



To: Governing Board, Advisory Committee, and all Stakeholders
From: Matt Kasik, Executive Director
Date: January 4, 2021
Subject: Director's Report – Happy New Year 2021

COVID-19

November and December were the worst months thus far in Region V as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. In the past two months, the number of cases have increased within Region V by 350%. As of January 1, 2021, 67 individuals we support, and 88 staff have tested positive for COVID-19. Eight of these cases have resulted in hospitalizations, with one case resulting in a death.

Despite the increase in cases, good news has emerged regarding the COVID-19 vaccinations. Individuals supported and staff have begun to receive vaccinations the first week of January. Logistics are being managed by individual agencies and local health departments around the region. This is a welcome development in how we have persevered through the pandemic.

Financial Update

As of November 30, 2020:

Revenue: \$21,020,000
Expenses: \$20,232,926
Net Income (Loss): \$787,074 – 3.7%

Through five months of our fiscal year, we remain in a solid position. November wasn't a great month financially but it was mostly expected with a reduction in billing days due to the Thanksgiving holiday break. Despite this, we remain on target and slightly better than we were last year.

Factors that will continue to affect us:

Appendix K rate reduction effective November 1st and then again January 1. Rates have now gone back to their normal place.

Day Service Code consolidation – The effort to combine three day-service codes to one code with an average rate has been placed on hold. The State has decided to redraft the service definitions to avoid a push back to congregate care. Financially, this would have led to an annual revenue decrease of \$250,000.

Provider Rates- The next state budget outlook is looking better than it was two months ago. There is hope that a provider rate increase could be introduced in the upcoming session. Will continue to monitor.

Electronic Visit Verification (EVV)

Region V Services has spent the past months preparing and training staff for the implementation of Electronic Visit Verification (EVV). The Federal 21st Century Cures Act (2016) required Nebraska to implement this new EVV system for Medicaid Aged & Disabled Waiver and Personal Assistance Services providers this year. EVV electronically captures and verifies provider visit information. EVV officially launched on January 3, 2021. The rollout for Region V Services was led by Michele Scholz.

Staffing

Lincoln – Congratulations to Carol Cunningham, Staff Development Director, who will be retiring from Region V Services on January 8, 2020. Carol has been at Region V since 2010. During her tenure, she has truly improved the lives of several individuals that we support. Carol was instrumental in developing staff training programs, including our Sensory training, and provided behavioral supports throughout the region. We are grateful for all that Carol has done during her time with Region V and wish her well!

Welcome to Andrea Morton! Andrea will serve in the role of Office Administrator at our Central office. She replaces Willow Gottfried who left RVS in December.

Wahoo - Congratulations to Hunter Bailey, who has been promoted to the position of Coordinator in Wahoo. Hunter started at Region V in 2016 in Lincoln and served as an Assistant Coordinator.

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