

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

***Springfield Location:***

Michele Carmichael	Alan Dietrich	David Elder	Susan Fonfa
Seth Harkins	Juliana Harms	Maureen Haugh-Stover	Merlin Lehman
Dee Ann Ryan	Gary Seelbach	Randy Staton	Julie Stremmler
Brooke Whitted			

***Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)***

Bob Bloom	Toni Hoy	Jason Johnson
Jane Kelly (non-voting)		

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Arthur Bishop	Kathy Briseno	Bill Delgado
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**STAFF PRESENT**

***Springfield Location:***

Mindy Miller	Lynn Lowder	Linda Prewitt	John Schornagel
Debbi Smith			

***Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)***

Robert Watts

**LIAISONS PRESENT**

None

**GUESTS**

Ms. Tana Elder

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Harkins called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Members and staff in attendance introduced themselves. Chairperson Harkins welcomed Susan Fonfa from HFS and Juliana Harms from DCFS.

Director Schornagel took a moment to thank Debbi Smith and Lynn Lowder for their capable leadership, as well as other CRSA staff; all assuring that the CRSA ran smoothly during Director Schornagel's brief medical leave in November. Chairperson Harkins echoed that compliment.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 15, 2013 MINUTES**

Director Schornagel informed the Authority that the Minutes from the August 15, 2013 Authority meeting will be presented for adoption at the February 6, 2014 Authority meeting. He commented that he is rewriting the minutes to fully capture the considerable range of comments offered by participants at that meeting on a topic that is of such obvious stated importance to the Authority.

### III. STAFF REPORT

Director Schornagel referenced the following informational handouts:

- **Staff Activity Reports** for July, August, September, October and November of 2013. Director Schornagel commented that as of the end of November, CRSA had no cases at the Staff Review level. However, he noted that a Technical Assistance staffing was held in late November on a Jane Doe from Peoria that has very real potential to progress to an Authority Hearing in the coming weeks.
- **Updated CRSA Membership List:** Director Schornagel announced that Kye Gaffney appointed as the CRSA designee for IDJJ is no longer with IDJJ and no replacement designee has been named to date. He also informed the Authority that Juliana Harms was appointed by Acting DCFS Director, Denise Gonzales, as the primary designee to CRSA from DCFS and that Jane Kelly remains as the Alternate Designee from DCFS. He welcomed Juliana and Susan Fonfa from HFS to their first CRSA Board meeting as official designees from their agencies.

Director Schornagel gave verbal updates on several CRSA cases in which CRSA staff and Board have been involved.

The first case pertains to a *21 year old Jane Doe out of Danville*. The case was originally opened and assigned to Debbi in February of 2008. Debbi, as well as, other staff and board have invested 100s of hours of technical assistance in this case and the case went through two technical assistance conferences eventually being cleared for a “sentinel event conference” to address transition to adult issues and concerns. He commented that since CRSA have had the case open, this young lady participated in three LEA funded residential treatment programs: two of which she was discharged as unsuccessful and the last placement which adequately prepared her for transition back to a community-based program. He added that she is now a 21 year old high school graduate who is living with family in a community setting and who is contemplating beginning college. He acknowledged the many agencies and individuals that deserve special recognition for their efforts. Among them; VASE, the educational Co-op in Vermilion County and Attorney Matt Cohen for maintaining educational and residential continuity; the Vermilion County Complex Service Planning process was also involved as her transition to adulthood was approaching; DMH Central Office Administrative staff (including Alan Dietrich) for actively mobilized adult MH services through Cross Point and finally Debbi Smith for her dedication and persistence in this case.

The second case update pertains to an *11 year old, publically adopted Jane Doe case out of Peoria, Illinois*. The case was opened in November of 2011 and was assigned to Linda. Since then a local service planning team has come to consensus that the girl needs a residential placement. The case has entered the Dispute Resolution process, and two Technical Assistance Review Conferences have been held to date. He commented that the case has real potential to move to an Authority Review level probably in early January. He added that Linda and other CRSA staff are currently in contact with involved agencies at the administrative level to fully explore the possibility of the case resolving without the need for an Authority Hearing. He concluded his remarks by saying that this girl’s needs are urgent and Linda has patiently guided this case through the technical assistance stages preparing the case for possible full board action.

### IV. CRSA BUDGET UPDATES

The Authority reviewed documents outlining reviewed the finalized FY 13 Expenditure Report, a year to date overview of the FY 14 CRSA Spending Plan, a Proposed FY 15 Spending Plan and a side by side comparison document of all of three of the other documents. Director Schornagel commented on the structural elements that usually comprise the unexpended funds that lapse every year: the Retirement Reserve line and the Staff Retirement line; which in recent years has been picked up by CMS in the final moments of the budgeting allocation process. Gary Seelbach asked if the Authority was still contemplating hiring another staff person to

replace the systems change FTE who left the agency several years ago. Director Schornagel responded that that in FY 13, the Authority had requested enough of a budget increase to hire a another CRSA staff person to work on systems change issues but that the proposed increase was reduced by the Governor's Office early on in the budgeting cycle. He added that as the state's economy improves, the Authority would again ask for an increase to support the hiring of another part time or full time employee. He recommended that the Authority not adopt a Proposed FY 15 Spending plan until the February meeting, reasoning that by then Governor's Office will have probably have published their recommendations for the CRSA appropriation.

Director Schornagel Authority discussed the fact that CRSA has not been able to implement its Staff Compensation Policies in recent years because the need for statewide budgetary austerity. He added that this was discussed at the most recent CRSA Executive Committee meeting where it is deemed a certainty that there will be lapsed FY 14 expenditures that could be used, in part, to support a modest staff salary increase. Bob Bloom verbalized support for a modest staff increase. The Executive Committee discussed a one-time staff salary increase later in FY 14 but tabled further discussion on the issue until there is more clarity from the Governor's office on CRSA's FY 15 expenditures and whether or not any FY 14 increases could be sustained in FY 15. Merlin Lehman reminded the Authority that when the Retirement Reserve was set up that it was specifically earmarked for retirement only and was not to be expended for other purposes. He added that, as a matter of budgeting practice that the Authority should request expenditures based on needs and not what it thinks it can get in a particular funding climate.

## **V. AGENCY REPORTS**

The Authority reviewed a number of documents provided by Alan Dietrich with DHS/DMH outlining recent DMH activities to transform and modernize the ICG program through a two pronged approach: 1.) appointment of five ICG Transformation Workgroups including agencies' administrators/policy makers, consumers and other stakeholders to make recommendations to DMH about proposed changes to the ICG Rule (#135) and 2.), culminating in an eventual Rule 135 Revision before JCAR (Joint Committee on Administrative Rules). Alan told the Authority that this sort of responsive approach is unprecedented in the ICG history. He added that all five of the workgroups are scheduled to finalize their recommendations to DMH in January and February of 2014. Director Schornagel added that CRSA staff and board members are involved in several of these work groups and that this is real opportunity for CRSA and other stakeholders to have direct and organized input into Rule Revisions around ICG or Rule 135. He added that there have been quiet discussions about potential corollary revisions to Rule 132 that encompass mental health services at the community level. Director Schornagel commented that the CRSA staff and board members are well represented on these advisory workgroups. Dee Ann Ryan cautioned that these workgroups make non-binding advisory recommendations to DMH. Brooke Whitted added that the Collaborative and DMH probably pay lobbyists who will oppose changes in the Rule that don't suit their needs. Chairperson Harkins added that, in his experience Rule changes made by agencies are generally seen as means for bureaucracies to find a way to reduce services and cut costs. Director Schornagel commented on the positive tone of the Rule revision workgroup on which he participates. Gary Seelbach was complimentary of DMH, which has sought out advance input before going to Rule revision. Michele Carmichael and Chairperson Harkins both commented on the recent positive changes in leadership and transparency within the DMH and DASA Divisions. Chairperson Harkins remarked on a comment made by Dr. Kasden at the August CRSA meeting that "the ties go to the runners" indicating that with the ICG program, the Collaborative and DMH err on the side of the child rather than the agency. Bob Bloom expressed support for the planning efforts also but expressed considerable pessimism about the system outcomes of such planning efforts as long as Value Options Inc. is influencing the ICG program.

Susan Fonfa from HFS made some comments about the implementation and immediate impact of the Affordable Care Act as it pertains to CRSA kids and families effective January 1, 2014. She commented that initially the impact will not be large but that it will encompass both private insurers in the marketplace, as well as, services provided through Medicaid. She added that among private insurers in the marketplace benefits for children can continue to age 26, that there will be no policy exclusions based upon pre-existing conditions and no annual or lifelong benefit caps. She went on to say that additional programs through Medicaid will include the CHIPs program continuing through 2015, that for young adults previously in foster care Medicaid coverage will continue until age 26 and that there will be no caps as long as the recipients continue to meet “medical necessity”. She added that many kids are covered through the “all Kids” program. Members of the Board had additional questions for Susan that will probably require more research. Authority members agreed to submit additional questions and concerns, in writing, to Susan through Director Schornagel and that the ACA will be placed on the February Authority agenda for additional discussion.

Randy Staton with DHS/DORS announced that effective January 1, 2014 DORs will launch an electronic verification protocol to reduce costly fraud in the Home Service Program. He added that the protocol will not be piloted but will be launched statewide.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. CRSA Future Direction**

Chairperson Harkins referenced a document that he wrote on July 25, 2013 that is included in the board packets that address what he sees as a need for an Annual CRSA Review Process intended to adjust the course of the agency in an ever changing service environment for CRSA kids and their families. He added that the Executive Committee had a similar discussion recently and recommends that *“the issues of possible revision of the CRSA Mission/Vision Statement and annual direction of the Authority be discussed more fully at the December Authority meeting and that it also be revisited at the February 2014 Executive Committee and Full Authority meetings with copies of relevant documents including the May 2011 CRSA Strategic Planning Conference Overview.”* Chairperson Harkins opened the floor for related discussion.

Brooke Whitted commented that while services to kids and families remains the top priority of the Authority, that systems change activities and policy work done by both CRSA board and staff may not adequately be addressed in the current Mission/Vision statement. Gary Seelbach commented that while he likes the current CRSA Mission and Vision Statement that it might be rewritten to be more reflective of a wider range of staff and board activities that are already occurring and which might acknowledge the Authority’s commitment to a wider range of statutory CRSA Powers and Duties. Director Schornagel reminded the Authority that at the CRSA Strategic Planning Conference in May of 2011, a recommendation was made that such planning conferences needed to occur every few years rather than every five years, and that in following the Spring of 2014 might be a good time to consider holding another CRSA strategic planning conference. Chairperson Harkins agreed. He added that the Executive Committee also discussed the possibility of amending the CRSA statute giving the Authority “Binding Authority or Binding Arbitration” in Dispute Resolution cases. This would effectively streamline the dispute resolution process, shortening the time needed to resolve a dispute and would be a significant step in the direction of advancing CRSA’s statutory systems change obligations. The Executive Committee discussed pros and cons of such a statutory amendment and concluded that it should be put before the full Authority for discussion. David Elder commented that this issue has arisen frequently

throughout the life of the Authority and that the Authority did not act on those occasions, perhaps being too inclined to remain within its comfort zone. He and Merlin Lehman both acknowledged that one of the roles of the Authority is to keep member agencies under pressure to make sensible and affirmative changes to the system on behalf of the CRSA statutory population. Mr. Elder also cautioned however that the Authority carefully consider such a change so as to not overstep CRSA's means or sphere of influence. Dee Ann Ryan commented that the current CRSA Service Plan, with its focus on LANs, characterizing the CRSA Service Plan as being outdated and needing to be revisited and rewritten. She also commented that the CRSA might advance its statutory role by giving legislators and the Governor's office more data that reflect the needs for systems change. Debbi Smith commented that she likes this discussion and welcomes more direction and support from the board. Chairperson Harkins requested that staff place "Agency Direction" on both the Executive Committee and the Authority Agenda in February 2014 to be accompanied by relevant background documents including CRSA Powers and Duties, The CRSA Mission and Vision statement and the CRSA Strategic Planning Overview for May of 2011.

**B. Staff Evaluation Committee**

Chairperson Harkins announced that Director Schornagel's annual employment date was November 13, 2013 and that he now due for an Annual Performance Evaluation. Chairperson Harkins states that he is actively seeking four volunteers to participate with him in a CRSA Staff Evaluation Committee.

**C. Other**

None

**VIII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chairperson Harkins informed the Authority that many of the items discussed in Executive Committee have been covered in earlier agenda items but that other discussion items surfaced that are referenced here.

**A. Potential Amendment to CRSA Bylaws**

Chairperson Harkins announced to the Authority that the Executive Committee reviewed the CRSA Bylaws and discussed a possibility of reducing the number of full board meetings to a minimum of four meetings per year as opposed to the current six meetings minimum per year. Director Schornagel commented that such a revision might include more frequent Ad Hoc Committee meetings in the off months and might reduce the number of Authority meetings cancelled for lack of a quorum. He also commented on several instances of Dispute Resolution process meetings having to be rescheduled due to lack of board member availability. As a related issue, David Elder commented to both the Executive Committee and the Authority that the Executive Committee should ideally be consulted beforehand when scheduled Authority meetings are cancelled for any reason or staff taking lengthy medical leave time. He also commented that there is a provision in the Bylaws for the Executive Committee to take necessary emergency action when the full Authority cannot meet to be mobilized quickly enough to process an urgent CRSA issues, excluding Dispute Resolution activities.

**B. Possible ISBE Changes to Room and Board Reimbursement Levels**

The Authority reviewed an Excerpt from the State Superintendent of Education's Weekly Report (December 2, 2013) pertaining to "FY 13 and FY 14 IDEA Sp. Ed. Room and Board Proration."

[http://www.isbe.net/board/archivemessages/2013/message\\_120213.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/board/archivemessages/2013/message_120213.pdf)

The Authority Committee had questions regarding the needs for the changes in ISBE's reimbursement to LEAs for Room and Board claims wondering if potential changes are driven by education cuts due to sequestration in Washington or if it represents a ISBE shift of Part B resources to other purposes, or both?

**C. Development of a CRSA Press Policy**

Chairperson Harkins informed the Authority that the Executive Committee has discussed a recommendation made by Director Schornagel that there is a need for CRSA to develop and implement a CRSA Press Policy. He added that would logically fall to the CRSA Policy Committee initially and then to the full board for review, comment and implementation. Member of both the Executive Committee and the larger Authority concurred that such a policy needs to be explored.

**D. Other**

None

**IX. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dee Ann Ryan commented on the 1115 Waiver proposal stating that ACMHIA will release a draft proposal regarding the Waiver on 12/13, 2013. She added that the current Waiver proposal does not address expanded behavioral health services for children and adolescents and she is asking for CRSA to provide input.

Dee Ann Ryan asked for clarification about the status of the Interagency Agreement (IA) between ISBE and the MH and DD divisions within DHS, last updated and signed in 2002. She commented that LEAs and DHS funded community agencies are asked to engage in joint service planning and funding deliberations the interagency agreement when LEAs and either DHS/DDD or DHS/DMH appear to have overlapping statutory responsibility for children and adolescents needing residential treatment. She added that she would appreciate an in-service presentation about the ISBE-DHS IA. Michele Carmichael agreed to look into the matter. Director Schornagel commented that he has extensive records surrounding the deliberations that led up to the signing of the ISBE/DHS Interagency Agreement in 2002 and that he will supply related documents for the Authority to review at the February 2014 Authority meeting.

The discussion of Interagency Agreements continues with CRSA members asking that CRSA to assemble a master file of Interagency Agreements among CRSA member agencies as they pertain to CRSA's target population. As an example, it was suggested that IAs may exist between DCFS and DHS regarding transition planning and between HFS and DHS/DMH regarding billing for services provided for the C&A population through community mental health centers.

Linda Prewitt commented that Bill Pumo, IAASE's Liaison to the CRSA for more than a decade, has retired.

**X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** *Gary Seelbach moved and Randy Staton seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 11:06 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.*