



E.C.S.D.D.
EASTERN COLORADO SERVICES
for the Developmentally Disabled, Inc.

Rhonda L. Roth
Executive Director

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING September 30, 2021

Members Present

Mike Ehrmann
Dean Wingfield (Phone)
Eva Bruns (Phone)
Mark Turner (Phone)
Kent Jostes (Phone)
Linda Heller
Ronald Smith (Phone)

Members Absent

Alice Hilzer
Tom Timm

Others Present

Rhonda Roth
Kasha Sheets
Leeah Key

ROLL CALL: Michael Ehrmann, President, called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: **Motion** was made and seconded (Wingfield/Bruns) to approve the August 26, 2021 minutes. All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

AGENDA ADDITIONS: Case Management Redesign meeting with NECALG

CORRESPONDENCE: None

FINANCIAL REPORT: Finance Director, Kasha Sheets presented the August financial report which reflects a decreased balance of \$41,000. Increased expenses included \$13,625 for bonuses; \$5000 in FSSP expenses for which we have not received reimbursement; \$1700 for the Administration building parking lot repair; and PTO cash out by two staff. **Motion** was made and seconded (Bruns/Heller) to approve the August financial report. All in favor; none opposed. Motioned carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- COVID-19 Update: The outbreak at the Adams Circle Residence continues with 3 residents and 1 staff who have tested positive. Subsequently, the Day Programs have been closed for the quarantine period.

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An LPN deployed by the State Residential Strike Team was sent to ECSDD to fill in vacancies due to positive COVID test results and resultant quarantine. Additionally, two National Guard members will be arriving tomorrow to fill in some residential shifts and alleviate gaps due to our staff shortage. Community Services and Supports Director, Leah Key was interviewed by Channel 7 News and highlighted in a segment this evening about the statewide health care staffing shortage crisis and the impacts on ECSDD.

We remain in constant contact with our local public health department and CDPHE for guidance. A vaccine booster clinic is scheduled for Friday, October 8th for residents and staff who received the Pfizer shot.

Health Care Policy and Financing's (HCPF), American Rescue Plan ACT of 2021 (ARPA) plan for receipt of federal funding was recently presented to the Joint Budget Committee (JBC). The plan has already received preliminary Federal approval and despite a few concerns was passed by the JBC. Part of the plan will require paying all direct care staff \$15.00 per hour starting January 1, 2022 with the support of ARPA funding through April 2023. There are no details about the distribution of funding to agencies and/or the plans for sustaining rates after the end of ARPA.

Additionally, Colorado's ARPA plan includes a retroactive 2.11% increase for services billed from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. There will also be a 2.11% increase for Case Management services from April 2022 through March 2023. HCPF reportedly is looking at other ways to support services.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Director Roth discussed the recent meeting she and Quality and Compliance Director, Jerri Spear attended with NECALG to discuss a direction for the regional Case Management Redesign mandate effective July 2024. NECALG is the current Single Entry Point (SEP) provider for Logan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Yuma and Morgan Counties. The consensus was that we should work together on behalf of the communities we serve. Next steps will involve developing a plan for project collaboration between our two agencies and the Kit Carson Public Health SEP program that serves Kit Carson, Lincoln and Cheyenne Counties.
- The Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination Policy (D055) for compliance with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and local public health requirements regarding COVID vaccinations for staff working in residential settings was reviewed and discussed. The policy was previously ratified per an online vote to assure compliance with the required policy adoption timeframes. All Board members except Ms. Hilzer had voted to approve the Policy.

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Motion was made and seconded (Heller/Turner) to approve the online vote ratifying the COVID-19 Vaccination Policy. All in favor; none opposed. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE: None

Meeting adjourned.

As a reminder: *the telephone conference number is 1-877-820-7831 and the Participant Pass Code is 8058169, followed by the # sign. The Board meeting for October 28, 2021 will begin at 6:30 pm.**