

MINUTES

ASSET Meeting

December 7, 2017, 5:00 p.m.
City Church, 2400 Oakwood Road Church

The Analysis of Social Services Evaluation Team (ASSET) was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Matt Soderstrum at City Church, 2400 Oakwood Road, Ames, Iowa with the following members present: Eric Adelmund, Seth Carter, Kathy Dinges, Evonne Fitzgerald, Michelle Fullerton, Mary Beth Golemo, Keith Hobson, Tony Hogan, Jean Kresse, Tim Lubinus, Judy Meierkord, Dave Morris, Craig Ogilvie, Brian Phillips, Andrea Rich, Deb Schildroth, Jen Schill, Melonie Stall, and Karla Webb. Also present: Gloria Symons, and Josie Stahlin.

WELCOME/ INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions took place.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2017 ASSET MINUTES

Moved by Stall and seconded by Golemo to approve the September 14, 2017 minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A balance of \$5,422.27 was reported.

REPORTS

Administrative Team – Ms. Webb said there are some updates to services in Story County. She said the RFP that the region posted for mobile crisis response received a couple applications, and the contract was awarded to Eyerly Ball. Eyerly Ball is now hiring staff and planning the program. Ms. Webb said there will be three teams of two located throughout the region so calls can be adequately responded to. She said the crisis line phone number that is currently answered by Foundation 2 will remain the same and Foundation 2 will be serving as dispatch for teams of two. This service is projected to begin in March.

Ms. Webb told the group that MGMC submitted a proposal to Story County and CICS to provide Crisis Stabilization Residential Services and Transitional Living Center Services. These services will be provided at the group home on South Hazel Avenue that is currently being used by Optimae. Ms. Webb said the facility will contain eight beds. Story County gave Optimae notice to vacate as of May 1, 2018. Remodeling work will be done. Crisis stabilization is up to a five day service and the transitional living service will be offered on a 30/60/90 day model. Three beds will be for crisis stabilization, three beds will be for transitional living, and two beds will be flexible. Ms. Webb said the Crisis Stabilization Residential Services will need to meet requirements so this service can be MCO-funded. The service will be accredited by Department of Human Services (DHS) and Joint Commission. The target date for these services is July 1, 2018.

Eyerly Ball will also provide an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) program beginning spring/summer of 2018. This service will be a team concept where the team goes to the individual to provide the service. It will be Medicaid funded, but Eyerly Ball is using a grant to implement the program right now. This service will help individuals with complex needs.

Mr. Hogan asked about the mobile response service. Ms. Webb said Polk County currently has this service. Foundation 2 will be supporting Eyerly Ball as the program is being developed. This service will

be Chapter 24 accredited, and then Medicaid can be billed. Until then, the region will be fully supporting the service.

Ms. Webb told the group she provided copies of a spreadsheet with CICS ASSET requests. She said the budget amounts for providers receiving ASSET funds through the region are listed, as well as their requested amounts for 18/19. She said a 40% increase is being requested over last year. Ms. Webb said rather than bring a percentage increase in funding for the coming year, she'd like to provide her suggestions on funding levels for providers since many of the services are "fee for service," where the individual has to meet funding requirements. Ms. Webb said this would prevent volunteers from having to guess at agency budgets, but would show a suggested amount based on history and the provider's projected budgets. Ms. Webb said during the contracting period in the spring the region determines a certain percentage increase for services. Mr. Ogilvie asked if it would be acceptable to give a range instead of a number because of the different perspectives represented through volunteers. He also wondered about a comment column where certain details can be listed for the funding discussion. Ms. Webb said that is possible.

Ms. Schildroth said she attended the Story County Human Services Council (HSC) meeting at its request in October. She told the group that HSC meets monthly during the academic year to network and discusses ASSET. She said HSC provides the panel representatives to ASSET. She said the discussion was toward making the relationship more productive. She also gave the HSC members a history of the relationship. She said the relationship has evolved, and she believes the agencies should discuss the future of the relationship. She said HSC will draft a proposal addressing the impact that is being had because of the relationship, and how the relationship can best work in the future.

Ms. Schildroth told the group the Story County Housing Trust has been formed and is looking at expanding membership. She said the Polk County Housing Trust will provide administration services for the Story County Housing Trust for the first two years. \$239,319 will be awarded to the Story County Housing Trust the first year. Ms. Schildroth said the concept of the Trust will be to provide dollars to owner-occupied homes for rehabilitation and safety and improvements, and for allocating funds to local agencies that can award rental assistance for eligible residents.

Ms. Schildroth said she plans to take the ASSET requests to the Board of Supervisors on December 19 and will soon have available funding numbers to share with the volunteers.

Mr. Carter said ISU Student Government just passed a bill in the senate to allocate \$180,000 to the Student Union Board. These funds will go toward funding a headliner band for a major concert in the spring. It is hoped that the funds raised from that concert can fund future concerts.

Ms. Kresse said the request to UWSC for 2018/19 is an increase of 20%. She said that 30% of the increase to ASSET was to UWSC. She said the United Way Board approved a 5% increase for ASSET funded services, making the available amount \$1,228,443. At the December board meeting the Board will decide how to divide those funds among panels. She also told the group that UWSC will soon celebrate the end of the campaign with a celebration breakfast. Mr. Ogilvie asked about contingency plans for charitable donations with the pending legislation. Ms. Kresse said individuals don't give first for the deduction, but it could affect how much and to how many organizations they give. Mr. Ogilvie said a Story County discussion may be needed as this possible change would affect all ASSET agencies.

Ms. Kresse said it was announced today to ASSET-funded agencies that a letter of intent is due in February for agencies interested in the special grant funding available through the allocation of

\$250,000 by the City of Ames. UWSC will be administering the funds through grants from \$7,500 to \$100,000. A 50% cash match is needed for those applications.

Mr. Phillips said a request from YSS was received to amend the definition of behavioral health service. YSS is requesting a change from client hour to staff hour. He said YSS is having an increasingly difficult time drawing down allocated funds because more and more clients are Medicaid-funded. He said a discussion at the Administrative Team took place and a smaller committee will be formed to look into a modification for the next year and address the current need of YSS drawing down funds.

Mr. Phillips said the City Council will decide on December 12 what the authorized amount for ASSET will be. He said the City is anticipating a slowdown in local option sales tax because receipts are not reflecting the anticipated growth. In the last several years, City Council has authorized increases between 5-7%, but he's not sure if that is likely for next year.

ASSET Volunteers Report on Agencies

YSS – Mr. Morris reported that YSS runs 50 programs within treatment, prevention, child welfare, and transition. YSS priorities are: summer enrichment, transitional living, and mental health services.

RSVP – Mr. Morris said RSVP enhances lives of adults age 55+ by connecting them with experiences that meet community needs. In the volunteer management service there were 700 volunteers placed. Volunteer management for emergencies recruits and trains volunteers to work with communities and law enforcement during emergencies. Transportation service recruits and trains volunteers to assist clients with transportation, with medical appointments a priority.

ACCESS – Ms. Schill said ACCESS provides shelter and emergency assistance for domestic violence and sexual assault victims. Scattered housing has increased clients' ability to transfer to their own stable housing. ACCESS has a strong relationship with YSS and has seen the success of Reggie's Sleepout. ACCESS continues to search for a new director. The fundraising staff person has stepped down, and a board person is assisting with those duties. There is an advocate for clients involved in a homicide/other violent crime, and ACCESS has seen a positive response.

ACPC – Ms. Rich said a new director started this year. Their building has had some significant issues, and a new HVAC system was needed. A mortgage has been taken out to pay for that new system since their original mortgage was paid off. ASSET funds care on a sliding fee scale. She said they are moving forward with updating the HVAC even if more grant funds are not found.

All Aboard for Kids – Mr. Soderstrum said All Aboard for Kids administers a six-week summer program for children on the autism spectrum. Funds requested would go toward tuition. He said the agency is very new. Board of Directors is finding its footing. The agency is seeking to fill a void in programming for children with special needs. This program also allows typically-developing children to attend camp.

American Red Cross – Mr. Ogilvie said American Red Cross requests funds for disaster preparedness. He said the reorganization to a statewide model is complete. There has been an increase in training for volunteers in Story County. He said there was training at McFarland Park for home fire preparedness, and there were fifteen volunteers trained. He said the sense is that Story County is strong on response but not on preventative work. They hired an analytics firm to determine high risk areas for home fires. Story County was not high risk, but there were small pockets within Story County that were.

Boy Scouts – Mr. Hobson told the group that the scouting program has expanded and partnered with YSS for after school programs in Gilbert, Slater, and Story City. The number of new scouts in Ames alone was 80 scouts. He said there are multiple units throughout the county. 8:1 youth to adult ratio. Popcorn sales pay for the Cub Scout program. Financial outlook is stable. Girls will not be included until fall, and he said they are anticipating separate gender programs.

Boys & Girls Club – Mr. Carter said there is a request for expansion included in the budget request. They are turning away children. Boys and Girls Club has a very active board. They have partnered with the community to find an option for a new site in order to accept more children.

Campfire – Ms. Golemo said Bob Reid met her at Camp Canwita for the meeting. She said Campfire serves first grade through ninth grade children and includes Camp Canwita in Ames and Camp Hantesa in Boone. Most campers are Ames, Gilbert, and Nevada children. Programs include day camps, overnight camps, and equestrian camps at Camp Hantesa. They also operate day activities during no school days. Nature, science, literacy, and skill development are focuses. Numbers are increasing because of a marketing grant, more staff, and another bus. Offer 8:1 staff ratio that adds to camper experience. Staff training is through American Camp Association. She said Campfire is very good at finding grants. Scholarships and fees are funded by ASSET.

ChildServe – Mr. Adelmund said he met with Rachelle Flory and Brendan Messmer, and said they believe ChildServe's primary strength is that they can serve any child, including children with special needs. Respite services are an opportunity to better serve Story County. Challenges include space and finding weekend/evening staff. There have been generous donations for playground equipment. They are trying to raise money to better maintain grounds around the playground.

ERP – Ms. Fullerton said ERP is the homeless shelter in Ames that also does homeless prevention and rent assistance. Maximum stay at the shelter is now 30 days instead of 14 days. The director desires to work toward longer term solutions, and working more with the residents. A once per week staff member has been added for mental health clients. They are working to create a program to force shorten the transitional housing stay (max stay now is 24 mos). She said previously all expenses had been lumped together, so the director has been working diligently to separate the funding and expenditures and is now seeing that the transitional housing request to ASSET should have been much larger. A remodel has been done at the shelter to create room for more office space. A part-time clerical position has been added.

Eyerly Ball – Ms. Meierkord said the group met with the new Director of Outpatient Clinics, Megan Maher and CEO Cynthia Steidl-Bishop. She said the new mobile response crisis team will begin in January. They have increased the walk-in clinic to 2 days per week, and added a second med provider. The merge with Unity Point Health is in progress. Two members from Unity Point will be on the Eyerly Ball Board of Directors. 80% of clients are Medicaid or Medicare-funded. If funding changes come through with Medicaid, it affects Eyerly Ball's ability to provide services. They are still looking for staff at the Ames location, looking to upgrade IT equipment to handle new requirements, and increase space.

Friendship Ark Homes – Ms. Stall said FAH has been in Story County 2 years to serve adults living with intellectual disabilities. They have 4 houses that house a total of 20 people, and have now added a new house for 5 more individuals. There is a waiting list of 20. Day habilitation and supported community living is offered, and FAH serves 15 clients in those services. CICS asked FAH to provide services to individuals outside of Ames, which is expected to increase. FAH had not asked for SCL daily previously, but will be working with the region for funding on that this year. Staffing is an issue, but staff does get

cross-trained. A Story County Foundation grant for an aquatics wheelchair was received. The Board of Directors is very active.

Girl Scouts – 700 girls and adults in 55 units are active in Story County. Kindergarten through 12th grade programming is available. Camps are in Boone (equestrian) and Clear Lake (boating). Leadership and Development are the focus. Girl Scouts offers many areas of interest including entrepreneurship, STEM programs, and a counseling program for older girls. Challenges include membership because of increased national dues. Scholarships are available. It's harder to retain older girls.

Good Neighbor – Ms. Fullerton said Good Neighbor works with over 35 faith based organizations in Story County. Requests have stayed steady for rent and utility requests, but have increased greatly for healthy food vouchers. \$30 every quarter is available to families for healthy food. One gas voucher per year is available. Good Neighbor averages 28 appointments per month for rent/ utility assistance. They are trying to expand fund raising efforts.

Heartland Senior Services – Ms. Rich told the group that congregate meals are not desired as much as home delivered meals now. HSS is partnering with MGMC for home-delivered meals (MGMC cooks the food and HSS delivers the meals). HSS has closed their kitchen. Outreach services are increasing to ensure clients can stay in their homes as long as possible. Adult Daycare seems to be steady; they are not quite at capacity. HSS does very well at adapting to actual needs instead of maintaining the same system.

HIRTA – Ms. Schill said HIRTA's largest populations served are the elderly and disabled. HIRTA is taking weekly trips to Iowa City now. Scheduling is done through a virtual call center. HIRTA is working with Boys and Girls Club to get kids to after school activities and working with UWSC to help with summer transportation. They are fully staffed. HIRTA would like to become less dependent on federal and state funding, so continues to look for available grant funding.

Iowa Able Foundation – Mr. Ogilvie said Iowa Able does financial coaching. Iowa Able also offers loans to individuals to assist them in becoming more independent. ASSET funds are being requested for financial coaching. Last year ASSET provided funding for 12 individuals to receive coaching. They are predicting a small increase. Mr. Ogilvie said a new director has been found. Challenges include partnership with other agencies serving the same clients. Other agencies are sometimes fearful to refer their clients to Iowa Able because Iowa Able is known for providing loans. They desire to combat that and hope to see more partnerships.

Legal Aid of Story County – Mr. Ogilvie said services are offered to individuals under the 125% of poverty level. Three lawyers are employed, and all have a booked calendar, but the waiting list is smaller. He said they are still working on the gap between 125-150% of the poverty level. There are some lawyers that take pro bono cases, but Legal Aid cannot refer clients to lawyers that they have had any contact with Legal Aid in prior cases. He said that is a challenge. Since the office is in Nevada, there are transportation needs. He wonders if RSVP could assist with this need. HIRTA is an option, but the times are not ideal. Ms. Schildroth said HIRTA's community conversation in Nevada included a discussion on a route within Nevada. Mr. Ogilvie said that might not help the clients that live in Ames and need transportation to Nevada. Mr. Carter said CyRide has discussed a route to Nevada, but there is a shortage of drivers currently. Ms. Schill said HIRTA is looking to partner with UBER and Lift.

LSI – Ms. Fitzgerald said the full time director for early childhood programs, Alyssa Rasmussen, is very connected to the community and able to determine needs. LSI has seen an increase in crisis childcare.

The Parents as Teachers program utilizes 8 staff trained to provide in-home visits to at-risk families (poverty and special needs). The Supported Community Living program is offered to adults with brain injuries or other disabilities. The newer program, school based mental health, is seeing a great need in Nevada. Ms. Webb said school based mental health clients with private insurance can apply for CICS funding to assist with copays and deductibles but it is not required that they apply for CICS funding.

The ARC of Story County – Mr. Hogan said The ARC’s purpose is to enrich the lives of those with intellectual disabilities. Project SEARCH is continuing and they have partnered with another agency to offer it, so now ASSET funding will not be requested. Active Lifestyles is becoming more popular and costs \$70 per person annually and costs are going up. They are hesitant to raise those fees, so more ASSET funds are requested. Fundraising is increasing.

Mainstream Living – Ms. Stall told the group that ASSET is funding one Enclave individual. Three individuals are receiving ASSET funding for day habilitation. Mainstream has had a decrease in referrals. Effective December 1, the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise has a new tier for rate reimbursement that is based on severity of the disability. Mainstream offers a full spectrum of services and is among the top 45 employers in Ames. Ms. Meierkord said staff is unsure of where Mainstream will fall on the tier.

MICA – Mr. Carter told the group that adult and child dental care services are low cost and effective and serve individuals that would otherwise not receive dental care. The quality of life for many Story County families has increased because of MICA’s programming.

NAMI – Mr. Soderstrum said NAMI provides direct support to those with mental illness. Ms. Heddens said there’s much to be done with one staff person. NAMI is working with Optima as a drop-in site. NAMI has a very active board.

Raising Readers – Mr. Youngberg said he was impressed with Raising Readers and its growing programs. Thrive by Five serves young children and families and is open to anyone but does focus on reaching those at risk of falling behind. A data analyst has been hired to track data. The libraries continue to be added to the community. Raising Readers is always looking for more volunteers for hands on experiences. Reading Buddies in other schools is a goal.

Storytime Childcare – Mr. Adelmund told the group that enrollment has fluctuated, but is stable. ASSET funds childcare on a sliding fee scale basis. 18 children benefitted from ASSET funding last year. Maintenance of the facility and rent/utility costs continue to be concerning. The infant room has chipping paint, so they are looking for a permanent solution.

The Salvation Army – Mr. Soderstrum said the food pantry has seen tremendous growth. The super Walmart has given many donations. The rep payee program is serving 54 clients and has 23 on a waiting list. The Salvation Army is very dependent on the red kettle.

UCC – Mr. Carter said UCC is a steady program in the community with a very nice facility. He said they are at maximum capacity and have a waiting list. ISU students working there are getting good experience, and most are work study. UCC Director, Penny Pepper, will retire by next summer. The Board is discussing finding a replacement. There is only one board member that does not have a child at UCC.

Volunteer Center of Story County – Mr. Youngberg said VCSC acts as a hub for joining volunteers with places that need volunteers. He said it’s hard for them to get funding so ASSET funding is very

important for them. Staff consists of a director and part time staff. Volunteers at VCSC do the amount of work that 3-5 full time employees would do. Their online presence is important, so they are working on that. VCSC collaborates with 200 organizations.

YWCA – Mr. Hobson said YWCA's goals are to eliminate racism and empower women. One paid staff person, which is the director. YWCA has a girls power mentoring program that consists of 200 Iowa State student mentors that mentor 6/7th grade girls. The College bound girls program saw 100 girls at a recent event. YWCA works a lot with international students. They have diversity fairs at elementary schools and other locations to discuss countries and cultures. YWCA helps sponsor the Martin Luther King, Jr. event. The Women of Achievement award will be going to 7 women in various categories. Three or four part-time students help with administration.

NEW BUSINESS

The ARC of Story County – It was noted that The ARC of Story County had submitted an updated budget request to include the current year of Project SEARCH into the budget. Mr. Soderstrum said there are copies available.

Meal sign-up for January – A sign-up sheet went around for January meetings.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

INFORMATION/ ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Agency Mid-Year Reports Due: December 15, 2017
- B. Next ASSET & Joint Funders Meeting: January 18, 2018- 5:00 p.m. (City Church, 2400 Oakwood Road)
- C. Next Administrative Team Meeting: February 7, 2018 – 12:15 p.m. (United Way)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.