



SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

The Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board met in person at the O'Brien County Courthouse in Primghar and via zoom. Those in attendance include: Sue Duhn, Douglas Smit, Mark Sybesma, Kim Keleher, Ryan Dokter, Janice Hill, Beth Will, Dan Ries, Jim McManaman, Dr. Shawn Scholten, Tim Schumacher, Dayton Vogel, Dennis Vanden Hull, Christina Eggink-Posma, Shane Walter, Kim Wermersen, Steven Sly, Michelle Vore, Rob Aiken, Kasey Fear, Nicholle Eaton, Lisa Rockhill, Crystal McHugh, Doug Wilson, Tim Overmire, Mike Van Otterloo, Carl Vande Weerd, Don Kass, William Leupold, Cory Altena, Tammy Bruinsma, Denise Driesen at 1:50, Jerry Birkey at 2:00pm,.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS-

Wermersen welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

2. APPROVE AGENDA-

Vande Weerd made a motion to approve the agenda. Altena seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 8/23/22 MEETING MINUTES-

Van Otterloo made a motion to approve the August 23, 2022 meeting minutes. Overmire seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

4. FISCAL AGENT REPORT AND REGIONAL EXPENDITURES-

Dokter reported on the August 2022 fiscal agent report. The fund balance is just over \$4.1 million dollars. Schumacher asked about the \$0 fund balance in Emmet County. Dokter explained there are no salary/administrative expenses in Emmet County. Kass made a motion to approve the fiscal agent report. Leupold seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

5. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS-

Vande Weerd asked about the dollars to ITP and if there is an update on ITP. Walter stated it would be addressed later in the agenda. Kass asked if the equipment would be moved with Brenna to the office across the street. Walter stated he would have her in his office for the first month, but then yes she would be moved across the street. Walter stated he would work to make sure he had what she needed. Vande Weerd made a motion to approve the claims as listed. Kass seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

6. PROVIDER UPDATE-DHS-

Aiken is a community system consultant for Iowa DHS. Aiken provides assistance and consultation with the regional CEO and staff as needed. Aiken can work with the transition of one CEO to the other. Aiken acts as the contract manager. Aiken reviews the legislative rules with CEO, the budget information; quality assurance of the data received from the region, and reviews and makes recommendation to the



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director (policy and procedures, annual service and budget plan, annual report, etc.). Aiken did state technical assistance could be provided to the Governance Board during the transition of the CEO. Aiken works with six regions in the state of Iowa. Aiken is based in Des Moines, but does come to the area for visits. Wermersen did state he worked with Aiken when the region was working with the hospital and the potential crisis center in Dickinson County. Wermersen stated many of the hard cases have gone into the regions, and the hospitals are seeing many of these people. Wermersen did state the difficult clients are putting a divide between the hospitals and the regions as many of these individuals are in and out of the local emergency rooms. Kass did state the same issues are occurring within the YES Center, with many of the youth that are being put into the communities. Aiken provided his contact information for everyone.

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7. **STAFF CHANGES-**

Walter introduced Jim McManaman as the new service coordinator. He is working in Sioux and O'Brien Counties. He brings a lot of experience as a social worker. Jim introduced himself. He has been in the social worker field for the last 28 years. He has worked in DHS and Hope Haven. He is from Hawarden. Married with three adult children. He has lived in northwest Iowa and is familiar with the providers in the area. Wermersen welcomed McManaman to the position.

8. **CEO TRANSITION-**

Wermersen thanked the six counties for participating in the interview process. Brenna Koedam has been hired. She will official start September 30, 2022, and will officially be in the office on Monday October 3, 2022. She is excited to begin her work with the region. Wermersen asked the board what they felt the timeline should be to have Walter involved. Walter would like to be involved for the month of October. Wermersen did state in talking with Brenna Koedam she would like to meet with other CEO's in the state as well. Van Otterloo would be in favor with a month on an as needed basis. The board decided the Walter could continue for month on an as needed basis.

9. **IT MOU-**

Wermersen stated one county had denied the MOU request, and one county had tabled the request. Altena stated Lyon County had some questions regarding the agreement. Altena asked about the FICA

and IPERS and if this would be included in the money, or would, the counties need to come up with this. Walter stated this would be included in the money. Altena asked what this agreement changes since the IT stuff is already being handled at the county level. Rockhill did state the county already has an IT agency that they pay for. Vande Weerd did state the reason for the IT staff is to make everything standard across the region. Altena asked if it would be simpler to have the employees be staff of the region instead of county employees. Walter stated the region would need to be a 501C3 in order to employ. This is why the counties are employee of record, but they are technically regional employees as they are paid by the region. There needs to be IT work done on behalf of the region and not the county, and therefore makes sense to have the IT paid by the region. Altena did state they are trying to see how this is going to work within their county. Walter explained it is no different from the counties that pay people to provide the support with their counties just like Lyon County employees Premier Communications. If we do not have an agreement, the region would need to employ an IT company to do the same business. Overmire stated the county did deny the request. The thinking was that Wallin is already a county employee and the county has IT staff to handle that county. Wermersen asked what happens going forward if there are a few counties that do not sign on. Van Otterloo did state Plymouth County had the same conversation as O'Brien County in that the IT staff is already acting as their IT support and being paid for the service by the county. Vande Weerd did state he would like the counties to work together on this, as we are to be working as one region instead of six counties. Kass agreed, this would help the region be one, and not have six different ways to have business be done. McHugh believes the benefit could be having a drive that all staff can utilize which would assure all users are using the same documents. The consensus is the region will move forward with those counties that want to be involved.

10. STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN SUMMARY-

Rockhill provided an update on the summary of the strategic plan. The staff worked with Parlay to complete the double bottom line. The start of the process was a survey completed by the providers, supervisors, and staff. Rockhill stated the strategic plan is telling us we do not spend as much on therapy as we do on crisis services, but more people access therapy services than crisis services. The region is spending quite a bit on mobile crisis and residential crisis services, without a lot of usage at this time. Unfortunately, we are required to have those crisis services, which are more expensive to provide than those more used services. Rockhill explained in a perfect world, all of the dots would be the same, but that is not the case. Leupold asked how we came up with the impact. Rockhill explained the impact came from the survey that was done initially.

11. ITP AMENDED CONTRACT ADDENDUM-

Walter discussed the ITP amended addendum. Walter would like the Governance Board to agree to the amended contract, which would have service end December 31, 2022 with a new service provider to begin January 1, 2023. Kass made a motion to approve the amended contract with ITP to terminate December

31, 2022. Vande Weerd seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

12. FLOWSTATE HEALTH CONTRACT AND ADDENDUM-

Walter introduced Steven Sly and Michelle Vore from Flowstate Health. Steven Sly explained their services. They are currently doing crisis evaluation and placement services in a different region as well as senior services through telehealth. On average, individuals are being seen within thirty minutes of entering the emergency room. The placement occurs within eight hours of entering the ER. The region will have a small group of folks that will be working with the emergency rooms, so they will get to know those individuals well. Flowstate Health is really dialed into what happens with those individuals upon discharge from the hospital and working with the regions to ensure those individuals are being seen in the communities they return to. Van Otterloo asked if Flowstate is currently contracted with jails to provide services. Michelle Vore confirmed they work holistically with clients to get them through any service including those jails. VanOtterloo asked what the cost would be for this service. Walter confirmed this would be a flat fee for the first six months, which is listed in the contract. The collaboration of services is important to Flowstate Health. Dr. Scholten asked where the agency was based. Steven Sly said they are based out of Des Moines. Kim Keleher asked if Steven Sly would be reaching out to providers in the area. Steven Sly confirmed they would be using the next three months reaching out to agencies. Van Otterloo made a motion to approve the contract with Flowstate Health. Bruinsma seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

13. SEASONS CENTER CRISIS CENTER UPDATE-

Ries stated the HVAC, elevator, sprinkler system, fire alarm system, etc. are being updated with this crisis center building update. Seasons Center is located right next to the Spencer Hospital for inpatient needs if needed. Ries stated he had conversations with the hospital. Ries stated the plan is to share nursing staff between the hospital and the crisis center. Ries is asking for an additional \$150,000 for additional funding to the crisis center for higher than expected construction costs. The space would allow four beds or four chairs. Karen Rosengreen has been hired to oversee psychiatry and the crisis services. Ries believes it will be February or March before construction gets started on this project and would take about three months to complete the project. Wermersen did state having a crisis center would help our providers who have clients will high needs. Vande Weerd asked if Plymouth and Sioux would continue to utilize the Sioux City facility. Walter confirmed the facility could continue to be utilized in Sioux City. However, all counties would be able to utilize the Seasons Center facility. Walter did state the funds are in the budget to cover the costs. Van Otterloo asked if it was in the current budget or in those carry over dollars. Walter confirmed the dollars are in the current budget. Ries agreed he sees the partnership with Flowstate



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Health too. Any of the six counties can utilize the center, based on miles per the code. The crisis center is cost shared with Care Connections of Northern Iowa. Vande Weerd asked if four beds would be enough. Ries confirmed the room could be expanded to include more beds if needed. Schumacher thanked Walter for the clarification that we had committed to this project by asking them to do it. Schumacher made motion to approve the \$150,000 towards the crisis center renovation. Leupold seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

14. LEGISLATIVE MEETING UPDATE-

Walter confirmed the meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2022 in Sheldon from 9:30-12noon. Duhn confirmed all invites have already been put in the mail. Schumacher believes we seem to have a shotgun approach to things and suggested the region have one specific area to address. Walter confirmed the staff would be meeting to discuss that topic and pass that to the Governance Board to ensure all members are providing the same message. Walter believes the biggest area of need is the reimbursement rate from the MCO's to the providers. Schumacher would like to see one message by all.

15. MHDS COMMISSION REPORT-

Kass missed the last commission meeting. He did state there is long document that states the needs. He believes it needs to be simple and easy to explain.

16. STAFF SHARE-Duhn stated Wallin had a mental health hearing come up. Therefore, the agenda item was skipped.

17. GENERAL DISCUSSION-

Dr. Scholten reported on the Adult Advisory Board that was held in September. Keleher stated Plains Area, Seasons Center, and Siouxland Mental Health received the CCBHC grant to continue their work. Wermersen thanked Walter for his leadership, passion, and service to Sioux Rivers. Walter has enjoyed his time with the region, has watched it change through the years, and has enjoyed the challenges and rewards. Walter wishes the region nothing but the best. Walter thanked the Governance Board for their service and partnership. VanOtterloo asked if we have any data on staffing with our providers since providing them dollars to get additional staff. Walter stated that at this time we do not. Bruinsma asked if anyone had any ideas on getting the housing agency to do anything. Kass suggested the Iowa Civil Rights Commission.

18. ADJOURN GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING-



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Vande Weerd made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Van Otterloo seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 3pm.

Sue Duhn, Secretary

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

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