



SCCBI
JOINT POWERS BOARD MEETING

September 18, 2020

Present via GoToMeeting: 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, Helen Ghebre

Mark Shaw called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: Barb Dietz moved to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2020 meeting. Suzi Nerison seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda: Additions to the agenda: 1) October JPB meeting, 2) Funding Request from Wellness in the Woods. Sue Rynda moved to approve the agenda with additions. Klea Rettmann seconded. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

August Vendor Report: Included in the vendor report were Q2 reimbursements to counties, consulting services from Morris Electronics (coded as ITV Service in report), and RAP appointment space for unused slots. Naomi Ochsendorf moved to approve the August vendor payments. Suzi Nerison seconded. Motion carried.

DHS Report, Helen Ghebre: Jamie reported on the statewide AMHI meeting. She learned that DHS will not be filling Gloria's position as DHS Liaison to the SCCBI. Instead, DHS will provide two Liaisons for the entire state of Minnesota. Neither will regularly attend JPB and RMT meetings. The Liaisons will plan to schedule twice yearly site visits, and they will only attend meetings upon request. The actuary working on AMHI reform attended the meeting, but he did not address all of the questions that were asked of him. Helen Ghebre joined the JPB meeting at about 11:00 a.m. Board members expressed their dismay and disappointment at DHS' choice to move to only two Liaisons for the entire state. The previous liaison's attendance at JPB and RMT meetings was very important, valuable and beneficial. They pointed out that the Initiative is already experiencing a disconnect from DHS, and they cannot fathom how that will be improved by reducing the number of liaisons and opportunities to connect. Helen responded that DHS believes a team approach is more important at this time. While acknowledging the Board's disappointment, Helen reassured the group that this is a temporary solution in response to current conditions of COVID-19, staff shortages, and a hiring freeze. DHS is planning to offer regular AMHI Coordinator meetings. Discussion moved on to the DHS AMHI Contract and SCCBI's request for DHS to add language allowing for a cash advance in Year Two of the grant. Helen responded that the Behavioral Health division plans to provide a written response today. She related that the Year One advance is not at risk and that DHS is committed to responding to fiscal host cash flow issues in Year Two. The DHS plan is to make a plan to identify an option to mitigate and respond to the cash flow issues in the second year of the contract. Their goal is to have a plan and contract amendment in place by October **2021**. When asked if there will be language added to the current contract assuring that DHS will have a plan to mitigate the cash flow issue in Year Two, Helen responded that there is not the ability to provide a cash advance in the current contract because SCCBI's request came in too late (**which is NOT true!**). The Directors of both fiscal host counties made clear that the counties are not sure that they can continue as fiscal hosts without written assurance that a plan will be in place to mitigate the cash flow issue in Year Two. Helen rejoined that the DHS letter (to be sent today) may include the written assurance. If it does not, SCCBI can respond to the DHS letter and request written assurance. Helen concluded her update with a few items of note.

- They are anticipating an announcement regarding DHS Director vacancy.
- AMHI funding is secure.
- Telework is limiting the ability of DHS staff to attend AMHI meetings/site visits in person, and they expect this to continue.
- There are no carryover funds available at the end of the contract.
- SCCBI and their respective counties must continue to report all services and their methods of delivery.
- The hiring freeze directly impacted the AMHI Consultant position (Gloria's replacement).

September RMT Report (Jamie Hayes for Amy Haas): Jamie reported on the September 10th RMT meeting held via GoToMeeting. The meeting started with the regular “round table check-in” with the Consumer Reps providing clubhouse and LAC updates. The check-in replaces the regular “LAC Report” because many LACs stopped meeting due to COVID. Another round table check-in from County Supervisors provided county COVID-19 updates regarding such things as building openings, remote and in-person appointments, and staffing (remote and in office).

- **COVID Tabletop Exercise** – Jamie spoke about her attempts to recruit people to participate in the tabletop exercise that the BH Rapid Response Network is offering. She did not receive much feedback. Only three counties responded. Jamie plans to go ahead with those who have responded and will probably schedule the tabletop exercise for November 4.
- **Fiscal Monitoring** – Eide Bailly started the fiscal monitoring, starting with Quarter Three.
- **Annual Items** – a) *Clubhouse Reports* have been simplified and focus on CH responses to COVID-19. b) *Fall RMT Retreat* will probably not be an in-person event. Discussed holding Chair elections and committee assignments during January annual meeting if the retreat is not held.

2020 Fiscal Monitoring Plan & Eide Bailly Assurance Agreement: Jamie emailed Directors a copy of the Eide Bailly Assurance Agreement. Fiscal monitoring procedures remain unchanged. The only “change” is that Eide Bailly is looking at 2nd & 3rd quarters this time around. Previously, they looked at 1st & 4th quarters. Their fee will not exceed \$10,000; ½ paid out of the AMHI grant and ¼ from the Crisis Grant (Mobile) and ¼ from the Appropriation (Residential crisis). Sue Rynda moved to approve the Eide Bailly Assurance Agreement. Naomi Ochsendorf seconded. Motion carried.

Clubhouse Coordinator Proposal for reallocation of unspent 10-County Activity Funds: Clubhouse Coordinators submitted a proposal to use remaining 10-County Activity funds to purchase 435 10-County T-shirts at a total cost of \$4,460.03. The goals of the expenditure are to provide CH members with a sense of belonging to something greater than themselves, furnish members with something that can be appreciated and used by all, and provide a sense of hope for the future. Amy Haas apprised the Directors that although some clubhouses have created/ordered their own clubhouse-specific t-shirts in past, other clubhouses have lacked the funds to do so. A 10-County t-shirt provides an opportunity to create unity among all clubhouse members. Photos of the proposed t-shirts and an itemized breakdown of t-shirt requests by size and cost were provided. Cassie Sassenberg moved to approve Clubhouse Coordinators’ proposal to reallocate the remaining 10-County Activity funds to purchase 435 10-County t-shirts at a total cost of \$4,460.03. Angie Youngerberg seconded. A short discussion followed about the use of mental health grant funds for the purchase of t-shirts instead of mental health or other therapeutic services. Motion carried.

Mental Health Awareness Campaign Update: The Awareness Campaign closed submissions following the September 15 deadline. Jamie received 139 submissions that consisted of posters, pictures, display boards and narratives. She is creating a PowerPoint to post on the SCCBI website and present at the October JPB meeting. Jamie reported that the clubhouses did a great job in supporting the campaign. She will now send participant lists to Case Managers to double check names and verify SPMI status. Jamie added that we now have a lot of material and information to work with long-term. Amy Haas volunteered to assist Jamie with the PowerPoint presentation.

DHS AMHI Contract: Jamie informed Directors that DHS requires the authorized representative listed in the AMHI contract to be a person authorized to sign contracts. Jamie has historically been listed as Authorized Representative, but requested that the JPB Chair, Mark Shaw, now be listed as AR since he is the person authorized to sign contracts. Her request was supported.

- **DHS Response to Year Two Advance** – Jamie reported that DHS promised that she would receive a response this week to SCCBI’s request for assurance regarding an advance of funds in Y2 of our contract, but she has still not heard anything from DHS.
- **Moving Forward** – The Executive Committee is not comfortable making a recommendation to move forward at this time.
- **Possible Solution** – Move to a two-year contract

- **Fiscal Hosts** – Discussion followed about the ability/inability of counties to take on such a financial burden especially with the added costs of DHS' late payments of grant funds. There is some question about whether Rice County can remain Fiscal Host for Mobile Crisis even with an advance in year two.

During Helen Ghebre's DHS Report she said that there is not the ability to provide a Year Two cash advance in the current contract because DHS claims that SCCBI's request came in too late. (SCCBI made it's first request in May 2020, which is not *too late*.) Helen said that DHS is planning to create a plan to identify an option to mitigate and respond to the cash flow issues in the second year of the next contract. Their goal is to have a plan and contract amendment in place by October **2021**. With the lack of assurance for a Y2 cash advance in the current contract, no action was taken.

COVID- Related Updates: Jamie updated members about the tabletop exercise during the RMT report. Amy Haas reported that she attended a meeting in Le Sueur County regarding the tabletop exercise. The information shared left Amy with a positive impression of the exercise that she believes will be very helpful for those involved.

Regional Telepresence Updates: Angie reported that she has been meeting with Jamie and Shawn regularly and that she also met with some Region 3 people early on. Blue Earth County is looking for a platform(s) that will facilitate client interaction, interoffice communication (meetings, webinars), and future unknowns, with a goal to work with a vendor who will grow along with BEC over the next couple of years. Angie said the search is coming down to financial sustainability. BEC has narrowed platforms to Zoom Medical and WebEx. WebEx has a lot of MNIT people at the table and more MNIT people supporting WebEx. WebEx (through the State of MN) is more expensive than Zoom Medical (and increases in price if a toll-free call-in number is added). Its platform is built on CISCO with secondary and tertiary connections and customer support/service with CISCO and MNIT. All meetings and telephone calls are encrypted. A toll-free number may not be necessary because mobile phones do not charge long distance fees, and many landline plans no longer charge for in-state and/or in-country calls. Zoom Medical is a little cheaper, but its platform is built on the Zoom platform. Customer support/services are through Zoom only. Telephone calls in to the meeting are not encrypted. Blue Earth County is leaning toward WebEx due to the customer service and support provided by CISCO and MNIT. BEC is not confident in VidyoConnect. Although DHS promised that the platform will be expanding, there are not many MNIT people at the table. There has been a lack of interest from County IT Directors to join the search for telepresence platforms or look into the pros/cons, system capacity, etc. of identified platforms. It was suggested to ask Shawn (Morris Electronics IT Consultant) to head up a meeting with IT Directors as the Directors might be more receptive to meeting with a fellow IT person.

2021 Psychiatric Allocation: Jamie guided the Board through the Psych Formula Subcommittee Proposals for 2021. She first reviewed the relevant data for consideration which included current average quarterly allocation and utilization numbers specific to each MH clinic and average quarterly administrative costs reported by each clinic. The Psych Formula Committee came up with five options:

1. **Pay only admin costs based on a % of what we can afford to pay:** Pay 58% of the overall admin costs reported by each clinic. *Pros:* Easy to distribute. *Cons:* Does not base payment on utilization, only on overhead costs. Encourages more overhead cost per site.
2. **Pay clinics base on an average admin cost per slot (\$228.27/slot):** Because that cost is above our allocation, we would only be able to pay up to \$68.48/slot (30% of admin cost/slot). *Pros:* Uses one average admin cost, bases funds on utilization. *Cons:* Admin costs vary so much by site, some clinics are supported more than others.
3. **RFP Grant-Style funding:** The SCCBI submits an RFP for psychiatric services on an annual basis. A committee is established to review proposals and distribute funding. Sites are responsible for presenting a plan and request for funding, as well as continuing to provide information regarding uncompensated expenses. *Pros:* Opens for innovation amongst providers/project development, if desired. *Cons:* Time constraints for 2021 planning.
4. **Interval Funding:** Funding based on utilization of slots and other determined factors. The committee would need to work to determine these factors. Clinics continue to provide proof of uncompensated care expenses. *Pros:* Able to pay based on more than just slots utilized, open for other project development, if desired. *Cons:* Limited in funds budgeted to Psych Allocation, time constraints for 2021 planning.

5. **Continue with current Psych Formula from previous years:** This formula would result in slight decreases in the contract amounts for STMHC (-\$3,924.78) and BECMHC (-\$110.45), and a slight increase for FCMHC (+\$4,035.23). The uncompensated care rate would decrease from \$77.24 to \$74.01 per slot utilized. The number of slots will increase from last year by about 200. *Pros:* Familiar, based on utilization. *Cons:* Does not account for increased admin expenses, does not allow for project development, if desired.

Other Consideration: Since Urgent Care costs more to provide (more provider time and resources) than Psychiatric, should it be reimbursed more? To accomplish this, Jamie would need to split the formula into two separate formulas; one for Psychiatric and one for Urgent Care.

In the interest of time, the Board agreed that it is best not to use administrative costs or an RFP to determine the allocation. Jamie will send Option #5 to the Psych Allocation Committee, along with a version that splits the formula into separate formulas for Psychiatric and Urgent Care. There will not be a vote on the formula option until the Psych Allocation Committee meets again.

Other Agenda Items:

- October 16th JPB Meeting – Sibley County will host the October JPB meeting. The Tamra Rovney Award will be presented, and the MH Awareness Campaign PowerPoint will be shown. Discussion followed about the meeting space (social distancing, wearing of masks by speakers, outlets for laptops) and options for attending online. Jamie would like to get a number of how many people plan to attend in person. She will send an email in a couple weeks to gather individual responses and will set up a phone call with Klea two weeks before the meeting to finalize details.
- Request for Funding – Jamie received a request for funding this morning from Wellness in the Woods. The agency is requesting one-time funding of \$30,000 to help fund their peer support warmline and online peer support services in 2021. Jamie responded to WitW with a request to furnish information detailing the total cost of the peer support warmline and online peer support, current funding source(s), and the reason for their request at this time. Jamie added that people in the SCCBI region have been using the warmline, online peer support, and other online classes. It was noted that SCCBI does not have the money right now to fund the request.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Next JPB Meeting:

Friday, October 16, 2020, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Sibley County Human Services.

An online meeting option will be available.

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