

MEMBERS PRESENT

Springfield Location:

Michele Carmichael	Alan Dietrich	David Elder	Debra Kinsey
Merlin Lehman	Andrea Medley	Dee Ann Ryan	Gary Seelbach
Randy Staton	Julie Stremlau		

Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)

Bob Bloom	Kathy Briseno	Seth Harkins	Edgar Hernandez
Jason Johnson			

MEMBERS ABSENT

Brooke Whitted

STAFF PRESENT

Springfield Location:

Mindy Miller	Linda Prewitt	John Schornagel	Debbi Smith
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Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)

Robert Watts

LIAISONS PRESENT

Terry Carmichael, CBHA

GUESTS PRESENT

Toni Hoy

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Seelbach called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Members and staff in attendance introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 13, 2011 MINUTES

The Authority reviewed the minutes of the October 13, 2011 Authority meetings.

MOTION: *Bob Bloom moved and Kathy Briseno seconded that the minutes of the October 13, 2011 Authority meeting be approved as amended. The motion carried unanimously.*

III. STAFF REPORT

Director Schornagel referenced the following informational handouts in member board packets:

- **Staff Activity Reports for October and November 2011.** Director Schornagel commented on the Dispute Resolution table on page two of the October report noting that in late October the P.M. dispute was successfully resolved when DHS/DRS located a Medicaid funded skilled nursing care facility in Peoria which ended up being appropriate for the needs of the young man at the center of the dispute. The young man was placed at the facility on November 4, 2011.
- **Executive Summary from The Illinois School Bullying Task Force Report.** Director Schornagel commented that at the last meeting in October there was some discussion about the Illinois School Bullying Prevention Task Force. He thanked Michele Carmichael for providing us with a copy of the Executive Summary of the recommendations from that Task Force which was passed along as part of the December CRSA Board packet. He added that we also have a larger and more colorful PowerPoint Presentation of the task Force recommendations in the office if anybody would like to see it.

A document outlining recommendations of the **Governor's Budgeting For Results Commission**, which, in essence lays out guidelines for all state agencies to follow as they formulate future annual budgets, provoked discussion. Director Schornagel commented that that the Governor's Office of Management and Budget will be using these guidelines to evaluate proposed budgets for all state agencies in the near future and that CRSA staff have already begun to discuss ways to measure CRSA outcomes in different ways to dovetail with the new appropriation justification process. Debra Kinsey suggested that CRSA staff do a client survey at case closure to gather additional outcome data. Merlin Lehman suggested that we start with outcome data that we already have and then mine it for additional information, with the underlying question being "what do we value the most?" It was suggested that the issue of CRSA Outcome Data be placed on the External Communication Committee Agenda. Chairperson Seelbach requested that staff put together a document for review at the February Authority meeting comparing the numbers of CRSA referrals over the last 10 years, by referral source, so that the board could get a better idea about from where CRSA cases are coming.

Members reacted to a copy of **Governor Quinn's recent Rebalancing Initiative** suggesting a timetable for closure of mental health and developmental treatment facilities starting in FY 12 and ending in FY 14. Director Schornagel commented on the closure of state operated facilities and recent legislation that mandates that all money saved from facility closures be redirected to build community-based services. Members of the Authority requested that this legislation be shared with them. The Board also wanted to know if there was a coherent long-range human services reform plan in Illinois that rebalances residential and community-based services.

IV. AGENCY REPORTS

Edgar Hernandez announced that Gov. Pat Quinn has appointed Richard Calica, a social worker with over three decades of experience, as director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, beginning December 15, 2011.

Andrea Medley responded briefly to questions about the Ligas consent decree and how it potentially impacts individuals with developmental disabilities in Illinois. She urged interested individuals to go to the DHS website to learn more about details of the consent decree.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. FY 13 CRSA Appropriation

The Authority re-reviewed the budgeting parameters used to develop CRSA's FY 13 draft spending plan and the item by item proposed spending plan for FY 13. The Executive Committee is recommending the adoption of an FY 13 spending plan of \$637,000.00, which represents a 7.55% increase from the FY 12 appropriation level. Director Schornagel informed the Authority that he and Lynn Lowder, Administrative Assistant met with ISBE budget staff in October.

MOTION: *David Elder moved and Alan Dietrich seconded that the CRSA FY 13 spending plan be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.*

Bob Bloom suggested that in the future staff provide documents that allow Authority members to review line by line comparisons from prior spending plans.

B. None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Custody Relinquishment

Director Schornagel reminded the Authority that in late August 2011, CRSA Gubernatorial Appointee, Dee Ann Ryan, sent a Memorandum to the Authority, citing CRSA statutory powers and duties, requesting that the Authority take a central role in addressing the issue of Involuntary Custody Relinquishments (ICR) in Illinois. He added that from the inquiries he has made it appears that approximately 100 families a year in Illinois are forced by circumstances to relinquish custody of their children to the state so that the children can get necessary mental health services that are otherwise unavailable. He added that in FY 11, ten families that were considering Custody Relinquishment contacted CRSA for assistance. He also commented that the majority of parents who felt like ICR was their only service option were adoptive parents seeking residential treatment for their children but that biological children were also represented in this cohort including parents who were seeking community-based services for the children/families; services that were simply not available in "the

system”. He added that CRSA case experiences indicates that the majority of families who feel forced by circumstances to relinquish custody of their children to the state had children that were considered to be a danger to themselves and others, had complex emotional, behavioral and diagnostic profiles and had experienced numerous psychiatric hospitalizations. Additionally, many families were coached by professionals in the system to pursue a “lock-out” that eventually led to custody relinquishment. Director Schornagel characterized the ICR problem as a complex, multiple-agency issue involving most of the state agencies represented on the CRSA board, as well as, the Court system. Director Schornagel stated that several legislative proposals have surfaced in recent years for CRSA to become involved in all potential ICR cases, both at the technical assistance level and at the dispute resolution level and further, that CRSA was recommended to Co-Chair an Involuntary Custody Relinquishment Task Force. He added the neither recommendation is viable given the limited resources and staffing capacity of the Authority. But, he acknowledged that CRSA has a unique view of the ICR issue, as well as, the statutory responsibility to address the issue in some fashion. Director Schornagel and the Executive Committee are recommending that the Authority propose to the Governor’s office and to key legislators, in writing, the appointment of an independent Involuntary Custody Relinquishment Task Force, involving all necessary stakeholders: a body that would make recommendations designed to end the Involuntary Custody Relinquishment problem in Illinois. He opined that CRSA should have a seat on that Task Force because of its unique view of the problem. He added that any solution to the ICR problem would likely require legislation to change state laws, policies and procedures. Director Schornagel commented that other advocates and statewide groups like ACMHAI and the Mental Health Summit are prepared to make similar recommendations and that the CRSA should coordinate with those entities in recommending the appointment of an ICR Task Force.

Edgar Hernandez briefly described the sequence of events that occur within DCFS when it is challenged to address a lock out that ultimately leads to custody relinquishment. Toni Hoy, a parent attending the Authority meeting shared custody relinquishment from the parent’s point of view focusing on the frustration, helplessness and anger felt as her family was destroyed. Director Schornagel shared his perspective that the custody relinquishment problem in Illinois is interagency in nature and that while some agencies, including CRSA have internal strategies and programs intended to help parents avoid involuntary custody relinquishments, the short time between lock out and actual court action undermines those strategies. Dee Ann Ryan indicated that another statewide group that she sits on, ACMHAI, has actively been exploring the problem of Custody Relinquishment and is poised to make recommendations for the appointment of a Custody Relinquishment Task Force.

MOTION: *Seth Harkins moved and Dee Ann Ryan seconded that the Authority propose to the Governor's office and to key legislators, in writing, the appointment of an independent, Involuntary Custody Relinquishment Task Force, involving all necessary stakeholders: a body that would fully explore the issues that lead up to Involuntary Custody relinquishment to make recommendations designed to end the Involuntary Custody Relinquishment problem in Illinois. The motion carried unanimously.*

B. None

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

Chairperson Seelbach reported that recent Executive Committee discussion items have been covered under other parts of the agenda.

B. Staff Evaluation Committee

Chairperson Seelbach updated the Authority that the following members of the Staff Evaluation Committee have been deliberating regarding the Evaluation of the Executive Director: Mr. Seelbach as Chair of the Committee; Kathy Briseno and David Elder representing legislative designees; Brooke Whitted representing Gubernatorial appointees and Alan Dietrich representing Agency Designees. The Committee will report back to the Authority at the February Authority meeting.

C. External Communications Committee

Committee Co-Chairperson Briseno reported that External Communications Committee members reviewed the second draft of the CRSA FY 11 Annual Report in November, proposing additional changes and recommending that the final draft be put before the Authority for consideration and adoption. She also commented that the Committee needs to meet again soon to consider any possible content and format changes for the FY 12 Annual Report.

MOTION: *David Elder moved and Kathy Briseno seconded that the Authority adopt the CRSA FY 11 Annual Report meeting and that staff be empowered to print and publish the report after a final two week period for final comments and edits. The Motion carried unanimously.*

External Communications Committee member, David Elder has proposed that the External Communications Committee make recommendations regarding an update of the CRSA Statewide Service Plan, incorporating systemic changes and bringing it up to date. The Executive Committee discussed the proposal, acknowledging that such a proposal has been recommended at the CRSA Strategic Planning Conference earlier this year as prudent and necessary. During ensuing discussion it was recommended that the CRSA Service Plan Update was more properly suited to the mission of the Policy

Committee. Director Schornagel commented that historically the CRSA Service Plan Committee process takes several years of deliberations to create a working draft, that key (outside) stakeholders are excluded from the process until the back end of the process and that adoption of the final plans have not been unanimous and that critical state agency stakeholders are not sufficiently invested in the process to “buy into” the recommendations. He suggested that whatever committee takes on this project consider a different approach. Michele Carmichael and Debra Kinsey volunteered to join the Policy Committee to participate in the CRSA Service Plan Update.

VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Director Schornagel commented that the Authority has now processed five dispute resolution cases involving children and adolescents with either, Acquired Brain Injuries or Traumatic Brain Injuries, (ABIs/TBIs), two of which involved brokering supported living situations for late adolescents transitioning into adult settings. He referenced that while the Board had specifically avoided making any systemic recommendations pertaining to ABI/TBI during pendency of the most recent TBI dispute, now that the dispute is resolved, the door is open to consider making recommendations regarding service planning and delivery to individuals with ABI/TBI. Director Schornagel commented that while children and adolescents seem to find appropriate services in the children’s service system with technical assistance and advocacy, the biggest gaps in the system that CRSA casework demonstrates is the lack of a lead agency with responsibility to coordinate ABI/TBI service planning and delivery and the lack of state supported residential placements for adults with ABI/TBI. He also commented that consumers become very dependent on special education entities to carry the bulk of service planning and service provision when other state-supported services fall short during childhood and adolescence and this inevitably creates a crisis at age 22 when special education entitlements end. Debra Kinsey suggested that DHS/DRS should logically take lead agency responsibility in ABI/TBI cases. Dee Ann Ryan had questions about how the TBI Waiver worked in Illinois and commented that community-based providers need to be able to develop service contracts to enhance the array of community-based-services, especially if residential options are not available. Michele Carmichael reinforced that the lack of community-based services is part of the problem and that any recommendations that CRSA makes should include recommendations to HFS to expand the community-based array of services. Chairperson Seelbach suggested that Director Schornagel write a memorandum to DRS staff asking for an ABI/TBI in-service training so that the Authority can fully understand the service and funding complexities before making any formal recommendations regarding ABI/TBI funding or services.

In a related matter, David Elder commented that in the most recent TBI dispute, the Authority continued actively working on the individual’s behalf, even after he had crossed over the CRSA age eligibility threshold of 22. He recommended that the Authority continue this practice in the future. Debra Kinsey and Kathy Briseno opposed routinely expanding CRSA eligibility age beyond age 22. Director Schornagel acknowledged that in the most recent Dispute Resolution case, CRSA decision to advocate on the individual’s behalf after age 22, while being morally and ethically the right thing to do, also carries risks for CRSA especially if it is done as a matter of rule rather than as a unique exception. He added that the Governor’s Human Service Policy Advisor, had specifically requested that CRSA remain involved after

age 22 in the most recent TBI Dispute; an action which may have contributed to the resolution of the dispute. Director Schornagel commented that this same issue came up at the CRSA Strategic Planning Conference and that this issue should be more fully explored within the CRSA Policy Committee.

IX. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Bob Bloom announced that the Chicago School of Professional Psychology needs Practicum sites for its doctoral students in clinical psychology. They can be assessment, therapy or combined. Interested folks should contact Dr Bloom at 312-617-2128.

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Terry Carmichael referenced that 100 million dollars was recently restored to the Department of Human Services to be spread across various programs including mental health programs and services. This includes delays in planned closures of DD and MI State operated facilities.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *Randy Staton moved and Michele Carmichael seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 11:22 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.*