



SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

The Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board met in person and via zoom at 1:30pm. Those in attendance included: Kim Wermersen, Carl Vande Weerd, Sue Duhn, Don Kass, Mark Loutsch, Abby Wallin, Lisa Rockhill, Jerry Birkey, Cory Altena, Ryan Dokter, Sharon Nieman, Shane Walter, Christina Eggink-Postma, Sherri Bootsma, Tammy Bruinsma, William Leupold, John Steensma, Jason Bergsma, Shawn Scholten, Tim Schumacher, Kim Keleher, Nicholle Eaton, Jamison Van Voorst, Beth Will, Kasey Fear. Brenda Langstraat joined at 1:37pm. Mike and Susan with Roscrance joined at 1:56pm.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS-

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

2. APPROVE AGENDA-

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

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 8/24/21 MEETING MINUTES-

Leupold made a motion to approve the 8/24/21 minutes. Altena seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

4. FISCAL AGENT REPORT AND REGIONAL EXPENDITURES-

Dokter reported on the August 2021 financial report. The accruals ended in August 2021 so there will be no additional accruals for the fiscal year. Steensma made a motion to approve the expenditure report. Kass seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

5. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS-

Wermersen did tell the providers and board members that documentation would be required before any payment towards invoices would be paid. Loutsch asked about older invoices from attorneys, and if the region was still receiving many of those. Duhn confirmed she has reached out to any attorneys sending older invoices telling them to be more prompt on submission. Vande Weerd made a motion to approve the claims. Birkey seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

6. THE THRIVE CENTER FY22 CONTRACT-

Walter reported on the contract with The Thrive Center. The rates are reflected in the addendum. Rockhill reported that some of the therapy services are not covered by Hawkeye insurance for SED kids, and this contract allows the region to assist with payment for those services. Kass made a motion to approve the contract. Altena seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

7. TURNING POINT CONTRACT FY22-

Walter reported on the contract for Turning Point. The Governance Board already approved the dollars previously. Rockhill asked about the rates not totaling. Walter explained the rates listed in the contract are quarterly, and therefore the totals are correct. Bootsma made a motion to approve the contract. Schumacher seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

8. STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN PROPOSAL-

Scholten spoke on behalf of the Adult Advisory Board. The Advisory Board has recommended the strategic action plan as an outside perspective to Sioux Rivers. Kass commented on his past objection. Kass states having talked with Walter and the staff the strategic plan can be used as a tool to help assist Walter with policies. Kass stated we are a team of different parts, and the parts now need to act as one. Kass believes the strategic action plan would help us all sit together to give input as one. Kass has changed his views and now sees the value in the strategic action plan. Wermersen did agree with Kass in that we have merged a couple regions together, with different staff and views, and there is a need to now merge those regions into one while all receiving the same services. Wermersen hopes this plan will help us improve upon our services going forward. Rockhill did state she was asked to reach out to the provider and ask how she would like to start the process. The provider would like to start with leadership staff and the Governance Board as the first step. She is willing to do nights or days depending on what works for the Governance Board members. The basic package involves input from some of the other groups as well. Bootsma asked what key leadership staff meant. Rockhill confirmed the provider meant all staff members as that leadership team. Kass made a motion to move forward with the proposal for services with a maximum dollar amount of \$4500.00. Vande Weerd seconded the motion. Schumacher asked if it was an online survey. It is the understanding of Rockhill that it would be in person. Vande Weerd asked about a timeframe. They are willing to work around dates that work for all parties involved. Walter confirmed there might be some travel costs above the \$4500.00. Kass amended his motion to include a \$4500.00 plus travel costs. Vande Weerd seconded the amended motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

9. BUDGET UPDATE-

Walter discussed where we are at with budget. He reminded the board, we as a region, struggled with putting this year's budget together due to addition to children's services. Walter stated a tour was made to Roscrance to see their facility and discuss options for children's services. Wermersen stated a number of meetings have been held outside of the last Governance Board regarding additional services. A meeting was held with Rolling Hills. Rolling Hills is paying all of the costs to renovate the building for the access center. Kass asked what prompted them not needing dollars. Walter believes they too have dollars to spend. Therefore, we have the additional dollars from the sale of the building to provide services. Walter stated we do need to spend some dollars. We can carry over roughly one million dollars, if we spend the budgeted dollars to be under the 40% carryover. There are mandated services that still need to be developed and invested in. There are also providers and services that could be enhanced with some additional invested dollars. A challenge remains the workforce shortage. Walter met with Dokter

and Duhn regarding the budget and where we are at and need to be. The staff is going to meet October 6 to discuss the budget as well to begin discussion on spending those dollars. These budget conversations dovetail nicely with the strategic plan. Loutsch confirmed the 40% carry over date as of July 1, 2022. Duhn, Dokter, and Walter will meet regularly to discuss the dollars. Wermersen did state we need to work hard to concentrate those dollars on services. Wermersen did state Dickinson County is discussing utilizing some dollars to spend towards a building and encouraged other counties to do the same. Then the region can utilize the dollars towards services. Wermersen did state we are getting closer to a crisis center and accreditation of those services. Wermersen encouraged the staff to really talk about additional services and beefing those up for our region. Vande Weerd did state Sioux County is taking application for their dollars. Therefore, if the region wanted to utilize those dollars, staff would need to get an application in to be included in the Sioux County requests. Kass asked how much we would like from each county. Walter stated maybe \$100,000 from each county, but that is just a suggestion. Nieman did state that as far as children's services go, we are discussing preventative services. Northwest Iowa historically has not had children's services. The state openly recognizes the 120 miles may not be an option due to the staff shortages. Nieman and Walter are meeting tomorrow with the Crittendon Center to discuss options for space there. The YSS Center in Mason City may be an option for the Eastern Counties of our region. Nieman said there have been conversations on if we can bank money because we have contracts, but do not have the dollars spent. At this point, no one knows the answer to that. Walter did state what we have determined is they have put the mandates out, but at this point, they do not know what the services even look like. Walter stated he is in the process of writing regional policies. He will be presenting those to the regional board at the October meeting. Walter will be meeting with each county board prior to the October regional board. Fund 10 will be gone, the dollars will need to be moved into the General Fund for payment to employees, and the region will pay the county for the cost of the staff. Walter did state we need to have some consistency in how we deal with staff and those policies will help with that. Walter would like to see some minimums for salaries.

10. GENERAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES-

Schloenten reported on the Adult Advisory Board meeting that was held. The workforce shortage continues to be an issue, and reinstating the dollars to providers would be beneficial and appreciated. Next meeting December 14, 2021 in Sheldon. Loutsch asked if there was a voting children's member on the board, as he would like to see Bootsma on the Children's Board when she vacates the Regional Board. Walter confirms it is possible. October 20 is the next Children's Meeting, and the opportunity to discuss it can be there. This will be Bootsma's last meeting on the Governance Board, unless she comes back in a different capacity. Vande Weerd asked if we could create a position to keep Bootsma on the board. Wermersen appreciates Vande Weerd's point, but is concerned about adding additional positions. Loutsch is willing to give his spot to Bootsma if needed. Eggink-Postma spoke on behalf of Seasons Center. She does encourage providers to be included in the strategic planning. The mobile crisis information was submitted to the board. Seasons also has information on their Facebook page regarding mobile crisis.



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11. **ADJOURN GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING-**

Kass made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vande Weerd seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.

Sue Duhn, Secretary

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

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