



## SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

### GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022

The Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board met in person and via zoom at 1:30pm. Those in attendance in person or by zoom include: Sue Duhn, Beth Will, Lisa Rockhill, Carl Vande Weerd, Janice Hill (Life Skills), Mark Sybesma, Brittney Funston, Jerry Birkey, Don Kass, Dennis Vanden Hull, Sharon Nieman, Kim Wermersen, Kim Keleher, Mavis Anema, Shane Walter, Ryan Dokter, Mike Van Otterloo, Tammy Bruinsma, Tim Overmire, Tim Schumacher, Kasey Fear, Christina Eggink-Postma, Barry Whitsell, Mike Reynolds, Jason Bergsma, Denise Driesen, John Pluth, William Leupold (joined at 1:40pm). Mark Loutsch joined at 1:55pm. Wallin joined at 2:20pm.

#### 1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS-**

Wermersen called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. The Governance Board members made introductions to the new members on the board.

#### 2. **APPROVE AGENDA-**

Wermersen asked for General Assistance per capita item to be added to the agenda. Vande Weerd made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Birkey seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

#### 3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 12/21/21 MEETING MINUTES-**

Kass made a motion to approve the December 21, 2021 minutes. Vanden Hull seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

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

Dokter reported on the December financial report. Several counties paid their property tax portion. The month of December ended financially about the same as it started. Vande Weerd made a motion to approve the fiscal agent report. Schumacher seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

#### 5. **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS-**

Schumacher asked about Seasons Center and the dollars spent there. Duhn reported the costs were July through December 2021 ACT night and weekend costs the Governance Board approved last month. Kass asked about Dordt University (Thrive Center). Anema explained this was the Thrive Center, which provides services to clients. Currently there is one person being regionally funded at Dordt. Van Otterloo made a motion to approve the claims as submitted. Pluth seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

#### 6. **GENERAL ASSISTANCE PER CAPITA-**

Walter discussed the per capita request for General Assistance services. Walter is suggesting \$.35 per capita. This affects Lyon, Plymouth, and Dickinson counties. This will be an expense for the counties to the region. The county will contract with the region for the administration costs. This per capita will be tweaked because of time studies throughout the year. Birkey asked if a vote by the Governance Board

would commit his county. Walter confirmed this was not the case. Kass made a motion to approve the per capita amount. Birkey seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes. Wermersen suggested each member go back to their counties and ask if the county would be asking for rent space within their buildings to provide that General Assistance duty. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

**7. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS-**

Walter explained that at this time each year we appoint officers for this Governance Board. Pluth nominated Wermersen to continue as chair of the Governance Board. Kass seconded the nomination. Kass moved nominations cease. Van Otterloo seconded. The motion carried with all ayes. Van Otterloo nominated Kass as Vice Chair. Vanden Hull seconded the nomination. Vande Weerd moved nominations cease. The motion carried with all ayes. Kass nominated to approve Duhn as secretary. Vande Weerd seconded the motion. Vanden Hull moved nominations cease. The motion carried with all ayes. Van Otterloo asked what the bylaws were for appointment of officers. Walter stated at this point, it is yearly nominations. Walter explained the by-laws could be changed when the management plan is updated in the future if the Governance Board so chooses to do so.

**8. PROVIDER FUNDING REQUESTS-**

Will presented a proposal from the Spirit Lake Schools. Spirit Lake Schools would like a behavioral specialist in their schools. The behavioral specialist will act as a social worker in the schools to connect them to services and provide services for behavioral needs. Birkey asked if the region could afford this going forward. Walter believes we certainly can this year. Walter states that because of our strategic plan we need to learn to listen to what our schools need. This school proposal is a result of that. Van Otterloo asked for clarification on when the dollars start. Will confirmed this is startup money to get the program jump started, and then the school will use grant money to fund going forward. Sybesma asked if money is being spent in other schools too for therapists. Schumacher sees this as wheels on the ground, and a way to approach all of our districts in the region. Will confirmed she believes this is the direction the schools are headed. Schools are starting to have conversations about mental health and the impact it has on education. Walter believes we need to invest in our kids, families, and schools. Van Otterloo asked if we have the money to do this in other schools. Birkey asked if we would continue to fund Creative Living to go into the schools. Walter said if the schools want Creative Living in their schools they can continue to do so. The goal going forward is to listen to the schools and providers better with what they need and not what the region thinks they need. Nieman stated this position is another option to assist schools. Kass asked why they needed the money if they were getting a grant and if they would even be able to find someone to hire. Will explained this is start-up money until the grant kicks in. Funston asked if this was just for the high school in Spirit Lake. Will confirmed at this time they have similar services in the lower levels. Kass made motion to allocate \$70,000 with the stipulation the school hire someone by June 30, 2022. Funston seconded the motion. Vande Weerd asked if the motion should not include this as a pilot program. Kass amended his motion to include a pilot program of allocation up to \$70,000 with the



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stipulation the school will hire someone by June 30, 2022 or funding will be withdrawn. Funston agreed to the amended motion. Van Otterloo would like this to be an equal opportunity to all schools after the pilot ends. Birkey asked if all schools were eligible for the GEARS grant. If the schools are willing to do the work they can likely be eligible for the grant. Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness (GEAR grant) is the acronym. This is a grant through the State Department of Education. The motion carried with all ayes.

Whitsell, with Village Northwest Unlimited, asked for a grant of \$10,550.92 to Village Northwest to train nurses and direct support staff in emergency medical services. The request also provides information on mental fatigue in dealing with Covid in staff and clients as homes as most have been in quarantine in their homes. Sybesma made a motion to approve the requested dollars at \$10,550.92. Vanden Hull seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes. Vande Weerd asked about the Creative Living marketing request. Walter confirmed this has not yet been addressed as the staff are discussing marketing across the region.

#### 9. STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE-

Walter stated the draft strategic action plan is in the board packet for the board to review. Additional work will continue as we move forward on working towards those goals. Rockhill states it has been a positive experience working with Beth on the plan. Rockhill stated the staff have scheduled a meeting for March 24, 2022 to begin the double bottom line portion of the plan. Wermersen asked if anyone on the board would like to be a part of the team for the double bottom line. Wermersen asked what it is we expect from that as he wants to assure we are getting something that we need going forward. Kass asked the service coordinators if things are getting better because of the original strategic plan. Anema does not believe there has been much change. Anema believes there is communication but does not always feel it is open and it is one sided. Nieman said we are doing what we have always done and things have not changed because it is still a working document. Some policies and procedures have been done. They are a work in progress. Rockhill confirmed this is a work in process and believes we have made progress towards that. Wallin said it is a good process but is not sure what the result is at this point. Will believes we need to start listening to our providers more. Kass asked what Keleher's opinion was of the strategic plan. Kass asked if we have been seeing results. Keleher believes the implementation goals need to be developed along with those action steps. Kass is more concerned with people working together going forward than he is about spending the money. Walter stated to be fair we have only been working on the strategic plan for the last few months and things take time. Walter did state he had appointments this week with some providers. Rockhill said some of what is being asked is not reliant on the strategic plan. Sybesma made motion to approve the strategic plan. Kass seconded the motion. Vanden Hull believes the planning process was great. Sybesma wants to remember we need to celebrate our successes. Van Otterloo would like an update on where this is going and what the results are going forward. The motion carried with all ayes. The first meetings for the double bottom line are scheduled for March 24 from 10-12 and 2-4. Wermersen asked if anyone on the board wanted to be involved to communicate with him and he would communicate with the staff who that would be.

**10. FY23 BUDGET UPDATE-**

Walter stated the staff started working on the FY23 budget Monday. The staff discussed must haves (mandated services) and what the staff would like to see funded. Some of that is up in the air as we wait for the numbers needed to plug into the budget, the mandated costs. Walter stated we would like to have a transitional living home that we can place individuals that have no place to go. Often the current living situation refuses to take them back, and they are stuck at an emergency room with no place to go. They are not eligible for a crisis center. We need to have a provider that is willing to provide the services. We have a desire to have an access center within our region. That takes a facility, a provider, and resolving zoning issues. Van Otterloo asked when we would see a proposed budget. Walter stated the proposed budget would be provided to the Governance Board next meeting. Sybesma asked if we could hold dollars back from selling the building. Walter stated we are allowed to hold funds back if we have a contract to provide services going forward. Walter stated he looked at a building yesterday in Alton. Walter believes it has a lot of potential and is affordable. Van Otterloo stated it is all about communicating that information to the board members so the Governance Board knows what is being worked on.

**11. COUNTY RENT EXPENSES-**

This item was tabled to allow members to go back to their counties to discuss what the counties would like to do with regard to charging rent.

**12. UPDATE ON REGIONAL POLICIES-**

Walter provided a draft set of policies to the Governance Board. Going forward with the new system, the policies need to be updated. Walter hopes to have final copies for the Governance Board to approve at the next Governance Board meeting. The current policies are on the Sioux Rivers website. The blank pages with headings are still being developed at this point.

**13. GENERAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES-**

Keleher wanted to give a shout out to all of the residential providers and all the issues they have had to deal with Covid. Eggink-Postma provided an updated on community based crisis services. Seasons is currently in the process of hiring. Eggink-Postma asked if additional provider requests would be entertained going forward. Walter confirmed those that have been submitted are still being reviewed.

Mike Reynolds discussed a meeting held with members in Emmet County with regard to needs in their community. Emmet County is providing numbers to Roscrance Jackson to determine if an office could be opened in Emmet County and be supported with those numbers. A continued conversation will occur with the individuals in Emmet County. Office space was discussed as being held within the courthouse.



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There are other options within the community. Roscrance Jackson is interested in doing something in that county, but must first determine if they can make a go of it. Reynolds also discussed staffing as an issue going forward in opening a site. Reynolds did state they are looking at doing some telehealth services to get started, but Emmet County really wants face-to-face interaction. Keleher does have a MAT provider in Spirit Lake and is ready to take referrals. Opioid addictions is her specialty.

Nieman stated the quarterly Children's Advisory meeting was last week. Kim Scorza presented on the Crittenton Center. A discussion was held regarding detention vs. mental health for kids at the Advisory meeting. It was determined that many kids are inappropriately placed, but that is the best that can be done for them at the time. Everyone understands that more crisis services for kids are needed, but again, staffing is an issue. Age appropriate programming continues to be discussed within that group. Kass confirmed the YES Center has discussed additional crisis services at Cherokee, but they cannot get past the institutional hurdle.

#### 14. **ADJOURN GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING-**

Sybesma made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:10pm. Van Otterloo seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

Sue Duhn, Secretary

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

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