

Forest Warren Governing Board

February 21, 2023

Location: Forest County

Forest County Commissioners: Mark Kingston, Bob Snyder, Norman Wimer

Warren County Commissioners: Ben Kafferlin, Tricia Durbin, Jeff Eggleston

FWHS: Adam McNeill, Betsy Miller, Kathy Lebon, Jennifer Fromknecht

Meeting called to order 10:00 am.

#### Pledge of Allegiance

1. Approval of governing board minutes from December 20, 2022 Commissioner Eggleston made a motion to approve and Commissioner Snyder seconded. The motion carried.

#### 2. Fiscal

##### Fiscal Reports:

Kathy Stated fiscal finally received the closure for Early Intervention for fiscal year 2020-2021. She is hoping to get the reports for EI's fiscal year 2021-2022 this week. Fiscal is in the process of closing records for the calendar year audit, they will be reviewing the line items in each individual program do to a rebudget. Kathy said we are operating at 48% of the authorized 58%. Fiscal will close the books in two weeks, the next time she sends out financials, she will have the rebudget. She doesn't anticipate a County match increase. They will be moving things around between line items. Kathy stated we have no issues with cashflow, we are receiving our quarterly advances. We have more than ample funds to operate. Commissioner Durbin asked if we are feeling comfortable with staffing, Adam stated things are coming together. The joinder side has not struggled as much as Children and Youth. Commissioner Wimer asked if we have employees that crossover and do both HS and CYS, Adam said we do, for the on-call services and the intake workers are also MH delegates. Although they don't get many MH calls. When they do the MH Director, Julie Lacki is very involved.

Commissioner Kafferlin made a motion to approve the financial reports and Commissioner Eggleston seconded. The motion carried.

#### 3. Contracts

Betsy stated that we have one MH contract amendment for a rate increase for The Achievement Center. Adam stated he is hoping we will be reimbursed for this rate increase. The individual currently doesn't have coverage under managed care. Once they do we should be reimbursed.

Betsy said we have 4 Early Intervention amendments. We will move money around between the contracts to meet the needs of the children in the program. The increases are all within the available EI funding. Betsy said we have 2 new MH contracts to provide guardianship and representative payee for a couple individuals that were recently deemed incompetent. Adam stated that these individuals are not able to take care of themselves and do not have any natural supports.

Commissioner Eggleston made a motion to approve the amendments and new contracts and Commissioner Durbin seconded. The motion carried.

#### 4. Updates

MH Contract- Adam stated that he and Julie Lacki are working together to create a boiler plate for the MH contracts. Currently all of the MH contracts are different and streamlining them will make contracts easier for

the MH department. Once they have one put together, they will give it to Rene to review and they will send it out to providers to review as well.

Trauma Training- Adam said that Children and Youth has strict guidelines with target dates for them to his with all the Trauma Informed trainings through becoming Trauma Centered. All of Human Services is working on this with CYS. Everyone has completed the first trauma training. Adam said he and Meredith are working on a plan for a roll out. Meredith is going to reach out to Forest County CYS as well.

BHARP- Adam said BHARP has 3 positions in each county that will be offered to college seniors to get a \$20,000 tuition reimbursement. In return for the tuition reimbursement, the college seniors will agree to a 2-year contract working with providers in our area. BHARP is working on finalizing this. Adam will share more information when it becomes available.

Commissioner Kafferlin asked if the Governor's initiative to deregulate requirements will have an effect on us. Adam said that right now, that initiative is at the State level. Right now, it is not affecting us. Betsy stated we are held to the State Merit system for hiring. Adam added that the Merit system that is in place is really not that strict for hiring caseworkers.

Warren County Prison- Adam stated Human Services is working with the Warren County Prison to be the liaison between the WCP and the providers, so we can get services in the prison and deduce liabilities. Commissioner Kafferlin asked about the MH Forensic case manager, Hollie Watson. Commissioner Kafferlin stated that when the program was new, about 4 years ago, it was decided that if it went well they would fund an additional position, he wanted to follow up with that. Adam said staffing in MH isn't the issue. They need to work on the processes. There is a screening that has been created, the inmates work on, on their own. It is an assessment, each question has a number the numbers are tallied for each assessment to determine if they need MH or D&A, this helps with getting individuals the appropriate treatment. The hope is they will follow through after their release from prison.

Adam said they are working with the Housing Authority to bring some social work into their programs. There is a lot of disparities and individuals getting removed from their housing. We are trying to prevent evictions, which then prevents homelessness. Commissioner Eggleston stated he wanted to give Adam and the HS administration a lot of credit for initiating the conversation with the Housing Authority. They have been effective in building a collaboration. Commissioner Eggleston added that they have also done a really good job initiation conversations with the Warren County School District's administration. Dr. Mead from the school administration was at the last Advisory Counsel for MH and gave a very nice presentation. Commissioner Eggleston gave kudos to the HS administration for working on both of those. Adam said they have also been working with Warren General Hospital. They had a meeting with the CEO of BHARP, the heads of Health Choices for Managed Care Organization, the behavioral techs, and Joe Akif. They discussed processing issues, individuals sitting in the EI for long periods of time. Adam gave them resources to use that would make the process faster. Adam asked if there was an update for the Veteran Affairs Director. Commissioner Kafferlin state they have filled the position. Forest County still has a vacancy. Commissioner Snyder said per the last conversation, this was something that was going through the Joinder for both counties. Commissioner Eggleston said there is nothing that says it can't be a joint position. The Warren County Commissioners are going to discuss with the new VA director the possibility of her doing both counties. She does have an assistant, who is also being trained on applying for benefits on behalf of veterans. Commissioner Wimer stated that the assistant may be the answer. Maybe she could go down to Forest County once a week or once every 2 weeks. Commissioner Durbin said this can all be discussed with the new director however, she wants to give her a little bit of time to get acclimated to the position.

Opioid Money- Commissioner Kingston asked if there are any updates on the opioid money. Commissioner Eggleston said they are trying to formulate a plan, they want to utilize the money in the jail. Commissioner Eggleston said that they looked into other ideas, but when you dig into them long term they were too expensive. They are working to finalize a plan for the Warren County Prison.



Board Letters- Adam said we need a motion to approve Diane Weckerly and Judy McDade to the Advisory Board. Commissioner Snyder made a motion to approve and Commissioner Kafferlin seconded. The motion carried.

Grant- Adam said they are working on an economic development type of grant for SUD individuals. Betsy stated it is through the Appalachian Regional Commission the grant is INSPIRE- Investments Supporting Partnership in Recovery Ecosystems. There are 2 types of grants you can apply for a planning grant for up to \$50,000 and an implementation grant for up to \$500,000 over three years. The grant is to assist individuals in recovery to assess SUD recovery supports while pursuing training and education to obtain and maintain employment. Adam said they would be focusing the initial efforts on Hi-ED, the Regional College and building some type of educational component for individuals. Commissioner Wimer asked who would do the initial planning. Adam and Betsy would like to hire a consultant to work with HS to do the initial planning. Betsy said they would like recommendations from the Commissioners on which consultants to use. Betsy stated they are putting in a letter of intent and the proposal is due on March 17, 2023. Commissioner Snyder made a motion to move forward with the letter of intent for the ARC and Commissioner Eggleston seconded. The motion carried.

5. Public Comment

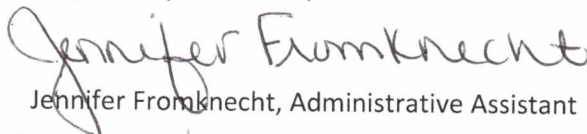
No public comment

6. Next meeting will be held on April 18, 2023 in Warren County at 10 am.

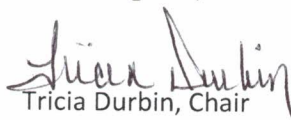
7. Adjournment

Commissioner Eggleston made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Durbin seconded. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Jennifer Fromknecht, Administrative Assistant

  
Mark Kingston, Chair

  
Tricia Durbin, Chair