



## SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

### GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021

The Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board met via zoom meeting at 1:30pm. Members present: Carl Vande Weerd, Don Kass, Mark Loutsch, Sue Duhn, Abby Wallin, Sherri Bootsma, Mavis Anema, Shane Walter, Beth Will, Kim Wermersen, Heather Fitzgerald, Sharon Nieman, Cory Altena, Ryan Dokter, Paul Merten, Linda Schofield, Jerry Birkey, John Steensma, Deb Brodersen, Jason Bergsma, Bill Leupold, Sheila Martin, Scott Witte, Denise Driesen, Nicolle Eaton, Mike Van Otterloo, Jamison Van Voorst, Rich Ruggles, Dawn Mentzer, Christina Eggink-Postma, Mark Sybesma, Brenda Langstraat-Janish. Tammy Bruinsma entered meeting at 1:38pm.

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS-**

Wermersen welcomed the group to the meeting.

**2. APPROVE AGENDA-**

Bootsma made a motion to approve the agenda. Kass seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

**3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 2/4/21 MEETING MINUTES-**

Steensma made a motion to approve the February 4, 2021 minutes. Leupold seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

**4. FISCAL AGENT REPORT-**

Dokter presented the fiscal agent report. Dokter reported on the expenditures and revenues for January 2021. CARES dollars are not included in the financial report. Sybesma made motion to accept the report. Bootsma seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

**5. CRISIS SERVICES UPDATE-**

Wermersen, Kass, and Walter have been meeting with different providers regarding crisis services. Wermersen stated he received a call from Paul Mertens, Rolling Hills Chair. Mertens told Wermersen that Rolling Hills would extend an offer of \$325,000 for the building in Sioux City. Wermersen expressed with Mertens that the Sioux Rivers board would not accept an offer lower than \$400,000. Wermersen did discuss with Walter the need for an official appraisal on the property in Sioux City. Wermersen asked the board for discussion regarding the building. Bootsma and Kass stated they believe the offer is too low. Walter stated the assessed value is \$499,000, though that does not mean it is market value. Wermersen believes this is why an appraisal is important. Leupold asked where our clients would go if we end up selling the building in Sioux City. Walter stated the goal is to establish some services in our region, as well as the hope to continue using the building in Sioux City. Walter hopes that if Rolling Hills buys the building that services could continue there. Walter stated he would like to see the program in Sioux City remain with the hope of contracting some services from Rolling Hills at that location. Walter stated he, and other CEO's have been working with the Central Iowa Region to put together an access center in Fort Dodge.

Walter stated the region could then look at contracting for sub-acute services there. At this point, it is all just conversation, but it looks promising. There is a meeting next week with area CEO's to discuss the Central Iowa services. Loutsch asked what it would cost to get the appraisal done on that building in Sioux City. Kass guessed it would be around one thousand dollars. Kass made motion to proceed with the process of selling the building in Sioux City. Altena seconded the motion. Wermersen asked for any additional discussion. Kass reminded the board the member counties will need to each vote as some point to sell that building. Walter has also reached out to a real estate attorney to assist with the process. Sybesma clarified that this it is the intent to sell the building, and then the board can decide a selling price moving forward. The motion carried with all ayes. Leupold made a motion to get an appraisal on the building. Steensma seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes. Wermersen will respond to Mertens at Rolling Hills to let him know where the region is at this point.

**6. BUDGET UPDATE-**

Wermersen thanked the staff for their work on the budgeting process. Wermersen and Kass joined the staff in their staff meeting this week and worked with the staff in the budgeting process. Walter shared the approach to the budgeting process. Walter assured the group that it has been careful and prescriptive to serve the clients the best they can be with the dollars allowed. He shared the staff will be looking at mental health centers and block grants this next week. The ultimate goal is to have the budget approved at the March meeting. Altena asked if the "left-over" money could be used in next fiscal year. Walter confirmed that any money that remains would carry over into the next year. The region will need to be at 40% fund balance by next year. Walter explained that many of the services are paid quarterly, and are past service dates, so the current percentage remaining is not necessarily a clear picture. It is possible the region will actually dip into the fund balance from last year. Loutsch asked if the influx of money from selling the building would affect the fund balance right away. Walter says there may be a way to in cumber that, but he would need to look into that more. Regardless, we do not need to be at the 40% fund balance until next year. He also stated that we have crisis services to pay for, as well as children's services going forward which will cost additional dollars. At this point, our levy is at the maximum. Walter did add that each county had been asked to levy at the maximum, and that the administrative costs have been set at each county. The rest of the budget is what is being worked on now. Wermersen asked for any additional information and comments from the group. Kass did also state the Governor is talking about giving regions 15 million dollars, but it is unknown yet where those dollars will go. Birkey said when he tried pressuring one of his representatives; the response he received was that Sioux Rivers has over 2 million dollars, which is 133% of their fund balance. Walter confirmed that is not the case. Covid dollars were in that total as well. Will also wanted to let everyone know that she has been working with County Social Services to get their expenditures/revenues from Emmet County going forward.



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**7. UPDATES: ADULT ADVISORY BOARD, CHILDREN'S ADVISORY, PROVIDER UPDATES-**

Nieman said the next meeting of the Adult Advisory Board would not be until June. The goal is to meet in person at that meeting. Nieman updated the group on the Children's Advisory Board. Nieman stated there is a list out there that identifies Service Coordinators for children. Those coordinators will meet as a group on March 2, 2021. There are 18 coordinators. The hope is that this will be a monthly meeting to get everyone together to talk about services going forward. Witte commented on the employment alternatives grant. Duhn had previously sent those via email to the board members. Witte stated that Village Northwest, as well as Dickinson and O'Brien Counties were added since July 1, 2020. Witte is excited about the job growth as well as the number of people that are getting jobs especially due to the current Covid mess. Duhn will email the board the IPS update later today.

**8. GENERAL DISCUSSION-**

No further discussion.

**9. ADJOURN GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING-**

Leupold made motion to adjourn. 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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