

**LINN COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES** **LINN COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD**

COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING  
1240 26TH AVE. COURT SW  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52404  
PH: 319-892-5600 | FAX: 319-892-5619

Held via Zoom  
Tuesday, March 9 - 12:00 p.m.

LinnCounty.org



**PRESENT:** Bob Hebl Erin Koehn Scott Lindsley  
Sr. Susan O'Connor Ben Rogers Mike Tiernan Robin Shelby

**STAFF:** Ashley Balius Jody Bridgewater Erin Foster  
Jim Fox Chris Kivett-Berry Staci Meade  
Dawn Schott David Thielen Gloria Witzberger

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by Bob Hebl.

**MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING**

The minutes of the February meeting were approved. MSC: O'Connor/Shelby (5-0)

**MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT**

Staci presented the monthly budget report. Financials available are through January due to timings. Totals for February are on track but the detailed memo is not available yet. Substance abuse currently contains SUD funding for the MHAC, which will be broken out for future reports. CYD is on pace for expenses and slightly under on revenue, but this is a timing question. General Assistance still under-utilized and this may be more reflective in the February March numbers as changes take effect. Ryan White is on track. Home Health included some higher expenses for PPE. Detention will be hiring a part time supervisor which will help defray overtime costs and is currently showing as over on revenues. Funded agencies are anticipated as on-track for this fiscal year. Options is continued its phased reopening. Expenses are on pace for the update and revenue shows as higher than anticipated. This program will continued to be monitored closely as the vaccine rolls out. ECR is currently showing as under on revenue but this is a timing issue with the transition in systems. The monthly budget report was approved. MSC: Tiernan/O'Connor (6-0).

**FY22 BUDGET UPDATE**

Staci presented the update regarding the FY22 budget. The budget was approved with all justified expenses. The offer for a part-time supervisor for JDDS was approved as were the FTS vehicle purchases. The RW case manager position was denied and grant funding was not secured, so this will likely be requested again next year.

**GENERAL ASSISTANCE STIPEND AMOUNT UPDATE**

Ashley presented an update regarding the GA surplus. So far this has been slower than expected but that GA is not the primary source referred to through Waypoint, but Ashley does not expect this to continue. There are three clients currently working with GA through the exception process and three working with the GA funded Waypoint position.

**FY19-21 STRATEGIC PLAN**

David presented the SWOT analyses for GA and JDDS.

Ashley noted the common thematic elements in bold for her program such as the strong community collaboration and partnerships. The staff is also highly knowledgeable. She also noted the awareness and driving of community resources for their clients. State code for GA is vague and allows for a high level of local autonomy. Weaknesses were noted as limited funding since rents and utility costs have risen faster than the level of assistance provided. Burial assistance continues to be on the rise and how the \$1000 cap doesn't cover the cost of a cremation. The transient population also makes surveying and evaluation of services difficult. Opportunities include the community of the other 98 general assistance departments across the state. There are also additional opportunities for grant funding that could be pursued as well as continuing to evolve the program in ways that eliminate red tape. There are also opportunities for SOAR training which allows a higher level of service working with and applying for SSI. Ashley identified funding as a possible threat and rapid changes in the community impact the program budgets. Housing stock impacts service levels and their clients are high barrier and low income. Vendor policies and standards are also frequently opaque and inconsistent across vendors, which create challenges in providing service. Bob Hebl asked if stimulus checks are impacting individual eligibility. Ashley explained that most of the individuals have backrent that exceed the \$1400 but also that this is so short-term that this is treated more like a tax refund and is not counted against eligibility.

Dawn discussed the SWOT for JDDS. Dawn surveyed staff from all programs and her advisory board. Strengths include relationship building, both interstaff and with residents and outside entities. Flexibility was a strength listed. Weaknesses include lack of resources, particularly technology and mental health resources. Staff training and accountability were also listed as a weakness, since there can be inconsistencies within programs, as well as high level of turnover. Opportunities listed were to increase trainings around restraints and trauma informed care practices. Program enhancements such as yoga programs, internships and developing new diversion programming were suggested, and becoming more forward-looking was stated as an opportunity. Threats were include the changing standards around youth charged in adult court. There are also external political pressures from Disability Right Iowa and other entities. The detention screening tool has also caused changes in how referrals are accepted. Employee retention is also a threat in the high turnover environment. Scott asked about mental health services. Dawn stated that she has received a grant from GCRCF to have a mental health counselor on site two days a week for a total of 5 hours to meet with the youth on suicide watch or those who are experiencing difficult behaviors. The ECR is funding through the end of the year. Dawn has also connected with an art therapist who has offered to volunteer once per week. Therapy dogs come once a month and have resumed visits as of February. Dawn is planning to implement exit surveying of staff.

David added that the SWOT analyses as presented will inform the strategic planning over the next

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Staci presented the report of February numbers for Children's Mental Health, which is being underspent. It's been requested that the stipend be increased since less money is being spent due to pandemic impacts. There is a discussion of increasing the stipend by \$700, which would allow a significant number of therapy or behavioral health intervention services. Fourteen clients have hit their cap so far and she anticipates that this may increase to 44 with this month's billings. If this is still underspent in the spring amendment, this could be reallocated. The stipend increase was approved MSC: Lindsley/Tiernan (6-0).

## **PROGRAM UPDATES**

Erin Foster discussed the ribbon cutting for the MHAC. The center now has WiFi, working phones, and crisis bed patients are moving in. They are not walk-in open, but they are phasing in the opening. Once Foundation2 has staff onboarded, they will move in to the center, followed by Abbe, with ASAC expected to be the last to move in.

David noted that the Ryan White program wrote their four year RFP, for which she received five years of funding.

Gloria Witzberger discussed the opportunity to write for additional funding for their ECI programming, which they received all three of. The funding for the Child Development Center will allow for the furnishing of the sensory rooms at the Harris Building.

Jim Fox noted that the state has issued new rules for Day Habilitation focus areas and outcomes. These are being evaluated to determine what changes need to be made to ensure compliance and break-even.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE**

David presented the executive director update. Work from Home contracts have been extended through the end of June. Building closures have been extended, but this is on the agenda for tomorrow which may cause changes. Staff are beginning to be vaccinated by programs.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

*Leah Coffman, Recorder*

### **DATE OF NEXT LCCS BOARD MEETING**

12:00 PM, Tuesday, April 13, 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.**