



SCCBI  
JOINT POWERS BOARD MEETING

December 18, 2020

**Present (via Zoom):** Angela Youngerberg, Phil Claussen, Barb Dietz, Chera Sevcik, Suzi Nerison, Sue Rynda, Cassie Sassenberg, Mark Shaw, Klea Rettmann, Naomi Ochsendorf

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

Mark Shaw called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** Suzi Nerison moved to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2020 meeting. Naomi Ochsendorf seconded. Motion carried.

**Approval of Agenda:** Naomi Ochsendorf moved to approve the agenda. Chera Sevcik seconded. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None.

**November Vendor Report:** The only out-of-the-ordinary expense was a \$129 training fee. The report also showed that Crisis Appropriation dollars are funding Mobile Crisis expenditures. Barb Dietz moved to approve the November Vendor Report and payment of bills. Suzi Nerison seconded. Motion carried.

**December RMT Report, Amy Haas:** Amy reported on the December 10<sup>th</sup> RMT meeting.

- RMT Consumer Representatives and Supervisors gave county, LAC and clubhouse check-ins. Clubhouse activities have closed down, and most case management moved to virtual meetings except for some child protection and vulnerable adult cases.
- The team discussed holding a virtual RMT retreat on Thursday, January 14 at 1:00 (same date and time of regularly scheduled meeting). The agenda will include retreat items such as elections and review of the priority exercise. Amy, Jamie and Teri will meet on Monday morning to start planning.
- The team learned that the House of Lights (board & lodge with special services) buildings and acreage were listed for sale. The owner is transitioning to retirement.
- Chris Kern posed a question about what county jails are providing in terms of mental health services and supports, and who is providing the services (if any).
- Committee Updates – Crisis Committee learned that as of the date of the meeting, there had been no COVID-positive people in the building. The crisis center has obtained a couple tablets to use in case a COVID-positive individual is quarantined in their room. Integrated Services Committee shared provider updates. The Provider Spotlight was provided by Nellie Bruce of Hearth Connection. She spoke about the Crisis Housing Fund.

When asked about whether the clubhouses are staying fairly well-connected with members, Amy responded that they are doing the best they can, but it is a struggle. Several members do not like, or are uncomfortable with, meetings and activities over Zoom. Some do not know how to use Zoom on their own. Staff continue to make phone calls and deliver crafts and care packages. The peer-to-peer interactions facilitated at the clubhouses and through social activities & events is missing. Face-to-face connections with peers are necessary for good mental health. Amy believes that the benefits of peer-to-peer interaction will be appreciated more when the clubhouses are open again. It was suggested that members be provided information about the COVID vaccine. Amy said that a document with vaccine facts from Public Health could be included in clubhouse newsletters. She will add that to the RMT agenda for the January meeting.

### **2021 Contracts**

- **Mobile Crisis Grant** – Cassie Sassenberg moved to approve the two-year Mobile Crisis grant contract with DHS in the amount of \$1,450,000 with an expiration date of 12/31/2022. Klea Rettmann seconded. Motion carried.
- **Crisis Appropriation (crisis center)** – Sue Rynda moved to approve the two-year Crisis Appropriation grant contract with DHS in the amount of \$1,200,000 with an expiration date of 12/31/2022. Klea Rettmann seconded. Motion carried.

Mark Shaw will sign both contracts via DocuSign following the meeting, and they will immediately be forwarded to DHS.

- AMHI – The contract is already being resolved.
- House of Lights – Two-year contract with House of Lights, not to exceed \$89,352 for Housing Supports with Special Services. The unit cost for providing services to up to ten eligible clients must not exceed \$12.24 per client per day. Jamie informed the Board that the owner of House of Lights is transitioning to retirement and has listed the house and property for sale. The owner prefers to sell the property as a business, but she was required to obtain a variance to operate the home as a business. There is no guarantee a new owner would receive a variance. In addition, the house is located in a very rural and remote area which has made staffing the Board & Lodge very difficult. It is not known how long it will take for the house to sell. The tenants were informed after Thanksgiving about the plan to sell the property. Discussion followed about the unknown timeline and next steps, such as putting out an RFP. It was suggested to revise the contract timeline to six months and add additional language about not accepting additional placements without approval of Regional Manager.

**Barb Dietz moved** to approve a six-month contract with House of Lights with the current rate of \$12.24 per SCCBI client per day and that additional placements of SCCBI clients may not be made without the approval of the SCCBI Regional Mental Health Manager. Suzi Nerison seconded. Motion carried.

- Horizon Homes, Sioux Trails, and County Contracts – **Sue Rynda moved** to approve in concert the following agency and county contracts as presented by the SCCBI Regional Mental Health Manager. Phil Claussen seconded. Motion carried unanimously. *(No changes were made to any of the contracts with the exception of Sioux Trails, Blue Earth County and Freeborn County following adjustments made to the Psychiatric Allocation formula):*
  - **Sioux Trails Mental Health Center** – 1 year contract providing regular and urgent care psychiatry to the region
  - **Horizon Homes (Board & Lodge)** – 2 year contract for Housing Supports with Special Services
  - **Horizon Homes (Crisis Center & Mobile Crisis)** – 2 year contract provides Crisis Center and Mobile Crisis Services with integrated Crisis Line
  - **Blue Earth County** – 1 year contract for Case Management, Clubhouse, Flex and Mental Health Center
  - **Brown County** – 1 year contract for Case Management, Clubhouse and Flex
  - **Faribault/Martin Counties** – 1 year contract for Case Management, Clubhouse and Flex
  - **Freeborn County** – 1 year contract for Case Management, Clubhouse, Flex and Mental Health Center
  - **Le Sueur County** – 1 year contract for Case Management, Clubhouse and Flex
  - **Nicollet County** – 1 year contract for Case Management, Clubhouse and Flex
  - **Rice County** – 1 year contract for Case Management, Clubhouse and Flex
  - **Sibley County** – 1 year contract for Case Management, Clubhouse and Flex
  - **Watonwan County** – 1 year contract for Case Management

**SCCBI Rapid Response for Mental Health Update:** Jamie created and sent a one-page document to the hospitals in the region outlining the streamlined referral process for mental health services when COVID surges become a barrier to inpatient hospitalization. Jamie reported that she has not received any outreach, but she did receive one response from Albert Lea saying that they will pass the information along. Mobile Crisis reports receiving referrals from emergency departments, but Jamie is not sure if they are due to the Rapid Response referral process. The Rapid Response Team will continue with weekly meetings. Jamie attended a regional public health group meeting hosted by MDH. She spoke about the Rapid Response streamlined referral process.

**Regional Telepresence Update:** Things are quickly moving forward. Every county has provided Jamie their list of staff for licenses, and all have received an invitation from Zoom to set up their accounts. A zoom Group Administrator training for each county's designated Administrator will be held on Monday. Group Administrators will learn how to assign licenses, keep track of license holders, and reassign licenses following staff turnover. The Administrator training also includes a general Zoom training. "How to Zoom" trainings are scheduled for the rest of the staff on December 28 and January 4. Attendees will be provided the opportunity to ask questions. The trainings will be recorded for those unable to attend either scheduled Zoom training.

Vidyo – The platform is still working and being used, but Jamie is encouraging people to start moving away from Vidyo to another platform. We do not know how much longer Vidyo will be available under our project.

LGBTQ+ Inclusivity & Equality Training – The training was a success with 150 people attending over Zoom. The platform allowed them to do polling and break-out groups.

**Freeborn County Clubhouse Funding Request for Review (supported by RMT):** Freeborn County/Next Step Clubhouse submitted a revised Unmet Needs proposal in the amount of \$1,000: \$200 for ink and paper for two printers; \$350 for craft activities; \$250 for wellness educational videos (requested by clubhouse members); \$200 to repair kitchen flooring (original request was for \$13K). The RMT supported the proposal with the stipulation that underspent dollars remain available and that the clubhouse budget be fully spent. Jamie reported to the Board that she followed up with Mark K., and he confirmed that the clubhouse budget has been fully spent. Phil Claussen moved to approve the Unmet Needs Request from Next Step Clubhouse in the amount of \$1,000 in the event that unspent dollars remain at the end of the year. Chera Sevcik seconded. Motion carried with Suzi Nerison abstaining from the vote.

#### **House of Lights Update:**

- Discussion took place about next steps in light of the potential sale of House of Lights.
- The facility has 10 beds that SCCBI region does not want to lose.
- It was agreed that we need to be planful to make sure tenants have a place to go if/when the board & lodge is sold/closed. The most logical route would be to send out an RFP.
- Brown County contracts for the B&L (Housing Support). SCCBI only has control of the funding for additional supports.
- SCCBI will partner with Brown County. Jamie and Barb will work on a draft RFP. Angie may be able to locate the original one.
- RFP – Perhaps add language that extra points will be awarded if facility remains in Brown County.
- Will wait on making a motion until draft RFP is prepared

#### **AMHI Statewide Meeting Information:**

Jamie reported that AMHI reform news is not encouraging. AMHI acknowledges that there are differences among rural vs. urban Initiatives, but no plan of how to dig into this further was discussed. There has been talk among some Initiatives about forming a coalition of rural AMHIs. DHS lacks understanding about why there are differences among AMHIs, such as why some Initiatives use AMHI funds for staffing while others don't. Many staff lack knowledge about the history, purpose and design of AMHIs. SCCBI may need to consider aligning with a coalition of rural AMHIs if one is formed.

**Other Items:** Mark Shaw suggested that the other counties check to see if they have received all Q3 revenues from DHS. As of December 17, Rice County still had not received all Q3 revenues from DHS.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

#### **Next JPB Meeting:**

Friday, January 15, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. via Zoom

Respectfully submitted, Teri Herder-Blahnik, Administrative Assistant, SCCBI