



## SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

### GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021

The Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board met via zoom meeting at 1:30pm. Members present include John Steensma, Jerry Birkey, Carl Vande Weerd, Mark Sybesma, Kim Wermersen, Bill Leupold, Don Kass, Mark Loutsch, Cory Altena, Sue Duhn, Mavis Anema, Shane Walter, Kim Keleher, Abby Wallin, Beth Will, Paul Merten, Jason Bergsma, Amy Schlotman, Jami Van Voorst, Nicolle Eaton, Mark Monson, Sharon Nieman, Sheila Martin, Elaine Van Otterloo, Scott Witte, and Dawn Mentzer. Casey Fear joined the meeting at 1:45pm.

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS-**

Wermersen welcomed the group to the meeting.

**2. APPROVE AGENDA-**

Leupold made a motion to approve the agenda. Birkey seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

**3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 1/19/21 MEETING MINUTES-**

Sybesma made a motion to approve the January 19, 2021 Sioux Rivers Governance Board minutes. Kass seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

**4. ASSESS CENTER RFP PROCESS DISCUSSION-**

Walter updated the board on the access center process. Walter reminded everyone there were many pieces that needed to fall into place for the location in Sheldon to work. Northwest Iowa Care Connections was not willing to collaborate in the location in Sheldon. The building has since been sold. There are still options to consider moving forward. Kass asked for clarification on if the building had been sold, as he was surprised it sold so quickly. Wermersen reminded the members the reason the board looked at different options was the dollars being spent in Sioux City were concerning based on the numbers being served. Birkey asked if Northwest Iowa Care Concerns was not willing to collaborate at all, or if they were just unhappy with the Sheldon location. Walter confirmed they were unwilling to collaborate, as they believe they have other options available to them. Walter stated we need to be willing to collaborate with other regions on pieces of our services as we move forward. Leupold asked if the region could provide something cheaper in a different location, and if we had any guarantees, more people would utilize the service if we moved locations. Walter stated there are no guarantees to usage anywhere, though he does believe with an access center the utilization would be better because they are no eject and no reject. Kass stated he spoke with Merten, Rolling Hills. Rolling Hills had a meeting last week. Merten indicated the supervisors would like to look at the building in Sioux City before making any decisions on purchasing the building. Kass also believed the region should speak with legal counsel on how to sell the building. He stated it might need to be put on the market regardless. Leupold believes we need to have a plan in place before deciding to sell the building. Loutsch asked if the region could



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continue to contract with Rolling Hills, if all counties would fit into that option. Walter stated he hoped the region could continue to work together with Rolling Hills. Kass said he got the impression that if Rolling Hills decided to buy the building they would keep the services as they are currently. Vander Weerd asked if we would be able to meet all the mandates required of us by July 1, 2021. Walter stated we are working towards those mandates, though the state is allowing some grace on those timelines.

#### 5. **FY BUDGETING-**

Wermersen asked Walter to speak to the philosophy of the block grants. Walter stated the region needs to examine what we are currently funding and what services we place value in. As an example, the region is currently funding services in most schools with block grants. That may be something we need to look at in this budgeting year. The region funds block grants to the mental health centers as well as other providers such as Hope Haven. Walter recognizes the regions rely on the regions to survive and are reliant on dollars from the regions. The region values the providers. However, with that, the region also has to be accountable for the dollars and needs to be able to justify the dollars moving forward. Ultimately, the region needs to decide what we want to continue to fund moving forward. Vande Weerd asked how those decisions are currently being made. Walter stated he meets with the staff to discuss what services are needed, but that ultimately, the board makes the final decision on the budget and the dollars spent. Walter invited all board members to be actively involved in the budget process by asking questions and giving input. Will stated the region does have state mandates that need to be followed, but that does not mean the region has to fund all of those mandates. Walter agreed, but did state the region needs to make sure the providers can provide the services. Wermersen agreed we need the providers, but did remind the group the supervisors are responsible to the taxpayers as well as the clients that are served.

#### 6. **REGIONAL COLLABORATION-**

Wermersen stated we need to try to work together with different regions and providers so we can provide the best available services. Walter agreed that more collaboration is needed, and that regions need to continue to work together. Kass asked about other options such as Ft. Dodge, and if the law had changed with regard to distance to services. Walter confirmed it is still 120 miles, but did believe the region could probably get by with utilizing the Ft. Dodge facility even though portions of the Western most cities are not included in the 120 mile distance. Kass asked if the neighboring regions were looking at utilizing Ft. Dodge because there is not much in the way of population in most of the regions. Walter did not want to speak to other regions, but did agree that could be the case. Kass wanted other regions to know that if they look at a building in a different city our region would be willing to discuss that option with them.



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#### 7. GOVERNOR'S FUNDING PROPOSALS FOR FY 22 & FY23-

Wermersen told the board the Governor has proposed \$30 million over the next two years. Walter explained the proposal still would need to pass through the legislature, and that it is not yet determined how the money would be distributed to regions. Regions have thoughts on how the dollars could be spent, but ultimately will need to wait and see what is decided. At least there is some money being proposed. Loutsch asked if there are currently mandates tagged to those dollars. Walter stated that as of now there is not, but that does not mean there would not be in the future. Will asked if there was anything happening in legislation right now that the board or service coordinators needed to talk to their legislatures about. Walter stated there are not any that currently affect the regions.

#### 8. CARES ACT FUNDING PROPOSALS-

Walter asked Duhn to speak about the two funding requests that were received. The first came from Champion State of Mind. They requested dollars for four staff members to be trained in ART. The cost is \$2380.00. Wermersen asked for a motion. Leupold made a motion to approve \$2380.00 to Champion State of Mind. Sybesma seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes. Duhn told the board the second request came from Harris Lake Park Schools. They requested dollars for in school therapy as well as Second Step programming. Duhn told the board Harris Lake Park Schools had been approved for \$2529.00 before December. They were also asking for \$2749.00 for additional Second Step programming. Duhn reported the staff suggested we pay for \$5278.00 towards the Second Step programming and ask additional questions regarding the in school, therapy as far as how many kids that would include and if they are utilizing other funding such as insurance. Sybesma made a motion to approve Lake Park Schools for \$5278.00 towards Second Step programming. Birkey seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes. Vande Weerd suggested we ask providers to submit invoices as quickly as possible so they are paid in the period allowed.

#### 9. ADJOURN GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING-

Wermersen recapped the meeting. The Sheldon location is not going to happen, a decision needs to be made on what to do with the building in Woodbury County, and the region needs to continue to work together with other regions and providers. Loutsch asked Walter if Siouxland Mental Health knows what the costs are going to be next fiscal year. Walter stated he had not yet had that conversation with them. Mentzer stated there would not be a change in the contract for next year. Vande Weerd made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kass 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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