



SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2020

ZOOM MEETING

The Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board members met via zoom Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. Those in attendance included: Mark Loutsch, Kim Wermersen, Carl Vande Weerd, Bill Leupold, Mark Behrens, Mark Sybesma, Sherri Bootsma, Don Kass, Jerry Birkey, Dayton Vogel, Sharon Nieman, Beth Will, Sue Duhn, Shane Walter, Lisa Rockhill, Ryan Dokter, Kasey Fear, Barry Whitsell, Nicolle Eaton, Janelle Hultquist, Abby Wallin, Karen Rosengreen, and Heather Fitzgerald (Seasons Center).

1. **WELCOME AND INTROCTIONS-**

Chairman Loutsch called the meeting to order at 1:30pm

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA-**

Vande Weerd made the motion to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by Leupold. Motion approved with all ayes.

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 10/27/2020 MEETING MINUTES-**

Kass made the motion to approve the October 27, 2020 minutes. Motion seconded by Vande Weerd. Motion approved with all ayes.

4. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 11/17/2020 MEETING MINUTES-**

Loutsch asked Walter to give an update on the November 17, 2020 meeting. Walter stated the budgeting meeting was to discuss the mandates and the core services vs. non-core services. With the limited dollars, there will be decisions that need to be made around those mandates. Walter hopes to add new services while continuing to do what we do today; however, there are no guarantees. Walter also stated a proposal was submitted to the region, but the proposal has since been withdrawn. Wermersen made the motion to approve the November 17, 2020 minutes. Vande Weerd seconded the motion. Motion approved with all ayes.

5. **FISCAL AGENT REPORT AND REGIONAL EXPENDITURES-**

Dokter gave an update on the regional finances. The CARES dollars are not included in the fund balance. Those dollars are being tracked separately. The fund balance at the end of October 2020 is just over \$2.5 million. The CARES dollars spent in October 2020 were roughly \$37,000. Behrends made the motion to approve the financial reports. Bootsma seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

6. **UPDATE ON RFP PROCESS/CARES ACT-**

Walter notified the board that a couple rounds of RFP's have been awarded. Duhn discussed the additional proposals received and staff made recommendations of those proposals. Sybesma made motion to approve staff suggestions. Kass seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

7. APPROVE 28E WITH ADDITION OF EMMET COUNTY-

Two different 28E agreements were submitted to the board for a decision. Walter stated the difference in the two is the number of voting members. The first version is just adding Emmet County into the 28E. The second version for consideration reduces the voting members from twelve board members to six board members. Walter is suggesting the approval of the first version. Vande Weerd made the motion to go with first version of the 28E to remain with two supervisors for each county. Kass seconded the motion. Behrends agreed it would best to keep two supervisors at this point, and look at it again down the road. Loutsch also agreed utilizing two supervisors per county. Kass believes two sets of eyes for each county because mental health has a lot of parts and items that need to be monitored. Motion approved with all ayes. Walter will send the 28E with signature page to each of the individual counties and ask that the Auditor of each county get it on their county agenda.

8. APPROVE FY20 ANNUAL REPORT-

Walter discussed the annual report. Walter thanked Rockhill for her time in getting the report together. The report is a recap of the events from FY20. It speaks about the transition of O'Brien and Dickinson Counties. Dokter will be updating revenue dollars and County Levies, Table D and E, before submitting the report to DHS. Sybesma questioned the number of people served based on core vs. non-core services. Table B is where the region is at in relation to the new mandates that begin July 1, 2021. Last fiscal year we had not yet designated a provider because we did not have a provider that met the qualifications to be able to designate. The unduplicated count is the number of persons served. Nieman notified the board that we pay for block grants that we do not necessarily know how many people are being served for those block grants. The region is actually reaching more than listed due to that. Behrends made motion to approve the FY20 annual report. Sybesma seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

9. PROVIDER UPDATES-

Eaton provided a written report with updates. Eaton stated CARES dollars were approved for advertising the assessment center as related to Covid. The radio ads will continue for the rest of this calendar year. A television ad will also be shown in December through KTIV to advertise the assessment center.

Nieman discussed the Children's Advisory Board. The state children's board met on November 10. That group has a state plan that is due to DHS. Law enforcement is concerned about how crisis services, in some places of the state, are being handled currently with adult services and are concerned that children's services will be handled the same way. The state board is going to discuss these issues before addressing them in the plan that will be submitted. The regional children's advisory learned about the waiver programs from Will. The crisis children's cards were presented to the Advisory Group. The cards have a texting number that kids can utilize. Everyone that has gotten them likes them and finds them useful. The Children's Advisory Group was notified that seventy-one different providers submitted requests for CARES dollars. The next Children's Advisory meeting is scheduled for January 2021. The documents, being

submitted in the state proposal, will be sent in the interim for everyone to look at prior to the January meeting. The group has had good attendance. The group plans to add another Emmet County member hopefully in the first of the year. Shawn Olson, JCO is already in the group and covers Emmet County.

Hultquist, with Seasons Center, introduced Heather Fitzgerald as a new crisis staff member. Seasons Center has seen a decrease of crisis needs in schools as students have been out of schools with online learning.

10. GENERAL DISCUSSION-

Loutsch turned the meeting for discussion regarding the withdrawn proposal. Wermersen asked what happened with the Plains Area proposal. Walter stated he believed the issue was Keleher did not get all parties involved in the proposal. It was a proposal that was certainly worth considering. Walter believed Keleher got push back with the proposal and decided to withdraw. Keleher had planned for the crisis center in Sioux City to stay as it is now, with Plains Area providing an additional facility more central in our region. Sybesma encouraged Plains Area to reinstate their proposal and work with the regions to work through the issues and address the concerns with all regions. Walter sees a need for a facility in Sioux City, though Rolling Hills was unwilling to continue the facility if Sioux Rivers pulled out. Loutsch asked what the next steps would be if the board wanted to look at other options away from Sioux City. Walter stated we could put together a RFP to try to locate a provider that would be willing and able to meet the requirements. Sybesma believes we should pursue other options if there are some available for a more centralized location within the region. Walter stated the staff had already started discussing options to get clients to the current location in Sioux City. The YES Center could provide transportation to the access center in Woodbury County. However, this still may not be the best options for the northern counties. Walter stated we also need to meet access criteria, which is 120 miles (2 hour) limit. Loutsch asked what a timeline would be for putting together a RFP. Walter stated it would probably take about a month to put something together. Loutsch believes we need to go forward with something like Keleher proposed. Walter stated we could do a RFP and see what we get for providers back. Loutsch believes spending additional dollars spent in Woodbury County is silly. Birkey asked if we could sell the building to a private person and use those dollars to develop and provide services in our region, or asked if telling Rolling Hills that we were planning to sell the building if they would change their minds and purchase the building. Sybesma said he believes, based on the discussion, the board sounds like they are committed to provide the services in a more centralized location, and walk away from the location in Sioux City. Loutsch does not want to invest any more dollars into the Sioux City location at this point. He really believes we need to be within our own region. Wermersen agrees with Sybesma that we need to pursue other ideas in a more central location. Walter will put together a RFP for the board to look at next month as well as look into options for a building in Sheldon or an area like that. Walter does have a provider that would be willing to purchase the building. Loutsch asked the board if they wanted to meet again in a few weeks instead of waiting another month to discuss any options. The board agreed meeting in a few weeks would be best. It



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was decided the board would meet on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 1:00pm. Walter will put some information together for a RFP as well as work with staff to look at locations in Sheldon that may be available. Whitsell volunteered to look at potential buildings in the Sheldon area. Loutsch asked Eaton if she had estimates for the building in Sioux City. At this time, Eaton does not have an estimate.

11. **ADJOURN-**

Behrends made motion to adjourn. Sybemsa seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

Sue Duhn, Secretary

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

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