



SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY JULY 25, 2023

The Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board met in person at the O'Brien County Courthouse in Primghar as well as via zoom for those unable to attend in person. Those in attendance via zoom and in person included: Kim Wermersen, Tammy Bruinsma, Cory Altena, Don Kass, Dennis Vanden Hull, Denise Driesen, Lisa Rockhill, Abby Wallin, Crystal McHugh, Brenna Koedam, Sue Duhn, Kim Keleher, Kevin Maughan, Dayton Vogel, Joe Van Tol, Kiimber Patterson, Jami Van Voorst, Karen Rosengreen, Tim Schumacher, and Jim McManaman.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS-

Wermersen called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. With new membership, Wermersen asked the Governance Board members to introduce themselves.

2. APPROVE AGENDA-

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

3. 28E BETWEEN COUNTIES AND SIOUX RIVERS-

Koedam discussed the 28E with the Governance Board. At this time Dickinson, Lyon, O'Brien County, and Emmet Counties have been signed. Koedam did state the Plymouth County attorney did have a few minor suggestions for changes. Koedam suggested those changes be looked at with any changes next year.

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 6/27/23 MEETING MINUTES-

Vanden Hull made a motion to approve the 6/27/23 minutes. Altena seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

5. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 6/29/23 MEETING MINUTES-

Altena made a motion to approve the 6/29/23 minutes. Bruinsma seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

6. GENERAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES: INPUT FROM REGIONAL STAFF, PUBLIC, PROVIDERS, ETC.

Kass mentioned that the Commission approved Seasons Center for Sioux Rivers.

7. FISCAL AGENT REPORT AND REGIONAL EXPENDITURES-

Van Tol discussed the fiscal agent report. At the end of June about 70% of the cash budget was utilized. Vanden Hull made a motion to approve the fiscal agent report. Maughan seconded the motion. The

motion carried with all ayes. Vanden Hull asked about administrative costs and reimbursement of mileage and other expenses, and if those came out of the dollars sent to the counties. Duhn stated the region pays for administrative expenses directly, and those invoices are sent to the region for payment. Bruinsma asked if the board members could be reimbursed for mileage in attendance to meetings. Koedam will put this on the agenda for next month to discuss.

8. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS-

Duhn explained there were two separate claim runs. The first was early in the month so the counties would have money for payroll. Kass asked about Siouxland Mental Health and how those dollars are separated. Duhn explained there are four services at Siouxland MH and the costs are divided among the services. Vanden Hull made a motion to approval the claims as submitted. Kass seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

9. UPDATED AVERA HOSPITAL FY24 CONTRACT-

Koedam provided an update on the Avera contract. Koedam explained the minor language change to include Avera submitting invoices to insurance before invoicing the region. Kass made a motion to approve the contract. Altena seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

10. COUNTY CONTRACTS-

Koedam handed out the county contracts for service coordinators and administrative staff. Koedam asked the supervisors to take those to their counties to get them on the county agendas for signatures. Koedam will email the contracts to Schumacher and Vande Weerd. Koedam will bring these to the Governance Board next month for additional discussion and action once the counties have looked at them.

11. IOWA APSE SPONSORSHIP REQUEST-

Koedam presented the request for sponsorship. Duhn shared the email received from Toni with Hope Haven. Rockhill confirmed Hope Haven receives award from APSE each year. Koedam suggested some level of spending towards this sponsorship. Kass would like a little more information before making a decision. Koedam will do some homework on this and bring to the Governance Board next month.

12. STAFF RESIGNATION-

Koedam reported that Rockhill has officially given her resignation. Rockhill has been with Lyon County for 27 years in some capacity. She will retire December 22, 2023. Koedam would like to bring a plan to the Governance Board next month. With the changes that are, happening at the state level, the region may be moving some positions around. Wermersen thanked Rockhill for her service and her passion for the



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job.

13. NEW BOARD ORIENTATION-

Koedam shared her desire to have regional board training as new members have come on with the change at the state level. Koedam shared a map of the current regions. Koedam did share the Southeastern Counties joined. One of the CEO has resigned and so the regions joined instead of hiring a new CEO. The CROSS region CEO has stepped down and is now a project manager. With that, Darci Alt is now the CEO for both regions Heart of Iowa and CROSS. Our region has four service coordinators, a CEO, and CAO, as well as supports a mental health advocate. Regions were formed in 2014. Children's services were added in 2019 as a core service. The region needs to do an environmental scan this fiscal year to determine needs. In 2018, crisis services were added to the regions. The region needs to continue building these services. Driesen asked if Regions are based on county population right now. Koedam did state the counties must be connected, but are not currently based on population, but must contain at least three counties. Sioux Rivers as a whole has changed its counties a few times. Koedam discussed the town hall meeting last week. Koedam believes the providers would like the state to leave NW Iowa alone as NW can figure things out on their own. Regions are formed with the 28E process. Regions are responsible for funding gap services, and program and service development. One current gap in service is BHIS. Another gap is the justice-involved services. Individuals that are incarcerated lost their Medicaid and need services in jail to help them return to society. Gap funding is also provided for those on the waiver wait lists. Funding was provided for CIT training in our area recently. Since that time, law enforcement has asked for additional trainings. Another area the region needs to look at is school-based services and how we can best fund that into FY25. The service coordinators will be assisting with program development. Spirit Lake Schools has contracted with Class Room Clinics. Kass asked how things were going with LeMars Schools. Koedam confirmed that most schools do not want to have to pay to have services within their schools. The region is funding gaps in schools for FY24, the non-billable time. Koedam would like to bring this to all schools if they want the services. Many of the schools would like additional therapy time beyond what is already being provided as they have more kids needing service than they have clinical time. Bruinsma discussed her issues with Medicaid. She stated getting a dentist is an issue. Storm Lake or Promise was the option. Promise accepted her, but now they do not have any dentists and she cannot return for a year. In addition, that dentist will not provide the same services as a dentist without Medicaid payment. Same situation with medications. She will have medications prescribed, but then will not have payment because



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that formulary is no longer eligible for payment. Koedam will share these concerns with the MCO's when she meets with them at the CEO meetings. Koedam will be receiving a survey from the HHS alignment group and she will be sending it to the board of directors to fill out. Regional staff assist individuals in completing DHS applications because their staff do not assist with those applications. In addition, they are difficult to understand. Koedam discussed the new Governance Board structure effective July 1, 2023. Koedam discussed the Advisory Committee. Since Covid, it has been difficult to get people to join regularly. The region must also have a Children's Advisory Committee. The Governance Board appoints advisory members, though attendance has been limited. The region may need an application for new membership of those committees. Koedam shared information about the staff and what they do though changes may be coming as retirement happens. The concern about hiring is all the changes at the state level. Koedam discussed the regional funding. In FY23 regions became 100% state funded, and are now in the second year of this. The region must prioritize with core services first. In FY24, regions are allowed to keep 5% of the fund balance. If we get to the end of the year and still have dollars, available Koedam plans to do a grant proposal to allow the money to be spent beyond July 1, but be given to the providers in June. Koedam discussed the services, core, and core and, mandated, etc. The regional management plan is currently under construction. It has to be redone because of the changes at the state. The regional management plan needs to be to HHS by September 30. The management plan provides direction for the services the region funds. The handbook that has been approved ties the staff together as a region. The handbook aligns with the management plan. The handbook allows for a county of record, but the region has the final discretion on if the employee stays or goes. The website is under construction. Koedam is excited about the website. It should be live by mid to late August. Koedam went through HIPAA training with the Governance Board.

14. **ADJOURN GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING-**

Weremersen reminded the supervisors on the Governance Board to get the 28E in as well as get the contract for service coordinators and admin to the boards. Altena made a motion to adjourn. Bruinsma seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 3:20pm.

Sue Duhn, Secretary

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



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