



**Teleconference Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2020**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS	DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Mark Anderson, Chair – present via phone	Director Kelly Garcia – present
Kimberly Kudej – present via phone	Faith Sandberg – present via phone
Sam Wallace – present via phone	Matt Highland – present via phone
Carol Forristall – present via phone	Mike Randol – present
Rebecca Peterson – present via phone	Julie McCauley – present
Skylar Mayberry-Mayes – present via phone	Janee Harvey – present via phone
	Jean Slaybaugh – present via phone
	Vern Armstrong – present via phone
	Marissa Eyanson – present via phone

EX-OFFICIO LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS
Representative Joel Fry – absent
Senator Mariannette Miller-Meeks – absent
Senator Amanda Ragan – absent
Representative Timi Brown-Powers – absent

Call to Order

Chair Mark Anderson called the Council meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. via conference call on Wednesday, June 10th, 2020.

Roll Call

All Council members were present, all Ex-officio legislative members were absent.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Wallace and seconded by Mayberry-Mayes to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2020 meeting.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

Rules

The following amendments to the administrative rules presented for adoption at the July Council on Human Services.

R-1. Amendments to Chapter 176 “Dependent Adult Abuse.” 2019 Iowa Acts, House File 569, added personal degradation as a category of dependent adult abuse. 2019 Iowa Acts, House File 323, changed the definition of exploitation within the definition of dependent adult abuse. These amendments update the definition of exploitation and define personal degradation within the definition of adult abuse and set criteria for outcome determinations for dependent adult abuse evaluations conducted by DHS to include references to personal degradation.

A motion was made by Forristall to approve and seconded by Kudej.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

Field Division Update

Division Administrator Vern Armstrong updated the council on his staff's transition to working from home. It has been very successful with normal customer service practices and no drop off in productivity. Since April 1st, a little over 77% of his staff are tele-commuting. Employees do report to the office for set appointments or printing needs. Chair Mark Anderson asked Vern if all the work being conducted from home was secure, Vern replied that all are using a VPN so everything is secured. Mark also inquired about the future of tele-commuting after COVID-19 and Vern stated that they are currently working on a policy and believes that as long as productivity and customer service standards are being met, it will be an option for employees and most see it as a big positive. He also informed the council the field division was in need of PPE for their case workers that were out seeing families and core staff in the offices. Director Garcia jumped in and worked with Director Skinner from the Department of Corrections and arranged for the delivery of several hundred face masks on a Sunday night. Since then our Fiscal division has really stepped up and has been ordering PPE and hand sanitizer for the staff. Vern thanked everyone involved for their efforts.

Vern stated that child abuse reporting did drop due to kids not being in school. School personnel are a major source for that reporting. There was drop in March and a bigger drop in April. By May, reporting was up and in June the numbers were back up closer to normal numbers. The Field division is monitoring this reporting.

He also reported that starting in late March, economic assistance programs such as FIP and food assistance saw a big jump in applicants due to the pandemic and a large number of citizens being unemployed. Field received twice as many applicants than they normally get. His staff was able to handle the larger workload. The field division also offered guidance to Child Care facilities and some guidance for summer programming about hygiene, cleaning, and disinfecting. Since June his staff have started to visit child care facilities again.

Currently there are two emergency declarations in Black Hawk, Fayette and Van Buren Counties due to storms and flooding in those areas. Our individual assistance grants and DCM programs are currently operating in those counties.

MHDS Update

Marissa Eyanson, Division Administrator for Mental Health and Disability Services – Community, introduced herself to the Council. This was her first time presenting to the council since starting her new position. She previously worked at IME as a Policy Bureau Chief.

Marissa reported to the council that her entire staff is tele-working since March and that it has been extremely successful and appreciated by her staff. She gave an overview of the COVID-19 Recovery Iowa program which offers mental health outreach services to individuals across Iowa. Her team's goal has been to reach as many people as possible. This program offers a wide variety of services including counseling, education, and links to local resources in communities. If individuals need more help than a virtual visit can offer, her staff is trained to recognize that and get them the help they need. Multiple areas of focus include Ag and rural issues, homelessness, workforce issues, older adults, children and families, and veterans. They currently have 101 staff onboard.

3rd Quarter MCO Report

Mike Randol, IME Director, provided the Council with an overview of the 3rd Quarter MCO report. He stated that some of the numbers you see will be higher due to the impact of COVID-19. There was an increase in service requests in March. He informed the council that we are still withholding capitation payments from Iowa Total Care because there is a 3rd party review that is being conducted. The release of those funds will be determined after the audit. IME is not actively looking for another MCO but will probably seek one out in the future. Rebecca asked Mike what is included in "other mental services appeals" on page 13 of the report. This response was sent to the Council in an email on 7/14/2020.

Director Garcia Update

DHS Director Kelly Garcia provided more information about her recent appointment to be the Interim Director of the Iowa Department of Public Health by Governor Reynolds. She was honored to accept the appointment but reassured the council that she is committed to the team and the tremendous work being done at DHS. She sees this responsibility as an important one to deepen our relationship between the two departments. She believes the work done by both departments is linked in meaningful ways. Director Garcia added that better service delivery and healthy Iowans is the goal and vision of both departments.

She also provided an update to the council on the EBT program that has received a lot of news media attention. This program is in the final phase of distributing a little more than 76 million dollars in food assistance to Iowa families that are served by the free and reduced lunch programs at their schools. Director Garcia also informed the council of the 50 million dollar CARES act program for behavioral health needs.

Jean Slaybaugh – DHS CFO

Jean informed the council that the August Council meeting would be the annual Public Hearing to give stakeholders, constituents, and others the opportunity to speak to the Council about the budget planning for state fiscal years 2022 & 2023. This year the meeting will be held virtually due to the pandemic.

Council Update

Chair Mark Anderson asked for a report from DHS in regards to the increase of abortions in the state to 8%. He would like to know why this number has increased. Kim asked if the council could include in the report how many women are receiving birth control in each county. Matt Highland stated we would have that for them at the August meeting.

Adjournment

Chair Mark Anderson adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Julie McCauley
Council Secretary
jkm

