

Advisory Board Meetings
Monday, December 12
In-Person/Zoom Option
The Shores- 14 N Lawler St, Emmetsburg, IA 50536
3:30 pm to 5:00 pm
[Click here to join or click on orange arrow.](#)
Adult & Children Joint Meeting



Advisory Committee Agenda

- **Welcome/Introductions**

Advisory Board members present were Amanda Schmidt-Educational Representative (zoom), Tom Jorgensen-Child Welfare Advocate (zoom), Holly Boettcher- Parent Representative (zoom), Police Chief Bo Miller- Law Enforcement Representative (zoom), Jayson Vande Hoef- Governing Board Representative (zoom), and Barry Anderson- Governing Board Chair (zoom).

Care Connections employees in attendance: Melissa Loehr- CEO, Marlee Christoffel- Service Coordinator, and Jenn Dykshoorn-Office and Finance Specialist

- **FY 22 Annual Report Presentation**

Loehr walked through Care Connections FY 22 Annual Report including number of individuals served for each service by diagnostic category, unduplicated count of individuals by age and diagnostic category, regionally designated intensive mental health services, expenditures, revenues, service development status, outcomes, and regional accomplishments.

- **FY 22 Annual Report Feedback Session and FY 24 Budget Planning – What to consider**

Based on the information reported by Loehr, Miller was excited to hear what the Region has been doing this last year and to see it backed with data. Miller also spoke more on the Community Mental Health Liaison position added in the last year that the Region helped to fund and how impactful this position has already been with assisting law enforcement with their needs.

Jorgenson stated he was surprised by how high the average calls per placement are when looking at hospital assessments and how integrated telehealth services are saving

time for hospitals. Jorgenson also stated he is excited to see more with the Seasons Center crisis center development and how this could impact children services for the better.

Anderson stated this is very good information and interesting to see the data to make better informed decisions. Anderson was interested to learn more on how jail medications and mental health services in jails will continue to trend in the upcoming years as awareness increases.

- **Coordinator Updates – Marlee**

Christoffel is working to build collaboration with Osceola County Hospital and in streamlining the committals processes. Christoffel has been collaborating more with schools and has been able to get more involved with IEP meetings. Christoffel also talks about the length of time it is currently taking to get on the ID waiver (5 years) and the need to catch children earlier in middle school versus high school when possible. Christoffel and the region have been working closely with ITP to continue to bolster hospital and jail services by adding Embrace health to develop therapy and outpatient services. ITP will also follow-up with looking at other services beyond inpatient or outpatient. Christoffel has been working with Clay County on drug court getting started in January of 2023.

- **Seasons Center Crisis Center Update**

Loehr stated Seasons Center is working on the development of the Crisis Center. Seasons Center is hoping to start services in April or May of 2023.

- **Agency Updates/ Information Sharing**

Boettcher talked about how impactful and helpful the collaboration has been from the Region with Osceola County Hospital and thinks this will bridge many gaps moving forward in the years to come.

- **Next Meeting- March 13, 2023**

Meeting adjourned at 5pm.

Clay · Kossuth · Osceola · Palo Alto · Winnebago · Worth

Care Connections of Northern Iowa exists to support improved access to behavioral healthcare through local resources to promote full citizenship for people with mental illness and intellectual disabilities.