



## SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

### GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 2021

The Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board met in person and via zoom at 1:30pm. Those in attendance included: Beth Will, Abby Wallin, Lisa Rockhill, Mavis Anema, Carl Vande Weerd, Don Kass, Sue Duhn, Kim Wermersen, Shane Walter, Shawn Scholten, Ryan Dokter, Jerry Birkey, Mark Sybesma, Tammy Bruinsma, Doug Smit, Sharon Nieman, Jami Van Voorst, Kim Scorza, Denise Driesen, Sheila Martin, John Steensma, Cory Altena, Barry Whitsell, Dawn Mentzer, 1:33 pm Tim Schumacher and John Pluth joined meeting, 1:45 pm William Leupold joined meeting.

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS-**

Wermersen welcomed the group at 1:30 pm and opened the meeting.

**2. APPROVE AGENDA-**

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

**3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 5/25/21 MEETING MINUTES-**

Vande Weerd made a motion to approve the May 25, 2021 minutes. Sybesma seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

**4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 6/15/21 MEETING MINUTES-**

Kass made motion to approve the June 15, 2021 minutes. Vande Weerd seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

**5. 1:45 PM PUBLIC HEARING FOR SALE OF BUILDING TO ROLLING HILLS-**

Kass made a motion to go into public hearing. Vande Weerd seconded motion. Wermersen asked if there was anyone that wanted to speak regarding the sale of the building. There were no written comments received. Hearing no comments Wermersen asked for motion to close the public hearing. Vande Weerd made a motion to close the public hearing. Kass seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

**6. RESOLUTION FOR SALE OF BUILDING TO ROLLING HILLS-**

Wermersen asked Duhn to read the resolution. Duhn read the resolution as follows:

*RESOLUTION BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SIOUX RIVERS REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITIES SERVICES A/K/A SIOUX RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS.*



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*The Board of Directors of Sioux Rivers Regional Mental Health and Disabilities Services a/k/a Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS held a meeting on June 29, 2021, following a public hearing on selling the below described property. After full discussion, it was on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried:*

*RESOLVED, that Sioux Rivers Regional Mental Health and Disabilities Services a/k/a Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS grants, sells and conveys real property belonging to the organization and legally described as follows:*

*A parcel of land lying in the Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4) of the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) of Section Ten (10), Township Eighty-nine (89) North, Range Forty-seven (47), West of the 5th Principal Meridian in Sioux City, Woodbury County, Iowa, and more particularly described as follows:*

*Commencing at the SW corner of said NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4; thence N 0°00'00" E along the Westline of said NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 for 634.78 feet; thence S 89°49'15" E for 33.00 feet to the Point of Beginning, said point being on the Eastline of Division Street and also the Northwest corner of Patricia A. Thompson Addition, Third Filing, to the City of Sioux City, Woodbury County, Iowa; thence N 0°00'00" E along said Eastline for 319.83 feet; thence Northerly along said Eastline and a 444.46 foot radius curve concave Easterly for 67.83 feet, said curve having a chord bearing of N 4°22'17" E and a chord length of 67.77 feet; thence S 70°15'56" E for 66.65 feet; thence S 27°08'17" E for 245.75 feet; thence S 00°00'00" W for 146.76 feet to the Northline of said Patricia A. Thompson Addition, Third Filing; thence N 89°49'15" W along said Northline for 180.00 feet to the point of beginning,*

*With a locally known address of, and located at, 4038 Division Street, in Sioux City, Iowa, to Rolling Hills Community Services Region.*

*[Signature Page to Follow]*

*Dated this 29<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021.*

**SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MENTAL  
HEALTH AND DISABILITIES SERVICES  
a/k/a SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL M.H.D.S.**



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*Kim Wermersen, Chair*  
*Mark Sybesma, Director*  
*Jerry Birkey, Director*  
*Sherri Bootsma, Director*  
*Mike Van Otterloo, Director*  
*Sue Duhn, Secretary*

*Don Kass, Vice-Chair*  
*Carl Vande Weerd, Director*  
*Cory Altena, Director*  
*John Steensma, Director*  
*William Leupold, Director*

Wermersen asked for a motion. Steensma made a motion to sell the building by passing the resolution. Kass seconded the motion. Wermersen asked for a roll call vote. Steensma-aye Kass-aye, Sybesma-aye, Vande Weerd-aye, Birkey-aye, Altena-aye, Leupold-aye, Wermersen-aye. Motion carried with all ayes.

#### 7. **FISCAL AGENT REPORT AND REGIONAL EXPENDITURES-**

Dokter reported on May financial report. The balance does not include the remaining balance of CARES funds. The entire balance of CARES were spent in June. Sybesma questioned what he thought the fund balance would be. The fund balance will be around \$2 million. Steensma made motion to approve the financial report. Vande Weerd seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

#### 8. **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS-**

Schumacher asked if Drenko motors was Wallin's car. Duhn confirmed. Vande Weerd questioned why the region was paying Sandy Law Firm. Duhn explained they provide legal services for commitment. Schumacher asked about the dollar amount sent to Seasons Center. Duhn explained the total was divided by number of clients served based on the report submitted by Seasons Center. Vande Weerd made motion to approve the claims as submitted. Steensma seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

#### 9. **CAR LEASE AGREEMENT-**

Walter discussed the agreement. The region has an agreement with Sioux County for all regional cars. The cars are licensed and insured through Sioux County as part of the lease agreement. Sybesma made a motion to approve the lease agreement. Kass seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

#### 10. **MH ADVOCATE MOU BETWEEN CARE CONNECTIONS OF NORTHERN IOWA AND SIOUX RIVERS-**

Walter discussed the MOU between Care Connections of Northern Iowa and Sioux Rivers to share the mental health advocate between those two regions. Instead of a contract, a MOU will be utilized this year. Sybesma asked if Care Connections of Northern Iowa paid a portion of the services. Wallin has some of her wages reimbursed by Care Connections of Northern Iowa. Schumacher asked if Wallin was



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able to handle all counties. Wallin confirmed at this time she is able to handle the number of clients. Birkey made a motion to approve the MH Advocate MOU between Care Connections of Northern Iowa and Sioux Rivers. Sybesma seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

#### 11. PROVIDER CONTRACT FOR INTEGRATED TELEHEALTH PARTNERS-

Walter discussed the contract for ITP. Walter stated it is similar to what we had in place. Walter explained this entity goes into the jails and hospitals. Sybesma asked how much we spend annually with the agency. Duhn approximated \$1000-\$1500 per month. Anema appreciates being able to use ITP in the jails, though Plains Area does provide services in our jails too. Will and Wallin had a meeting with one of ITP's key players with regard to committals and reporting. There has been some trouble there, but believes headway was made in the discussion that occurred with them the last few weeks. Wallin stated if we can get the progress reports and paperwork from them, it is definitely a positive service. Walter explained we are going to need to receive documentation into this next fiscal year as part of the legislative changes. Will did state local providers can provide the service too, but ITP can often provide the service quicker. Anema did state the Sioux Center hospital has positive experience with ITP. Kass made motion to approve the agreement. Steensma seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

#### 12. FY20 AUDIT AGREEMENT-

Walter reported on the audit agreement. The agreement outlines responsibilities for the region and the auditor. Schumacher asked if this was a single year agreement. Walter confirmed it is. Schumacher states he has seen much higher dollar agreements requested for the service. Sybesma made a motion to approve the agreement. Vande Weerd seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes. Walter reported the audit started June 1, 2021. Walter will be going over the preliminary report with the auditor June 30, 2021.

#### 13. CARES DOLLARS UPDATE-

Duhn reported on the CARES dollars. CARES dollars were all expended and all providers were paid that were approved for services.

#### 14. FY22 BUDGET DISCUSSION-

Walter reported on the FY22 budget discussion. The FY22 contracts are in place, as approved by the Regional Governance Board. Walter stated there are many questions yet to be answered. Sybesma asked if we are at the anticipated fund balance currently. Walter believes this is a moving target with dollars yet to be expended. Walter stated we need to be at 40% of the current year budget by the end of FY22. Sybesma believes we need to live for today and address the needs the providers have now. Will also



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stated we have services we have not yet started that we need to provide that are core services. Sybesma does not believe we need to be conservative at this point based on what the state has done thus far. Walter stated we need to spend money to develop services that are core services starting July 1, 2021, and we do not yet know what the cost of those services, and developing the services, are going to be moving forward.

#### 15. UPDATE ON MH FUNDING IN SCHOOLS-

Walter stated the staff have begun meeting with school districts to discuss dollars they may have available to them through some of the new funding streams with the understanding some of those dollars are flexible for things such as mental health services. As a region, we would like to collaborate with those school districts, utilizing the school districts dollars now and potentially assisting with dollars later. Sybesma asked if these are similar to the rescue dollars the counties received. The goal is to meet with all of the schools before school starts.

#### 16. LAKES LIFE SKILLS UPDATE-

Wermersen stated we have been working with Lakes Life Skills in Spirit Lake to take on some additional services. Wermersen, Walter, and Will have attended several zoning meetings. The Administrator in Spirit Lake is working on it. It will be presented to the council meetings in July. Lakes Life Skills is working on being accredited for additional services. Until the zoning change has occurred, the region is at a standstill with Lakes Life Skills and additional services there.

#### 17. CRISIS SERVICES AGREEMENT/CONTRACT-

Walter discussed the agreement with the crisis center in Sioux City. Rolling Hills will now own that building and is looking for an agreement to share the costs of the services at that facility. Walter provided some suggestions for sharing those costs that came because of Rolling Hills, Sioux Rivers, and Care Connections of Northern Iowa meeting together. Wermersen stated it was a good conversation with all regions, and believe we need to have a good working relationship going forward. Care Connections of Northern Iowa believed half of their counties would utilize the facility in Waterloo. Wermersen said we need to discuss how we move forward with that facility. Walter stated this is just a one year agreement while the regions work together to figure out the access center going forward. Wermersen stated there is another meeting scheduled for June 30, 2021 with the three regions. Kass has always wanted to have that building be based on usage. Rockhill said at the close of FY19 our region was using 13% usage. Through FY20, we are down to about 10% according to Walter. Kass said he could not justify going above 15% of the costs. Mentzer stated if it is based on usage, Rolling Hills is paying much more than their usage and

their board would not go for it. Kass asked if Emmet County is outside the mileage and if they would have a different option. At this point, Emmet County goes to Turning Pointe. Kass asked If LLS gets up and going they would offer exactly what is being offered in Sioux City currently. Walter confirmed it would be, as the facility in Sioux City runs now. However, if the access center gets up and running in Woodbury County in the next year, that would be an additional service provided beyond what LLS would provide. Sybesma stated he could go with \$136,000 as a show of faith. It is less than we paid last year and goes to the overhead. Will stated one of the issues discussed at the staff meeting is having clients turned way. Sheila Martin stated statistics are sent out for denial reasons, and the numbers per month turned way have never been more than three denials per month. Walter stated he believed a meeting might be beneficial to discuss the admission and denial issues. Walter stated when one referral is made, and one denial is received on admission, that is 100% denial in a month. Wermersen asked Emmet County how they felt. Schumacher stated Sac City is about 90 miles and Sioux City is 135 miles. Emmet County is not talking about many people and could have a per diem rate for them at Turning Pointe. Altena asked what the timetable for making a decision would be. Walter explained the current contract ends June 30, 2021. Leupold asked if the county dollars received could be used for mental health services in Sioux City. Members questioned that counties would be willing to put dollars towards mental health. Rockhill said that a decision needs to be made, and if at the end of FY22, the region has paid too much, than you have documentation to show that. Wermersen did state, to Sybesma's point, we do have providers within our region that need additional dollars. Leupold asked the board to look at the change in usage. Rockhill did question if Care Connections does not pay, would Rolling Hills come back to our region to ask for additional dollars. Wermersen, prior to today's meeting was thinking about \$100,000. However, he does understand the need to have the service, the need to spend down the money, and the need to work together as regions. Wermersen said at this point we need to work together for a facility we are all going to need going forward. Kass said he would live with the \$136,000 for one year. Carl said he would support \$136,000, though he had different thoughts coming to today's meeting. He is concerned that spending money outside of our region takes away from services needed and provided in our counties with our consumers. Altena stated he leans in a similar direction. Birkey would like to reconsider dollars at the end of the year based on usage over the next year. Schumacher stated that what we are dealing with is not a perfect science. We may have served 15 % this year, and it may be 30% next year. It is all unknown, but there is value in having the service available, and that is likely worth the extra dollars. Sybesma made a motion to pay \$136,500 to Rolling Hills. Vande Weerd seconded the motion. Leupold asked what happens if Rolling Hills states that is not enough. Wermersen stated the proposal presented was from Rolling Hills so he believed they would be ok with it. Motion carried with all ayes.





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#### 18. **UPDATES: CHILDREN'S ADVISORY BOARD, PROVIDER UPDATES-**

Scholten provided an update on the Adult Advisory Board. The Advisory Board discussed the new legislation. The group talked about the core services currently required, and those soon to be provided. The group discussed current representation and the need to include Emmet County representatives beginning July 1. All agencies provided updates at the Advisory Board meeting as well. Next meeting September 9, 2021 at 1:30pm in Sheldon.

Nieman provided an updated on the Children's Advisory Board. They did meet June 16, 2021, and does have a membership issue going forward. Janie Baird has a child that graduated, as does Marilyn Lambert. At the meeting, the Senate File was discussed, but at the time, it was not yet signed. The new director at Forest Ridge was unavailable to meet this month due to conflicts at their agency. Cherokee MHI is taking kids again. At this time, Roscrance has not been returning calls to get involved with the region. The group talked about school therapy. The group also talked about the poverty level for children's services going forward. Justice services will be discussed at the ISAC School in the fall. The board membership will be changing going forward. Nieman told the Emmet County board members if they have people they would like to see on the board to let one of the staff members know. Nieman did correct to state that Marilyn Lambert could stay on the board as she has another child still in school.

#### 19. **GENERAL DISCUSSION-**

Anema is hosting a Resource Night in Sioux County in August to inform the public about the different resources in Sioux County. Anema has contacted multiple providers to attend.

Kass stated the YES Center has sent out a request for Relief Dollars to counties. Some of those dollars are for new cars to transport mental health clients. The YES Center currently contracts with five regions to transport mental health clients.

#### 20. **ADJOURN GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING-**

Vande Weerd made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Altena seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes. Meeting closed at 3:04 pm.

Sue Duhn, Secretary

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

Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board