



PCHS OVERVIEW

Polk County Health Services, Inc. (PCHS) is a 16 member private, non-profit corporation funded almost entirely by Polk County. PCHS was established by the Board of Supervisors to assist in assuring that:

- a comprehensive system of mental health, intellectual disability, developmental disability, and substance abuse services is available to residents of Polk County, Iowa;
- from the perspective of the individual client, services follow an integrated, care giving process in the least restrictive environment possible;
- within existing budget constraints, the effectiveness of services for the client, and the benefit of services to the community, are at a maximum;
- the services are accountable to the public, e. g. results-oriented, subject to open and independent review that is continuous and publicly reported;
- the medical needs of indigent residents of Polk County will be met by the Broadlawns tax levy.

Polk County Health Services does not itself provide direct services but serves as the county's agent for planning and coordinating services. PCHS also represents the Board of Supervisors in assuring that the medical needs of indigent residents of Polk County will be met by the Broadlawns tax levy.

System Analysis: PCHS annually reviews the strengths and weaknesses of the mental health, intellectual/developmental disabilities, and substance abuse systems, drawing on available information and resources of provider agencies, clients, families, the Iowa Department of Human Services, and the Polk County Department of Community and Family Services.

Planning: Based on its annual review, PCHS prepares an annual plan for addressing community problems through changes in services and funding. The plan includes a set of budget recommendations presented to the Board of Supervisors and policies and procedures which must be approved by both the Board of Supervisors and State.

Program Development: PCHS promotes, on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, the development of new programs and facilities to implement plan objectives. PCHS selects agencies to provide the services and provides consultation and technical assistance as needed.

Implementation/Coordination: PCHS attempts to ensure the availability, accessibility, and continuity of care in ongoing and newly developed programs through development of agreements between providers and the Board of Supervisors, participation in system-level

coordination activities, and encouragement of client-level coordination. PCHS manages the Polk County budget for these services, on behalf of the Board of Supervisors.

Evaluation: PCHS identifies information needed to measure progress toward its plan objectives, and assists in the collection, analysis, and reporting of such information.

Property Financing and Ownership: In 1977 PCHS issued revenue bonds to finance construction of the Sands Center, which now houses inpatient medical, surgical, and psychiatric services at Broadlawns Medical Center. In 1991 and 1994, PCHS issued revenue bonds which were used to purchase single family homes to serve persons with intellectual disabilities who were placed in, or at risk of placement in a state institution. PCHS constructed the Sands Center which it leased to Broadlawns until the debt was paid, at which time Broadlawns assumed ownership. PCHS now owns and leases 74 houses to the provider agencies. Of the houses, 69 are typical simple family homes, and five are larger 9 and 13-bed homes.