



## SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

### GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2023

The Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board met in person at the O'Brien County Courthouse in Primghar as well as via zoom for those unable to attend in person. Those in attendance via zoom and in person included: Lisa Rockhill, Beth Will, Carl Vande Weerd, Craig Hoftyzer, Bill Leupold, Tim Overmire, Dennis Vanden Hull, Brenna Koedam, Kim Wermersen, Sue Duhn, Mike Van Otterloo, Tim Schumacher, Jerry Birkey, Dayton Vogel, John Pluth, Doug Smit, Kim Keleher, Kristen Triplett (Creative Living), Shelly Thomson (Life Skills), Denise Driesen, Abby Wallin, Christina Eggink-Postma, Don Kass, Cory Altena, Joe Van Tol, Crystal McHugh, Barry Whitsell, and Robert Aiken.

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS-**

Wermersen welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

**2. APPROVE AGENDA-**

Vanden Hull made a motion to approve the agenda. Pluth seconded the motion. The motion carried all ayes.

**3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 12/20/22 MEETING MINUTES-**

Vande Weerd made a motion to approve the December 20, 2022 meeting minutes. Van Otterloo seconded the motion. The motion carried all ayes.

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

Duhn reported on the December 2022 fiscal agent report. Pluth asked why Emmet County was at \$0. Duhn confirmed this was because they do not have an employee paid out of their county. Birkey made a motion to approve the fiscal agent report. Leupold seconded the motion. The motion carried all ayes.

**5. FY22 YEAR END BUDGET UPDATE-**

Koedam discussed the letter that will be received for being over the FY22 budgeted amount. Koedam reported Aiken told her there would be no penalty or money withheld, but to be aware moving forward that a budget amendment would be needed.

**6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS-**

Vande Weerd made a motion to approve the claims as listed. Altena seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes. Kass asked if the sheriff's offices were all handling commitments the same with regard to transportations. Duhn confirmed they were, but that some counties were not as immediate in invoicing as others. It was noted also that Plymouth County hosts a provider that can have more activity in the form of sheriff transportation with the individuals they service, and that affects the usage in Plymouth County, as is the case in Dickinson County as well.

**7. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS-**

Vande Weerd made a motion to leave the officers the same. Van Otterloo seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

**8. PLAINS AREA JAIL SERVICES-FUNDING-**

Koedam discussed the jail services request with Plains Area. The region moved from the Plains Area contract to ITP beginning July 1. Keleher stated that the Plymouth County Jail no longer had the contract with Plains Area because the region had a contract. McHugh states in talking with the Plymouth County Jail they believe they still have a contract with Plains Area. Kass made a motion to approve \$870 to pay the unpaid services with Plains Area. Van Otterloo seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

**9. PROVIDER FUNDING REQUESTS-**

Koedam reported she is good with paying for trainings if they are evidence based and/or needed to be accredited. Koedam was disappointed in some of the proposals received. Koedam would like providers to be creative in filling gaps and increasing services to our individuals, and admitted that this had not specifically been asked for in the provider meetings held, she had simply asked for providers to submit their requests. Koedam believes funding needs to be focused more on core and contracted services and less on wants.

Koedam discussed Creative Living request first. Schumacher asked if Koedam believes the electronics could be part of those services like training. Koedam believes the therapy supplies are appropriate for contracted services. Schumacher also believes media is important and could be a benefit. Vogel stated that EDMR would not be exclusive to school. There are people practicing EDMR in each of the satellite offices. Mental Health moments have been done in the past. Schumacher asked about mileage and if that is currently something that is being reimbursed. Vogel stated costs have gone up and the money would assistance in increased costs.

Koedam discussed the Family Solutions proposal and their requests for EMDR Training and play therapy.

Koedam discussed the Hope Haven requests. Those include transportation expenses and peer support training. Koedam stated staff have met with Amerigroup and they stated they could provide dollars for costs for peer support training (hotel etc.). Koedam reached out to Amerigroup after getting Hope Haven's request. At this point, Koedam has not heard anything back from Amerigroup since that meeting. She is in favor of paying the peer support costs if Amerigroup will not. Hope Haven is also asking for transportation expenses.

Koedam discussed the Life Skills Training Center requests. The vehicles would be used for transportation needs for supported employment. Life skills is asking for training costs as well. Schumacher asked if we



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had already paid for a truck. It was confirmed the region had already paid for a truck, and Life Skills did add the new ask was a truck for a different use than the one in the current proposal.

Koedam discussed the Plains Area request next. Plains is asking for EHR upgrades, HVAC, play therapy, and a vehicle for their meeting place. Will did state staff are good with providing money for training. However, do feel we have provided dollars for trainers and wonder if staff cannot provide trainers for other providers within the region. Eggink-Postma did state their staff do training and provide therapy. Kass asked how many of these trainers need to be certified and it was confirmed all need to be. Keleher did state the teen training is to train teens in the schools. Koedam would like to have a set training schedule for the region so all providers and regional folks know when the trainings will occur within the region.

Koedam discussed the Village Northwest request for Relias training. Relias is a training platform. Whitsell did state this is an annual subscription. The \$21,000 is the first year fee. VNW will plan to pay the annual fee going forward.

Koedam discussed the Seasons Center requests. Seasons Center is asking for food bank dollars, training, emergency funds for basic needs, and self-care room for Spirit Lake and Sheldon office locations. Seasons Center is also asking for needs at Camp Autumn including respite, restrooms, septic replacement, and counselor housing.

Kass believes that since it is January we need to move forward with some caution, but do support the training costs for each provider. Kass is not sure what to do with the training and material supplies. Schumacher believes we should include the material. The Governance Board discussed paying the following training expenses: Seasons Center \$5641, Village Northwest \$21,000, Plains Area \$7200 and \$4000, Lifeskills \$7158, Hope Haven \$3472, Family Solutions \$5883 and \$3907, and Creative Living \$1700.

\$59,961 Total Training Costs- Kass made a motion to approve the training costs at a total of \$59,961. Pluth seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

Van Otterloo suggested we pay the media costs to Creative Living. Duhn was concerned media with Creative Living is not supporting the entire region. Koedam did state she would like to rebrand and is working on proposals to do that. It would be proposed for FY24, but that does not mean we cannot start some of this in FY2023. Koedam would also like to do a co-responder model for FY24. Eggink-Postma would be open to doing radio ads in the other counties in the region. Leupold believes we need to follow the CEO and staff requests and what has been discussed. Koedam suggested the media be put on hold until other providers have the ability to provide proposals for media (Seasons Center and Plains Area).

Vande Weerd made a motion to table the rest of the requests until February to allow Koedam to prioritize the requests. Kass seconded the motion. Schumacher does want the staff opinions and wants to be

sensitive to those as well. Koedam does want a schedule put together regionally so all trainings are communicated. The motion carried with all ayes. Pluth has concerns about funding bathrooms, HVAC, and vehicles.

**10. TRANSITIONAL HOUSING UPDATE-**

Koedam provided an update on transitional housing. A team lead has been hired. Koedam reported Sarah also has a full time employee ready to move to the house when it is open. She needs three more staff hired before it can open. She hopes to get them hired soon.

**11. GOODLIFE UPDATE-**

Koedam provided an updated on Goodlife. Koedam is working on setting up a meeting to meet with Goodlife. They are currently working with Hope Haven and Village Northwest in moving into Phase III of that program, and plan to be making contact with the rest of the regional providers.

**12. HHS LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORT FINDINGS-**

Koedam discussed the legislative recommendations for the current session. The findings show lack of consistent services across the state, lack of consistent definitions and implementation of the same services, governance and administration across regions, and lack of integrated data. HHS wants to move Chapter 331 to Chapter 225. They also want to revise the regional Governance Structure with the regional board being no more than 49% of elected officials. HHS would like to require community based competency restoration as a core service. HHS would like to revise the regional ending fund balance and change from 5% to 10%. HHS would also like to eliminate quarterly reporting for HHS, but would still require regions to report quarterly. Kass questions if #3 could be based on urban areas, more so than rural areas.

**13. FLOWSTATE HEALTH SUCCESS STORY (BETH)-**

Will provided an update on Flowstate. Flowstate has been very busy in our region. Flowstate has done 24 evaluations in the hospital. Six of those moved onto hospitals. Two of the individuals were placed in our crisis center, and ten of those individuals went home/habilitation home. Emmet County and O'Brien County have each had four individuals seen in the jail. There was also one in Sioux County. Hawarden and Sheldon are not on board yet. Hopefully, by the end of the month they will have accreditation. Will had an individual in Dickinson County as a frequent flyer. The U of I did take this individual. The transition went well. Flowstate can get into the hospital system and are able to see the history of the client in the emergency rooms. There are currently four hospitals that are not working with Flowstate; this was their



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choice as they already have something that is working for them. They have opted to stay with their current providers and are paying for those services themselves.

#### 14. **FY24 BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS FOR SALARY, OFFICE SPACE, MARKETING/WEB-BASED SERVICES-**

At this time, it appears the counties are planning to keep the office space rates the same as FY23 for FY24. Neapolitan Labs and Walter Media are both putting proposals together for social media campaigns, website, etc. Those proposals will come to the board in February. The final item is the percentages for salaries. Koedam is also asking the base salary for Duhn be increased because the job description does not match what Duhn does each day. Koedam would like to update Duhn's job description and change her title. Koedam also would like to increase Rockhill's base salary. Koedam would like the base increases effective immediately, but does not know this affects the county budgets and those may need to be amended if the rate increases are effective immediately.

Koedam presented an updated job description for Duhn's position. Kass made a motion to approve Duhn's updated job description. Birkey seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes. Koedam presented a request to increase the base pay for Duhn and Rockhill. Koedam would like the base pay rate increase to be effective as soon as possible. However, Koedam did state she understood the counties might need to do a budget amendment in order for the base to begin prior to July 1. Leupold made a motion to approve the base salary for Duhn at a rate of \$65,000 as soon as possible, pending a budget amendment at Dickinson County. Van Otterloo seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes. Schumacher made a motion to approve the base salary at \$70,000 for Rockhill as soon as possible, pending a budget amendment at Lyon County. Birkey seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

Koedam presented a report on percentage increases for all staff members. The percentage increases will begin July 1. The Governance Board discussed where their counties were at and/or thinking they would be at for FY24. Dickinson is 6.1%, Lyon 7.1%, O'Brien 3.5%, Plymouth 6.5% elected, supervisor 4.5% and other employees more than 6.4%, and Sioux's comp board came in at 9-12%. Vande Weerd believes Sioux will do around 6%. Schumacher believed Emmet is looking at maybe 10%. Schumacher believes if we look at the average of the counties it would be about 6-7%. The cost of living was about 8.1%. Kass made a motion for 7% increase for FY24. Birkey seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

#### 15. **GENERAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES-**

Eggink-Postma provided an update on the crisis services at Seasons Center. The construction meeting is



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scheduled for February 1 with construction starting shortly thereafter.

#### 16. **ADJOURN GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING-**

Van Otterloo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vande Weerd seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 3:33pm.

Sue Duhn, Secretary

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

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