



SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY DECEMBER 19, 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: Sue Duhn, Brianna Zandstra, Dennis Vanden Hull, Brenna Koedam, Barry Whitsell, Abby Wallin, Don Kass, Sherri Bootsma, Tammy Bruinsma, Jeff Jager, Denise Driesen, Shawn Scholten, Tim Schumacher, Christina Eggink-Postma, Beth Will, Nicolle Eaton, Kim Scorza, Kim Wermersen, Kevin Maughan, Rob Aiken, Crystal McHugh, Jami Van Voorst, and Cory Altena.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS-

Kass called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Kass welcomed everyone in attendance.

2. APPROVE AGENDA-

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

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 11/28/23 MEETING MINUTES-

Whitsell made a motion to approve the November 28, 2023, minutes as written. Schumacher seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

4. INTRODUCTION OF NEW GOVERNANCE BOARD MEMBER-

Koedam introduced Sherri Bootsma as the new Governance Board Member. She joins the Governance Board as the Children's member with lived experience. Bootsma shared a bit of her background. Bootsma has five children with unique backgrounds, and as a result are involved in mental health services.

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

No discussion requested or provided.

6. FISCAL AGENT REPORT AND REGIONAL EXPENDITURES-

Koedam reported there is a delay in getting the fiscal agent report done for the month of November. Koedam stated she had received an email from Van Tol that there were some changes issues getting the reports completed in time as a result of other items going on in the Auditor's Office and moving the meeting up a week. Van Tol stated he would send Duhn a report later in the month. Duhn will send this report to the Governance Board via email when it is received.



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7. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS-

Schumacher asked why the region is paying ITP. Koedam explained those charges are for individuals seen at hospitals outside of our region, but residents of our county. Kass made a motion to approve claims as listed. Driesen seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

8. NEW PROGRAM UPDATES (PLAINS AREA: AFTER SCHOOL & PRIDE GROUP: TRANSITIONAL LIVING)-

Koedam discussed the After School Program with Plains Area. The start date for the program was October 9, 2023. There have been some complications with transportation. Therefore, the program began with two locations in Plymouth County. On November 28, 2023, consent paperwork has been accepted by one student. At this time, there is only one student enrolled in the program though attempts have been made to get additional participation. There is only one group, instead of the two groups due to lack of participation currently. Koedam would like to continue to fund this service at this time, as they are making an effort to get this program up and going. Koedam would like to get creative in assisting Plains Area in attempting to get the information needed. Wermersen would like Koedam to be more forceful about spending the dollars and making providers aware they need to invoice for their services. Whitsell can only speak for Village Northwest in that they only bill once per year because it is a small portion of funds for them. Bootsma would like Koedam to go back to Plains Area and ask how many kids have expressed interest in the program but have been unable to get signatures. Koedam is working with the Advisory Boards to try to get creative in spending dollars. The challenge is providing more dollars to providers that aren't spending them. Schumacher is concerned we have large dollars being unspent which is showing that maybe we don't really need the dollars. Koedam did state the dollars need to be spent more for community awareness. The dollars are for gaps and programming. Koedam does not want the providers to stop asking for special requests to plug gaps, but we need to be more creative in community awareness. Wermersen asked the providers in the room what we could do today to assist providers. Wermersen would like more direct communication with the providers. Koedam discussed crisis residential with Seasons Center. At this point, we have not paid any money towards this program. Seasons Center is in the process of hiring staff and should have their doors open in a month or two. Koedam provided the update on transitional living with Pride Group. They are still struggling with finding staff in Le Mars. Koedam would like to reallocate those dollars since Sarah Jackson has not been able to get this program up and going. Schumacher wonders if we need to broaden our ideas on how we work with the providers. Whitsell did state the providers can certainly utilize those dollars. Schumacher wants our region to be more innovative in utilizing the dollars. The region needs to brainstorm what can be done to get around the staff shortage issue. Koedam discussed the request by many schools wanting additional therapists in the schools. The providers are telling them they do not have the staff to go into the schools. Challenge to Change is a program that goes into schools teaching mindful education to

elementary, middle, and high schools. Koedam would like to put dollars towards these programs. Koedam does believe this could be utilized within our provider agencies as well. Bootsma stated they recently sent out surveys to their kids at the high school in Unity. The need from those students is great. Bootsma wonders if we can get counties to hire staff to provide the services through colleges. Koedam did state she is willing to work with Bootsma on this to see what can be done and brainstorm ideas.

9. IRSH UPDATE-

Koedam provided an update on the IRSH home in Spirit Lake. The IRSH home has been fighting MRSA, Covid, and bedbugs. The residents had to leave the home. Koedam may like to provide some needs to that home if there are needs once the insurance has run the course. Linda is planning to open the second IRSH home in January. Most of the residents are Medicaid funded. The redesignation process is about to begin with Linda and that first IRSH home.

10. ADULT ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE-

Scholten shared the Adult Advisory Board update. The group discussed budget, HHS contract, capacity calculator, justice system update, environmental scans, and a few other items. There were a few providers that shared updates as well. Shawn Scholten will be stepping aside as the Advisory Board chairperson. Dorothy Christensen has agreed to chair the group.

11. SIOUX RIVERS REQUEST FOR FUNDING-

Koedam will pursue the Mindfulness Program but would also like to bring Kevin Hines to the region. He is a survivor, after jumping from the Golden Gate Bridge. The cost to bring him to the region could be up to \$60,000 for what Koedam would like to do in the region. Koedam would like to bring the Cracked Not Broken program to the region. It is about his story and struggles. He can gear his program to high school students as well as adults. The Chapel at Northwestern holds about 800 individuals. Northwestern will assist with marketing on the West side of the region. Koedam is still looking for a location in the East side of the region. Koedam would like him to do two programs in each location. One for the kids during the day, and one for the parents in the evening. Koedam would like it to be a kickoff to do additional children's services going forward. Koedam is looking at getting kids more involved in the Advisory Meetings to tell the group what is needed. Koedam can investigate the possibility of getting CEU's for therapists. Bootsma made a motion to approve up to \$60,000 to bring Kevin Hines to the region. Bruinsma seconded the motion. Kass agrees this is a great start. Bootsma doesn't believe a space for 800 students will be enough. She believes the interest will be much greater. Koedam did state if there is a



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good turnout, we could do it again. The motion carried with all ayes. Bootsma and Bruinsma are willing to assist Koedam with this.

12. **FY24 CONTRACT WITH ELEVATE-**

Koedam wants a contract with Elevate to get students seen in Okoboji School as the need is there and our current contracted providers do not have the staff to provide the services. Kass made a motion to approve a contract with Elevate. Van Voorst seconded the motion. Whitsell asked if this was outpatient services. Koedam confirmed it is. The motion carried with all ayes.

13. **OPEN STAFF POSITION-**

Rockhill's last day was Friday. Zandstra is now the service coordinator for both Lyon and Sioux Counties. Koedam will continue to do data work. With that, Koedam would like to hire a Justice Service Coordinator individual to work with all jails to get them more involved. Koedam believes the region will hire this person internally. Maughan asked if this is a full-time position. Koedam did state she believes this person would stay busy full time. This individual will also work on starting MH and Drug Courts in all of the counties as well. Maughan asked if this internal person is aware of the position. Koedam did state she has one internal individual that is interested, but it would still be an advertised position. If the internal person is hired, then an additional service coordinator would need to be hired. Whitsell asked if there is a job description and what the starting wage would be. The starting salary for a service coordinator is \$60,000 as previously approved by the Governance Board, but if it is an internal position that individual would be hired at their current salary. Koedam will submit a job description in January for the Governance Board.

14. **FY25 COUNTY RENT PAYMENT DISCUSSION-**

The counties agreed the amounts were going to remain the same in FY25 as they currently are in FY24.

15. **FY25 SALARIES-**

Wermersen started Dickinson County settled on 4.29%, with the Sheriff getting 6+. Kass confirmed Plymouth County is discussing 4% with the supervisors getting 3%. Schumacher stated Emmet County is looking at 4.5%. Van Voorst stated Sioux County is looking at 8% for sheriff and 6% for everyone else. Wermersen stated inflation is at 3.14% and HR across the country is 4.1% across the board. The Governance Board agreed to use 4% as an estimate for county budgets at this time.



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Schumacher asked if things are better with getting the preapproval for services in the jail. Schumacher asked the Governance Board if they would reconsider making the payment for those services that were denied in the Emmet County jail as a result of the office not getting those services preapproved. Kass made a motion to approve the invoices at approximately \$3600. Van Voorst seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

16. **ADJOURN GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING-**

Schumacher made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vanden Hull seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 3:12pm.

Sue Duhn, Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Duhn".

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