



LINN COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

Zoom

Tuesday, October 12th - 12:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Bob Hebl, Mike Tiernan, Robin Shelby, Sara Becker, Mike Hines. Ben Rogers, Erin Koehn, Sister Susan O'Connor,

STAFF: Nichole Baker-Jones, Staci Meade, Ashley Balias, David Thielen, Dawn Schott, Stacy Lietz, Jody Bridgewater, Erin Foster, Gloria Witzberger

CALL TO ORDER 12:01

MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

The minutes of the September 14 meeting were approved. MSC: Hebl/Tiernan (6-0).

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT

Staci Meade stated that the summary included in the packet represents the first quarter through September. There continues to be some issues to work through with the new system and Staci will make note where that may have an impact. Total expenditures are on track. Revenue is looking low but that is largely due to timing issues. Staci said that she will make note where those changes (due to timing) are coming. Staci stated that come spring she will have a better idea as to where we are but as of right now LCCS can expect to have a surplus. Staci noted that for the funded agency category it is a priority of her department especially with a new staff hire to get those payments out more timely. She stated that the Board can expect to see that be more on target in the coming months. The monthly budget report was approved. MSC: O'Connor/Shelby (6-0).

FY23 BUDGETING SCHEDULE/PLAN

Staci then provided an overview of the upcoming budget process. She explained the difference between a justified expenses versus an offer. Now that it's October, her department is working with the LCCS departments on program performance indicators and expected upcoming expenses. In November, Staci will meet with the Department heads to review what has been collected in October and what Department heads have for goals for next year. Based on these meetings, Staci will build the LCCS budget. In January the LCCS Board will vote on and approve the budget and then Staci will present to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Vaccine Mandates - Federal Programs: David stated that the county is currently in a wait and hold pattern depending on what they learn and what the expectations will be for local governments and subsequent programs that receive Federal funding.

American Recovery Plan Act - Update: Working on a joint application with the City of Cedar Rapids. No action has been taken by the Board of Supervisors yet.

Emergency Rental Assistance 2 - Update: Ashley Balius stated that she is really proud of the program so far. Nearly 400 households have been served in less than 2 months and over \$1 million dollars has already been allocated. She said that the success is largely due to strong collaboration and partnership with Waypoint, Iowa Legal Aid, and HACAP.

Linn County Strategic Planning - Update: This will be made public soon. LCCS does a good job with falling in line with the overarching county plan. We will need to tease out some numbers and performance indicators but otherwise LCCS is on track.

PROGRAM UPDATES

East Central Region - Linn County: Jody Bridgewater stated that Fund Balance applications are on the Board of Supervisors agenda tomorrow for approval and then will go to the Regional Board by October 28.

Options of Linn County: David continues to meet with Supervisors Ryan and Lisa to address any issues that they have going on. David also announced that there are a number of staffing changes taking place right now in Options. There is one retirement this week and they were able to do a recall of a staff laid off in March. In addition, they were able to do another recall to take clients off the waitlist! With Jim's retirement, there has been some savings and they have been able to recall a typist. David stated that they have been able to recall all staff back but some have taken other positions already and so they will be posting for a position to fill another coming retirement.

Ryan White: Nichole Baker- Jones stated that last quarter they served 194 cline and had 12 new languages represented. They are now serving the largest number of non-English speaking clients than they have ever have but it is manageable. They received a grant to hire another full time case manager which will reduce caseloads from about 60 to about 40 per case manager. They recently hosted a booth at the Vets stand down. In total. They have provided about \$64,000 in financial assistance in the last quarter.

Home Health: Most recently they have been trying to educate clients on the covid vaccine boosters since most clients are eligible. Working with Public Health and local pharmacies to get clients connected to them as well as transportation. Many clients have covid fatigue and don't want to 'jump through the hoops' to get the booster. Many clients also got sick after their second dose and are fearful that that would happen with the booster. Staff are still getting used to the new software that has been introduced but they are working through it. Now it is hard to believe that 1.5 years ago all Home Health work was done by paper! Have an upcoming compliance review from Iowa Department of Public Health!

Child/Youth Development: Gloria stated that since they are considered essential workers they were able to get the booster! Most staff went to get the booster and have felt fine. Everyone is currently masked though it can be challenging to keep them on 3 year olds! They are waiting to hear more information about the Federal vaccine mandate. Children have gotten covid and they have had to

quarantine entire classrooms. They have also seen a number of breakthrough cases. At the Fillmore building, the center had a QRS rating of 5. They lost that when they went to the Harris Building. Next summer, they will start preparing for that review. Still collecting Hy-Vee receipts. Schools can receive \$1 for every \$200 in receipts. They just received a check for \$395! There is a program in Iowa called WAGES which is a childcare supplemental stipend program that staff can apply for. Gloria stated that she is hoping staff take advantage of this program! Gloria stated that they have had issues with vandalism. She stated that during the National Night Out, they partnered with the neighborhood association and have built a strong relationship to combat vandalism. The neighborhood has taken ownership of the center. Despite the effort, last week there was more vandalism. Pots that the kids had planted with vegetables had been thrown around and broken. Checking the footage, they identified that it was 10 year old boys at about 10:30 pm. Quarterly the Child and Youth Development Department does staff recognition and brings it to the Advisory committee. This quarter was Deb Clark! She has been in the position 31 years!

Early Childhood Iowa/Decat: Chris stated that ECI is a funder of about 14 different programs in the community that support children. Chris stated that people are starting to acknowledge the childcare crisis. Chris is working with United Way and the Community Foundation to see what could be worked out to address these issues. Chris stated that all funders were very receptive. They are nearing in on a pretty substantial financial amount to help with gap financing for childcare providers. This will be short term gap filling but hope that there can be longer term solutions through ARPA funds through the City, County, and/ or DHS.

DECAT, is another funding Board focused on juvenile diversion. They are collaborating with Iowa State University to host sessions to figure out what our small but mighty group of volunteers can do to help.

NEW BUSINESS

None was noted.

Ashley Balius, Recorder

DATE OF NEXT LCCS BOARD MEETING

12:00 PM, Tuesday, November 9th 2021

Zoom

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.