



To: Governing Board, Advisory Committee, and all Stakeholders  
From: Matt Kasik, Executive Director  
Date: April 2, 2021  
Subject: Director's Report – March

## COVID-19

New COVID-19 cases through the region slowed down tremendously in March, as we had NO new cases of COVID-19 reported from any of the individuals that we support. We did have one staff person diagnosed with COVID-19, bringing our total cases to 78 individuals we support, and 114 staff. Twelve of these cases have resulted in hospitalizations, with one case resulting in a death.

Vaccinations were completed in February for the majority of the individuals that we support as well as our staff. It is hard to argue the effectiveness of these vaccines as we have seen the number of new cases plummet within the region. It is also reasonable to assume that having lived through this pandemic for one full year has made us experts in precautionary measures. We will stay vigilant and prudent with our efforts to continue with COVID-19 precautions for the foreseeable future, as each day brings us closer to 'normal'.

## Financial Update

As of February 28, 2021:

Revenue: \$32,885,283  
Expenses: \$32,045,580  
Net Income (Loss): \$839,703– 2.6%

Our fiscal year is now two thirds complete; we remain stable, but February was not a great month. Revenues were lower simply because of fewer days in February. Additionally, we continue to experience delays in payment for EVV services. Despite this month, we should be on track to achieve a positive outcome for the fiscal year.

One trend that is emerging is reductions in ICAP (Inventory for Client and Agency Planning) assessments throughout the region. ICAP's are assessments that are routinely completed on the individuals that we support to determine their funding level, and the amount of support they receive from our agency. Approximately 90 ICAP's have been completed throughout Region V Services in the past 6 months; of these, 65% of them resulted in a reduction of funding. This trend has also been reported by several other agency providers throughout the state. One concern is that because of COVID, the look-back period of the assessment is not truly reflective of the individual's needs.



Additionally, any decreases in funding make our work more challenging, essentially having to do more with less.

## **Legislature**

The budget has advanced from committee and will be debated by the full legislature beginning on April 8<sup>th</sup>, with revenue related debate beginning on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Several positive amendments are included within the budget including a 2% rate increase for providers in both of the next two years. Other highlights include funds designated for waitlist participants and new graduates. All items will positively impact lives of those with disabilities in Nebraska.

Additionally, LB527, a bill that provides consistency across the state for students with disabilities will be debated on Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. The bill reduces the current age of transitional planning for post high school from 16 years to 14 years. LB527 falls in line with our mission by providing consistency across the state with regards to transitional services. The earlier families can prepare and plan, the better outcome for individuals exiting high school and moving on to the next step in their lives.

## **Electronic Timecards**

We remain on track for a go-live date for Paylocity of April 17, 2021.

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