

**Peoria County Board for the Care & Treatment
of Persons with a Developmental Disability
Minutes of
October 21, 2020**

Members Present: Alyssa Herman
Greg Chance
Joyce Harant
Todd Baker

Members Absent: Andrew Edwards

Andrew Rand (County Board Liaison)

Others Present: Amy Roberts, Peoria City/County Health Department
Brian Gulley, Peoria City/County Health Department
Ryan LaCosse, Best Buddies
Amanda Atchley, Camp Big Sky
Patti Gratton, CWTC
Julie Schiefeling, Easter Seals
Doris Hayes, EP!C
Kim Cornwell, EP!C

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 11:01 am by Mr. Baker

Suspension of Bylaws to Conduct Care and Treatment Board Meeting Virtually

A motion to suspend the bylaws to conduct the Care and Treatment Board meeting virtually was made by Ms. Harant. Motion was seconded by Ms. Herman. Motion carried (4,0).

Approval of Minutes from July 15, 2020.

A motion was made by Ms. Herman to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2020 meeting. Motion was seconded by Ms. Harant. Motion carried (4,0).

Fiscal Reports

Mr. Gulley stated these numbers are through September. They started the year of 2020 at \$293,397 in the reserve fund. For revenues, the second large property tax disbursement has been received leaving the total revenues through September at \$797,955. Expenditures are \$313,919 which are through June for the agencies, it does not include July through September. Mr. Gulley stated he is still waiting on Easterseals and CWTC. This leaves a surplus for the year of \$484,036 and the fund balance is currently \$770,432. The quarterly payout based on the new grant awards is \$217,255. Mr. Gulley is projecting a surplus at the end of the year of \$138,767 which would leave the fund balance at \$432,164. Ms. Harant made a motion to approve the Fiscal Report. Motion was seconded by Ms. Herman. Motion carried (4,0).

Grant Budget Amendments

Mr. Gulley stated he has not yet heard from HISRA for the last couple of payouts. There was discussion around if a deadline for reporting was in the contract. At the end

of the meeting, Mr. Baker circled back up to this discussion stating that in the contract it states that the awarded agency must submit their reports by July 15, 2020.

Ms. Herman asked Mr. Gulley if there was more of our budget that still needed to come in this year. Mr. Gulley stated that property tax usually comes in at around 99%, which the budget is currently at 89% and the Board should expect to receive a few more small disbursements. CPPRT is at 78% and there should be two more disbursements coming from there. There is usually a year-end interest, which is at 50%. After some calculations, Ms. Herman determined the Board is about \$41,000 off budget on the revenue side. Mr. Gulley stated that County is still working on the budget, which will probably be approved in November or December. County has not contacted the Care and Treatment Board about making amendments to their budget. The Board wanted to hear from the agencies on how they are doing with the funds.

Camp Big Sky – Amanda Atchley stated they are operating as normal, but did not open until June 20th, when they usually open May 1st. They will be ending their camp season next week on October 30th, which is their normal close date. They served 256 visitors last year, compared to 1,415 visitors from last year. Programs were still running, just at a lesser capacity. They still had their employees and operating costs. They plan to open in May 2021.

Easterseals – Julie Schiefeling said that their camp has gone as planned, but their Mommy & Me classes were not held. They are looking at virtual options or a different location to host those classes. Referrals are down in Early Intervention. Once COVID hit, 70% of their therapies were able to use telehealth and they are slowing opening their clinic, however, their numbers are not where they were one year ago.

EPIC – Doris Hayes stated that DHS allowed EPIC to open their doors in August. There is a significantly lower amount of people in their building. They are offering virtual classes and using Google Classrooms for employment training. They are slowing returning to normal.

CWTC – Patti Gratton said they were also under strict guidelines from DHS. They are currently serving about 75 individuals in the building, but with varied schedules. They are also serving individuals in the community and their own residential programs that are not able to come in. Staff are working with individuals looking for jobs and they are coming into the building. They are about 80-90% up and running with their placement program.

Best Buddies – Ryan LaCosse stated they are doing their best, but it is difficult to meet in person which puts a damper on the friendship program and creating relationships in the community. The Chair for Community Engagement just left, and they just hired a new Community Engagement Manager which will start working on virtual ways to connect. They have had over 1,000 meetings between their jobs and their programs. They are at about 25% with new cases and placements. They are developing plans in schools to keep inclusion a reality and growing their inclusion training to be more of a DEI training to encompass what's happening around everyone and the people they work with on a daily basis.

Ms. Herman stated she would like to see how the reports come in before making any grant budget amendments. Mr. Chance suggested that if an agency thinks they are going to exceed their budget, they can submit a formal request to the Board and this is dealt with on a case by case basis. Ms. Herman suggested to keep this item on the agenda.

Agency Visit Reports

There hasn't been any agency visit reports completed due to COVID. Mr. Baker will reach out to the agencies to create a schedule for when Board members can visit their facilities.

Public Comments

Camp Big Sky – Out of their 256 visitors this year, 159 of them were campers with disabilities who enjoyed fishing, boating, hayrack rides, art and nature, and more. They did have a fish fry, three families participated. One of EPIC's group homes attended and watched one of their campers receive a trophy for largest bass. They added a sandbox where individuals can dig for fossils. Six Dunlap High School students participated in their life skills program. As for infrastructure, they just built a new pavilion shelter, constructed by volunteers. They had their fundraising golf event in September with the most teams they have ever had, 28 teams. The Kicking it Up for Camp Auction event has been cancelled, but there will be a virtual auction November 5th-7th on their Facebook page. Items valued at up to \$1,200. Their Maintenance Manager has just retired, so they will be looking at restricting their two seasonal staff as one position to be hired in March 2021. October 30th will be the volunteer date to close up camp. This winter, camp programs will be offered to group homes.

Easter Seals – There is a program that was piloted over the summer, ABA Parent Training Program, as parents are having a difficult time seeing regression and problem behaviors at home. Therapists are offering this program now at no charge to those parents. Class sizes are 5-6 families, children ages 3-21 years and do not have to be receiving Easterseals services. The child does not have to be diagnosed, just have a developmental delay and classes are 16 minutes long. Their Tribute Dinner is taking a different look this year, Common Threads. They are looking for short videos, how are you getting through this, agencies and individuals to find out what connects us as a community.

EPIC – On Thursdays, they do a throwback Thursday since it's their 70th anniversary. They are trying to tie the connections together that they are still doing that and supporting those individuals and their families. They are selling poinsettias by pre-order, six different colors, which will be ready the first part of December.

CWTC – The Annual Award Dinner & Auction was not able to be held in September. They will be doing a modified smaller version of their usual Thanksgiving luncheon, giving out a few awards and honoring a couple of staff. They are going out into the community with small groups doing activities and continuing to assist Peoria Public Schools with the Snack Pack Program.

Best Buddies – Zoom fatigue is a real thing is hopeful science can help bring us all back together and Ryan wished everyone a safe and happy holiday coming up.

Adjournment

Being no further business, Mr. Baker adjourned the meeting. The meeting ended at 11:52 am.