



CICS

Supporting Individuals. Strengthening Communities.

Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes

July 22, 2021

Story County Administrative Building, Public Meeting Room

Board Members Present: Boone, Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Greene, Hancock, Hardin, Jasper, Madison, Poweshiek, Story, Webster, Wright, JD Deambra, Kendra Alexander, Julie Smith, Andrea Dickerson.

Counties/Members Absent: Hamilton, Marshall, Warren, Allie Wulfekuhle. **Administrative Team Present:** Russell Wood, Linn Adams, Patti Leeds, Betsy Stursma, Karla Webb. **Others Present:** Tony Reed, Andrew Allen, Marissa Eyanson, Tracy Vitek, Director Kelly Garcia.

Agenda & Minutes

Motion to approve the July 22, 2021 agenda. Motion by Watts, second by Rudolph. All ayes, motion carried.

BJ Hoffman, Chair asks for **motion to approve the June 24, 2021 minutes. Motion by Clifton, second by Talsma. All ayes, motion carried.**

CEO Russell Wood discussed the Region's finances including the projected FY22 Fund Balance. The fund balance needs to be \$5.4 million at the end of the fiscal year, it is currently projected to be \$15 million.

Andrew Allen of YSS discussed the Youth Recovery Campus project. This is a \$12 million project and they still need \$10 million. According to Allen, YSS has been serving Iowa for 45 years and for 40 years in facilities that are not the best. YSS would like to create a campus project in a nature type setting. This setting would service children with Mental Health and Substance Use issues. They have 53 acres halfway between Ames and Des Moines. Currently their full capacity is 256 kids per year, this can be increased to 750 per year with this campus if at full capacity. Funds from the Region can accelerate reaching the needs for these kids. 3700 kids could be served over 5 years.

Talsma appreciates the numbers and has looked over the slideshow and has shared it with the other supervisors in his county. His other supervisors are interested in this. **What is the intent of the current houses?** Intent is to make the other houses into halfway houses. **Will there need to be more staff?** Would like the kids to be involved. Will have to hire more staff, with a central location would be able to draw from a larger area for potential staff.

Heddens: **If approved, what would be the timeline?** Once they have the funding they can move quickly. Could be turning dirt this fall, 18 months from this fall it can open. Heddens: **Zoning questions.** Allen: It will go through Story County Zoning in September. Future financial support would come from the state, through billing medicaid and DHS. They can also bill private insurance.

Clifton gave a testimonial from his past.

Some supervisors questioned if this **would be an action today, or if they needed to go back to their counties.**

Dawley: **Has DHS approved this project?** Director Garcia: They have had extensive conversations and with YSS's history they are a trusted partner. They do not see any concerns at this point in time.

Watts: Have had a long relationship with Francis Lauer/YSS. YSS is very progressive and forward-thinking. He believes he and his colleagues would support and would like to see it move forward today.

Alexander: Extremely needed project speaking from an education standpoint. Need to support mental health of youth and this is an amazing opportunity to be able to do that.

Smith: This is a wonderful idea, has seen an increase in general for children's services and there is nowhere for them to go to get stabilized.

Nolte: We need to do this because we need to do what we can with the youth before they become adults.

Watts: **If we spend \$10 million on this will there be issues in the future with money?** Wood: Bottom line is if CICS spends \$29.4 million this year (we spent \$8 million last year) we will have \$16.6 million next year, that will be twice the amount we spent last year. This is the first year the legislature has decided to put more money into the system. They are requiring children's services and this is the first time money has been given for children's services from the state. Unless the state decides to do something completely different, CICS will not be in a bad position financially.

Clifton: Before COVID happened, before the state gave more money, CICS still had too much fund balance. We need to invest in large projects. The state is ok with the money going to this project.

Sturmsma: It is a one-time funding. Next fiscal year the per capita rate is going to be the most we have ever had.

Talsma stated we have been talking about this for a long time now and had asked the admin team to find a project. They brought something that is worth investing in and we have an influx of money. This is an opportunity to do something lasting and meaningful. He is ok taking action today and believes we should take action. We have discussed it for two months and he does not believe every item needs to be taken back to local counties for decisions because we are the representatives for our counties.

Watts: **How will payments be distributed?** Wood: We need to discuss about time frames, potential barriers, etc. This is a time issue, if we are building something, it will not be a one year project. Iowa Code says if the Region is meeting its financial obligations, the regional administrator may reserve unobligated unencumbered funds. CICS needs assistance from DHS/state to be able to define these dollars as obligated and encumbered so that the money does not revert back at the end of FY22. We would have to figure out the details. Any motion should state the Region would designate up to 'X' number of dollars and direct admin to work with the state, DHS and regional attorney to figure out how to accomplish this. He would expect there would be payments to YSS for the project.



Supervisors had questions regarding construction and cost. Allen stated construction times and cost have been taken into account.

Iowa Department of Human Services and Department of Public Health Director Kelly Garcia stated that this is a huge step forward. The state now has a stake in how services come together to serve families and is looking at partners. CICS will be the first Region in the state to be able to do this. DHS cannot give the money for the project due to it being from the ground up. The investment of dollars in kids ideally helps them heal and as adults you do not see them as much or at all.

This is filling a gap, expanding and enhancing services. YSS meets a lot of needs of a lot of types of kids: medicaid, foster care, justice involved, etc. This is, from a financial perspective, a great system to grow and to not have to spend as much in the future when kids turn to adults and services cost more. They are deeply invested in this project, the Governor is comfortable with this project.

Iowa DHS MHDS Division Administrator Marissa Eyanson: For the first time ever the state has invested in these services so we can build what needs to be built and then ongoing funding comes from sustainable sources - medicaid, private insurance, etc. The state has to give Regions the trust to do these kind of projects. COVID is going to have a long-standing impact in the future. Kids have no place to go, they are stuck in ERs. This is a wide-ranging investment for the future. They are excited to be able to do this work. If we aren't willing to do the big work, nothing will get done.

Governor Reynold's Health Policy Advisor, Tracy Vitek: She is happy to represent the Governor at this meeting and to let CICS know the Governor fully supports this project. Mental Health is one of the Governor's highest priorities.

Hoffman: Hopes there is strong support for this. If this goes through, **will CICS member counties have first access to these facilities or will everyone have equal access throughout the state?** Allen: He does feel like something can be worked out, similar to what is being done in Story County currently. While they currently and will continue to serve kids from all across the state, they want to serve kids close to home and hopefully other regions will build something like this.

Wood: In the way legislation has passed over the past few years, Regions have been asked to put money towards crisis services, sub-acute services, hospitals, etc.— investing in needs of clients in crisis. This is investing in people before they get to that point.

Smith: All of us have personal experiences with family or friends with mental health or substance abuse needs. That is what makes us all so passionate about what we do! I am thankful to be a part of this board!!!

Motion by Talsma to invest up to \$10 million for the YSS Youth Recovery Campus and to direct admin to work with the state, DHS and the Regional Attorney to accomplish this. Seconded by Watts. Further conversation about other funding took place.

On a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously with the following voting aye: Boone – Erich Kretzinger, Cerro Gordo – Chris Watts, Franklin – Mike Nolte, Greene – Dawn Rudolph, Hancock – Gary



Rayhons, Hardin – BJ Hoffman, Jasper – Brandon Talsma, Madison – Phil Clifton, Poweshiek – Diana Dawley, Story – Lisa Heddens, Webster – Mark Campbell, Wright – Karl Helgevold, JD Deambra, Kendra Alexander. Motion carried.

Hancock left the meeting at this time.

Chair asked for motion to approve CICS Staff SOUs. **Motion by Clifton second by Talsma. All ayes, motion carried.**

Wood discussed ICAP Cybersecurity. Due to a significant number of claims from cybersecurity threats, CICS is required to file a report on what the Region uses for IT. At this point with 15 counties, many are doing things differently. Wood requested the Board to approve centralizing all data owned by CICS by August 15, 2021. **Motion by Heddens to approve centralizing all data owned by CICS by August 15, 2021, second by Kretzinger. All ayes, motion carried.**

Wood and Hoffman discussed the importance of participating in the CICS Governing Board and asked that everyone remain engaged and involved.

Wood stated the first quarterly payment of \$1.7 million from the State will be sent to Story County this month.

Finance Officer Betsy Stursma shared the claims report for June 29 and July 13, 2021. **Motion by Clifton, second by Talsma to approve claims. All ayes, motion carried. Roll call vote: Boone, Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Greene, Hardin, Jasper, Madison, Poweshiek, Story, Webster, Wright, JD Deambra, Kendra Alexander, Julie Smith, Andrea Dickerson.**

Stursma gave an overview of the 2019 Audit Report.

Planning and Development Officer Patti Leeds gave an update on sub-acute services which will be up and running August 1. Other projects Leeds discussed were IRSH, Community-based Crisis Stabilization and Mobile Crisis Response.

Operations Officer Karla Webb presented the Care Connections of Northern Iowa Mental Health Advocate MOU. **Motion by Dawley, seconded by Talsma to approve the Care Connections of Northern Iowa Mental Health Advocate MOU. All ayes, motion carried.**

Webb next presented the FY22 Hosue of Mercy Contract. **Motion by Nolte to approve the FY22 Hosue of Mercy Contract, seconded by Rudolph. All ayes, motion carried.**

FY22 Amendments for Central Iowa Juvenile Detention Center were presented. Tony Reed commented this was due to insurance rates increasing drastically. Motion by Dawley (withdrawn), **motion by Nolte to approve FY22 Amendments for Central Iowa Juvenile Detention Center, second by Talsma. All ayes, motion carried. Dawley abstained.**



Webb presented FY22 Amendments for NAMI CI. JD Deambra will be located in the Franklin County CICS office and will be working with the northern counties in the Region for NAMI. WRAP training was requested for Deambra. **Motion to approve FY22 Amendments for NAMI CI by Clifton, second by Talsma. All ayes, motion carried. Deambra abstained.**

Chair asked for public comments at this time, none given.

Next Meeting is August 18, 2021. It was noted this is a Wednesday due to ISAC meetings on Thursday.

Chair asked for motion to adjourn. **Motion by Heddens, second by Talsma. All ayes, motion carried.**

Patti Leeds, Recording Secretary

BJ Hoffman, Board Chair

