

**Sioux Rivers Regional Mental Health and Disability Services
Advisory Board Meeting
Plymouth County Courthouse Annex**

**November 25, 2015
Minutes**

Attendance/Introductions: Sharon Nieman, Mike Wood, David Van Ningen, Shawn Scholten, Aaron Haverdink, Patty Erickson-Puttmann, Jolie Corder, Rebecca Mangold (intern at CLC), Ann Landers

Public Meetings

- Discussion of setting up an open public meeting for providers and public. Patty Erickson-Puttmann explained how Woodbury County had done it in the past. Woodbury County meetings were about setting priorities such as funding for medications, recovery, programming, etc. Mike Wood said that as a consumer, he appreciated having that type of opportunity. Jolie Corder said with all the changes, parents of consumers are so confused and might really appreciate that kind of opportunity.
- This type of meeting would also present an opportunity to explain the Crisis Center, core plus services, the MCO process, the budget, etc.
- Question as to how much time would be needed to set up this type of meeting. It would have to be after January 1, 2016 – possibly March or April and would be held in each county. Would need to take to the Governance Board.
- Possible topics for the meeting: management plans, overview of managed care, crisis center, special projects, IVR funding stream.

Provider Incentive Budget

- Mike Wood asked if the provider incentive budget was going to be continued.
- Response was that Woodbury County was the only county that used to do it and now all 3 counties would have to do it, so would depend on the region budget.

Crisis Center

- Requests for contracting beds at the Crisis Center. Sioux Rivers Region wants to wait until it's up and running, so the needs of the region are better known.

Annual Reports

- Sharon Nieman reported that Cherokee County was asked for their financial information since they were a part of Sioux Rivers Region for the first 6 months. Cherokee County pooled all their money with Rolling Hills Region since county funds were not pooled at that time.
- Annual Report needs to be turned in by December 1, 2015.
- The report isn't really used for anything other than gathering data.

Upcoming Legislation

- Service Coordinators meet Friday, December 4th at 10 a.m. in LeMars. Area legislators have been invited to attend. The agenda will cover work alternatives programming, the Crisis Center, and changing the tax levy. Jim Rixner will attend and explain the Crisis Center.

Managed Care Organizations (MCO's)

- Providers have received their rates. MCO's have said that providers can negotiate rates, but not too optimistic that there will be any increase. Some providers for ID & DD are closing beds because base rates are inadequate.
- Case managers have been told they can't influence clients towards any particular MCO. All they can do is help explain the system.

Employment Alternatives Update

- The Committee continues to move forward with the outcomes of the project. Reported data includes persons placed prior to 7/15 and who benefit from the project through employment support as well as persons placed since 7/15.

Outcomes & Evidence-Based Update

- Aaron reported that training took place in October. Providers have received training.
- IACP and ISAC will both provide technical assistance, if needed.
- 4 areas are being focused on.

Rate Negotiations Discussion

- RCF, SCL, Work Activity are services still funded.
- Host region should be negotiating rates the region's providers. Hope Haven and Pride Group are 2 biggest providers in the region. CMS doesn't dictate how county spends local funds.
- Sioux Rivers Region has to define programs and eligibility for these programs, so SRR can fund them and make sure they're in the budget.
- Shesler Hall, SMHC, PAMHC, CLC, Life Skills, Pride Group, etc., all currently get funding.
- Suggested that no need to negotiate rates because rates are provider-driven. Could possibly do a cost of living percentage increase of current rates and revisit at a future date. Mental health centers' rates currently mirror Medicaid rates, which have been sufficient to date.
- The Board wants to see justification of rates and any increases for non-medicare funded clients.
- For non-medicare funded services, review current rates and whether or not they need a rate increase. Suggested that providers need to submit a Request for Rate Review to Shane by 2/1/16 to determine if there is a need for actual negotiation or if a .3.5% increase is sufficient. This does not include waiver services. Reviews will be done internally with recommendation sent back to the Board.
- Suggestion to bring this to the December Governance Board.
- Need to look a funding for people for whom current rates and programs are insufficient.

Problem of people who are aging out of work activity (age 65+)

- People who are MI but don't meet Elderly Waiver. Sharon is looking at people who are currently 62-64 years old to see what services will be available.
- ID people need someone doing the same thing for them

**Next meeting: February 24, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.
Plymouth County Courthouse Annex**