



SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020

O'BRIEN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, PRIMGHAR

The Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board members met on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. at the Assembly Room of the O'Brien County Courthouse in person with the regional staff members. The other attendees attended via Zoom. Those in attendance included: Mark Loutsch, Carl Vande Weerd, Mark Sybesma, Don Kass, Jerry Birkey, Mark Behrens, Sherri Bootsma, John Steensma, Kim Wermersen, William Leupold, Shane Walter, Lisa Rockhill, Beth Will, Sue Duhn, Mavis Anema, Sharon Nieman, Ryan Dokter, Shawn Scholten, Jason Bergsma, Jamison Van Voorst, Denise Driesen, Scott Witte, Sara Jackson, Justin Jacobsma, Debra Brodersen, Nicky Eaton, Janelle Hultquist, Janie Baird, Tricia Driesen, Kim Keleher, Barry Whitsell, and Jay Ricke.

1. Chairman Loutsch welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Loutsch requested those on the zoom call to speak up if they had a no vote. Loutsch informed the group if nothing was heard he would assume they were in favor of any motion.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA-**
Loutsch informed the Governance Board the FY2022 Budget Work Meeting on the agenda had been removed. The Budget session would be rescheduled when all members could be present in person. Loutsch asked for a motion to approve the agenda with the revision requested. Leupold made the motion to approve the agenda. Bootsma seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES-**
Loutsch asked for a motion to approve the August 2020 board minutes. Kass made the motion to approve the minutes. Wermersen seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.
4. **FISCAL AGENT REPORT AND EXPENDITURES-**
Dokter presented the August and September month end fiscal agent reports. O'Brien and Sioux Counties put fund balance retainers into the accounts. The CARES Revenue/Expenditures are not reported in the monthly reports provided. Dokter reported on the expenditures so far for the CARES dollar through September 2020. The CARES dollars are treated as a separate accounting. Behrends made a motion to approve the report. Vande Weerd seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.
5. **SIoux RIVERS FY19 AUDIT REPORT-**
Jacobsma, with Williams & Company, gave a report on the FY19 audit. An adverse opinion was given on page five due to significant liabilities not being disclosed. This is because they are disclosed at the county level. Going forward, the audit will look different, as Woodbury County will no longer be included in the region. Sybesma made the motion to approve the report. Steensma seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

6. UPDATE ON RFP PROCESS/CARES ACT-

Walter gave an update on the CARES Dollars. The first round of CARES dollars were approved by the Governance Board already. The second round grants were accepted. Walter discussed the criteria for the awarding of grant dollars. The need has to be with regard to Covid and mental health needs. The staff is recommending approval of the second round of grants based on those criteria. Walter stated the intention is to spend all of the money by the middle of December if possible. Wermersen made a motion to approve the second round of grant dollars per the staff recommendations. Behrends seconded the motion. Sybesma complemented the staff and the providers on their work. Walter emphasized it really was a team effort. Hearing no further discussion, motion carried with all ayes.

7. EMMET COUNTY REQUEST TO JOIN SIOUX RIVERS-

Loutsch told the Governance Board that Emmet County submitted a letter to the Sioux Rivers Board on October 6, 2020 requesting acceptance into the Sioux Rivers Region effective July 1, 2021. A resolution was also included from Emmet County to withdraw from the County Social Services Region. Loutsch read the letter and the resolution. Walter reported that all of the West Counties (Cerro Gordo, Webster, and Wright) have requested acceptance into CICS Region and were accepted by them. Humbolt and Pocahontas Counties will likely be accepted into Rolling Hills Region. NWIACC had talked about accepting Hancock into their region effective July 1, 2021. That leave Emmet County to join a new region. Emmet County would like to join Sioux Rivers. Walter visited with the Emmet County Board last month and when they made the decision to request acceptance into Sioux Rivers. Walter and the staff believe that Emmet County will be a good fit for Sioux Rivers. They have a provider, Forest Ridge, which will position us very well for the future of children's services. Walter shared the expenditures last year were around \$89,000 and the revenue was roughly \$282,000. The service coordinator in Emmet County shares multiple counties right now within CSS. Therefore, there will be no additional personnel coming into the region. Walter does not believe that Emmet County had talked with NWIACC. The service providers in Emmet County are the same as those in Sioux Rivers already. Behrends asked if counties would continue to change regions. Walter believes the unrest will start slowing down and counties will start staying where they are now. Vande Weerd questioned if we could continue to provide the hands on support to our clients that we have been. Walter assured the Board that we could continue this. Wermersen made a motion to accept Emmet County into Sioux Rivers Region effective July 1, 2021. Kass seconded the motion. Walter will email a resolution to each of the member counties to have it put on their county board agendas. Behrends asked about the county representation going forward with the six counties and having two board members per county. Walter clarified this is really a board decision and suggested the board discuss it at a future meeting. The 28E would need to be adjusted if changes were made. There may be a need to look at a new meeting location in the future. Hearing no additional discussion. Motion carried with all ayes.



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8. PROVIDER UPDATES-

Adult Advisory Board-Scholten presented information about the Adult Advisory Board. They met September 16, 2020. This was the first in person meeting since Covid. They talked about application ideas for Covid, a children's advisory report was given, they looked at a children's mental health survey, an update on the ARC summer program was given, they discussed the aging ID population, they discussed the aging MI population and loss of habilitation funded services at age 65, they discussed concern for people in RCF's and the desire to keep this issue in front of the group. The next meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2020. This may need to be changed due to the meeting place being closed again due to Covid.

Children's Advisory board-Nieman presented on the group. They did not meet in October. Walter and Nieman met with Forest Ridge last week. Forest Ridge presented in front of the state board to extend the girls PMIC. That was granted to them last Wednesday. This is a much-needed service in our area. This will keep kids closer to home. They will need to do some remodeling on a floor, so it will be a little bit down the road, but exciting to see this addition. They are looking at some adult transition services for kids out of their shelters and their PMIC's. At 17 ½ they can move into habilitation-funded homes, and are looking at better transition of the kids. BHIS is provided in that area and will go out into the community. It is nice to have those services available.

Mobile Crisis-no update-on a crisis call

ITP-Ricke shared an update. One inmate in the Lyon County jail was seen in September. ITP also provides services to the Emmet County jail. Therefore, that should be a seamless process. They are currently working to finalize some credentialing for hospital.

IPS-Witte shared information regarding the IPS grant. The IPS program has received three new referrals. Two of the three are being interviewed for jobs today. Currently have an active caseload 1.5 FTE staff, of 33 clients active on their caseloads. Seventy-four members have been served thus far across the two regions. Forty-nine people have obtained employment. Some of them have received multiple employment placements. This is an unduplicated total. Nineteen are currently employed in Sioux Rivers. Iowa Medicaid and Vocational Rehab have agreed to reconstruct the funding structures. As of July 1, 2020, it has moved to an outcome-based program. The state would like to see IPS expanded through other parts of Iowa. Sioux Rivers is on the cutting edge of this.

Integrated Employment Grant-Witte presented on this grant. Life Skills Training Center and Hope Haven were included in that grant for FY20. It was a one-year grant before bringing in Dickinson and O'Brien Counties this year with Village NW. The board was presented with a report of FY20 outcomes and person



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served. The three categories of employment include group-integrated employment, individual integrated employment, and combined data.

My Choice-Witte presented on My Choice Employment. This program started about eight years ago. It appeared back then that the sheltered work would be dwindling and no longer be an option in the state of Iowa. September 1, 2013 the program started. The chart Witte presented shows the yearly anniversary of the program and the statistics of that program each year as it has grown.

ASC-Eaton presented on the crisis center. The assessment numbers are low. Eaton believes it is because people are just not going out. Eaton has been doing advertising to discuss their services. They are going to the Health and Wellness Fair, with approximately 300 people in attendance, with a plan to share about their services. It will be held this coming Thursday. Eaton has looked at some bids for radio advertising. This could be paid through the CARES dollars if we geared the radio ads towards Covid and mental health for those advertising needs.

Access Center-Eaton presented on the access center. Rolling Hills, Sioux Rivers, and NWIACC are looking at having a virtual and a physical model within the regions. The virtual model is looking at Plains Area Mental Health to guide them in this venture for mental health and substance abuse services. Also looking at expanding the access center to have sub-acute bed availability at the current center. The surveyor has the boundary line and elevation and Eaton is not too concerned about that. She is more concerned about the stream that is under the ground. The surveyor said they would need an engineer to do that survey. The property to the South ran into this as well (the funeral home next door). They did still build there, so it still may be a possibility to build. She met with the Northwest Iowa Sheriff Departments to let them know what services the access center could provide to them. Seasons Center was also included in these conversations to be involved in the NWIACC region to make the project work.

ACT-No report

IRSH-No report

Jail Diversion-Anema reported on jail diversion. It has been a busy month in September. There are a few bugs to be worked out, but overall things are going well.

9. REGIONAL WEBSITE AND MARKETING-

Walter reports that we are working on updating the website and the brochures and other marketing materials. The goal is to utilize some of the CARES dollars to do this. We want the website to be fully functional and accessible to people. The website should be user friendly. The goal is to have it done in the next month or so. Will brought the crisis cards to share with the board members for both adult and children.



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10. GENERAL DISCUSSION-

Kass said there is a meeting scheduled with the YES Center and the Access Center for future transportation needs. Forest Ridge is not a contracted provider, but it is the goal to get a contract with them in the future especially as they come into our region. Drivers are a need for the YES Center. If you know anyone that wants to drive, especially retired law enforcement, the demand is there. Drivers are hard to find.

11. ADJOURN-

Hearing no further discussion Loutsch adjourned the meeting at 2:50pm.

12. FY2022 BUDGETING WORK MEETING-This item was removed from the agenda by Chairman Loutsch before the agenda was approved.

Sue Duhn, Secretary

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

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