



SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2021

The Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board met in person and via zoom at 1:30 pm. Those in attendance included: Don Kass, Carl Vande Weerd, Mavis Anema, Lisa Rockhill, Abby Wallin, Beth Will, Shane Walter, Sue Duhn, Sherri Bootsma, Sharon Nieman, Kim Wermersen, Cory Altena, Tammy Bruinsma, William Leupold, Paul Merten, Doug Smit, John Steensma, Ryan Dokter, Jean Drey, Jamsion Van Voorst, Shawn Scholten, Dawn Mentzer, Denise Driesen, Nicolle Eaton, Barry Whitsell, Kasey Fear, Mike Van Otterloo, Mark Sybesma, Tim Schumacher (arrived at 1:35pm) Mark Loutsch joined the meeting at 1:55pm. Kim Keleher joined at 1:58pm.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS-

Wermersen welcomed the group at 1:30 pm and opened the meeting.

2. APPROVE AGENDA-

Vande Weerd made a motion to approve the agenda. Kass seconded the motion. Motion carried all ayes.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 4/29/21 MEETING MINUTES-

Bootsma made a motion to approve the April 29, 2021 minutes. Altena seconded the motion. Motion carried all ayes.

4. FISCAL AGENT REPORT-

Dokter reported on the April financial report. Lyon and Sioux Counties paid their dollars to the regional fund. Ending fund balance is just over 2.8 million dollars. Leupold made motion to approve the fiscal agent report. Vande Weerd seconded the motion. Motion carried all ayes.

5. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS-

Bootsma questioned the old dates of service for some of the bills. Duhn explained those were old attorney fees the region was court ordered to pay. Duhn did explain a letter was sent to the provider telling them to be more prompt with submittal of their invoices going forward. Kass asked why there were no YES Center invoices. Duhn stated all invoices received have been paid. Vande Weerd made a motion to approve the claims as submitted. Bootsma seconded the motion. Motion carried all ayes.

6. CARES DOLLARS-

Walter presented the CARES dollars. Duhn reported the totals requested for each provider. Leupold asked if all the dollars requested are as a direct result of COVID. Walter stated the mental health services could indirectly tie back to COVID. Vande Weerd made motion to approve requests as submitted by staff. Steensma seconded the motion. Motion carried all ayes.



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7. MH ADVOCATE CAR-

Bootsma has taken point on getting a vehicle for the MH Advocate. The dollar amount they are working towards is the mid-twenties. Wallin may keep the car at home, but may not use it to drive to the office, but can take it from her home to where she is going to meet clients, etc. Schumacher questioned how the mileage rates compare to the cost of a car. Walter explained that in about two years the car should be paid for in exchange for the mileage rates. Bootsma made motion to purchase a car. Altena seconded the motion. Wallin mentioned that Care Connections would reimburse for a portion of that car as well. Motion carried all ayes.

8. CRISIS SERVICES UPDATE-

Walter stated the crisis services continue to be worked on. The region will have additional crisis services to be provided in the next fiscal year. Walter is working with providers to continue to seek those services. The mobile crisis summit was held last Friday. A provider talked about crisis services being provided in the community. The MCO are not reimbursing at a level needed for all of those services. The goal is to provide those crisis services throughout the community wherever the crisis is occurring. In conjunction with that, the region continues to have the building in Sioux City.

9. SIOUX CITY BUILDING UPDATE-

Wermersen stated he has been in conversation with Paul Merten, the chair of the Rolling Hills Region. Wermersen and Merten have had conversations about where our regions need to go. There are some Rolling Hills board members that are concerned about owning a building at this time, but at the same time, we own a building that is not in our region that we are not using. The reality is both regions would like to see the building remain to provide the services as they are now. Wermersen states we are working with providers in our region to increase our services within our region. Our region will continue to need to have partnerships with others to have the services we need. Wermersen stated the zoning is being worked on with the provider in Spirit Lake. Hopefully, the services and the zoning will be ready by July 1. Walter stated with regard to the access center we will likely need to have a combination of brick and mortar and virtual to make it happen. Walter is confident we can continue to work with our neighboring regions to make it all happen. Wermersen believes with the state taking the system over, we will really need to work with neighboring regions to make everything happen the way the state wants it done. Schumacher asked which region was interested in purchasing the building in Woodbury County. Wermersen explained the building is in Woodbury County, and Rolling Hills is the region in discussion with potentially purchasing that building. Wermersen asked Eaton to discuss what is going on at the access center. Eaton stated the mobile crisis has been on an increase. The average usage continues to be about the same month after month. Eaton is awaiting the decisions from the regions as much as the regions are looking to make those decisions.

10. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE-

Walter provided a summary of the legislative decision. The senate approved their bill, where it went onto the house and sat for a number of weeks. In the last minute, they finally took it up, and made a compromise. In the end, they all agreed, and it was sitting on the Governor's desk for signature. Walter stated the property taxes that are currently levied would be reset by the Department of Management automatically so that counties do not need to do anything. The levy will be \$21.14. The state will contribute the remaining portion for FY22. The good news is the state has said they will fund, and provided the portion they will fund. The bad news is we have to rely on the state to deliver those dollars. The state will provide a quarterly payment to the regions starting July 1. The fund balance will also continue to decrease each year. The state will create an incentive fund, similar to what we used to call the Risk Pool. Those dollars start at 3 million dollars and would be available for regions to seek additional dollars if they have need. Regions will be responsible to meet certain criteria with performance based contracting. We will have to meet certain criteria to receive the dollars from the state. Penalties will be enforced if we are not achieving those goals. If we have not met, the goals there will need to be a plan in place to achieve those goals. Loutsch asked if the state made any additional core services. Walter stated those continue to be the same as they have set the last two years. We are working with providers to ensure we have the services as required. IRSH is a difficult one, as the MCO's have not yet set a rate, or a duration for the rate. The CEO's continue to work with the MCO's on this. Sioux Rivers does not yet have a plan for sub-acute. We were working with Central Iowa to establish sub-acute in Ft. Dodge, but that fell apart. Therefore, we need to move forward and work towards another plan with the neighboring regions. Vande Weerd asked about the funding for FY22 now that changes have occurred. Once the governor signs it, the region will need to amend the budget and determine how to move forward. Walter stated the staff has already begun discussing the budget changes. Kass asked if mechanically the process would look the same. Walter said the state will provide the dollars, the regions will receive those dollars, and the region will pay those dollars out to the providers. In the future, we will have to shift Fund 10 admin costs into the General fund to pay the staff to reimburse counties for those costs. Walter states this is all contingent on the state providing the dollars. Schumacher asked if Walter had concerns with this funding process. Walter stated he has a lot of trepidation about it. The CEO's lobbied to have some skin in the game, but they opted not to do that. The regions will be dependent on the state to provide the dollars. Schumacher is concerned the next time the state hands it over to the counties, the counties will no longer have a fund balance and it will be much more difficult. Schumacher did state he is trying to be optimistic about this process, and hopes it works for all. Walter did state we need to trust the state is going to provide what they promised. Kass is concerned with the 1.5 percent inflation. Wermersen does believe we need to be optimistic and the counties will figure it out as they always do going forward. We can only do the best that we can with the dollars we are provided.

11. UPDATES-

Neiman reported the Children's Advisory Board was going to meet May 26, but half of the board was going to be gone. Therefore, the meeting has been cancelled. However, Neiman did state there is a training June 2 for service coordinators to learn about children's services and what dollars are out there to be utilized. Because of that training, the audience will be asked what other trainings they would like to have going forward. Walter stated the region has begun to start discussions with schools to discuss the dollars they are receiving to utilize now, with the regions as a partnership, with potential payment of services in the future. Partnerships are going to be key moving forward. Nieman reported the schools have received dollars for mental health services they need to utilize by FY24, but they are like everyone else, they need to know how to sustain the services they start now. Walter likes what has come from those meetings with the schools. The providers have been involved in those meetings as well. The school board in Estherville has approved the proposal that came because of the meetings. The school district will have a provider in the school full time, with that provider working outside of the school for revenue during the summer. Kass reported DHS is doing another study with the schools, and has encouraged board members to encourage their schools to complete that survey. The data being thrown out there right now is from 2019. Wermersen asked Smit to pass on to Scott Witte a Happy Retirement from the Sioux Rivers Board. Smit spoke to the report that was submitted to the board for IPS services. Scholten stated an in person meeting for the Advisory Board would be held next month. Wermersen asked if there were any other provider reports. There was none.

12. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Anema reported on jail diversion. She has been working more with Plymouth County recently. That has been going well. Nieman and Anema made a tour to Harvest Academy. The facility currently has six men. There are good things happening there. They have just created Harvest Movers, as a way to get some additional funding, and allow the men to earn some money while residing there.

13. ADJOURN GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING-

Walter asked the board if the June meeting could be moved to June 29 because of staff vacations. The board agreed to move the next meeting to June 29. Vande Weerd made a motion to adjourn. Altena seconded the motion. Motion carried all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.

Sue Duhn, Secretary



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