



SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2020

O'BRIEN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, PRIMGHAR

The Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board members met on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. at the Assembly Room of the O'Brien County Courthouse in person with the regional staff members. The other attendees attended via Zoom.

1. Chairman Mark Loutsch welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Members present include: Mark Loutsch, Carl Vande Weerd, Mark Sybesma, Don Kass, Mark Behrens, Dennis Vanden Hull, Kim Wermersen, Bill Leupold, Shane Walter, Sue Duhn, Beth Will, Lisa Rockhill, Mavis Anema, Sharon Nieman, and Abby Wallin. In attendance via zoom were Brenda Langstraat-Janish (Children's Advisory/NWAEA/new Governance Board member, Denise Driesen (Children's Advisory/new Governance Board member), Janelle Hultquist (Seasons Center), Deb Brodersen (Spencer Hospital), Ryan Dokter (Fiscal Agent/Sioux County Auditor), Nicky Eaton (ASC), Matt Buley (Hope Haven), Jason Bergsma (Sioux County Sheriff's Office), Jamie Van Voorst (Sioux County Sheriff's Office), Katie Vander Zwaag (Creative Living), Kim Keleher (Plains Area), and Cindy Wilde (Goodwill).
2. **CHAIRMAN LOUTSCH ASKED FOR A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.**
Chairman Loutsch called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Sybesma made a motion to approve the agenda. Behrens seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Leupold made the motion to approve the minutes. Wermersen seconded the motion. The group asked for the minutes to be less detailed. Motion carried with all ayes.
4. **FISCAL AGENT REPORT AND EXPENDITURES-**
Dokter reported on the July Financial Summary. Total expenditures in July were \$120,220.09. Total revenues were \$44,371.55. As of July 31, 2020 the ending fund balance was \$1,385,056.83 with Dickinson and O'Brien Counties now included. Sybesma stated he appreciates the claims listing the board now receives detailing where the payments are going. Kass made a motion to approve the financial report. Vande Weerd seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.
5. **ATTORNEY FEE RECOMMENDATION-**
Walter discussed the potential of capping the attorney fees. Walter stated he is waiting for clarification on if we can put a cap in place. He has asked for clarification on this from the State. Walter will bring this back to the Board when more information is received. Loutsch asked to put it back on the agenda again next month. Walter said if we can cap the fees he would ask the Regional Board to make the recommendation to the County Boards.

6. LEASE AGREEMENT WITH SIOUX COUNTY-

Walter said all vehicles are leased through Sioux County on behalf of the region as the fiscal agent. The lease agreement farms the vehicle out to the particular county. This is a need for liability reasons. The advice for the lease came from ICAP and the Sioux County Attorney. Behrens made a motion to approve the lease agreement. Vande Weerd seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

7. CHILDREN'S ADVISORY UPDATE-

Nieman presented on Children's Advisory. They have been discussing senate files, covid money, and gaps in services. The group started a collaborative with Rolling Hills. A survey will be going out in both regions asking about gaps in services. They have discussed crisis services. The meetings have been well attended. The crisis service needs is most concerning for the group. The group is looking at how this need can be met. The survey will be sent out after Labor Day, September 8, 2020, and due back the following Friday. Julie Albright, with Rolling Hills, is going to be putting together the resource directory for both regions. Julie will keep this updated and put online. Sioux Rivers will be putting together some crisis cards to send out to people. Walter said the staff would be meeting with Forest Ridge in Emmet County on September 21, 2020. Forest Ridge may be able to assist with crisis beds. Staff will be going to Forest Ridge to learn about what they do. Forest Ridge does have contracts with the Western half of DHS, which includes all of our counties. They provide more services than just detention and going there will help us learn what those services are. Roscrance Jackson is another option for our region located in Woodbury County. They are in a position to add some additional beds. Family First Initiative, which began July 1, 2020, is for services to be in home to keep families together in the home.

8. CARES UPDATE-

Walter reported the check has been received and was deposited today. The region's job now becomes getting it spent in the next three months. The staff has discussed using an RFP process; put that out to the providers, which has them agree to certain things. There is criteria that has to be followed by the region and the providers. The money cannot be used for new programs, has to be related directly to covid response, and cannot be used for things the region has already budgeted for. The plan is to work with the staff to read through all of those RFP's, make decisions on if they meet requirements, if we have questions we will seek advice through DHS, etc. The feds have determined how the dollars should be used. Loutsch asked if the providers got a pot of money too. Walter stated he believed some providers did, but have not received guidance on what they can spend it on. Kass asked what type of things we look at spending this money on. Walter stated the staff had talked about ordering ipads for use in offices to allow for access in jails and offices. Essentially, we are looking at one-time expenses. Walter is looking at some flexibility in spending these dollars without coming to the board for every decision due to periods to spend the dollars. Walter has asked the service coordinators to be train the trainers if desired, and then work towards training others. Some of the dollars can be used for that. Keleher did state the relief fund guidance did come out and the portal has been opened to those providers. The board decided these dollars will be treated the same as other dollars. Walter and Loutsch will approve as they do other claims, then bring to



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the board each month for approval in the financial report. If there are questionable expenses, Loutsch will send to the rest of the board for approval. Duhn will designate the CARES dollars in the spreadsheet that is sent to the board with the claims listing. Will asked if the Board was questioning timing as far as the time frame being asked of the providers. The Board would like to have the information back prior to the Board meeting if possible to look at what those possible RFP's are. Walter did state we are looking at doing two rounds if we have dollars available. It was decided the RFP should be due back September 18, 2020, with some decision by the staff to present to the Board at the next meeting September 22, 2020. Keleher asked if the providers had to expend the money before December 30, 2020 as well. Walter stated that as he understands it right now, the providers also have to spend the dollars that the region gives them by the end of the calendar year. The state may make the decision to extend the deadline, but as of now, it is the end of the calendar year.

9. ACCESS CENTER MEETING UPDATE-

Eaton presented on the subcommittee group that has been meeting with Rolling Hills. Sioux Rivers sat in on this. They did discuss converting a few beds into subacute beds. They are working with Inspections and Appeals. It has been determined they do need to be two separate units with a separate common and dining area. They are also working with the City to see if they will be able to add on to the facility as it is in a residential area. Eaton is attempting to get questions answered to see if they can move forward with any of this. Walter is optimistic this is moving in the right direction and is very doable. The goal is to have this done by July 1, 2021. Eaton believes it is a better financial situation to use the space we already have. Loutsch asked about the staff. Eaton said they do need to have a psychiatrist available 24 hours per day and would need to round once per day. A therapist would also be needed. The current therapist could meet expectations of both. When more is known, a presentation could be made to the board. Eaton said there is a lot of space on the South end to be able to add some additional common space. The addition would mean there would be five observation beds, five stabilization beds, along with the four new beds on the South end for the subacute.

10. SEASONS CENTER MEETING UPDATE-

Walter provided an update on Seasons Center. The staff met regarding the ACT program and some of the issues with mobile crisis as well as barriers. Medicaid underfunds ACT. The hope is to work with Seasons Center to expand into the other counties. We may be able to use covid dollars to help with this. Mobile crisis has not been mobile recently. We have discussed how we can beef that up. With kids back in schools, we may see an increase in that usage. The staff talked to them about delivering that service in the RCF. Anema has been meeting with law enforcement, hospitals, and schools in Sioux County to educate people about mobile crisis. Walter stated we need them to deliver that service. Keleher will be starting an ACT team in Plymouth County and could potentially build that team to move into Sioux County.



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11. UPDATES-

ITP-Anema received a call from Jay with the update. They will be starting September 1, 2020 in Rock Valley at Hegg Memorial Hospital.

Advisory Board-The next meeting will be September 16, 2020. Nothing new to report.

IPS-Buley-He stated they have made the transition with O'Brien and Dickinson Counties. Currently they have thirty-two on the active caseload. They are starting to see improvements in mental health for the first time since covid started. Currently they have two new referrals.

Crisis Center-Eaton said this has been consistent the last few months. Numbers were in the report (18 and 2). Discussed some potential marketing through radio advertising. The regional coordinators have been out and about doing outreach.

IRSH-Nothing new to report.

Jail Diversion-Anema has been working with some local agencies. Will and Anema will meet with Plains Area soon for things they can offer in the jails.

ARC-Nothing new to report.

Transition Beds-Staff has had discussions with Jackson at Pride Group regarding these. Jackson is recently looking at potentially a 4-bed home in Sheldon, roughly \$130 a day rate, the goal is to get much of that funded outside of the region. Looking at this option for the older population, over 65. We may be able to obtain some elderly waiver funding for this as well as habilitation.

Seasons-Hultquist-Staff have been receiving crisis line calls. There were four calls this month; Mobile Crisis has had four mobile crisis calls from Sioux County Sheriff recently. Those have gone very well. They were able to get those people into a crisis spot. Seasons Center will continue to reach out and get back going.

12. General Discussion-

There was no additional discussions.

13. Adjourn-

Loutsch asked for a motion to adjourn. Vande Weerd made a motion to adjourn. Behrens seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Sue Duhn, Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Duhn".

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