

**Peoria County Board for the Care and Treatment
of Persons with a Developmental Disability
Minutes of
February 18, 2016**

Members Present: Greg Chance
Alyssa Herman
Joyce Harant

Members Absent: Todd Baker

Others Present: Emily Connors, Peoria City/County Health Department
Steve Giebelhausen, Peoria County State's Attorney's Office
Brad Guidi, Camp Big Sky
Matt George, Children's Home
Stacie Billingsley, Children's Home
Chris Kochanowicz, Children's Home
Steve, Children's Home
Jim Runyon, Easter Seals
Patti Gratton, Community Workshop & Training Center
Bill Adams, Community Workshop & Training Center
Kim Cornwell, EP!C
Doris Hayes, EP!C
Lauren Coyle, EP!C
Steve Rollins, EP!C

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Mr. Chance.

A motion was made by Ms. Harant to approve the meeting minutes of December 17, 2015. Motion was seconded by Ms. Herman. Motion carried (3, 0).

In the next item of business, Mr. Chance stated that the Board members received an email from Ms. Sullivan submitting her resignation from the Board. Mr. Chance stated that the Board has the opportunity to recommend a replacement to the County Board Chairman for consideration. He asked all members to consider that and added that perhaps he and Ms. Harant could have a discussion regarding the model looked at previously with having the replacement be from the Board of Health. Mr. Chance stated that at next week's meeting, there can be further discussion regarding how to pursue/recruit candidates. Anyone interested in being on the Care & Treatment Board can apply through the County Board's process.

In the next item of business, the Board moved into presentations from the agencies who responded to the Request for Proposals. Mr. Chance stated that, in fairness, agencies would be called upon alphabetically and asked each agency to keep their presentations to 10 minutes per application. He also asked that only the Care & Treatment Board members ask questions during the presentations. If there are questions from members

of the public regarding any grant application, those questions can be asked under Public Comments.

Mr. Guidi from Camp Big Sky reviewed the programs for which funding is being requested in the amount of \$25,000.00; these programs serve residents of Peoria County with developmental disabilities. The programs are Access in the Outdoors, which provides accessible outdoor activities to those individuals served by Camp Big Sky. Engage and Contribute is the adult volunteer training program which teaches the traits of what makes a great volunteer and builds confidence and skill sets. Getting to Know You focuses on people with disabilities and youth/adults with little to no prior contact with this population working together towards completion of common goals. I Can Do This is a new program. With the completion of the new Learning center, Camp Big Sky will be teaching critical self care skill sets to enhance participants' capacities to live independently in the community. Ms. Harant asked Mr. Guidi to add numerical outcomes to the matrix for 2016; Mr. Chance asked that this be sent to Ms. Grubb by Monday for distribution to Board members. Mr. Chance asked about the increase in the budget from FY2015 to FY2016. Mr. Guidi stated that part of that was due to the new I Can Do This program as well as that Camp Big Sky will also be contracting with a life skills education coordinator to help recruit and supervise three to six interns from Bradley as well as community volunteers. Mr. Chance asked Mr. Guidi to explain the difference between contributions and fundraising. Mr. Guidi stated that there are four or five fundraising events; contributions would be a donation received. Mr. Chance asked Mr. Guidi what he would do if he did not receive funding from the Care & Treatment Board as his request for \$25,000.00 represents about 20% of revenue. Mr. Guidi stated that with the Learning Center, Camp Big Sky is launching a strategic planning and corporate teambuilding enterprise for the center to be used by organizations for a fee.

Mr. George from Children's Home stated that Children's Home is celebrating its 150th year. Children's Home serves about 1,700 kids and families a month with that number continuing to grow. Mr. George then introduced Steve to provide information about the grant request. Steve stated that Children's Home is looking to secure this grant funding to expand a current program, which is conducted under an evidence based model that works with client in determining what their career path might be. Children's Home works with a network of employers through this program. Steve stated that this program does not currently include individuals with developmental disabilities served by Children's Home. The grant would allow for up to 70 people to be served. Ms. Harant asked about staff being trained to deal with developmentally disabled individuals. Steve stated that training would be similar to what is already conducted; he added that staff has experience in dealing with developmentally disabled population so training would build upon existing skills and knowledge. Ms. Herman asked if employees would go with individuals to job sites. Steve stated that job coaches will be on hand for as long as individuals need them. One employment specialist/job coach would focus on 15 clients. Mr. Chance asked what happens to a client with a developmental disability being served by Children's Home who turns 21. Children's Home staff stated that this is part of the issue. The goal is to transition individuals to the level of care needed. Currently, Children's Home stops providing services at 21. Mr. Chance asked how this program

differs from other programs provided in Peoria County. Mr. George stated that he does not want to take funds away from others; for Children's Home this funding would fill a gap and provide an opportunity to expand an existing program. Mr. Chance then asked if a client that turns 21 can be transitioned to other agencies. The response was that it could be done, but it has been difficult to get clients into those programs. Ms. Harant asked about the use of volunteers. Children's Home staff stated that volunteers are used throughout their agency.

Ms. Gratton from Community Workshop & Training Center discussed the Adult Day Developmental Training Program, which provides classroom activities in the building. She stated that CWTC is working on training in the community through volunteerism. There are several sites that CTWC clients go to year round and learn work skills through volunteering; examples are Luthy Botanical Gardens and SAMS Animal Shelter. Ms. Gratton stated that everything done in the community is a learning experience; safety and social skills are included. Mr. Chance asked about the total program expenses amount of \$658,000.00 related to the number of clients, which is 65. Ms. Gratton stated that individuals in the program have the highest needs.

Ms. Gratton then introduced Mr. Adams to discuss the Community Employment Services Program. Mr. Adams stated that there were 87 placements last year and CWTC maintains face to face contact with 121 employers in the Peoria area. He stated that this program helps determine what type of job an individual would like to seek. Counselors and job coaches help with the program. A career planning profile is conducted. 88% of people put in employment remain in their jobs past a year. Ms. Gratton stated that the number of people in the program is fluid since individuals are at different stages of the placement process. In response to a question regarding how this compares with the other program, Ms. Gratton stated that when students come out of school, they don't necessarily want to go into a workshop type setting. They may have significant disabilities, but want a job in community. Because of their disabilities, it takes longer to develop their skills. People that would have traditionally gone into workshop setting are now going into an employment setting.

Mr. Runyon from Easter Seals discussed the Early Intervention Services program, which serves children from birth to three years old. He added that Easter Seals holds the contract for service coordination for early intervention and that the requests for funding for Easter Seals have nothing to do with that contract. Mr. Runyon stated that there has been a change in how early intervention has been provided in that more is being conducted in natural environments rather than inside centers. This change does come with a cost due to travel for therapists and lost time while traveling. Accredited entities like Easter Seals incur additional costs due to additional auditing, continuing education for therapists, regional unique services provided by therapists, and additional service coordination. Mr. Chance stated that in FY2015, Easter Seals served 157 clients from Peoria County in this program and proposes to serve 165 but with costs going down. Mr. Runyon stated that salaries are decreasing.

Mr. Runyon also discussed the other funding request from Easter Seals which is for two iPads and cases to utilize a tool that was previously done on paper and is now only

available as a computer generated tool. This is the Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory Computer Adaptive Testing tool and is used by almost of the therapists at Easter Seals. This tool is available in Spanish and provides immediate feedback to the family.

Ms. Cornwell from EP!C introduced Ms. Hayes, Ms. Coyle and Mr. Rollins. Ms. Hayes stated that the population served by EP!C is very different from the population served both the other agencies with about 50% using wheelchairs and/or walkers and about 89% requiring medical care. Only 15% are completely independent. She added that the State of Illinois gives the same amount of money for a client requiring medical care as it does for the client who is independent. HUB serves 30 people who are all in wheelchairs and have significant physical limitations, but cognitively are very intelligent young men and women. These individuals would have skills to work in community, but are physically limited to do so. HUB has 15 computers on which individuals do data entry, make business cards and greeting cards for EP!C. EP!C pays these individuals for the what work they do for the agency. Ms. Hayes stated that a staff person has been hired who has web design and graphic design experience. With the addition of this person, EP!C is looking at offering these individuals plus 10-15 more the opportunity to learn how to do web and graphic design in hopes it will offer more work opportunities. The other part of the HUB program is offering outreach for those who come to day training; HUB offers 275 people access to technology, including email and Facebook. There is computer lab to teach MS Word and PowerPoint. Mr. Chance asked about the budget as it appears grant funding from the Care & Treatment Board is the only source of funding for this program. This is correct. Ms. Cornwell stated that if funding was reduced, the program would be reduced and another way to support it would be sought.

Ms. Hayes stated that EP!C is looking at changing the Education Services Program to be more of an educational center than a workshop. The youngest participant is 21 and the oldest is 95 so a variety of activities have to be offered for the different age groups. There are three programs within the Education Services Program: Adult Life Skills, Work Skills, and the Senior Program. There is also an art studio, music studio, and harvest horticulture program. EP!C received a technology grant so each classroom has a laptop and projector. Ms. Coyle distributed and discussed information regarding outcomes and curriculum. Mr. Chance asked what the additional \$50,000.00 being requested would be used for. Ms. Cornwell stated that it would help with making sure there is appropriate staffing; anyone in a wheelchair requires two staff people. Staff is also needed when doing outings in the community.

In the next item of business, Mr. Runyon spoke as a member of the community stating that the Board has \$500,000.00 to distribute this year with requests totaling \$710,000.00. He stated that Peoria County has the lowest levy of any of the other counties with whom he works. He requested that the Board advocate with the County Board to shift back to funds for the Care & Treatment Board coming from the tax levy instead of personal property replacement tax and to request consideration of a graduated increase in the levy.

Ms. Gratton stated that the Board will be receiving an invitation in the mail for an Art Show on March 11th from 6:30-8:30 at the Water House.

Ms. Cornwell stated that EP!C will be hosting an even ton March 3rd.

Mr. Chance stated that the next Care & Treatment Board meeting is February 25th at 10:00 am, during which the Board should make decisions regarding grant allocation and begin the process of securing grant contracts in a timely manner. He asked Board members to utilize their scoring sheets for the applications. Mr. Chance stated that the Board would like to fund everyone at 100% of their request; however, this is not possible so the Board has its due diligence of doing the best it can with the available resources.

At 4:40 pm, a motion was made by Ms. Herman to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Ms. Harant. Motion carried (3, 0).