asked if GA staff are currently assisting in filling out SSI forms. They are currently not, and an area within the GA strategic plan is training the staff in SOAR training to assist individuals in applying for SSI. David added that this may be looked at long term for how the county can help mitigate risk of not being approved such as requiring the individual seek legal assistance. This request was approved MSC: O'Connor/Shelby (6-0).

## **PROGRAM UPDATES**

CYD: Gloria Witzberger presented the update for CYD programs. CYD will be reconvening a committee on how to provide expanded community access to the Harris Building. This had been put on hold due to Covid. DHS did their unannounced annual visit, which went very well. They also had their annual CACFP audit with some minor action items such as including a link on the website and some trainings that were put on hold due to Covid. These have all been corrected.

East Central Region: The Region is finishing up its second round of CARES funding. Linn and Johnson Co access centers are both in a phased opening. The Region is working on a public awareness campaign of what funding is available in the community.

GA/LCCS Core: Ashley presented information about the Overflow Shelter, which has remained open beyond its normal scope due to Covid and Derecho impacts. They are working with LCPH to ensure that the shelter remains open. They are currently seeing about 50 per night and about half of that population are "regulars". Hotels are providing some housing for Derecho impacts, which is reimbursed through FEMA. David noted that there have been some problems due to its extended use with 24/7 hours. There is work to determine what the best way forward will be such as working toward transitional housing. Ben asked Ashley to outline the relationship between the overflow shelter and the FEMA funding for the hotels. Ashley noted that for the funding to be available, the overflow shelter had to be open and at capacity. This, like the eviction moratorium, will need to end at some point, but there is broad uncertainty about timings and specifics.

JDDS: JDDS has transitioned over to Dayforce. Dawn's staff has all had the opportunity to get the vaccine. They are looking at returning the diversion staff and are examining timings of family visitation. Professional visitation has been allowed due to better compliance with masking policies. The center has utilized CARES act funding to bring mental health services through Unity Point. They are also working with group socio-emotional mental health therapies. They are tracking outcomes and have funding through June. This has also provided trauma informed yoga. They are also partnering with CRPL in a program called "Read Woke" which provides a themed box of books and then record the youth's thoughts on the books. The center and sometimes the youth are able to keep the books. Dawn appeared on KCRG last week to discuss human trafficking. Therapy dogs restarted last month, and staffing has largely stabilized. There are currently 92 youth in diversion programs.

MHAC: Erin presented the update for the MHAC. The center has been accepting patients for one month. Penn Center is currently the only agency in the building providing services, and Erin will be meeting with them to discuss a 1 month evaluation as they phase in opening. On April 26, they will begin having daytime walk-in hours. This will also open up Abbe services for mental health. Staffing for 24/7 services has been a challenge for the providers. ASAC has been determining how to provide detox and sobering. The April 26 date will allow law enforcement liaisons to bring individuals but this was decided due to the realities encountered at Johnson County's MHAC.

Options: Jim presented the updated for Options. Census is trending up and there has been a noted decrease in cases. Staff are quickly getting vaccinated due to increased availability. There has been a change at the state level regarding how skill training should be done. Jim and Staci will be meeting regarding financial feasibility

Ryan White: Nichole presented the update for Ryan White. Ryan White was fully funded from the prior year, whereas other programs received funding cuts. There are monthly trainings through IDPH including a meeting with the pharmacy in Des Moines that provides the majority of the medications. They are also planning on a grief program for staff due to the close relationships that are built and the losses that can occur. The paperless database is a work in progress which should expedite site visits by IDPH. This year's state project focuses around quality management and continuous improvement initiatives.

Home Health: David presented the update for Home Health. They have received approval to hire a supervisor. There are several staff out on FMLA and there is the intention to hire a temp. They will be working with LCPH to help get vaccinations to clients with barriers.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

David presented the executive director update. With the stimulus bill there has been additional funding allocated to the counties. The county will be receiving approximately \$44 million. This may be utilized toward lost revenue. Buildings are still closed and this is expected to continue. County employees and immediate family are eligible for the vaccine through LCPH. The union contracts were approved, but the union was not able to negotiate other than wages, which eliminated large portions of the contract. Specific policies are being written to cover those areas that were eliminated. Staff met yesterday with risk regarding workers compensation and the panic buttons in the building.

Mike Hines informed the group that Tanager will be hosting a symposium on trauma informed care and resiliency on May 6 virtually. He also thanked the BOS for sponsoring the symposium.

The meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Leah Coffman, Recorder

### DATE OF NEXT LCCS BOARD MEETING

12:00 PM, Tuesday, May 11, 2021  
Community Services Building  
1240 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue Ct SW, Second Floor Conf. 2A  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

**MISSION: Linn County Community Services addresses local health and human service needs by providing direct services, community planning, and administration of local, state, and federal funds in ways that**

**promote service availability, access, cost-effectiveness, and quality.**