



SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020

ZOOM MEETING

The Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board members met via zoom Tuesday, December 22, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. Those in attendance included: Mavis Anema, Sue Duhn, Doug Smit, Jason Bergsma, Mark Loutsch, Sharon Nieman, Lisa Rockhill, Jami Van Voorst, Jerry Birkey, Shawn Scholten, Mark Sybesma, Janie Baird, Kim Wermersen, Don Kass, Kim Keleher, Mark Behrens, Sherri Bootsma, Janelle Hultquist, Heather Fitzgerald, Bill Leupold, Shane Walter, Denise Driesen, Nicky Eaton, Beth Will, Brenda Langstraat-Janish at 1:35, Tricia Driesen at 1:45, and Christina Eggink Postma at 1:49pm.

1. WELCOME AND INTROCTIONS-

Chairman Loutsch called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA-

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

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 12/9/2020 MEETING MINUTES-

Behrens made motion to approve the minutes. Wermersen seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

4. FISCAL AGENT REPORT-

Walter provided the update for the finances. Walter stated the region is on track and where we need to be at this point in the year. The CARES dollars are tracked separately. Leupold made motion to accept fiscal agent report. Sybesma seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

5. CARES RFP UPDATE-

Walter provided an updated on the CARES dollars. Walter stated there is some movement at the Capital to extend the dollars to December 2021. The RFP for Seasons Center was discussed. Wermersen asked if we could save some of our dollars for future use, such as the access center. In looking at the Seasons Center request, Kass could see approving the therapeutic items, but is uncertain of the Camp Autumn Healthcare items. Leupold asked for clarity on how this relates to the public health emergency. Eggink Postma joined the meeting to explain the items have not been purchased as of yet. Eggink Postma explained they are unique tools to assist with kids that have increased anxiety and family stressors. Eggink Postma stated the food deliveries they were approved for will be occurring next week Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. There will be 250 food baskets given away to families in the region. The therapeutic items could be used at the offices and the camp as well. Langstraat-Janish asked how active the camp was. Eggink Postma stated camp was held all summer long. There have also been between 1-3 events since school has started as well. The remaining items listed are items specifically for Camp Autumn needs. Baird believes the office items would be items that could be approved, but questioned the therapeutic items as meeting the requirements. Langstraat-Janish asked about the website at Camp Autumn because

it does not list any camps or respite programs happening. Eggink Postma stated the website is not up to date and stated she would make sure that happens. Wermersen asked how many campers they had this summer. Eggink Postma believes they had about 200 kids at camp, but the kid could have gone to camp multiple times during the summer (so 200 is not an individual number). Behrens believes we should do one or the other and not both. He suggests the bottom item (Camp Autumn Healthcare Items totaling \$5040.00). Baird agreed. Kass also agreed. Sybesma is suggesting paying half of each list. Baird believes that is an option, but believes we would easier explain the bottom portion as Covid related. Kass made motion to approve the bottom portion of \$5040. Behrens seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes. Duhn shared with the board the updated total CARES dollars remaining.

6. CRISIS SERVICES/RFP UPDATE/BUILDING UPDATE-

Walter stated the RFP was sent out to providers last week. Walter stated there was a bidder's conference last week. Scorza was the only person in attendance at the conference. Scorza told Walter they would be discussing it at their next board meeting. Letters of intent are due Monday, December 28, 2020. Walter stated real estate was looked at last week. One of those buildings has good potential. The price being asked for the building is a little high, but less money could be offered. The building is at 140 N Runger, right behind the Camper Center. Kass had a conversation with Barry Anderson, NWIACC, with regard to being partners of usage. He seemed receptive to the idea. Kass is going to talk with Barry Anderson later today after they are done with their board meeting today. Kass proposed that a partnership with NWIACC would be needed to move forward. With Sioux Rivers having ownership of the building, and NWIACC collaborating with the service costs. Behrens asked what happens if we only get one provider that responds to the RFP. Walter stated that we would need to determine if that provider could meet the needs. If they can provide the needs, then we can move forward with a contract. Kass, Bootsma, and Wermersen toured the buildings. Sybesma appreciates the progress being made, but knows it is going to take some work to make this happen. Kass talked with Steve at Family Crisis Center. The building in Sioux Center is for sale. Kass asked Steve if he could inquire if the building could be leased, or at least a portion of it. Leupold asked what our budget was on this. Walter stated we have the building in Sioux City that we can sell. The hope is to get \$500,000 out of that building. Walter believes we could get the building in Sheldon and reinvest in it for about the same money. Walter believes we need to be closer to the \$350,000 range in purchasing the building in Sheldon. The other comparable building in Sheldon went for \$310,000 recently. Walter stated if we sold the building to the Rolling Hills region, it might take them two years to pay for that building if they decide to make the purchase. Behrens asked when the building in Sheldon went on the market. At this point, it is not on the market. They are willing to sell the building, though it is unclear how motivated they are at this point. Walter believes they are willing to accept less. Kass spoke with the county attorney. He suggested the county attorney create a memorandum of

understanding be utilized with NWIACC in the future. Walter stated he already has one ready to go. Loutsch had a discussion with Rolling Hills regarding the building we already own. They are not happy with our region for going in the direction we are going. Loutsch asked what their thoughts were going forward if we continue the relationship now. They did not provide answer to that question. They did seem to have some interest in purchasing the building. Walter shared the assessed value and stated we believed we could get roughly that amount out of it. Loutsch stated he likes where we are going. Kass, Wermersen, and Bootsma will be in Sheldon tomorrow to see the building with Barry and Melissa. Loutsch asked Kass to provide an update with him after meeting with Barry.

7. BUDGET UPDATES-

Walter provided a budget update. He hopes to have a better discussion with the budget in January at the board meeting. Much of this falls back on what happens between now and then with the access center and crisis services. Counties need to levy the \$30.49.

8. UPDATES-

Hope Haven provided an update via email. Anema shared that update. Hope Haven had six new referrals with IPS. Currently IPS is serving 40 clients with 20 employed. Fifty-four individuals have been served since the beginning of the grant (July 1, 2018). The second quarter IPS grant review meeting will be held with Sioux Rivers CEO and staff in mid to late January 2021. The Employment Alternatives Grant Update is as follows from Hope Haven: The data collection for the first six months of the fiscal year will be completed by January 2021 and Scott Witte will provide a summary report by early February. Village Northwest, Life Skills, and Hope Haven outcomes updates will be submitted to Sioux Rivers CEO by the end of January 2021 with each agency making mid-year request for outcomes payments.

Seasons Center, Hultquist, provided an update. Hultquist has been reaching out with Fitzgerald (new staff), to schools in O'Brien and Sioux Counties to talk about mobile crisis needs. Those meetings with the schools will occur after the Christmas break. They did meet with the EMS in Sheldon today to discuss how to access mobile crisis and how they can collaborate going forward.

Nieman shared that the state children's board met a few weeks ago. They had four parents present their concerns with services in Northwest Iowa. They determined there is not a lot of trauma informed services in Iowa, which is a direct result of lack of funding. Providers are not being paid to come here to provide those services. The state plan was completed December 1. The number one issue is funding. Nieman stated we are still moving ahead with relationships at Forest Ridge. Jan, Forest Ridge, did request some additional dollars for training through CARES funds. They were approved for the 12 bed PMIC, but it will not be running until at least July. They are willing to look at what other services kids in our area are not getting. DHS and the counties through their licensure pay Forest Ridge. Meetings have been occurring to determine how Forest Ridge could work with regions and not step on the toes of those licensures. We are



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excited to be working with them. Many of the services provided at this time are covered through the waivers. We have not committed any dollars, but have had many conversations about the future. Scholten shared information regarding the advisory board stating it has not met, but would meet again in January. Scholten thanked Mark Loutch and Mark Behrens for their service on the boards. Sybesma thanked Mark Loutsch for his leadership and also Behrens for being on the board as well. Both have provided great leadership to this board.

9. GENERAL DISCUSSION-

Loutsch stated the next meeting would be January 26, 2021 at 1:30pm. At this point, we will plan to attend via zoom. Loutsch and Behrens thanked the group for everything.

10. ADJOURN GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING-

Wermersen made motion to adjourn. Behrens seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes. Loutsch adjourned the meeting at 2:43pm.

Sue Duhn, Secretary

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

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