

LINN COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES

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

LinnCounty.org



LINN COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

Zoom

Tuesday, August 10 – 12:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Diane Daubenmier Bob Hebl Mike Hines
Sr. Susan O'Connor Ben Rogers John Stuelke Mike Tiernan

STAFF: Nichole Baker-Jones Ashley Balius Jody Bridgewater
Erin Foster Chris Kivett-Berry Staci Meade
Dawn Schott David Thielen Gloria Witzberger Elena Wolford

CALL TO ORDER

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

MINUTES FROM THE JULY MEETING

The minutes of the July 13 meeting were approved. MSC: O'Connor/Tiernan. (7-0).

LINN COUNTY ATTORNEY – BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

Elena Wolford from the Linn County attorney’s office presented information regarding board responsibilities. Any time board members meet and deliberate this is considered a meeting and is therefore subject to the rules of Chapter 21. The public has the right to be present at the meeting. An agenda must be published at least 24 hours prior. The board may deliberate and decide on an emergent matter but only if it is truly an emergency. The location must be accessible to the public, but only the board can decide if the public has the right to speak at the meeting. If a vote is taken, the vote must be reported individually unless it is unanimous. The record of the meeting is subject to public information request and must be provided. Potential Conflicts of Interest should be discussed with the county attorney’s office. David asked if posting a Zoom link would meet the requirements for public attendance. Elena stated that if a meeting is entirely on Zoom that the link would be sufficient.

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT

Staci Meade presented information regarding the changeover from Cash Basis to Accrual, resulting in there being no monthly statements. She explained the differences between these reporting styles and that she did not receive month end reports until August 9.

CACFP REPORT

Staci Meade presented information about the quarterly CACFP report. This reflects the total number of meals served during the quarter. Staci noted that the numbers have returned to normal year over year with attendance in contrast with the August 2020 numbers which were in the middle of the early

Pandemic. Total monthly attendance was 2900 in contrast with 600. They are at 108% of expense for this program, which is driven by Food and Non-Food expenses, largely driven by supply chain challenges. Revenue is at 90% of the budget in contrast with 82% this time last year. David briefly explained that CACFP is a federal program that covers food costs at CYD. This information must be presented quarterly. Diane asked if the budget is going to be adjusted to reflect for the change in reporting. Staci explained that since most of the budget is salary and benefits this will be more impactful during the amendment.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

David presented the executive director update.

American Recovery Plan Act: Linn County has put the committee on hold. Each of the board of supervisors will be holding public forums to determine how to spend the funds. The first will be August 11 at the Cedar Rapids Public Library held by Supervisor Walker. Once this public input is gathered, a proposal will be brought before the Board of Supervisors, likely in September.

Emergency Rental Assistance 2: Ashley Balius provided information on ERA2. This iteration of the program is more flexible than ERA1. This will be starting Monday August 16. This allows for up to 18 months of rent or utility assistance. This will also allow for up to 3 months or prospective rent. This can be accessed through Waypoint or through the Linn County website.

Mask Requirement: The buildings remain open but the board is now requiring that masks be worn inside County buildings. This has resulted in the decision to move meetings to Zoom.

School District Outreach: David has been meeting with outreach employees at the school districts to ensure awareness of ERA2 and other emergency funding as well as the programs offered by LCCS.

David also shared that Jim Fox's wife passed away last week.

PROGRAM UPDATES

General Assistance/Community Outreach: Ashley Balius presented information for GA/Core. GA had diverted funds to create a Stopgap program to help prevent evictions. The eviction moratorium however has been extended through October 3 unless transmission rates drop below high for 14 consecutive days. The program will remain in place to help prevent evictions and to ensure continuity of communications and service. Ashley also shared that the Point in Time count was completed last week, with the highest ever street count with 76 individuals on the street. Ashley explained that the Point in Time count takes place annually in January, but that Linn County also does it the last Wednesday in July to gain a 1 night census of the homeless population. This count typically reflects a lower number than the reality due to the transient nature of this population. Sr. Susan asked if the individuals in this population are consistent year to year or if it changes. Ashley stated that there is a small population that are chronically homeless but that there is some fluctuation in and out of homelessness.

JDDS: Dawn presented the update for JDDS. She noted that their numbers are low right now across all programs. The youth in detention include some long term stays. They have one youth who only speaks Spanish. Dawn has filled six of her 10 positions with five staff on workman's comp. All staff are back in

masks in or out of the center. The Cedar Rapids Public Library has been providing books from different genres for their Read Woke program. Channel 9 did a news article on it. Little village will be doing an article and Swamp Fox Books will be doing a fundraiser. The low census has created the ability to provide more training for the staff around culture, accountability and respect. Nichole Baker Jones asked what interpretation services are being used. Dawn shared that they are using Hands Up, which Nichole stated she was going to recommend.

MHAC: Erin Foster presented the update for the MHAC. The hours will be expanding again soon to either 10 p.m. or midnight. This will then include weekends as well. Mobile Crisis can be utilized outside of business hours. Crisis observation will be open this month which is a less than 24 hour service but that allows for more time and understanding of a patient's situation. Area Ambulance will be starting the Sobering Unit effective September 1. Orientations will be taking place this week and there will be an EMT or paramedic available on site. Johnson County is using this model. This allows for a full triage to take place once the individual has sobered up. Bob Hebl noted the importance of this program to divert individuals from the hospitals or jails. Erin stated that law enforcement are very excited for this addition to the MHAC. Sr. Susan O'Connor asked about the indigent population that had been camping around the MHAC. Erin shared that there is now a no trespassing order around the area and that this has been largely effective.

Options: David provided the update for Options. The mask mandate has not impacted this program since staff and consumers were already wearing masks. They are continuing to do outings into the community and staying outside as much as possible weather permitting. Ratios are a little higher and there is regular monitoring to ensure sustainability. There will be regular analysis of ratios and need. The advisory committee will be meeting monthly to look at additional sustainable areas.

Ryan White: Nichole Baker-Jones presented the update for Ryan White program. IDPH will likely be covering the 1 additional hour per week for their intake tech. They have had six new intakes since early July who are high need clients. These clients need additional resources beyond the RW program. Staff attended an LGBTQ diversity training. Staff will also be attending Linn County diversity program. IDPH asked for clients to provide their stories for their anti-stigma campaign. IDPH is allowing for both public and anonymous stories. The first injectable treatment for HIV was approved by the FDA but it is not currently covered by Ryan White program funds. Steps are being taken to get it added to the drug list and to find means to reduce barriers. Nichole also shared that a client had a seizure while meeting with their case manager. Staff handled this situation appropriately and were able to visit the client in hospital, discuss the case with hospital staff and ensure the client was connected to services.

Home Health: David provided the update for Home Health. The program is very nearly fully staffed and Stacey Lietz is on vacation.

CYD: Gloria Witzberger presented the update for CYD. Staff are readjusting to mask requirements. Enrollment is in full swing with paperwork. They were notified by USDA who administer the CACFP program, and they will be receiving an additional \$8,000. Gloria met with risk management and the neighborhood board president. They reviewed camera footage, and the children were identified by the neighborhood board president. Staff were asked to talk to any children seen in the playground after 5 p.m. It was suggested that the building host a National Night Out, which was held last week for the neighborhood. Public Health offered a vaccine clinic during this time. Gloria also shared that the mural inside the building has been completed. This is by the entrance to Public Health.

ECI/DECAT: Chris Kivett-Berry presented information for ECI/Decat. Kids, Inc. closed which resulted in the loss of 100 childcare slots. This has reopened the conversation.

ECR: Jody Bridgewater presented the update for ECR. There have been meetings had to determine how to navigate funding changes.

NEW BUSINESS

David noted that there is a tentative plan to meet at different locations over the next few months, such as JDDS and the MHAC. This is pending Covid numbers to determine whether meeting will be held electronically.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Leah Coffman, Recorder

DATE OF NEXT LCCS BOARD MEETING

12:00 PM, Tuesday, September 14, 2021
Juvenile Detention Center
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.