

Forest Warren Governing Board

April 18, 2023

Location: Warren 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 10:15 am.

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Approval of governing board minutes from February 21, 2023 Commissioner Kafferlin made a motion to approve and Commissioner Eggleston seconded. The motion carried.

2. Fiscal

Fiscal Reports:

Kathy Stated we are operating at 60% from the requested 75%, she said we are in good shape financially. Some departments are missing invoices for February and March, we will still be under 25% when they do come in. When fiscal closed the books for 6 months, they reviewed all the line items, some of the items were moved within the individual programs. There is still flexibility to move items within their own programs. The expenses and revenues are coming as expected. As far as cash flow goes, Kathy said we are getting our advances. Kathy said because of the staff shortages we have \$900,000 in carryover the State has not yet deducted. EI has not had carryover deducted for 2 years.

Commissioner Durbin asked if providers are successful at staffing at this time. Adam stated some programs such as BCM have had a lot of fluctuation, but are improving. We have one family-based team from each of the three providers. They are all working with bare bones. Adam said we are working with MHY Family Services to provide a program service, MST psych to Forest County right now, and eventually to Warren County. This is a program above family-based services and right below an RTF. It is a seven-person team that works with 12 cases at a time. The cases include everyone in the family, for individual treatment as needed and family treatment. They work with the families that have failed out of other services, to keep them out of placements. We will program fund around \$100,000 for our Counties. This is CCBH funded.

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

Policies-

Kathy asked for clarification on County policies. When the County passes a new policy, is it the intent for FWHS to change our policy to mirror the County? Commissioner Kafferlin said it is not the intent. Adam said it is hard to do because of CYS, for instance they have higher regulations. Commissioner Kafferlin stated that in all the documents they pass there is a scope and it should say if FWHS is in or out. In most cases FWHS is out.

Commissioner Eggleston stated that he has always viewed the joinder as a separate governing body, because the governing board is a separate entity. Kathy asked what we should do if the County doesn't indicate if we are in or out. Commissioner Kafferlin said if it applies to FWHS they will let us know, otherwise FWHS is excluded.

3. Contracts

Betsy stated we have two contract amendments for Early Intervention and one administrative contract. These are all increases to the contract ceiling based on need. Drug and Alcohol has a renewal, it was already renewed in October, but the contract was misplaced so we are just asking for the governing board to sign a new copy.

We have several administrative contract renewals for 2023-2024 fiscal year. And Drug and Alcohol has one new contract with a new provider for 22/23, this is for Huntington Creek Recovery Center. We are under a reinvestment plan to increase residential services for adolescence. Adam said he and Julie Lacki created a boiler plate for all MH contracts. It is almost finalized, they will send it to our attorney to look it over before we sent it out to providers. Adam stated FWHS is going to be contracting with CCR, they are the 988-crisis provider out of Butler County. They also provide shelter, transitional beds and help with housing.

Commissioner Eggleston made a motion to approve the contracts and Commissioner Snyder seconded. The motion carried.

4. Updates

New positions

Adam stated we have two new positions coming up. We have a position in our ID department for a case aide. We are pulling out all of the non-billable functions that the SC's are doing and creating the position. Creating this position will generate around \$120,000 per year for the ID program. The SC's are carrying caseloads of 15-20 above what they should, with the money generated we could develop a program specialist position that would work under the ID supervisor. This position would handle immediate needs of our individuals and carry a small caseload. In the future we would like to start teaching independent living skills, have family groups, different trainings and events for the ID community. These will be a positive and effective community service. The MH/Fiscal clerk typist position is the second position. This position will be split between Mental health and fiscal, and will do some of the ID functions for rep payee. We were able to develop a full-time position based on time studies and needs. Adam said as each of our programs are analyzed we will be figuring out how to strengthen our caseworkers, by pulling out functions that clerical staff and case aides can do.

Fentanyl test strips

Betsy stated that there was recent legislation that decriminalized the possession of fentanyl test strips. The previous use of fentanyl test strips was used by drug dealers to test their "product". The fentanyl test strips were considered drug paraphernalia. The current use would be for a harm reduction tool as part of treatment. Betsy said these will be available through the State, similar to how Narcan is available. We would be able to order them and distribute throughout our Counties. Most counties are intending to use their provider system to distribute them to clients in need versus making them available to the general public. Betsy said she wanted to make sure there weren't any objections to the distribution. Commissioner Durbin asked how the strips are used. Betsy said you scrape a little powder and mix it with water, add the test strip and it will show if there is fentanyl in it. Betsy stated that along with the fentanyl test strips the people distributing will be showing other harm reducing techniques for individuals receiving the test strips. Commissioner Eggleston stated that fentanyl is being put into so many things, handing out the strips will build awareness and start conversations about how people can die from fentanyl use. It is a serious cause of overdose.

More Updates

Betsy stated that she and Adam submitted the Appalachian Regional Commission grant in march. That grant is to improve the workforce for individuals in recovery.

Betsy said the State put out for Recovery Hubs, Armstrong Indiana Clarion SCA did get it for our regions. They will be coming to our area and other counties to develop a strategic plan related to what is needed related to recovery in our area.

Betsy said Family Services of Warren applied and received a Life Unites Us grant. This is a recovery grant. A lot of activities done before recovery can't be done after recovery because it's not a great environment for them. This grant will be used to build recovery social activities.

Betsy mentioned Deerfield has hired a Certified Recovery Specialist. A CRS is a peer, that has been successful in recovery. They get certified and work with D&A individuals.

Betsy said Ben Zimmer has been working in the recovery community in Mercer County. Mr. Zimmer lost his son to addiction about ten years ago. He applied for the Life Unites Us grant and wants to do an educational piece here in warren. This will be a one-day recovery event on July 15, 2023. More details to come.

Adam stated the YMCA will hold a Mental Health Awareness event on May 15, 2023.

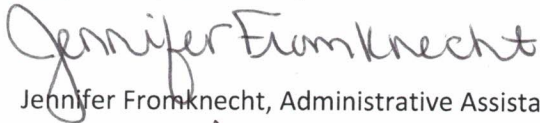
Adam let the governing board know that we were having cake following governing board to celebrate Tammy Hawk. She was recently awarded the Blue Award for her work with the Autistic population. Betsy said an Advisory Board letter was passed around for signatures. It is regarding Spencer Duffy's resignation from the Advisory Board. He moved out of the area.

5. Public Comment
No public comment

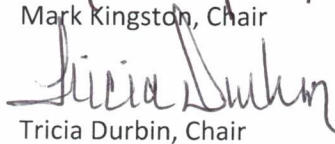
6. Next meeting will be held on June 20, 2023 in Forest County at 10 am.

7. Adjournment
Commissioner Snyder 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