

Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board
Minutes
December 22, 2015

The Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board Meeting was held Tuesday, December 22, 2015 at the Plymouth County Courthouse Annex Building, 215 4th Avenue SE, Le Mars, Iowa.

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

Members present: Dennis Wright, Mark Loutsch, Jim Henrich, Mark Sybesma, Matthew Ung, Mike Wood, Shane Walter, Julie Albright.

Members absent: Mark Monson, David Van Ningen.

Others present: Patty Erickson-Puttmann, Sharon Nieman, Aaron Haverdink, Dennis Butler, Patrick Schmitz, Jim Rixner, Shawn Scholten, Nate Vander Plaats, Jamie Modicue, Gary Turbes, Timm Banks, Cindy Moser, Allyson Dirksen, Don Nore, Oscar Fewins, Jolie Corder, Joshua Widman, Ed Gilliland, Anne Rust.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 24, 2015 MEETING

- a. Motion by Mark Sybesma, second by Mark Loutsch to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2015 Board meeting as presented. Carried 3-0.

3. CRISIS SERVICES AND TELEHEALTH UPDATE

- a. Patty Erickson-Puttmann reported that the crisis services building is moving along as far as construction. The appliances are now being added.
- b. Jim Rixner reported on the staffing issues and changing the opening date of the crisis center.
 - i. They will be filling up staff throughout January.
 - ii. Late January, they will start training and will continue to train into mid-February, opening the doors at the end of February.
 - iii. Staff has already been hired on the medical side.
- c. Dr. Gillette was not in attendance at the meeting. Patty reported that he has had communications from two different telehealth firms. They are looking into which of those firms would best fit the needs of the crisis center.

4. WORK ALTERNATIVE GROUP

- a. Jolie Corder reported that the Work Alternative Group has not met since the last regional meeting.
 - i. David Van Ningen did report at the last legislative meeting.
 - ii. Training is being organized for the Sioux Rivers Region along with the Northwest Iowa Care Connection Region for two days in January and February.
 - iii. The first training will involve job development. The second training is job coaching through APSE.

5. ADVISORY BOARD

- a. Aaron Haverdink spoke on the provider negotiation process.
 - i. Unless a provider has a specific rate issue that is brought to the Board, there will be a 3½% increase for all of the providers currently providing regionally funded services.
- b. All providers in attendance agreed that the 3½% increase was sufficient and they did not feel at this time that negotiations were necessary.
- c. The Advisory Board is also working on outcomes and tracking with providers; working with neighboring regions to make sure that the Region's data is up to date so that it can be reported to the State when the time comes.
- d. Currently working on dates for early 2016 to hold public meetings in each county to allow input from agencies, consumers and family members.
- e. Motion by Matthew Ung, second by Mark Loutsch to receive the Advisory Board minutes. Carried 3-0.

- f. Motion by Mark Sybesma, second by Jim Henrich, to accept the Advisory Board’s suggestion to not negotiate rates individually with providers and accept the 3½% increase for all of those providers who are regionally funded. Carried 3-0.

6. FY17 BUDGET REVIEW/APPROVAL

- a. Shane Walter reported that the budget was sent out to Board members in the format that Woodbury County had requested.
- b. Matthew Ung thanked the team for formatting the budget to accommodate Woodbury County.
- c. Jim Henrich made the motion to approve the budget.
- d. Matthew Ung asked that the motion be changed to “recommend”.
- e. Matthew Ung seconded the motion.
- f. A discussion was had among Board members and attendees as to whether or not the Board has the authority to approve the budget.
- g. Dennis Wright questioned if it should be approved at this meeting or if it has to go back to the county boards.
- h. Shane Walter stated that the Governance Board does have the right to approve the budget and Mark Sybesma reiterated, saying that the signed 28E agreement gives the Board that authority.
- i. Roll Call Vote: Sioux – Yes; Woodbury – Yes; Plymouth – Yes. Carried 3-0
- j. Patty Erickson-Puttmann clarified with Dennis Wright that the budget was approved and Mark Sybesma concurred.
- k. The budget will be brought back to the county boards so that it can be a part of their local budgets.

7. FY17 REGIONAL STAFF SALARIES RESOLUTION

- a. Shane Walter presented to the Board the 2015-02 Salary Resolution F16/FY17.
 - i. Each employee listed on the Resolution is paid with regional dollars. The Resolution recognizes what the Region has been paying regional employees for FY16, with a three percent increase for FY17.
 - ii. The salaries listed are included in the regional budget, which has already been approved.
- b. A discussion was had among Board members as to whether the governing board can approve salaries based on the signed 28E.
- c. Mark Sybesma moved to approved Resolution 2015-02. Dennis Wright seconded the motion. Carried 2-1 (Woodbury County opposed).

8. RESOLUTION TO SUSTAIN REGIONAL STAFF IN WOODBURY COUNTY THROUGH THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR

- a. Shane Walter presented Resolution 2015-03 to sustain regional staff salaries for the remainder of FY16.
 - i. The Resolution advocates to maintain staff and to sustain their salaries to what has been budgeted and approved.
- b. A discussion was had regarding the Board members and attendees as to whether the regional board can set salaries based on the 28E.
 - i. Ed Gilliland expressed his thoughts regarding employees being employed by an individual county and that the county is in charge of payroll, personnel and benefits.
 - ii. Shane Walter shared that the Resolution advocates for the staff, whose jobs are intimately involved with the Region, who are responsible to the Regional Board and supervised directly by the CEO.
 - iii. Patrick Schmitz, Jim Rixner and Nate Vander Plaats all spoke of their concerns regarding the Regional Board and the future of the Region.
- c. Mark Sybesma motioned to approve Resolution 2015-3, second by Mark Loutsch. Carried 2-1 (Woodbury County opposed).

9. DISCUSSION REGARDING WOODBURY COUNTY REGIONAL STAFF POSITIONS.

- a. Dennis Wright reviewed the status of the regional social worker and administrative assistant/office manager positions in Woodbury County.
 - i. At the October 27th Governance Board meeting, the Board voted unanimously to have the Region fully fund the two positions.

- ii. The positions were brought before the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors on November 10th, where they failed to be approved.
 - iii. At the November 24th Governance Board meeting Mark Monson agreed to put the two positions back on the Woodbury County Board of Supervisor's agenda, but to date that has not come to fruition.
- b. A discussion was held among Board members and attendees regarding Sioux County becoming the employer of record for the two positions on January 4, 2016, only if necessary, because the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors does not accept them as 100% regionally funded Woodbury County employees.
- i. Concerns were raised regarding the access and the ability to pay Regional claims in the Woodbury County system.
 - ii. Suggestions were made to defer the decision on the positions until March 1, 2016.
- c. Mark Sybesma made the motion that, if necessary, in order to provide continued service to individual clients, the Board recommends that Sioux County become the employer of record for the two positions. Second by Mark Loutsch. Carried 2-1 (Woodbury County opposed).

10. DISCUSSION REGARDING BUILDINGS, EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES

- a. The Governance Board and also the Woodbury County Board had asked Dennis Butler to look into the issue.
- b. Dennis Butler stated that he contacted the State Auditor's office and they would not offer an opinion because they felt it was a legal question.

11. WAIVER WAITING LIST

- a. Shane Walter referenced Iowa Code Chapter 225C.6B which states specifically that for consumers on the waiver waiting list, the regions are responsible to pick up interim services.

12. REGIONAL EXPENDITURES

- a. All regional expenditures have been reviewed by Dennis Wright and Shane Walter
- b. Motion by Mark Loutsch, second by Mark Sybesma to approve the regional expenditures presented. Carried 3-0.

13. FISCAL AGENT REPORT

- a. Dennis Butler presented the Fund 720 report which showed a balance of \$6,583,819.26.
- b. Dennis reported that all three counties have made their balance transfers.
- c. Woodbury and Sioux counties have paid their taxes; Plymouth County has not.
 - i. Mark Loutsch agreed to talk to Plymouth County regarding this issue.

14. OTHER COMMENTS

- a. Mike Wood wished the Board and attendees a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year on behalf of the consumers of Sioux Rivers and his hope that some of the turmoil will look brighter in the coming year.

15. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Motion by Mark Sybesma, second by Mark Loutsch to adjourn the meeting. Carried 3-0.

Julie L. Albright

Julie Albright, Secretary

Approved by Board: 1.26.2016