

**Advisory Board Meeting**  
**Monday, March 13 at 3:30pm**  
**Zoom Only**  
**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- Melissa Loehr**

Advisory Board members present were Police Chief Bo Miller- Law Enforcement Representative (zoom), Lorrie Young- Prairie Ridge Executive Director Children's Mental Health Provider, and special guest Amy Ortiz- Iowa Peer Network.

Care Connections employees in attendance: Melissa Loehr- CEO, Marlee Christoffel- Service Coordinator, Sandy Pelzer- Service Coordinator, and Jenn Dykshoorn-Client and Finance Director.

- **Iowa Peer Network Presentation- Sara Knox & Amy Ortiz**

Ortiz stated the mission of the Iowa Peer Network is to connect and empower peer support specialists in Iowa to foster a strong, skilled workforce. Their goals are to engage, connect, and support peer support specialists, build peer support specialists' knowledge and skills, and strengthen the peer support specialist workforce in Iowa.

Ortiz shared a flyer on upcoming events including events on peer support in justice system on March 14th, peer support 4 peer support on the first and third Wednesdays each month, applied suicide intervention skills training on April 4-5, and peer support summit on May 19-20. For more details go to <https://iowapeernetwork.org/>

- **CCNIA Staffing Updates- Melissa Loehr, Jennifer Dykshoorn**

Loehr shared changes within Care Connections organizational structure including transitioning Dykshoorn from the Finance and Office Specialist to Client and Finance Director as of March 1, 2023. With this change Care Connections is looking to hire an administrative assistant position. This position has been posted with a close date of March 13, 2023. Loehr stated intentions of hiring a Program Director in FY 24.

- **HHS MHDS Report Findings & Recommendations / Legislation Review- Melissa Loehr**

Loehr shared briefly the findings and recommendations of the HHS MHDS report.

Findings

1. Lack of consistent services across the state.
2. Lack of consistent definitions and implementation of the same services
3. Governance and Administration Across Regions
4. Lack of integrated Data

#### Recommendations

1. Move Regional Code Language- Currently, it is in Chapter 331 (which is County Home Rule Implementation) would like to move regions code information to Chapter 225, MHDS Services
  2. Revise Regional Governance Structure- all stakeholders have voting rights, including more stakeholders of the MHDS System, elected officials no more than 49% of the board.
  3. Require Community-Based Competency Restoration as a core service- designed for people incompetent to stand trial and are court-ordered to this treatment. Not currently available in Iowa, recommends that MHDS Regions be required to develop and fund services and coordination.
  4. Revise the Regional Ending Fund Balance Carryover- Change from 5% to 10%
  5. Eliminate Quarterly Reporting – HHS asking to submit an annual report instead of a quarterly to try to reflect a more accurate picture.
- Recommendations for FY 24 Populations Served- Melissa Loehr  
To serve individuals with brain injury and developmental disabilities in hourly services and learn capacity / usage.

Young stated from a provider perspective this is exciting and a good thing. Providers will need to assess what training and components will be needed to help staff serve these individuals. Young stated these populations are challenging to serve and more education and knowledge is needed to help serve these individuals. Things to keep in mind: What resources are out there for providers / regions to refer too. What realistically can the regions help with for serving these populations.

- FY 24 Budget Review and Approval- Melissa Loehr  
Loehr walked through the annual service and budget plan to explain budgeting plans for FY 24.
- Coordinator Updates – Anna. Marlee. Sandy  
No updates given due to time and low attendance.
- Agency Updates/ Information Sharing  
Young stated that Prairie Ridge has hired another Mental Health Counselor for the Algona area. Young stated this was necessary due to high capacity. Young stated that Prairie Ridge is looking to expand Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) services over in Worth and Winnebago counties as well as possibly over to Kossuth.
- Next Meeting- May 8, 2023 (Moving up before end of fiscal year)

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

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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.