

Present: Angela Youngerberg, Barb Dietz, Chera Sevcik, Suzi Nerison, Sue Rynda, Klea Rettmann, Naomi Ochsendorf

Others Present: Amy Haas, Jamie Hayes, Teri Herder-Blahnik

The SCCBI Joint Powers Board met at Blue Earth County Government Center in Mankato. Sue Rynda called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: Klea Rettmann moved to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2021 meeting. Naomi Ochsendorf seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda: Naomi Ochsendorf moved to approve the agenda. Angie Youngerberg seconded. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

July Vendor Report: Expenditures included the purchase of gift cards for the upcoming Stakeholders Meeting. Klea Rettmann moved to approve the July Vendor Report. Chera Sevcik seconded. Motion carried.

August RMT Information Summary, Amy Haas: Amy reported on the August 12th RMT meeting,

- The JPB report and LAC & county updates were given. Some LAC's have not started meeting yet. Some counties are going back to requiring or strongly encouraging face masks.
- Much of what was discussed at the meeting is on today's JPB agenda.
- Kyle Nordland, Case Aide at Blue Earth County Mental Health Center, spoke about using county ITV technology with Zoom. He has been doing some test calls. More will be known about providing virtual appointment in the future when the Clinic Coordinator returns from leave. As an aside, Angie Youngerberg said that the clinic will switch to a new model utilizing a checklist and news rules/guidance for providers to use when determining how appointments will occur. Zoom appointments will not be an option for appointments that require vitals checks.
- The Mankato Free Press is doing a year-long series about mental health.
- RMT Retreat planning was started. The group is looking at having the retreat in January 2022. A few potential meeting locations were identified.
- Jamie is planning to establish a Fall Conference Advisory Council made up of people who work in the MH field to help identify topics & potential speakers and talk about how to build an agenda for the event. Potential members could include county Case Managers, Therapists, clinic Psychiatrists (such as FCMHC's Dr. Smith).
- About half of the Mental Health Month billboards are still up. We may want to look at purchasing billboard space annually.
- There was a brief discussion about MnCHOICE assessment changes. Not much information is available yet.
- Committee Reports
 - Crisis Committee – July utilization was reviewed. Horizon Homes saw a record number of Mobile Assessments and Stabilizations. The video project has been completed.
 - Integrated Services – The meeting was short, as the Provider Spotlight presenter, House of Hope, was a no-show.
 - SET Committee – The committee continued with Stakeholders planning. The agenda was finalized. The meeting will take place in the Grand Hall, and all county registration tables will be located in the lobby. There will be 21 vendor/clubhouse tables inside the Grand Hall. Gary Green will be the professional speaker, and there will be 2 consumer recovery stories. Amy Haas and Angie Youngerberg will present the 2nd Annual Tamra Rovney Award to Donna Meyer. The survey will be handed out at registration (printed on back of agenda). Masks will be required indoors.
 - Data Subcommittee – There is no meeting scheduled at this time. Jamie is still collecting data from Blue Plus.

2021 Q2 Budget Review:

- **AMHI Grant** – This is the only grant for which we have received an advance. The MHC Manager position is under budget due to staff turnover. Flex Funds are underspent. Housing (GRH, SS, B&L) is underspent due to the closure of House of Lights. Overall, the grant is 49% spent.
- **Crisis Appropriation** – Revenues are under budget at 8%. Q1 reimbursement of \$49,250 was received, but we are still waiting for our advance. Expenses reflected on the report are for Q1 only. Q2 spending was much larger. Jamie anticipates fully spending the grant. Discussion ensued about DHS failing to reimburse expenses in a timely manner and their continued failure to send advances. DHS repeatedly responds, “the funds will be sent next week” when Jamie asks about the advance. What can we do at this point? Letters have been written. A lawyer was brought into the picture and was told that this is a problem throughout the entire state. We are getting to a point that we won’t be able to pay our vendors. So far, the AMHI grant has been funding Crisis Appropriation expenses, and Rice County has been paying Crisis Grant expenses. Angie will be meeting with the Commissioner and will ask for guidance. A joint letter to the Commissioner, Governor Walz and the legislature that includes all correspondence with DHS may be in order.
- **Crisis Grant** – No advance has been received. A reimbursement for Q1 expenses was received. Expenses reflect Q1 billing. Actual expenses were 35% (when 3rd party payments are subtracted from revenue). This grant will be spent in full.

2021 Q2 Psych Allocation: The overall allocation should be 75% spent by this time but is only 60.9% spent. One factor in this is the recent turnover at BECMHC. Sioux Trails spent their entire Urgent Care allocation by the end of Q1 and hasn’t billed for more. Freeborn County MHC has very high utilization, but they remain underspent. Blue Earth County MHC underbilled for Urgent Care due to a coding error. Regular Psych is also underspent. Frank Schwartz is meeting patients for the first time during a longer appointment (like a new patient visit) but billing the appointments at one hour since the patients aren’t new.

Check-In/Discussion Items:

- **Crisis Residential Needs for Youth** – Although the SCCBI is an adult mental health initiative, we cannot ignore the significant need for, and a shortage of, residential space for children and adolescents. Acuity and severity of cases has been increasing. In looking at how the Initiative could respond; several questions were posed. What would the regional demand be? Is there a consultant we could hire? Is there a provider? What are current funding sources? Could we ask for bonding for a children’s facility? We first need to identify places/agencies in the region that serve kids and reach out to them to gain their input. We also need to start looking at preventative services as part of Families First. How can this be done in outstate MN instead of focusing solely on County and State services? Start with Crisis Committee. Utilize the group to start the process, assemble a provider list, and provide input on utilization/needs. Jamie will reach out to Ashley Rosival at BCBS.
- **AMHI Reform** – The AMHI Reform Workgroup had their second meeting this week. The meetings will follow a format of having a 1st meeting that identifies/discusses a factor in the formula followed by a 2nd meeting that focuses on the decision. The factor that was discussed at this week’s meeting was population. There was a lot of pushback from everyone on the call about the utilization of population in the formula. The larger population regions said that using population as a factor is not worth the harm it would cause.
- **Travis’ Law** – Jamie Zoomed with Tim Hunter to get his perspective on how their region was interpreting the statute. He responded that dispatch groups are getting together to ask for clarification. Jamie has heard the same thing. So far, Dispatch has only made one call to Mobile Crisis in our region, and it was very appropriate.
- **Crisis Housing Fund** - Hearth Connection is no longer administering Crisis Housing funds. This means that the funds cannot be accessed, even though they exist. Without an entity to administer the funds, they cannot be applied for. Jamie asked DHS if we can use AMHI dollars under Flexible Funds and then be reimbursed when Crisis Housing Funds are available. They said, “No.” The RMT is concerned about clients who are not eligible for MA. Jamie will support bringing forward Flex Funds requests exceeding \$1,000 if the RMT is in

support. Angie will write a letter to the MN Housing Partnership regarding SCCBI's response to barriers created by inability to access Crisis Housing Funds.

- 2021 Tamra Rovney Award – Three nominations were received. Donna Meyer was selected as the 2021 Tamra Rovney Award recipient. She is an RN who works part-time at both Blue Earth County Mental Health Center and Horizon Homes Crisis Center. The award will be presented during the SCCBI Stakeholders Meeting on Thursday, September 9.
- County Site Visit Updates – Jamie reported that the site visits are going well. She hasn't scheduled an appointment with Rice County yet. Most of the data collection has been done by fiscal monitors. She requests that each county provide a clubhouse budget breakdown.
- Transportation Survey Results – Jamie reported that she received different results with the Director survey on transportation. She would like to pull together utilization data and additional items for consideration. Blue Earth Taxi is certified to provide secure transports. They provide transportation for the Crisis Center, but Blue Earth County cannot contract with them because their liability coverage is less than the BEC requirement. Is there a way to fund something administratively? What is the volume? How many times has staff transported an adult or child because secure transportation is not available or accessible? We may want to consider funding a one-year pilot with one or two providers who will then collect the data we're looking for. A lot of details would need to be worked out. This is another thing that the Crisis Committee could take charge of.

As there was no further business, Sue Rynda adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Teri Herder-Blahnik, Administrative Assistant SCCBI

Next JPB Meeting:

Friday, September 17, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at

[Le Sueur County Human Services, 88 S. Park Avenue, Le Center](#)