



SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2021

The Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board met in person and via zoom at 1:00pm. Members present in person and via zoom include: Sue Duhn, Abby Wallin, Lisa Rockhill, Carl Vande Weerd, Sharon Nieman, Mavis Anema, Shane Walter, Janie Baird, Deb Brodersen, Kim Keleher, Kim Wermersen, Brenda Langstraat, Lisa Schwanke, Beth Will, Sherri Bootsma, Mark Sybesma, Barry Whitsell, Mike Van Otterloo, Nicholle Eaton, Denise Driesen, Cory Altena, Rebecca McCrackin, Don Kass, Tim Schumacher joined at 1:15pm William Leupold arrived at 1:25pm.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS-

Wermersen began the meeting at 1:02 pm by welcoming those in attendance.

2. APPROVE AGENDA-

Sybesma made a motion to approve the agenda. Kass seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 3/23/21 MEETING MINUTES-

Vande Weerd made a motion to approve the March 23, 2021 minutes. Altena seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

4. FISCAL AGENT REPORT-

Dokter was not in attendance at the meeting. Walter reported on Dokter's financial report he presented to the board. Bootsma made a motion to approve the report. Kass seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

5. MH ADVOCATE UPDATE-

Wallin provided an update. Emmet County approved Wallin in a temporary status effective May 20, 2021 with the likely plan to approve her full time effective July 1, 2021. Wermersen verified that Wallin was in agreement with the terms. Wallin confirmed this agreement.

6. CRISIS SERVICES UPDATE-

Eaton provided an update to the board. The average usage is 2-3 individuals from the Sioux Rivers Region. There have been referrals from Sioux Center and Dickinson County lately. Eaton continues to market to raise awareness of their services.

7. SIOUX CITY BUILDING UPDATE-

Wermersen had a discussion with Paul Mertens, Board Chair for Rolling Hills. The Rolling Hills Board tabled making a decision until the legislative session ends. Rolling Hills would also like a financial commitment from Sioux Rivers to the center. Sybesma stated if he were in their position, he would likely



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have made their same decisions. Sybesma asked if legislatively the discussion is still to get rid of regions. Walter stated the regions would stay, but they would do away with Fund 10, and the state would provide all the dollars to the regions. Walter stated the ISAC Board met yesterday, and they believed the House will not act, and the bill will die. There is currently \$15 million on the table, though it does not appear it will be on a per capita basis. At this point, it appears things will be status quo into this next year. Kass stated Covid killed the one cent. Kass commented on Mertens comments about the fee for service not being an option going forward. With that, Kass believes we should look at usage history going forward to determine the percentage rate. Sybesma did state there does need to be some consideration to Rolling Hills buying the building, though he does agree the starting point should be the history of usage.

8. PROVIDER CONTRACTS/ADDENDUMS-

Walter asked the board for approval to sign the addendums/contracts, and direct Wermersen to sign the contracts as they come back from the providers. Duhn stated four have been received back from the providers already. Walter did state the block grants have not been eliminated, but have been cut to provide for mandated services beginning July 1, 2021. Sybesma made a motion to approve the contracts/addendums directing Wermersen to sign as returned. Bootsma seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

9. CLAIMS PROCESSING-

Wermersen asked to have this added to the agenda, as he does not like to be the lone approver of all claims. Wermersen does realize this will limit how often claims are paid. Schumacher agreed this is how most boards approve payment. Kass asked if Wermersen wants to have the checks present to sign. Wermersen would like the board to make the decision together, but did not see a reason to have the checked signed. A report can be provided to the board, the board acts on the claims, and then the Auditor mails the checks. Schumacher believes the board becomes more informed if they look at the claims together and make decisions at the meeting. Vande Weerde made the motion to approve a change in claims processing to have the board approve all claims monthly. Kass seconded the motion. Schumacher asked if Walter has concerns about this process. Walter wants to make sure we are meeting the needs of the providers. Schumacher states if the providers submit the bills every month there should not be a long wait. Sybesma asked if the approval could be done via email if a meeting is not held in a month. Walter confirmed this could be done. The motion carried with all ayes.

10. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE-

Walter states there is not much more to report beyond the above discussion.

11. UPDATES-

The Children's Advisory Board did not meet as they are waiting on the legislature to make decisions. Jen, with Forest Ridge, has resigned though she has agreed to assist with the transition. The schools were

notified of their next round of Covid dollars. Nieman is trying to set up a meeting with the school superintendents and Walter though they are not sure if this will happen yet this school year. Hinton has applied for the Gears Grant. Nieman talked with the local AEA, the grant is being sent to small, medium, and large schools so the large schools will not get all of the money. The coordinators continue to meet monthly regarding children's services. At this point, no discussions involve dollars.

12. GENERAL DISCUSSION-

Anema had a meeting with the Plymouth County Jail this morning. She also met with the O'Brien County Jail this week. Rockhill stated as part of the ISAC meeting in August there would be a joint session with the Supervisors, Sheriff Offices, and Regions to discuss jail services/jail diversion. Rockhill wanted to make everyone aware of this decision. Nieman stated the month of May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Anema did a program in Sioux County with Iowa State Extension. It was geared more towards Christian Education. It was an awareness meeting to let people know Sioux Rivers is out there. Anema and Rockhill will be doing a C3 training at the Sioux City warming shelter training their staff. Kass discussed the YES Center transportation. There are more drivers being hired to assist with transportation. It is expected the YES Center will continue to stay strong. The goal is to get updated vehicles, as they are able. Most drivers are former law enforcement officers. Sybesma asked the staff if there are more pressures on people because of isolation with Covid. Rockhill believes there is more pressure now as things are starting to open up and people have the option to get out. Walter believes there is a great deal of increased anxiety, though it does not seem that people are seeking out services. Anema reported the DHS caseloads are higher than they have been. Keleher stated they are seeing record numbers of new clients coming in their door. In March, they had 260 new clients coming in the door with high anxiety and depression. The problem remains finding qualified staff. Sybesma asked if this is because the people are not there, or is the market drawing them away. Qualified people is a national issue, it is driven by how much the providers can pay. The rates only allow the providers to bring in so much money so they cannot compete with the state, schools, etc. Eaton said she would mirror what Kelleher is saying. Siouxland Mental Health is also seeing record numbers of new clients coming into services. The difficulty finding staff is also an issue, even in more of an urban area. Eaton said they have tried to be creative in offering more of a triage in their center to alleviate some of the pressure from the main clinic. They are trying to work through some of those pressures. McCrackin with Seasons Center echoed the same issue with hiring of staff. It is difficult to get people to relocate to this area as well. Driesen with Family Services echoed the other providers. Wermersen is grateful people are starting to seek help. Will asked if Walter updated the group on the meetings with the Estherville schools. Will and Walter met with the Estherville Superintendent as well as Amanda Olson, a MH provider, this week. The school district wants to collaborate with a provider



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to provide services in their school district. At this point, all school districts are receiving state dollars to provide mental health services in the schools. Walter stated the school wants to be a real partner. They want to contribute some dollars, as well, as contract with a provider. They also hope to have the region partner with the schools to share in the sustainability of mental health services. Schumacher appreciates that Walter is thinking sustainability, if a partnership is entered, and then it is important to have sustainability once other funding ends. Walter agrees that while the schools have the dollars now, they will not have them in a few years. Therefore, the region needs to partner to assist sustainability. The schools can provide the infrastructure with their CARES dollars, with the regions perhaps assisting with sustainability. There may be other funding available too beyond the region. Walter asked Whitsell if Village Northwest would be an option as a board meeting place. Whitsell said they would not be able to meet the need until at least fall. Walter asked the board to think about the purchase of a car for the MH Advocate as she probably puts the most miles on as anyone in the region. Walter will include that in the agenda next month to ask the board for approval.

13. **ADJOURN GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING-**

Kass made a motion to close meeting. Vande Weerde seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes. Meeting ended at 1:57 pm.

Sue Duhn, Secretary

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

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