



CREA Governing Board Q3 Memo

It has been a little longer than usual since our last meeting and we are finding that school board elections and new board member assignments may need a little more time to be decided in the future. It has been a summer of incredible additions!

This memo will outline the beginning work of Early Intervention, Medicaid services, a professional learning opportunity for me, and our policies for this quarter.

- 1. Consent Agenda
 - a. Minutes you will find April's meeting minutes linked.
 - b. Financials you will find the financials (1, 2, 3, 4) linked. We have included monthly reports, as well. While there are more reports, this will help us to meet OE-5 for monthly financial reports to the board
 - c. Director's Report
 - i. You can find the CRACTC report <u>here</u> and CRACTC 23-24 FY Financial Report <u>here</u>.
 - ii. Early Intervention
 - 21 staff have joined CREA to serve the counties surrounding the Bis-Man area working with children ages 0-3 and their families. We will be ramping up transition services with the schools to ensure that future students are transitioned appropriately. We will also be increasing efforts for child find services to ensure that communities we serve have appropriate identification of students who are in need of services. Finally, we will be discussing the fulfillment of service in the Standing Rock area with the State as this has been requested. This is a Medicaid reimbursable service we provide and our finance team is working diligently to ensure a seamless transition for this.
 - 2. Medicaid Services
 - a. We are piloting two services; Care Coordination and Supported Education. These are offered to students who qualify, are referred by schools, and whose caregivers request our assistance. This is a daunting task working through the 1915i services with the Dept of Health and Human Services but it



is a much needed support for schools to serve students who are in need of support such as food security, housing security, behavioral supports, and more. We will also be able to assist students with services like Check and Connect in order to connect students more closely with their education.

- 3. AESA Leadership Academy
 - a. I was nominated as one of 20 CEOs from across the nation to engage in the first Leadership Academy as offered by our national organization. The focus of the Academy is to increase the CEO's ability to lead. We will have 4 face-to-face and 8 virtual learning opportunities to learn how to innovate as a service agency, how to create supports for schools in advance of their needs, how to create partnerships to fund opportunities, and, most importantly, how to assist schools in advancing academic outcomes. These are attached to some of the national conferences in order to reduce travel costs. The final face to face will take me to Singapore and South Korea where academic achievement is among the highest internationally. While there, we will visit schools, engage with national officials, and work with the equivalent of their state education department to understand how they are approaching ever-increasing educational outcomes. My goal is increase my knowledge to expand CREA's efforts in offering supports which yield academic outcomes for students in our schools. I am applying for a scholarship to help off-set some of the costs for this as it will cost approximately \$22,000, yet I believe my learning and the results of the experience will vield increased earning potential for CREA, but more importantly, increased opportunity for schools to make improvements.
- 2. Policy Review Operational Expectation 2
 - a. Emergency CEO Succession



- i. CEO Interpretation The Chief Executive Officer ensures that the Board has a plan in place which accounts for a long-term absence, which is interpreted as longer than two weeks, or permanent separation. The plan should account for major responsibilities of the ED, ensure capacity of existing staff to carry out the duties, and be written down and termed Succession Guide.
- ii. I have shifted my job description into a chart which outlines specific tasks and assignments in the event of my separation or long-term absence. Please find the <u>Succession Guide here</u>
- 3. Policy Review Operational Expectation 4
 - a. Personnel Administration
 - i. CEO Interpretation The CEO willfully engages a robust employee hiring process with a clear focus on improvement and retention of staff. The hiring and retention plan will include Federal and State background checks for new employees, selection of the best quality of candidates for all positions, temporary and permanent, exhaustive rules and procedures for staff to understand expectations; a set of guidelines for handling complaints; clear job descriptions that speak to the mission and values of the organization; a protection of confidential information; a total compensation package which recruits the highest quality candidates; an evaluation protocol which measures effectiveness of employees against the Board's policies.
 - ii. We have done extensive work on ensuring supervisors understand their role in onboarding (what it takes to become a CREA staff member), orientation (what it takes to work at CREA), and skill development (the specific job duty skills and capacities needed for positions hired). We do this for each new hire and are creating the same for positions already employed. We continually review our evaluation process in order to evaluate employees based on our results policies and relate that evaluation to possible individual staff raises. We continue to have 0 staff complaints. Finally, we are contracting with Vital Network to truly understand our culture and climate in an effort to identify any underlying conditions which may result in feelings of under-appreciation or being under-valued by our staff.





- iii. Please find the <u>CREA Handbook</u> and <u>Benefits Guide</u> as examples of our adherence to this policy.
- 4. Policy Review Operational Expectation 7
 - a. Asset Protection
 - i. CEO Interpretation The CEO will protect and maintain all CREA assets, with a focus on appropriate insurance coverage and financial bonding. The CEO may not expose the agency to risk, purchase any real property such as land or buildings, or take any action that could cause damage to CREA's reputation.
 - ii. Please find a report of asset protection here.
- 5. Policy Review Results 2
 - a. Direct Student Services
 - i. CEO Interpretation CREA will provide services routinely to schools in a manner in which CREA staff work with students for schools who cannot find staff or who would like to partner in six specific areas: before and after school programming, online/hybrid CTE coursework, student-driven events, reading and math assistance, MTSS-specific supports/interventions, and shared staffing models.
- 6. Meeting Evaluation
 - a. What went well?
 - b. What would improve our meetings?
 - c. What changes might we make?

As a reminder, here is suggested language for policy review discussion. Please remember that discussion, questions, and suggestions are all welcome as we want to ensure that we are carrying out your expectations and meeting the results that you set out for us. The discussion that you have will be collected for my evaluation. You can find that suggested language for policy here.