



SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021

The Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board members and staff met in person at the Plymouth County Annex, others joined via zoom on January 19, 2021. Members present: Don Kass, Mike VanOtterloo, Kim Wermersen, Carl Vande Weerd, John Steensma, Cory Altema, Kevin Vande Vegte, Shane Walter, Mavis Anema, Sharon Nieman, Abby Wallin, Sue Duhn, Nicholle Eaton, Denise Driesen, Jerry Birkey, Ryan Dokter, Kim Keleher, Mark Loutsch, Kasey Fear, Lisa Rockhill, Sherri Bootsma, Scott Witte, Mark Sybesma, Jamie VanVoorst, Christina Eggink-Postma, Dayton Vogel, Sheila Martin, Bill Leupold, Karen Rosengreen, Barry Whitsell, Heather Fitzgerald, Tammy Bruinsma, Kim Scorza, and Jason Bergsma.

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS-**

Shane Walter called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. All board members made introductions. The new board members were welcomed.

2. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS-**

Walter asked for election of officers. Kass nominated Wermersen for Board Chair. Sybesma seconded that nomination. Vande Weerd made a motion to approve Wermersen as Board Chair. Kass seconded the motion to approve. Motion carried with all ayes. Wermersen nominated Kass for Vice Chair. Bootsma seconded the nomination. VanOtterloo made motion to approve nomination. Bootsma seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes. Wermersen made motion to approve Duhn as Board Secretary. Kass seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes. Walter turned the meeting over to Wermersen to chair.

3. **EX OFFICIO NON-VOTING MEMBER APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD-**

Wermersen suggested to the board to approve Loutsch as an ex officio to the board as a non-voting member. Vande Weerd made a motion to approve Loutsch as a non-voting ex officio. Leupold seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

4. **APPROVE AGENDA-**

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

5. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 12/22/2020 MEETING MINUTES-**

Leupold made motion to approve the December 22, 2020 minutes. Sybesma seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

6. **FISCAL AGENT REPORT AND REGIONAL EXPENDITURES-**

Dokter reported on the December fiscal agent report. Several counties paid their property tax dollars to the region in December. The CARES dollars have a separate report. There is just under \$41,000 remaining

of the CARES dollars. Dokter reported that the region does have an extension on those dollars. Walter stated the region has through fiscal year end to expend those funds and possibly through end of year. Vande Weerd made a motion to approve the report. Steensma seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

7. CARES RFP-

Wermersen skipped this agenda item as he stated it was discussed in the financial report.

8. CRISIS SERVICES/RFP UPDATE/BUILDING UPDATE-

Walter reported the region received RFPs from Seasons Center for Behavioral Health and Plains Area Mental Health. Seasons Center has withdrawn their application effective January 19, 2021. Walter asked Scorza to speak to Seasons Center decision. Scorza stated the Seasons Center board met and discussed their strategic plan and decided they no longer want to participate in the RFP process, as it does not meet their current strategic plan. Walter stated that leaves the region with one RFP and that RFP is with Plains Area Mental Health. Walter stated discussions would be starting with Keleher on that RFP. Walter stated there are still a number of pieces that need to fall into place for the plan to move forward. Walter has been visiting with the NWIACC CEO to discuss collaborating with Sioux Rivers for the crisis services and access center. Sioux Rivers awaits NWIACC decision. They are meeting next Tuesday, January 26, 2021 to discuss and take action on this partnership. Walter has learned there is someone else interested in the building in Sheldon. He suggested that an offer be made quickly on that building, as well as starting to look at selling the building in Sioux City the region currently owns. Wermersen stated we owe it to our clients to look at an option that is in our region. As well, to find ways to work together as a region to better serve our clients. Kass has had several conversations with NWIACC Board Chair Barry Anderson. Kass said NWIACC seems interested and happy with the building and the location. Kass does not believe we can find a better building layout. Kass had a follow up conversation with Anderson after NWIACC had their special meeting to discuss the Eastern Iowa counties in NWIACC region. Kass stated the region is going to own the building so you eliminate the problems you have with a lease and having the services leave. Kass believes the conversations with Anderson were positive and plans to tune into the NWIACC board meeting next week. Vander Weerd asked the group if the region had to wait for NWIACC to meet before Sioux Rivers could do something with regard to the building. He asked if the region purchased the building, and the access center plan did not happen could the region just resell the building if needed. Vander Weerd stated he believes the region does not have a choice and needs to proceed even if the region has to go at it alone. The building is in a great location for the region. Wermersen stated he believes he was hearing a consensus for the region to move forward as quickly as possible. Kass stated he believed the board needed to make a motion to move forward and to appoint a committee. Vande Weerd made the motion to move forward to purchase the building. Bootsma questioned if a dollar amount should be added to the motion. Kass stated he believed the region should not tip their hand at a price due to the competitive state with the building. Anema asked if the region would not want to add a

contingency plan on financing. Bootsma seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes. Wermersen asked for volunteers for the appointment of the committee. Kass, Bootsma, Vande Weerd, Wermersen, and Walter will make up the committee. The committee will report to the full board. Walter believes the board will need to hold a zoom meeting later next week to make a decision on the RFP, etc. Wermersen asked Walter to schedule this. Loutsch asked if the RFP was similar to what Plains Area had submitted the first time. Walter stated he would share it with the board soon.

9. BUDGET UPDATE-

Walter reported that the staff have been meeting to determine where we are at with available dollars. The staff will be putting a budget together for the board to present probably next month. The staff have been holding off waiting to see what happens with the crisis services before finalizing a budget for the board. Walter reported there were dollars built in last year that were unspent as well. He stated the Governor in her budget proposal wants to give \$15 million dollars to the regions this year and next. As this point, it is not known if that is per capita split or not. If it is, it would be roughly half a million dollars to our region. Some of those dollars are needed for children's services. The legislature will have to approve this of course before we know anything definite. Walter reported the one-cent sales tax is off the table. It would have been good for us, but at this time, it is not going to happen. The legislature is looking at property tax relief of some kind. Walter believes this is hopeful news. Wermersen wants the board to remember that we need to provide services, but we do not have to pay for them. Wermersen does not believe the board knows enough about what is going on in the field and believes the board needs to hear more from the staff who are out there.

10. UPDATES-

Adult Advisory-Rockhill reported the group has not met recently due to Covid. The plan is to look at maybe meeting in February.

Children's Advisory-Nieman reported the meeting was cancelled this month. A resource tab was added to the updated website to show what the Advisory Committee has been working on. Rockhill and Nieman have a meeting next week to talk more about the resource directory. Nieman stated the directory has also been loaded with Emmet County information, but will not be viewable until after July 1, 2021. Nieman hopes when the group meets next the directory will be fully functional for the members to provided updates if needed.

Mobile Crisis-Fitzgerald reported on mobile crisis. She stated in December three clients utilized the services. So far, in January two clients have utilized the service. Fitzgerald has been meeting with schools to promote their services. Nieman stated the region has been meeting monthly with the mobile crisis



SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021

team to see if additional services are needed beyond the initial mobile crisis call. Walter stated that Scorza has also stated Seasons Center would be willing to open the service up to additional people outside of the original referral sources of schools, hospitals, and jails but is not at that point yet.

ITP-Integrated Telehealth Partners-Rosengreen is the new contact for ITP. She joined the team last November. She asked the board what they wanted from her each month. It was stated that Jay typically provided the board with a written report. Rosengreen stated she would connect with Jay and work to provide something similar in the future.

IPS-Individual Placement and Support-Witte stated this was an evidence-based practice of supported employment. They had one new referral last month. Currently there are thirty-six clients on the caseload for 1.5 FTE employment specialist. Hope Haven is a little heavy on the caseload as a normal FTE is twenty per caseload. Since the beginning of the program, forty-six people have been served. Currently there are twenty people employed through the program. Regional staff will be meeting with Witte on Thursday to receive the second quarter update. Iowa Medicaid policy is on board with IPS and is working to make sure it remains a viable part of the state.

Employment-Witte also reported on the employment grant. Village Northwest and Lifeskills have joined Hope Haven in the grant this year. Next month, the mid-year report should be ready for the region and Walter will receive this report.

No updates for the access center or ACT.

Jail Diversion-Anema stated she has been working with clients in Sioux County primarily. Anema reported that Walter asked her to go to Plymouth County and meet the new Sheriff. Anema will also be going to O'Brien County to meet their new sheriff. Anema has been working on devising information, reports, and documents for the region to use in the county jails. Nieman will sit with Anema and meet the new Sheriff in Plymouth County and Anema and Will together will meet the O'Brien County Sheriff. Walter stated that a bill was introduced into the legislature for jail diversion. Interestingly enough the regions are already doing what the bill has stated. Nieman stated that some of jail diversion is working collaboratively with other regions for folks that are in our county jails that have residency in other regions (RCF as an example). Some of the clients remain in jail because they are awaiting trial. Housing is a big issue with clients that are getting out of jail. Anema is working with the Family Crisis Center in Sioux Center to help clients with housing as well.

ARC-Anema and Nieman reported this was a program that started in Woodbury County. The program was postponed last summer due to Covid. Nieman stated the staff have not yet met to discuss plans for a potential camp this summer. Walter reported the church is still interested in hosting the camp.



SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021

Transportation to camp is a big hurdle to consider when planning camp. It was reported that churches and other communities were willing to bring many of the kids to camp.

Camp Autumn-Eggink-Postma reported on Camp Autumn. Camp Autumn is currently accepting enrollment to camp this summer. Camp Autumn provides weeklong day camps for kids. They provide fun, therapies, and services to support the kids while at camp. Seasons also provides transportation from the Seasons Center Office locations.

Transition-Walter stated the region had been working with Pride Group on this for beds that would transition from one setting to a lower level of care. This has not been in the forefront as of recently.

Access Center-No one was on the call. Kass reported only one person from our region was admitted, but that person was actually a Black Hawk County resident. There were only seven admissions from Woodbury County.

11. GENERAL DISCUSSION-

Wallin stated November and December are typically busy months for her. Kass asked Wallin if she was seeing any issues with getting people into the access center. Wallin said her experience has been frustrating in that there are several reasons they do not take people. Anema reported that she and Rockhill are C3 De-Escalation trainers. Anema was asked today to do a training in Sioux City also Wallin has asked her to do some training at a local nursing home that accepts individuals with a lot of mental health needs and Anema has contacted the Dr. in charge in Primghar. This training should take some of the stress off the local emergency rooms. Nieman reported the Spanish-speaking suicide cards would be distributed soon. Walter stated brochures are being updated and will be distributed soon as well.

12. ADJOURN GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING-

Vande Weerd made a motion to adjourn the meeting. VanOtterloo seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

Sue Duhn, Secretary

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

Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board