



SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024

The Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board met via zoom due to weather. Those in attendance included: Sue Duhn, Sarah Jackson, Shawn Scholten, Piet, Kim Keleher, Joe Van Tol, Kim Wermersen, Carl Vande Weerd, Brenna Koedam, Abby Wallin, Sherri Bootsma, Kimber Patterson, Don Kass, Brenda Erickson, Beth Will, Brianna Zandstra, Barry Whitsell, Kim Scorza, Denise Driesen, Tammy Bruinsma, Karen Rosengreen, Jerry Postma, Crystal McHugh, Dennis Vanden Hull, Jamison Van Voorst, Cory Altena, and Kerri Dandy. Carl Vande Weerd left the meeting at 2:46pm.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS-

Wermersen welcomed the group to the meeting.

2. APPROVE AGENDA-

Vande Weerd made a motion to approve the agenda. Van Voorst seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 2/27/24 MEETING MINUTES-

Kass made a motion to approve the February 27, 2024, minutes. Altena seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

4. GENERAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES: INPUT FROM REGIONAL STAFF, PUBLIC, PROVIDERS, ETC.

No discussion or comments.

5. FISCAL AGENT REPORT AND REGIONAL EXPENDITURES-

Van Tol reported on the fiscal agent report. Whitsell made a motion to approve the fiscal agent report. Bootsma seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS-

Vanden Hull made a motion to approve the claims as listed. Bruinsma seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

7. THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL UPDATE-

Koedam reported on the third quarter financial information. Duhn shared the provider funding requests that have been approved as well. Vande Weerd asked if they were planning to increase the allowable fund balance after this next year. Koedam said that was not the plan. Whitsell thinks it is important to



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keep the dollars within our region and not send those back to the state. Koedam agreed with the importance of spending those dollars and allocating those throughout the year as we are able.

8. **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BILL UPDATE-**

Koedam provided an update to the Behavioral Health bill. The one item they were unwilling to negotiate with was the 7% administrative costs. They are adding some definitions and core services back in though they will be more general. Prevention, Intervention, Education, Evidence-Based, Early Intervention, Practice and Treatments, Recovery and Supports, and Crisis Services are some of those. There is also a plan for HHS to keep 5% funding for administration, with ASO getting 7% administration. A children representative and law enforcement representative have also been added to the amendments. July 1, 2024, HHS should post the transition plan for thirty days for public comment. After that public comment the district map will be provided by August 1. The RFP process will happen with the ASO being named by December 31, with the system going into place July 1, 2025. Vanden Hull asked if there were any services mandated within the system. Koedam confirmed nothing beyond the programs that she discussed earlier. Kass was told they want to work with local individuals and supervisors to develop those services. There is still no Governance Board in the updated information. Koedam will email the amendments to the Governance Board.

9. **FUNDING REQUESTS-**

Koedam discussed the funding requests.

Hope Haven-Hope Haven has increased their peer support/transportation services to other communities within our region and are asking for an additional \$14,000 for those services. Vande Weerd made a motion to approve the request. Driesen seconded the motion. The motion carried with all eyes.

Approved \$14,000

Crittenton Center-Koedam discussed the additional staff training costs. Crittenton Center is not a contracted provider. The roughly \$3300 that was already allotted to them is equal to the dollars approved for the contracted providers for training dollars. Melissa, Care Connections of Northern Iowa, was planning to tell her board she was not suggesting funding. Scorza shared the shelter takes kids, most of which have significant mental health needs. They will have increased their number of beds to twenty-seven beds by the end of next month. Crittenton has secured half of the dollars for the training but are looking for dollars for the other half of those dollars. Vande Weerd would like a spreadsheet to put



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together from Crittenton Center with the number of kids from Sioux Rivers utilizing the services. Kass asked if some of the kids come right out of the juvenile detention centers. Scorza did state there are kids coming out of those detention centers. Bootsma asked what the quickest turn around with the kids is. Scorza states it could be just a few hours. The kids that are there for a longer period are there because of having nowhere else to go. They have already been through several foster homes and placements. Bootsma asked what percentage of kids fall within the 48-hour window. Scorza said they only have 2 beds for this so that number is minimal, maybe 10 in the last month. Kass asked the capacity of beds. Scorza confirmed there will be twenty-five beds, and 2 temporary beds. The older kid wing will have an increase to 12 beds. Kass asked if the bed status is full. Scorza confirmed their extended beds are full and stay full. Vande Weerd made a motion to pass on this request as the region has only served two clients for the 33% asked. Kass seconded the motion, though Kass would be willing to reconsider this if considered as per capita. Vande Weerd agreed to per capita discussion. The motion carried with all ayes. Koedam will keep the proposal and bring it back next month with a per capita amount after additional discussion with CEO's.

Amount Approved \$0

Whispers of Love Hope and Joy-Koedam has been having discussions with Pastor Deb regarding transitional housing and supports. She is currently serving those that have had domestic violence. She also includes wrap around services. Koedam has discussed this with HHS because they do not have accreditation. Rob Aiken would not be fearful of funding these requests even without accreditation. Koedam is asking the board to not approve the one crisis stabilization apartment because she would have to follow the Chapter 25 rules, and she isn't ready for that at this point. Koedam does not suggest approving the financial literacy, though Koedam would be on board with the rest of the requests. Whitsell asked how this was different than the Family Crisis Center. Koedam confirmed they also work with domestic violence individuals. Van Voorst did state the crisis center no longer offers housing like Whispers does. Vande Weerd asked if they were up and running now. Koedam did state they are up and running at this point. Koedam stated she is willing to take individuals from all our counties. Whitsell asked if the transportation rate should be the Medicaid Provider rate of \$.39. Vand Weerd asked if our counties had RIDES. Whitsell stated while they utilize Rides, they don't provide transportation at all hours and often aren't available. Whitsell made a motion to approve the suggested amount excluding the crisis stabilization apartment and financial literacy programming. Bruinsma seconded the motion. Vanden Hull asked if a 28E was needed at this time. Koedam will discuss with Rob Aiken at HHS if a contract is needed. Per their conversation this morning he did not believe a contract was needed, though Koedam will confirm this will Rob Aiken again. Motion carried with all ayes. **Amount Approved \$15,457**



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Creative Living-Scholten discussed the request by Creative Living. The original funding was for programming on Tuesday every other week. Scholten has received positive comments from community members. Piet shared additional information regarding the request for Rog Corner. The emphasis of this program is to help people deal with loss. The request is for an additional \$18,000 for the radio slot, and \$12,000 towards Creative Living staff to do those segments. The region has approved 32 weeks already. Whitsell asked if Shawn Scholten had the staff time available to put together a quality program every week. Shawn did believe they had the staff as they tape those episodes ahead of time and edit those for the radio. They usually record a couple shows at a time. Kevin Hines has agreed to do a time slot as well. The program airs Tuesday mornings (every other week at this point) at about 8:45am. The episodes are also archived. The ask is to allow airtime every week. Will asked is if this could be tied to our website. Piet said this could be shared on our website as there are no copyright issues. Bootsma asked how much time this is taking away from seeing clients and if Creative Living's time was being compensated without putting more pressure on them to do their business. Shawn confirmed they had the time and the request to Creative Living was to compensate for their time. Whitsell made a motion to approve the request. Altena seconded the motion. Koedam thanked Piet for working on this project as awareness and prevention is important. Koedam did state suicide has increased in individuals over sixty years of age. Piet confirmed many of the listeners during Rog's Corner are 50 years and older. Motion carried with all ayes. Shawn thanked the board. **Amount Approved \$30,000**

Family Solutions-Kimber brought her Wellness Bundles to show Driesen. Driesen thinks they are valuable and would like one for each office. She has four offices. Kass made a motion to approve. Whitsell seconded the motion. Driesen abstained from voting. The motion carried with all ayes. **Amount Approved \$860.00**

Village Northwest Unlimited-Whitsell shared his requests for funding. The first request was for Special Olympics uniforms. There are forty-six individuals participating in ten different events. The Special Olympics athletes also go to schools and play exhibition games during half time. In 2025, the National Olympics for Track and Field will be coming to Minneapolis. They are petitioning the State of Iowa to participate at the National Games in Minneapolis. While uniforms are important, VNW also must pay for travel, hotels, staff to attend the events, but are only asking for the uniform costs. Vande Weerd made a motion to approve the request. Vanden Hull seconded the motion. Whitsell abstained from voting. The motion carried with all ayes. **Amount Approved \$3658.00**

Village Northwest Unlimited-Whitsell discussed the need for transportation for their supported employment programs. Medicaid does not fund transportation for services. There are currently forty-one



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individuals in competitive employment. There are thirty-nine people in small groups in employment. Altena made a motion to approve the transportation costs. Bruinsma seconded the motion. Whitsell abstained from voting. The motion carried with all ayes. **Amount Approved \$20,000**

Village Northwest Unlimited-Whitsell requested \$40,000 towards the cost of a new transit van. Kass did state the region has helped LifeSkills with a vehicle in the past. Kass made a motion to approve. Driesen seconded the motion. Whitsell abstained from voting. The motion carried with all ayes. **Amount Approved \$40,000**

10. FY25 ANNUAL SERVICE AND BUDGET PLAN-

Koedam shared the FY25 Annual Service and Budget Plan with basic changes for the upcoming year. If the community mental health centers get the demonstration grants the region will not need to spend all the crisis budgeted dollars whereas the region will if those grants are not received. Plains Area was awarded Plymouth County, so it only makes sense to include Plains Area as the mobile crisis provider. This will change for FY25. Koedam would like to provide Plains Area \$300,000 for setting up the program in FY24 to begin services on July 1, 2024, for FY25. There are still a lot of uncertainties with the law having not yet been passed. Koedam did tell the providers the region remains committed to providing as much support to our providers as possible. Kass made a motion to approve the FY25 Annual Service and Budget Plan. Van Voorst seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

11. ADJOURN GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING-

Altena made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vanden Hull seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 3:06 pm.

Sue Duhn, Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Duhn".

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