



SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2022

The Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board met in person at the O'Brien County Courthouse in Primghar and via zoom. Those in attendance include: Beth Will, Sue Duhn, Kim Wermersen, Brenna Koedam, Don Kass, John Pluth, Tim Schumacher, Dennis Vanden Hull, Micah Van Maanen, Lisa Rockhill, Jerry Birkey, Cory Altena, Mike Van Otterloo, Bill Leupold, Doug Smit, Ryan Dokter, Karen Rosengreen, Carl Vande Weerd, Tim Overmire, Kristen Triplett, Kim Keleher, Jamison Van Voorst, Denise Driesen, Janice Hill, Cindy Wilde (1:45pm)

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS-**

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

2. **APPROVE AGENDA-**

Vande Weerd made a motion to approve the agenda. Altena seconded the motion. Koedam asked to move Karen Rosengreen up on agenda, as she needs to leave early. Motion carried with all ayes.

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 9/27/22 MEETING MINUTES-**

Leupold made a motion to approve the September 27, 2022 minutes. Van Otterloo seconded the motion. The Motion carried with all ayes.

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

Dokter reported on the fiscal agent report. The fund balance at the end of September is roughly \$5 million. Pluth made a motion to approve the fiscal agent report. Vanden Hull seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

5. **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS-**

Vande Weerd asked why there were two \$75,000 payments to Seasons Center. Duhn explained it was the \$150,000 that was approved for the updates at Seasons Center. Duhn split the dollars into two chart of account numbers. Schumacher made motion to approve the claims. Leupold seconded the motion. Schumacher asked how Emmet County was paid as they continue to have no expenses each month. Duhn explained that the region paid Emmet County \$1000 at the beginning of the year for their lights, and room usage. The service coordinator is Beth, and her employer of record is Dickinson County even though she is working in Emmet County too. Kass asked about Siouxland Mental Health and the usage. Duhn confirmed there were not any individuals there last month. Motion carried with all ayes.

6. **LEGISLATIVE MEETING RECAP-**

Wermersen believes the legislative meeting went well and was well accepted. Koedam reported on the number of individuals that attended. Koedam thought the meeting went well. Wermersen believes the mandated services were a big topic of conversation at the legislative meeting. Wermersen thought the legislators listened to what was being said. Kass believes that talking with the legislators about the trade

off on costs is the way you have to discuss the issues with them. Wermersen agreed there was nothing conservative about mandates. Vanden Hull stated he learned a lot at the meeting, and stated the new legislator took many notes. Vande Weerd would like to see more legislators come, and continue to reach out to them to get the messages across. Vande Weerd believes it is important to keep them in the loop. Wermersen believes it was a good event. Will did state she had several legislators reach out that could not make the meeting. Will did sent the talking points to all legislators after the meeting.

7. CEO UPDATE-

Koedam explained to the group that she has gone around to all of her staff and met them all in their home offices. She is working on getting to all of the providers as well. She will then start working on hospital and jail administrators. As Koedam has been going around there are common themes among the staff. She will address those themes as she works through the issues. Koedam did state Sioux Rivers has wonderful service coordinators. Koedam would like to have workflows for all staff as she works on the budget and annual report. Wermersen welcomed Koedam and thanked her for meeting with staff, providers, and others in the region. Kass told Koedam to call her and any other board members at any time.

8. IT MOU UPDATE-

Koedam has been going through contracts and making sure, we have everything we need. With that, she has been asking questions. Everyone she talked to about the MOU had a different way of understanding it. With that, Koedam thought it was better to bring it back to the Governance Board to make sure everyone is on the same page. Some of the concerns that were brought to Koedam were the deductions and how those would be handled. Wermersen believes it was discussed as a \$1,200 contract with no additional dollars. Wermersen also believes the special projects of \$150 needs to be brought to the Governance Board for approval before happening. Vanden Hull said another issue for his county was if the \$1200 was for every individual IT person, or \$1200 per county for the service. O'Brien County was also concerned that the money was not going to the clients, and felt it was blue sky to the counties. O'Brien County believes it was a service we have to provide. Van Otterloo asked if the check is written to the individual or to the county. Van Otterloo likes the idea of the \$1200 to the county to decide where that money goes. Vanden Hull is concerned that Wallin is a county employee and does not need a regional IT person. Koedam did state it is not just Wallin in O'Brien County since McManaman and Koedam are both in O'Brien County at times. Vande Weerd believes the dollar amount is low for the service being provided. Micah Van Maanen read the last two paragraphs of the MOU to discuss if all counties need to sign the document. The last paragraph does state it becomes official when all members sign the contractual agreement. Micah did state you could hire IT providers to do what the county IT is doing. However, the provider is not going to be able to hook into the server that the counties are managing as a different entity. One of the projects projected is a regional email so when someone does quit they do not need to forward county emails to the next employee. Micah did state it is a mechanism for the county IT individuals to assist the regional staff. Wermersen asked why the two counties that do not have county IT

would want to sign the MOU. The MOU strictly covers the eight IT individuals to cover the counties. Kass did state part of the beauty of a MOU is it allows you to deal with the gray area. Wermersen did state even though it is a gentlemen's agreement it is important to have it defined so everyone understands how it is moving forward. Wermersen clarified the MOU is to be paid to the IT staff and not the county. As an example, there are two IT individuals in Plymouth County; there would be \$1200 to each of those employees in Plymouth County. Van Otterloo believes \$1200 should be given to each county, and the region should not micromanage who that money goes to within the county. Wermersen likes the cleanness of paying a contractual amount of \$1200 to each employee. Vande Weerd would like the money given to the county for each IT person. Everyone agrees the goal is to get the service coordinators to work together. Vanden Hull did state he thinks his county needs the MOU rewritten and clarified before they would sign it that would then need to go to all member counties again for a signature. Duhn asked if \$1200 was going to each county, of if each county gets \$1200 per employee plus \$1200 to those counties that do not have an IT person, which is technically more than eight "individuals". Wermersen asked again, if the region needs it rewritten. Pluth believes it needs to be \$1200 per IT individual. The consensus is the county will be paid and not the IT person. Van Otterloo made a motion to pay O'Brien, Sioux, Plymouth, and Dickinson \$2400 dollars per year, and \$1200 to Lyon and Emmet Counties (\$1200 per IT employee at the county) for those counties that sign the MOU and it is up to the county to decide what to do with the money. Pluth seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes. The discussion to approve a new MOU was table. Koedam will work on making changes to the current MOU and bring it to the next meeting.

9. SET NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING DATES-

The Governance Board decided to move the Governance Board meetings in November and December due to the holidays. The Governance Board will meet November 29, 2022 at 1:30 pm and December 20, 2022 at 1:30 pm.

10. PROVIDER UPDATE-KAREN ROSENGREEN/SEASONS CENTER/CRISIS SERVICES-

(Moved this item up on the agenda after #5 approval of claims) Rosengreen reported on the crisis services at Seasons Center. The bid for the crisis center will go out next week. The crisis center will hold crisis beds as well as 23-hour crisis. Rosengreen reported on the crisis numbers. At this point, they are looking at starting April 1. Schumacher asked about the cost of the project, and where many of the dollars were going. Rosengreen said that much of the breakdown is the sprinkler system. Rosengreen did state some of the expenses are going into that main building. Vanden Hull asked if this would be in the main building or the Autumn Center. Rosengreen confirmed it would be in the main building. Schumacher asked about exceeding those beds. Rosengreen confirmed the beds could be expanded if needed.

11. STAFF SHARE (BETH)-



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Will discussed IRSH (Intensive Residential Service Home). IRSH is a mandated service that HHS says we must have. Currently we have one home in Spirit Lake serving three individuals. Those three individuals live in a community home. All of their services are provided in that home including therapy and work related services. The individuals have one on one staff in that home. The current regional rate is \$704 per day per client. Lakes LifeSkills is opening their second home. There is currently one person in that home that came from Glenwood. The hope is to have the second Glenwood individual there by the end of the month. Brenna and Beth are meeting with Lakes LifeSkills tomorrow. The house still has two open beds. Will met with HHS and LLS regarding the required checklist. The checklist is complete aside from two minor things. It has been money well spent thus far. One of the individuals that went into the home in June has graduated from the program and has stepped down to a habilitation home in the community. That individual currently works two hours per day in the community. Will did state we likely would not be able to pay all of the \$1.2 carryover money the region was able to keep for IRSH. Kass did state Care Connections of Northern Iowa is getting five individuals from Glenwood and wondered where they were going.

12. GENERAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES-

There were no additional updates or discussion.

13. ADJOURN GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING-

Vande Weerd made the motion to adjourn. Altena seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes. The meeting ended at 2:57pm.

Sue Duhn, Secretary

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

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