

LINN COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES

COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING
1240 26TH AVE. COURT SW
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LinnCounty.org



LINN COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
Community Services Building
Upper Level Conference Room #1, Suite 2026
1240 26th Avenue Court SW, Cedar Rapids IA 52404
Friday, May 17, 2019 – 12:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Ken Benson Susan Salter Bob Hebl
Sr. Susan O'Connor

LATE ARRIVAL: Mike Tiernan (arrived 1:15 p.m.)

ABSENT: Maureen Kenney Ben Rogers
Diane Daubenmeier Joni Howland Scott Lindsley

STAFF: Staci Meade Ashley Balias Jim Fox
Chris Kivett-Berry

CALL TO ORDER

Sr. Susan called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the April 8th, 2019 LCCS Board Meeting were approved. MSC: Hebl/Benson (5-0).

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT

Staci Meade covered the budget report that was included in the board packet. Overall, expenses were lower than expected and revenue higher in the general fund. In the special revenue fund, Options has kept expenses low and revenue has evened out as expected. She also covered a separate item for childcare in the budget to avoid a gap in service. The monthly budget report was approved. MSC Salter/Hebl (5-0). The childcare item was also approved. MSC: Salter/Tiernan (5-0).

CACFP QUARTERLY REPORT

Staci Meade provided the quarterly update for CACFP. January had lower numbers largely due to inclement weather but evened out by the end of the quarter. Revenue is ahead of schedule within reimbursements.

BUDGET SURPLUS

Staci Meade provided an organization chart for context and then discussed the proposed surplus by category. She covered the proposed surplus for agencies that are already funded through this source with the addition of Willis Dady for homeless resources. She then discussed the surplus allocation to the established funded agencies with no major changes in this area. There are also funding needs within LCCS to be covered by the surplus, with an item of note being an early start for two detention positions. The revised total including that item is \$386,658. This item was approved on May 15 by the Board of Supervisors. Staci itemized out the

funding requests throughout the LCCS programs with some explanation of the needs and expenses in question. MSC: Tiernan/Salter (5-0).

PROGRAM UPDATES AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

LCCS Core & General Assistance – Ashley Balius provided the report on Core Services and General Assistance. For Core, the Continuum of Care released the most recent Point in Time (PIT) count. This is typically done in January but was delayed due to weather to Feb. 6. There were a total of 242 individuals, with men outweighing children for the third consecutive PIT count. Ashley provided information that due to a change in how homelessness is considered, the numbers reported are lower than the population that is housing insecure and a greater population is utilizing resources that are not considered to be homeless. Sr. Susan asked about the process of the PIT count. Per Ashley, it is done through a mix of volunteers going to the shelters are common locations for homeless individuals. She also stated that the Overflow Shelter fills a large gap in need for the community, and that the location used for winter '18-'19 will be available for '19-'20 if the permanent overflow shelter is not completed in time. She also stated that 866 students experienced some level of homelessness during the '17-'18 school year using the Department of Education definition. Of that population, 70% of students were doubled up with other families and there was a 35% increase in homelessness in the student population. The majority (51%) of the homeless students were in elementary school.

Final numbers for the Overflow Shelter reflect that during the '18-'19 winter, 467 individuals stayed at the shelter. Of that, 36% stayed one night, 25% 2-5 nights, and 26% more than two weeks. The Overflow Shelter was open Dec. 1 – Mar. 31.

Data on the Cost of Homelessness will be released at the end of the month, providing five years of data on a small, specific population of individuals. This will include law enforcement information, medical, and legal costs. The expenses of this population when experiencing homelessness were \$1.2mm compared to \$9,000 while housing stable. One of the individuals will have a follow up study done to show long-term effects and costs.

For General Assistance, there will be a follow-up meeting regarding the policy changes that were discussed at the April meeting, and she will bring recommendations for approval to the June meeting. The utility moratorium likely resulted in some open appointment slots, but Ashley stated that she expects an increase now that the utility moratorium is not in effect. Chris Kivett-Berry inquired about obtaining a copy of the PIT report; it is available under Core Services on the Linn County site.

DECAT/Early Childhood Iowa- Chris Kivett-Berry provided the update for DECAT and ECI. Bid reviews have been completed for both programs, but both programs have also experienced funding reductions. They are utilizing prioritization exercises to determine which programs will have the biggest impact in their communities due to there being insufficient funding to cover all needs. They are utilizing a tiered approach, where more effective and efficient programs in a scoring rubric receive a higher percentage of needed funding, but some programs will not receive any. ECI may be receiving a bump in funding in pending legislation.

Chris also discussed an upcoming program from Partnering for Lasting Change. DECAT is funding this in conjunction with Drake Law School. This event is a simulation of what barriers recently released incarcerated individuals experience. The goal is to attract potential employers of ex-convicts to the event to increase their understanding.

Bob commented that the governor did not veto any items and that there was a strong likelihood that ECI will experience the funding bump. It is still uncertain if this is a 1 year only increase or will be ongoing funding; Chris will have more information for the board at the June meeting.

Options of Linn County - Jim Fox gave a report on Options. Jim stated that this in the on-year for CARF accreditation but that they do not have a date yet. His expectation is that this will take place in late summer, most likely July or August. Their annual celebration will take place May 31 at the Kirkwood Training Center on Boyson Road at 6:30 p.m. There will be a photographer as well as light refreshments to celebrate longevity in 5 year increments.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Staci provided the update for David Thielen. She provided a brief update on David's health and recovery. She also provided an update on the status of building construction. Construction will likely begin later in the year, and any noise and interference will be communicated to the LCCS team in advance.

Staci also provided an update on the Mental Health Access Center. She and Emily Blomme (CEO, Foundation 2) will be making an ask to the East Central Region on May 23 not to exceed \$2.5M for the Access Center. Bob inquired about the region's ability to expand its budget reserve from recent legislation. Staci stated that this change was passed after counties certified their budgets. The counties have until the end of the month to make a decision to reopen their budgets. The also stated that the region has a fiscal agent through Johnson County that has been more active in the budget process and that there will be a leadership change this year. She also provided clarification that the ask is for FY21 due to the uncertainty in the funding process. Chris inquired about the unfunded children's mental health initiative. Staci communicated that this is still an unfunded mandate and that Medicare/Medicaid funding rates are insufficient to fully reimburse care. Bob added that Liz Mathis has been a significant proponent for this initiative.

Leah Coffman, Recorder

DATE OF NEXT LCCS BOARD MEETING

12:00 PM, Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Community Services Building, Upper Level Conference Room #1

1240 26th Avenue Court SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

MISSION: Linn County Community Services addresses local health and human service needs by providing direct services, community planning, and administration of local, state, and federal funds in ways that promote service availability, access, cost-effectiveness, and quality.