

**Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board**  
**Minutes**  
**February 23, 2016**

The Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board Meeting was held Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at the Plymouth County Courthouse Annex Building, 215 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Le Mars, Iowa.

1. Co-Chair Dennis Wright welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Members present: Dennis Wright, Jim Henrich, Mark Sybesma, Shane Walter, David Van Ningen, Julie Albright

Members absent: Matthew Ung, Mark Monson, Mark Loutsch, Mike Wood

Others present: Patty Erickson-Puttmann, Sharon Nieman, Aaron Haverdink, Dennis Butler, Jim Rixner, Jolie Corder, Lisa Wilson, Brittany Stearns, Jaime Holmes, Dayton Vogel, Don Nore, Gary Turbes, Dan Gillette

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 26, 2016 GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING

- A. Motion by Mark Sybesma, second by Jim Henrich to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2016 Board meeting as presented. Carried 2-0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA

- A. Motion by Jim Henrich, second by Mark Sybesma to approve the Agenda as submitted for February 23, 2016. Carried 2-0.

4. CRISIS SERVICES/TELEHEALTH; WORK ALTERNATIVE COMMITTEE; ADVISORY BOARD

- A. Patty Erickson-Puttmann updated on crisis services.
  - I. Brittany Stearns is going to be the program manager for the Assessment and Stabilization Center.
  - II. They will be holding an open house on Monday, February 29<sup>th</sup> from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Brittany has mailed out post cards to some of the providers, hospitals and various agencies who may utilize the facility. Brochures will be passed out to attendees.
  - III. Brittany Stearns introduced herself and shared her background.
  - IV. The Sioux Rivers Assessment and Stabilization Center should be operating by the middle of March.
- B. Patty Erickson-Puttmann is working on getting a package put together for Telehealth and she is now sorting out who is interested in having it.
  - I. Dr. Gillette shared that they are putting together an RFP and will then put out for bids. There are 5 to 6 Telehealth providers active in Iowa.
  - II. One service that is being considered is a Telehealth psychiatrist and therapist available in emergency departments so all of the critical access hospitals could get a consultant on the phone to help them decide if patients need to be admitted to the hospital.
  - III. What the Region pays and what the hospitals pay needs to be negotiated.
- C. David Van Ningen gave an update on Work Alternatives.
  - I. This week there are two sessions training 35 staff members from our region and also the region to the east. These sessions focus on job coaching techniques. In May and June there will be two additional sessions focusing on special techniques for creating jobs and job placement for people with intellectual disabilities.
  - II. They will be meeting with representatives from a marketing firm to begin developing a plan for implementation on the public education aspect of the grant.
  - III. David will be giving a presentation to the Community Services Affiliate at Spring School next month.
- D. The Advisory Board will be meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

5. REPLACEMENT OF REGIONAL ATTORNEY

- A. Craig Bauerly resigned as the Regional Attorney so a replacement is needed.
- B. Shane Walter met with Paul Lundberg, an attorney from Sioux City. Mr. Lundberg has quite a bit of expertise with personnel issues, arbitration and mediation. Mr. Lundberg indicated that he would be more than happy to work with the Region. He would charge on a per diem basis, so there will be no cost to the Region unless his services are utilized.
- C. Jim Henrich asked that a protocol be put in place as to who on the Board can contact this attorney to eliminate the multiple phone calls that the last attorney had to deal with.
- D. A discussion was had among the Board regarding a policy of only allowing the Board Chair or the CEO to contact the attorney.
- E. Jim Henrich motioned to appoint Paul Lundberg as Regional Attorney with a meeting being held between Mark Loutsch, Shane Walter and Mr. Lundberg regarding the protocol of communication with him. Mark Sybesma seconded the motion. Carried 2-0.

6. EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF REGIONAL SUPPORT STAFF

- A. Shane Walter updated the Board on the status of Lisa Wilson, Administrative Assistant/Office Manager and Theresa Jochum, Regional Social Worker.
  - I. The Board voted unanimously back in October to employ them fully with the Region; it failed to be acted upon by Woodbury County.
  - II. In December the Board decided to hire them in another county (Sioux County) if Woodbury County failed to act before the end of the year. Woodbury County did not act and so Sioux County employed them to make certain that these employees were protected and able to continue to perform valuable functions on behalf of the Region.
  - III. They are currently working on how to provide them access in Woodbury County to perform their jobs fully.
  - IV. They were served a notice on Friday that they would be terminated officially from Woodbury County at the Board Meeting tonight.
- B. Lisa handles all of the Regional claims and is certified through ISAC as a CSN Expert User. In addition to these duties, she has also picked up the duties of another full time person who was let go at the end of last year.
- C. Theresa is performing social work duties and is coordinating with the service coordinators. She is working with providers, the State and the MCOs. Her duties include:
  - I. Looking out for the needs of the consumers that are being served in our region.
  - II. Working with the services coordinators to help them do what they need to do on behalf of their respective counties.
  - III. Making sure that the dollars that are being spent to meet the consumers' service needs are dollars that are being spent effectively.
- D. Shane expressed to the **Board** that in the six weeks Theresa has been in the social worker role, she has saved her salary a couple of times over in terms of what it is costing the Region to do business.

7. REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH EXPENDITURES

- A. Motion by Mark Sybesma, second by Jim Henrich to approve the January expenditures as presented. Carried 2-0.

8. FISCAL AGENT REPORT

- A. Shane Walter expressed his appreciation to Dennis Butler for the work he does for the Region.
- B. Dennis Butler presented the Fiscal Agent Reports.
  - I. Fund 110 which is the payroll and administrative budget for Regional employees in Woodbury County and also where taxes are collected. That fund has a balance of \$450,601.01 as of February 14, 2016.
  - II. Fund 720 which is the Regional Fund has a balance of \$5,796,792.79.
- C. Dennis told the Board that they are currently 46% expended. Normally at this time period they would be at 67% expended.

- D. Shane reminded the providers that there are dollars budgeted for provider improvements. He encouraged them to visit with their service coordinators about possible needs because the Region might be able to assist. All improvements would need to go to the Board for approval.
  - E. Motion by Mark Sybesma, second by Jim Henrich to approve the Fiscal Agent reports. Carried 2-0.
9. CEO UPDATE: MEETINGS, STAFF EVALUATIONS, 2017 ANNUAL SERVICE & BUDGET PLAN, HIPAA
- A. Shane has attended a number of meetings in Des Moines working towards getting some legislation changed.
    - I. The Levy Equity Bill (Senate File 2336) is in committee and hopefully will make the Floor. Both the Senate and the House are in support, so it looks promising.
    - II. House File 2040, the Mental Health Advocate Bill, is one they are watching closely.
      - a) A bill was passed last year to make the mental health advocates employees of the counties. Senator Heaton submitted a bill this session to give advocates complete control of their activities which would bring things back to the way it was before the bill was approved last year. They have met with Senator Heaton and suggested some language change in this bill about non-retaliation to advocates for doing their job, but not giving them complete exclusive control. Senator Heaton was receptive. Shane will report back at the next meeting to update on the status of this bill.
  - B. Patty Erickson-Puttmann reported on the status of Iowa Code 812 which deals with confinement of persons found incompetent to stand trial.
    - I. At this time nothing has been seen as far as changes in the language. The language needs to be cleaned up because the Department has taken a lot of latitude as it doesn't specifically say the State pays for it and they are trying to shift the costs to the regions.
    - II. There was a change in the language that went into effect July 1, 2015 that says the regions pay for the mental health evaluations, physician and attorney bills for mental health commitments. Judge Andreasen adhered to this legislation and has now changed his orders to say that the county is responsible to pay the substance abuse commitment evaluations and attorney fees. Now there is a definitive break where the region is responsible for one and the county is responsible for the other.
  - C. Shane reported that staff evaluations are completed.
  - D. Shane informed the Board that the 2017 Annual Service & Budget Plan is due to be submitted April 1, so it will need to be approved at the March Board Meeting
    - I. He is working with the service coordinators to get their input.
    - II. It is a two part plan that talks about what has been accomplished in the Region and the hopes of what needs to be accomplished next year.
    - III. He will have it assembled and will forward to Board members to review prior to the next meeting.
  - E. Shane is currently working on HIPAA policies for the Region.
    - I. The Region has adopted the Sioux County HIPAA policies on an interim basis so that the Region has something to go on.
    - II. He is working right now with a company that specializes in HIPAA compliancy; the same company that Sioux County uses. This company will help the Region with HIPAA training, compliancy and help with auditing.
    - III. The cost of the agency services is \$3,000 per year. The stakes are higher now. IHH has begun to audit counties and entities and the fines that have been levied in some places have been upwards of a million dollars.
  - F. Shane reminded the providers that the Region approved a 3 ½% increase in rates this coming fiscal year.
    - I. He will be getting out an addendum to the contracts that providers and the Chair will need to sign.
    - II. The mental health centers will be treated differently. They will need to be looked at independently. The Region approved enhanced Medicaid rates last year.
  - G. Shane reported that the Friendship House is going strong in Woodbury County, Plymouth County has The Meeting Place and now Sioux County is going to start a program.
    - I. Aaron Haverdink reported that Hope Haven is going to start a peer support drop- in center on Tuesday nights in Hawarden at a church where they have arranged space.
      - a) They can accommodate up to 10 individuals.
      - b) Consumers can come and go. They will receive education and support.
      - c) They are hoping to replicate this drop-in center in other towns in Sioux County as well.

- H. The Creative Living Center is looking at going into the schools and hopefully the jail.
- I. Sharon Nieman has been contacting the school system in Plymouth County to inquire about what type of services they might need.
- J. Patty spoke about Woodbury County's current summer school program for disabled students so they don't regress during the summer months.
  - I. They are looking at getting that program in Plymouth and Sioux Counties as well.
  - II. It has been approved for funding and is in this year's budget.
- K. Patty shared with the Board that a meeting with Judge Neary has been scheduled on March 4. Judge Neary has expressed an interest and willingness to replicate the Mental Health Court in both Plymouth and Sioux Counties.

10. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Motion by Jim Henrich, second by Mark Sybesma to adjourn the Governance Board Meeting. Carried 2-0.

*Julie L. Albright*

Julie Albright, Secretary

**Approved by Board: 03/22/16**