



Community & Residential Services Authority

MEMBERS PRESENT

Springfield Location:

Carolyn Broughton	Alan Dietrich	Seth Harkins	Maureen Haugh-Stover
Merlin Lehman	Dee Ann Ryan	Gary Seelbach	

Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)

Robert Bloom	Kathy Briseno	Susan Fonfa	Julianna Harms
Toni Hoy	Brittany Stern		

Telephone:

Michelle Carmichael

MEMBERS ABSENT

William Delgado	David Elder	Lisa Hampton	Randy Staton
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STAFF PRESENT

Springfield Location:

Mindy Miller	Lynn Lowder	Linda Prewitt	John Schornagel
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Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)

Robert Watts

LIAISONS PRESENT

Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)

Kevin Rubenstein, IAASE

GUESTS

Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)

Ruth Giles-Ott
Mary Pat Hartung
Uli Senz, Genesee Lake

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Seelbach called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. Members, staff, liaisons and guests in attendance introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 9, 2014 AUTHORITY MINUTES

The Authority reviewed the minutes of the October 9, 2014 Authority meeting.

MOTION: *Dee Ann Ryan moved and Seth Harkins seconded that the minutes of the October 9, 2014 Authority meeting be approved with minor amendments. The motion carried unanimously.*

III. STAFF REPORT

Director Schornagel referenced the following informational handouts:

- Staff Activity Reports for October and November 2014.
- Addiction and Mental Health Care “Bill of Rights” under Parity
- The New Legislators. A listing of newly elected Illinois state senators and state representatives.
- Pamphlet by the Family Defense Center “What you should know when considering a lockout”

Director Schornagel reported that earlier this week CRSA submitted verification to the Office of Executive Inspector General that all CRSA staff and all CRSA Board members completed 2014 Ethics Training for Illinois Boards and Commissions. He added that shortly after the coming New Year, we will all be required to take similar training for 2015 and that members will be contacted by staff to alert members to the training. Director Schornagel reminded the Authority that in September CRSA posted Regional Coordinator position vacancy notices in several north central Illinois newspapers, seeking applicants to fill the vacancy. He announced that a three member interview team composed of himself, CRSA Regional Coordinator Debbi Smith and CRSA Chairperson Gary Seelbach recently conducted interviews with qualified applicants and will be completing the decision making process this week.

Director Schornagel referenced the recent Chicago Tribune series of articles pertaining to documented abuses of DCFS wards in DCFS contracted in-state, residential treatment facilities and associated problems with incident reporting, facility monitoring and corrective enforcement activities. Director Schornagel commented that the Tribune exposé has sparked an immediate outcry from consumers and advocates for thorough investigations and corrective measures. Bob Bloom commented that he has offered his help by sharing his experience and background as internal DCFS reviews take place and corrective actions follow. He recalled a similar exposé regarding abuses Maryville Academy which led to a white paper on institutional chaos. He added the frequent changes in administration may well be a contributing factor to the breakdown at some of the facilities cited in the Tribune exposé. Juliana Harms commented that intensive internal deliberations are occurring within DCFS and that changes in policy and procedure are likely as the investigations reveal specific areas of needed change. Dee Ann Ryan commented that she had been interviewed by Tribune reporter, David Jackson last summer when he was looking into the high frequency and the high cost of psychiatric hospital admissions for children and adolescents in Illinois. She added that the discussion should be

focusing more broadly on current services reorganization deliberations brought about by the E.P.S.D.T. Lawsuit, the nearly completed GOHIT deliberations and the shifting consensus toward adopting a Managed Care approach for children's services in Illinois. Ms. Ryan noted that the GOHIT deliberations are nearly complete and that related recommendations will be available very soon. Director Schornagel agreed to distribute the GOHIT Recommendations to the Authority when they have been completed. Susan Fonfa commented that as Managed Care of Medicaid services unfold in Illinois, some portions of Illinois will not be covered by Managed Care.

IV. AGENCY REPORTS

None

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. CRSA Strategic Planning Report

The Authority reviewed comments written by Margaret Vimont, the facilitator of the CRSA 2015 Strategic Planning Conference and a preliminary Strategic Planning Conference Overview draft written from the by compiled observations of participating CRSA staff. Director Schornagel noted that there have been no comments to date from participating CRSA board members and urged members to provide input in the coming weeks which will then be incorporated into the working draft which will be presented for discussion at the February 2015 Authority meeting.

B. Other

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. CRSA FY 16 Proposed Spending Plan

The Authority reviewed and discussed CRSA's Proposed FY 16 Spending Plan of \$620,200.00. Director Schornagel informed the Authority that this figure represents 4.7% increase over the CRSA FY 15 appropriation. He added that this increase is due to projected increases in training related travel and anticipated expenses in setting up a suburban Chicago office; both necessitated by the anticipated hiring and training of a CRSA Northern Regional Coordinator. He added that this proposed spending plan and the rationale for the proposed increase have already been shared with the Illinois State Board of Education for inclusion in its FY 16 appropriation request. Director Schornagel also referenced the FY 16 Budget uncertainties being discussed in agency circles, some predicting across the board cuts to human services as high as 30 percent. Authority members advised Director Schornagel to prepare alternative spending plans contingencies in the event that CRSA's FY 16 appropriation is reduced during the budget session.

MOTION: *Seth Harkins moved and Alan Dietrich seconded that the Authority adopt the CRSA Proposed FY 16 Spending plan. The motion carried unanimously.*

B. CRSA Caseload Trends & Dispute Resolution Updates

Director Schornagel updated the Authority on FY 15 referral trends reporting that 40 percent of the CRSA referrals so far in FY 15 involve parents who are considering psychiatric lock-out, which could lead to custody relinquishment as a means to get appropriate services for their children needing treatment. He added that although the phenomenon is not new to CRSA, the numbers are up sharply from previous years. He also noted that "lock-out coaching" among service professionals is being done more openly. Director Schornagel also reported that transition planning crises for older adolescents are increasing this year; typically involving parents who have no viable adult pre-arranged supported living plans in place for their adult-children and who then become panicked when transition deadlines approach.

Director Schornagel reported that CRSA staff and CRSA member agencies are working together closely and effectively during FY 15 to address complex, high-velocity, multiple-agency cases more quickly, through streamlining pre-dispute resolution procedures and accelerated interagency case communications. Director Schornagel informed the Authority that two Technical Assistance Conferences were convened in November seeking board member participation in resolution of pending residential service disputes. He commented that both cases involved children with dual diagnoses, including autism, whose parents were seeking residential treatment and added that in both cases, member agencies were challenged to arrange for suitable and available residential placements. Director Schornagel reported that DHS/DDD has arranged for suitable placement for both children within weeks of the Technical Assistance Conferences. He applauded the commitment-to-care exhibited by CRSA staff and member agency staff on these cases and he passed along the expressions of gratitude of the parents of the children whose service plans were implemented in recent weeks. Director Schornagel also reported that there is a Technical Assistance Conference on another child scheduled very soon and that there is another CRSA case currently at the level of Staff Review which might progress to the Technical Assistance Conference level in the coming weeks.

Bob Bloom commented that there is an apparent need to re-visit the issue of locked facilities in Illinois, the lack thereof which may be contributing to overuse of psychiatric hospitals, the increasing incidence of lock-outs and the impact seen in the recent Tribune exposé of co-mingling of violent children with more vulnerable children in congregate care settings.

C. Other

None

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Ad Hoc Policy & Communications Committee

Committee-Co-Chairpersons Kathy Briseno updated the Authority on behalf of the Ad Hoc Policy and Communications Committee that the Policy and Communications Committee met on November 13, 2014. Dr. Briseno reported that the Committee continues to discuss and review documents pertaining to the suggestion that CRSA begin to track and report on the race/ethnicity of individuals served by the CRSA. She added that Alan Dietrich is seeking comment and documents on the topic from DHS/DMH Administration to be reviewed that the next Committee meeting. Dr. Briseno also reported that the Policy and Communications Committee is considering the possibility of CRSA completing background checks on direct service staff who have direct contact with children on the CRSA caseload.

B. Executive Committee

Chairperson Harkins informed the Authority that all of items discussed in Executive Committee have been covered in earlier agenda items.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Kevin Rubenstein introduced himself as the newly appointed Liaison from the Illinois Association of Administrators of Specials Education (IAASE), and stated that he looks forward to participating in the deliberations of the Authority.

IX. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *Seth Harkins moved and Dee Ann Ryan seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.*