

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

***Springfield Location:***

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

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

Bob Bloom	Kathy Briseno	Edgar Hernandez	Jason Johnson
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**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Arthur Bishop	Senator Meeks	Representative Chapa La Via
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**STAFF PRESENT**

***Springfield Location:***

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

Robert Watts

**LIAISONS PRESENT**

None

**GUESTS**

Cynthia Tate: ISBE, service animal)	Diane Field: Parent	Jake Hoffman, and Sierra (psychiatric
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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Outgoing Chairperson Seelbach called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Members, staff and guests in attendance introduced themselves and the gavel was passed to the in-coming Chairperson, Seth Harkins. Outgoing Chairperson, Gary Seelbach received a round of applause for his two years of service to the Authority as Chairperson.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 14, 2012 MINUTES**

The Authority reviewed the minutes of the June 14, 2012 meeting. Several members offered amendments.

**MOTION:** Gary Seelbach moved and Brooke Whitted seconded that the minutes of the June 14, 2012 Authority meeting be approved with amendments. The motion carried unanimously.

### III. STAFF REPORT

Director Schornagel referenced the following informational handouts:

- A one document listing the **CRSA FY 13 Officers, Executive Committee and Ad Hoc Committee membership.**
- **Staff Activity Reports for June, July, September and October.** Director Schornagel commented that CRSA had a total of 360 referrals for FY 12 and that we currently have one case at staff review, a case involving a young lady that recently had a Technical Assistance Conference. Director Schornagel added that the parent's private insurance company has recently agreed to pay for an additional 150 days of residential placement thus putting any potential dispute on hold. The case is currently being monitored at Staff Review.
- Director Schornagel noted that a few weeks ago, members and staff were sent an electronic copy of the most recent **Value Options, Inc, (VO) contract** for Illinois, including 24 pages of deliverables. He added that in recent years there had been a lot of public speculation about the dollar amounts of the VO contract and the deliverables and we couldn't seem to find a copy of the signed contract. The current VO contract was obtained by the Mental Health Summit through a Freedom of Information Act Request. The deliverables do not include any direct language that would force cuts to the ICG program expenditures.
- In the board packets are HFS documents that detail a **Medicaid vendor and cost sheets for psychiatric hospitalizations for Illinois children from FY-06 through FY-10, as well as a graph that outlines SASS Intakes and Hospitalization Admissions from FY-04 through FY 11.** The documents are both interesting in that Illinois apparently spends nearly 150 million dollars a year on psychiatric hospitalizations for children and adolescents (in FY 10) some of which has been suggested to be re-routed to support community-based services for those same children.
- As requested by our outgoing Chair, a copy of an **Information request to DHM Administration** in August 2010 has been included in the Board packet asking for more detailed ICG information. The request was never answered.
- A copy of **draft recommendations made by the Children's Behavioral Health Sub-Workgroup in September** to the larger Governor's Human Service Commission was included in the board packet. It clearly resonates with CRSA Statewide Service Plan recommendations made over the years and encompasses the system reform agendas of both the CRSA and the Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership. An interesting document.
- At the CRSA meeting In June, we requested an **in-service training from DORS** to educate staff and interested board members on DORS role in transition planning as

individuals transition from C&A services to adult services. ISBE's transition coordinator agreed to co-present at the training. DHS/DDD and DHS/DMH have both agreed to attend as well to participate in the discussion. The face-to-face training will be held on Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Alzina Building in Springfield in a 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room. The room is large enough to accommodate the presenters, CRSA staff, and interested board members. Teleconferencing could easily be arranged.

#### **IV. AGENCY REPORTS**

Edgar Hernandez from DCFS commented that, contrary to rumor, DCFS has not eliminated Intact Family services, but has redefined (narrowed) eligibility for Intact Family services to the level that existed in 2002. He also commented that Intact Family services have been privatized. He added that eighty-five percent (85%) of all DCFS services are now handled by private agencies. Me. Hernandez also commented that all of the DCFS LAN Liaisons were either laid off or transferred to other positions as part of the budget reductions for FY 13.

#### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **FY 13 Appropriations Update**

The Authority reviewed a revised FY 13 CRSA spending plan based upon the final FY 13 appropriation of \$592,300.

**MOTION:** *Brooke Whitted moved and Gary Seelbach seconded that the Authority approve the revised CRSA FY 13 spending plan. The motion carried unanimously*

Director Schornagel commented that the FY 13 spending plan did not provide for cost of living increases for staff based on social security cost of living increases (3.6 percent) and did not provide for merit salary increases as outlined in the CRSA staff compensation policy. On behalf of the Executive Committee, Chairperson Emeritus, David Elder recommended that the Authority approve a 3.6 percent cost of living increase for CRSA staff, retroactive to July 1, 2012 in accordance with the CRSA Staff Compensation Policy. He added that merit increases for CRSA staff have not been awarded in the last two years and are not likely in the immediate future considering Illinois' fiscal climate.

**MOTION:** *David Elder moved and Gary Seelbach seconded that the Authority approve a 3.6 percent cost of living increase for CRSA staff, retroactive to July 1, 2012 in accordance with the CRSA Staff Compensation Policy. The motion carried with Dee Ann Ryan opposing.*

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Proposed FY 14 CRSA Spending Plan

The Authority reviewed a proposed preliminary figure for the CRSA FY 14 spending plan of \$592,300.00. Director Schornagel commented that this represents a significant reduction from the spending plan proposed in FY 12, primarily because the agency is no longer seeking to replace the fifth field employee and related travel costs. He added that if and when the Authority approved this figure for FY 14, he will communicate that to the ISBE for inclusion in their budget request to the Office of Management and Budget. Director Schornagel commented that CRSA has for years has tried to be more austere and to make cut backs in response to the overall fiscal climate in Illinois. The decision to not replace the fifth field employee was made in recognition that the existing four field staff had been able to efficiently handle the existing caseload and not compromise quality as judged by 30 day Satisfaction Survey scores. He added that the CRSA caseload has stabilized at the 350 to 400 referral level in recent years which is sustainable with existing staff. Merlin Lehman questioned the wisdom of giving up the fifth field staff person. Michele Carmicheal commented that “budgeting for results” is now in effect and the CRSA should justify its budget request by demonstrating its impacts on the system.

**MOTION:** *David Elder moved and Brooke Whitted seconded that the Authority approve a preliminary CRSA FY 14 spending plan of \$592,300.00. The motion carried with Merlin Lehman objecting.*

Director Schornagel commented that if referrals and the related work load increase in the future to the point where more field staff are required, he will ask for additional appropriation to hire additional staff as prudent and necessary.

Outgoing Chairperson Seelbach asked for an update on LANs. Linda Prewitt reported that LANs are concerned about the loss of DCFS funding and DCFS staff commitment to support LANs but are continuing to try to use the remaining funding by ISBE adroitly to maximize impact. She added that ISBE is initiating another LAN survey to learn more about the overall functioning and vibrancy of the LAN system. Michele Carmichael pointedly commented that the LANs were created in a different political and fiscal climate and are not well poised to fit neither the needs of the current service system nor the needs of the future service system without significant redesign. Dee Ann Ryan agreed that LANs are out of touch with current systemic needs but commented that even to most recent recommendations for C&A system change support the basic philosophy of Wraparound care which LANs have embraced and urged the Authority to champion the legislative changes which will be needed to transform the LANs into a viable local component of an improved system of care for children and adolescents in Illinois.

**A. Governor’s Human Services Commission, Children’s Workgroup Recommendations**

The Authority reviewed and discussed the draft recommendations made by the Children’s Behavioral Health Workgroup of the Governor’s Human Services Commission. Director Schornagel commented that the workgroup, chaired by Dee Ann Ryan, achieved consensus in a very tight timeframe and included the input of a diverse group of service professionals, consumers and stakeholders. Gary Seelbach and Director Schornagel praised Ms. Ryan for her leadership with this workgroup. Director Schornagel commented that the recommendations are similar to those made by other groups including CRSA statewide service plans during the last two decades. The recommendations will be passed on to the full Governor’s Human Services Commission on January 1, 2013. Members were not clear on implementation strategies and commented that implementation will require strong leadership from within the Governor’s office and will require legislation changes. Seth Harkins commented that the draft recommendations did not make it clear which state agency would hold the authority to implement the recommendations, but added that HFS, ISBE and the DHS/DMH were all discussed as having sufficient authority to implement the recommendations during the Committee hearings. Dee Ann Ryan commented that she has been reviewing similar system re-design initiatives in other states and is currently looking at New Jersey as a potential model from which Illinois could potentially benefit as it looks to implementation strategies.

**VI. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chairperson Harkins informed the Authority that the Executive Committee had a good discussion regarding the direction and role of the CRSA in the context of a changing service system in Illinois. CRSA staff are attentive to changes in the overall service system and remain flexible to adapt its technical assistance to consumers as needed, to clients as the system transforms under managed care, the Affordable Care Act and parity legislation. The Executive Committee recognizes that the CRSA, because of its small staff size, is nimble enough to adapt services and procedures fluidly as systems change warrants. He commented that staff remain committed to helping callers respond to systemic challenges as a primary CRSA mission but to also strive to influence systems change as opportunities arise. Chairperson Harkins also commented that many of the recommendations to the Governor’s Human Services Commission by the Children’s Behavioral Health Sub-Workgroup dovetail well with published CRSA Statewide Service Plans.

**VIII. OPEN DIALOUGE**

The Authority discussed HFS psychiatric hospitalization cost data and SASS/CARES data for children over a five year period of time. Bob Bloom questioned how the University of Illinois at Chicago can justify its seemingly exorbitant daily rate? He added that by his experience in the field, psychiatric hospitalizations are now more difficult to obtain, that hospital stays are

now shorter and that overall expenditures by the state of Illinois for both psychiatric hospitalizations and community-based services are seriously underfunded when compared to the need. He added that recent data points to increasing suicide rates for individuals in hospitals. Brooke Whitted commented that it looks like a huge proportion of the psychiatric hospitalization dollars go to handful private hospitals under the control of United Health Care. Dee Ann Ryan commented that she has noticed some HFS data disparity on SASS screenings and admissions and would like clarifications. She adds that PRTFs (psychiatric residential treatment facilities), if implemented by HFS could potentially reduce the flow of dollars to psychiatric hospitals and create less restrictive placement alternatives for kids needed sub-acute care. Debbi Smith commented that by her field experience, erosion of local control over treatment decisions has fueled the increase in psychiatric hospitalizations and that local mental health centers need more treatment control and flexibility. Linda Prewitt commented that SASS procedures vary from county to county and that she has seen 4 hour SASS response times and that some SASS agencies refuse to respond at all and just urge parents to call the police. Debra Kinsey from HFS commented that the tri-agency SASS/CARES was devised as a centralized screening mechanism/entity and that irregularities seen by CRSA staff need to be reported in real time to the SASS Executive Committee. She also acknowledged that DMH funding has decreased during the last decade. Bob Bloom commented that there has been a paradigm shift in psychiatry: that “less is better” and that best practices in C&A psychiatry are eroding, in part because of the focus on short-term treatment.

**IX. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Gary Seelbach commented that the Authority is well poised to adapt to a changing service environment with existing staff.

**X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Diane Field, mother and CRSA service recipient, attended the meeting in Chicago along with her son Jake and his psychiatric service animal (Labrador retriever) Sierra. Both Diane and Jake explained that Sierra was specially trained to by Cook County Sheriffs Department dog breeders and trainers to sense changes in anxiety levels within Jake that trigger “fight or flight” responses and to help Jake to de-escalate (with a hands-off alternative response plan) **safely** when he has PTSD episodes. The dog, in concert with neuro-bio feedback and EMDR therapy (eye movement desensitization and reprocessing) has seen Jake progress clinically where other more traditional therapies, including residential treatment milieus have not ameliorated Jake’s PTSD. Director Schornagel commented on the elegant partnership of Diane, the Lemont Police Department and the Cook County Sheriffs Department to help Jake to de-escalate during PTSD episodes that at times had caused local authorities to seriously consider tasing Jake during “fight-or-flight” episodes in public. Diane briefly discussed the barriers that she and Jake have encountered as public facilities resist the idea of “psychiatric service animals” as reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disability Act. She thanked CRSA members Jason Johnson and Nicki Bazer for their direct help in overcoming that resistance. Jason Johnson, Gary Seelbach, Seth Harkins, Kathy Briseno and Bob Bloom all commented on the efficacy of using psychological service animals like Sierra as a “reasonable accommodation” with similar individuals.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** *Brooke Whitted moved and Gary Seelbach seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 11:14 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.*