



LINN COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

Held via Zoom

Tuesday, February 9 – 12:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Diane Daubenmeier Bob Hebl Mike Hines
Tricia Hoffman-Simanek Scott Lindsley
Sr. Susan O'Connor Ben Rogers Robin Shelby

STAFF: Nichole Baker-Jones Ashley Balias Jody Bridgewater
Erin Foster Jim Fox Chris Kivett-Berry
Stacey Lietz 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 JANUARY MEETING

The minutes of the January meeting were approved. MSC: O'Connor/Hines (7-0)

CACFP REPORT

Staci presented the CACFP report. This presents the quarterly information regarding meals served to children. The quarterly numbers reflect lower volumes due to COVID and the holiday. However, expenses are approximately normal due to salary and benefits.

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT

Staci stated that she is currently waiting on reporting from the new system and will provide YTD summary next month.

FY22 BUDGET UPDATE

Staci presented the update regarding the FY22 budget. All justified expenses were approved by the BOS including contractual updates, and updated support to ECI/DECAT. Detention's part-time supervisor offer was approved and the two vehicles requested by FTS were approved. Staci noted that the FTS offer was supported by a cost savings over time and that this was a very successful strategy to reach approval.

FY19-21 STRATEGIC PLAN DASHBOARD UPDATE

David presented the update for the FY19-21 Strategic plan. This represented that 93% of the objectives that were set out four years ago were achieved or are on-track. There were 13 items that are off-track,

but this may represent changes in priorities or delivery due to the co-crises of the Derecho and COVID. David noted that this has helped the directors think big and that this can inform objectives for the upcoming strategic plan.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE STIPEND AMOUNT CHANGES

Ashley presented information regarding the GA surplus. They have seen an increase in funds available within the community due to COVID, and particularly with Waypoint being a central point of coordination. There are several agencies involved in collaboration, and referrals are based on level of need. This has been highly effective. In meeting weekly, opportunities have been identified, particularly since all agencies are working on a backlog. Ashley is recommending that Waypoint gather all information and upload to a shared, protected database that would be part of the referral process. This funding would support the full community, increase capacity to administer funding, and help prevent evictions or utility shutoffs. David noted that GA was underspent by approximately \$180,000, which are the funds looking at spending down. Staci noted that surplus funds are typically disbursed within LCCS or to supported agencies, so this is not outside the normal procedure. Currently, GA allocates up to \$450 per month to support. However, due to COVID, individuals are experiencing much higher overdue amounts and needs. They are proposing a temporary increase of up to \$900 in needy households. This also would allow for paying two months at a time if backrent is owed or back utility bills. Ashley noted that this was developed in consultation with Waypoint to ensure needs are better met in the community, but this would also save staff time and be more efficient. Diane asked if there would be additional funding coming for rent assistance and if they are anticipating additional need in the community. Ashley noted that she expects that there will be additional resources incoming. Bob also noted that the governor's budget reflected an increase in supportive and transitional housing funding. David clarified that this is temporary to get this spent down this fiscal year and they will revert back to normal operating procedure July 1. The stipend amount was approved MSC: Shelby/Lindsley (7-0).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

David presented the executive director update. Several programs are working with Public Health to get their 1B tier staff vaccinated or scheduled. CYD, Detention, Home Health, and Options are all part of 1B in various sub-tiers, and they are getting signed up for the vaccine as applicable. The mask mandate and building closures still hold and are in the COVID status quo.

David previewed the strategic planning by discussing that each program had reviewed its SWOT analysis with its staff and advisory boards.

STRATEGIC PLAN DISCUSSIONS

David noted that he highlighted overarching themes across programs and he recognized common areas. David requested feedback from the board for the program SWOT analysis.

Options: Jim noted that he met with staff and his board. There was universal agreement that the staff is the biggest strength, while the financial insustainability is a weakness. He noted that there are opportunities with COVID to become self-sustainable, including examining staffing ratios. Bob Hebl noted that capacity will change and that how the census may change. This is also an opportunity to examine if day hab is the only program they want to provide, and he noted that the state is allowing day hab to look at using the word "employment". Bob noted that day programs get far less funding and attention that residential programs do, and that tiered rates have not increased since they were

introduced and are based on 2014 data. Mike Hines asked about CARF funding and if this is influenced by staffing ratios. Jim noted that there are no specific ratio requirements but they must meet the client needs. David noted that this is a good time to brainstorm and think outside the box for the programs and that he welcomes board feedback for the programs.

Ryan White: David noted the overarching themes, such as the staff skillset and dedication. He noted that the workload is increasing and approaching an unmanageable level. He also noted that IDPH process changes and county staffing structures create risk. He noted opportunities in funding through LCPH. Nichole noted that they are 50 clients over capacity. The state recommends 45:1 case management ratios, and they are intaking approximately 20-30 clients per year. She noted that their clients rely on them to help them navigate health care and the poverty cycle, but she noted that clients get better care under their philosophy of serving the whole person. She also noted that other community agencies are over capacity as well and are unable to meet the specific needs of their clients. Nichole noted that they have increasing numbers of refugee or non-English speaking clients, and that they are helping more family units rather than the specific client and the in-depth level of care that they need. Mike Hines asked if their clients qualify for the adult integrated health homes. Nichole noted that this is a small portion of their population and that they have relationships with other providers, but they are the primary source of assistance in their clients' lives.

CYD: David noted the highlights, such as the quality staff, facility, etc. He also noted that capacity and the long wait list are areas of weakness and that virtual visits have resulted in lower satisfaction. He also noted opportunities such as partnerships within the Oakhill Jackson neighborhood and developing relationships with colleges. Gloria emphasized how much they appreciate their ability to stay open due to the support of the county and that they were at one point the only child development center that was being supported by a county BOS. She stated how much she appreciates how fortunate her group is. She is examining looking for additional funding and noted that the waiting list is growing. David noted the area of laws/regulations and that there is the potential for legislation to address the shortage of child care providers.

Home Health: David noted the common themes such as the dedicated, long-term staff who have been resilient and flexible during the pandemic. There is a wait list for service and the limited funding and support are weaknesses given the aging population. The need is going to increase so there are opportunities in technology and capacity. He noted workforce challenges, the MCOs, and the risks of bumping and layoffs.

David encouraged the board to also consider areas such as the MHAC and the ECR, and how these programs can develop their strategic plans.

Sr. Susan asked about the timeline for CYD staff to be vaccinated. Gloria stated that LCPH is working with them to get her staff vaccinated as well as using the gym to provide mass vaccinations over weekends for the public. She anticipates that her staff will be in within a few days. Jim anticipates that his program will be after childcare, and Dawn stated that her program is in the 5th tier of 1B.

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m. MSC: O'Connor/Daubenmier

Leah Coffman, Recorder

DATE OF NEXT LCCS BOARD MEETING

12:00 PM, Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Community Services Building

1240 26th 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.