



SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2024

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: Carl Vande Weerd, Cory Altena, Sue Duhn, Abby Wallin, Brenna Koedam, Kim Wermersen, Joe Van Tol, Terry Meyer, LeAnn Blau, Kim Keleher, Dennis Vanden Hull, Tammy Bruinsma, Denise Driesen, Shawn Scholten, Karen Rosengreen, Kimber Patterson, Tim Schumacher, Jami Van Voorst, and Steven Slye.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS-

Wermersen welcomed the group to the meeting.

2. APPROVE AGENDA-

Vande Weerd made a motion to approve the agenda as listed. Schumacher seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 4/23/24 MEETING MINUTES-

Schumacher made a motion to approve the April 23, 2024, minutes as presented. Vanden Hull seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

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

No discussion from anyone present.

5. FISCAL AGENT REPORT AND REGIONAL EXPENDITURES-

Van Tol reported on the fiscal agent report for April 2024. Driesen made a motion to approve the fiscal agent report. Altena seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS-

Vande Weerd asked what the Plains Area amount of \$322,283 was for. Duhn stated was the total amount approved last month for the mobile crisis north unit. Altena asked how providers were doing with getting invoices submitted and paid. Duhn reported those are coming in and many have been submitted. Duhn will send an email to providers this week to ensure all invoices are submitted by June 15, 2024. Vande Weerd made a motion to approve the claims as listed. Van Voorst seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.



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7. FUNDING REQUESTS-

Koedam presented the funding requests. Kimber Patterson with Hope Haven discussed the Hope Haven request for transportation costs to offset nonbillable costs towards supported employment. This supports individuals in employment. Schumacher made a motion to approve \$40,000 for transportation. Vande Weerd seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes. **Approved \$40,000**

Koedam presented on the other Hope Haven request. It is for completely new program development. The proposal is for \$165,000. Terry Meyer and LeAnn Blau with Hope Haven presented on the request. HHS has approved remote supports for supported community living services. This proposal will allow for remote support and overall increase capacity. It is a smart living model. Hope Haven will contract with Shift Ability as a consultant to assist the start-up of this program. The direct care hours will decrease, but utilization can increase. There will be support staff on call 24/7 based on service plans of individual clients. The \$165,000 is the initial cost and to get all staff, parents, clients, and guardians trained as well. Hope Haven will have a support center, on call staff, at all times. The technology will cost about \$10,000 per year. Three-year investment of over \$961,000. The goal over the first three years is to have about thirty clients. The end goal is to have as many clients as possible enrolled in the program, though it is understood it will not work for everyone. Vande Weerd asked if the region needs to commit for three years, and cautioned the board in doing so when the region is done in a year. Koedam did state this was a one-year commitment for the consultant piece only with Hope Haven making the additional money commitment. Schumacher asked where they would come up with the rest of the money. Terry stated the plan is to get money from the services going forward, though they did know they would take a loss for a couple of years as the program develops and grows. Bruinsma asked if the support was for the MI population. LeAnn confirmed it is for both mental health and ID populations. Schumacher likes innovative ideas moving forward. Driesen asked if the change in waivers will affect their payments of SCL. LeAnn said this will not affect that, as technology is a piece of both waivers going forward. Terry did state it does force independence at times as providers can tend to overserve individuals at times. It will take three staff to start, but the goal is the need for less staff hours. Vande Weerd is concerned about the quality of service doing telehealth and wants to ensure Hope Haven continue their quality services. Vande Weerd is in favor as long as the service continues. Koedam did state telehealth in the therapy world has helped bring additional individuals to services. Vande Weerd made a motion to approve the \$165,000 request from Hope Haven. Altena seconded the motion. Vanden Hull asked if the call center is Iowa based. LeAnn confirmed it would be a Hope Haven staff person. Schumacher's observation is that Hope Haven is trying to find a way to go forward in an innovative way while also looking at workforce shortage. The motion carried with all ayes. **Approved \$165,000**

Koedam shared the next funding request which is \$20,000 to Flowstate. Steven Slye shared information regarding Flowstate services. Steven has reached out to each region for some funding to develop something to better share data. The other regions have been asked for dollars as well. Steven shared they are working with a competitive bid process to draft a new system. There is also funding available from the state once the prototype is built. Vande Weerd wants to make sure Flowstate does not get too big too fast that it affects the services being provided. Slye stated he has been cognizant of this as he has moved into other regions. Schumacher made a motion to approve the \$20,000. Van Voorst seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes. **Approved \$20,000**

8. CONSULTING FIRM CONTRACT APPROVAL-

Koedam shared information regarding the consultant fee for Open Minds. Koedam would like to enter into a contract with Open Minds for 250 hours of consultation in FY25. They can provide staff training, transformational change training, regional dissolution, leadership support and consultation. Koedam made it clear this firm is not to write the RFP for the ASO. It is to assist us as Sioux Rivers in the dissolution of Sioux Rivers to protect our counties, staff, and providers going forward. Many regions have been using consultants for years. The total cost for this contract is \$74,375. The contract will start July 1, 2024. The first payment would be made August 1, with the second payment to be made by September 1 with half being paid each time. The money has been budgeted in FY25. We can use the blocked hours for whatever we want to use them for. HHS will be providing us with a transition plan, but the consulting firm can help translate some of that. Vande Weerd made a motion to approve the contract for Open Minds. Schumacher seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

9. STAFF UPDATES/STAFF POSITION REQUEST-

Koedam provided staff updates. Zandstra provided her resignation effective immediately this morning. Koedam stressed that Duhn and Will have been doing the work with no complaints, however it is not sustainable for another year. Therefore, Koedam would like to hire an administrative support person to assist the staff to do the "busy" work so the other work can be done that needs to be done. Schumacher asked what the salary range is for this person. Koedam would like to hire the person at \$19.50 per hour. Schumacher made a motion to move forward with advertising the position at \$19.50 per hour as well as putting an ad out for another service coordinator to see if there is one out there. Vande Weerd seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.



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10. FY25 ANNUAL SERVICE AND BUDGET PLAN UPDATE-

Duhn shared the update on the spreadsheet error in the FY25 Annual Service and Budget Plan and the need to update this for HHS. The error ultimately resulted in an increase in the revenue from HHS. At this point, we are looking at a withholding of about \$200,000 from the fund balance.

11. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BILL UPDATE-

Koedam shared a brief update of the Behavioral Health Bill. Governor Reynolds did sign the bill into law a few weeks ago. At this point, the map could change a bit, but likely it won't change in our area. There could be some shifting in Central Iowa. The map should come out July 1 for final map August 1 after the comment period. Dawn, Melissa, and Koedam continue to have conversations. Hopefully, there will be a better update next month.

12. ADJOURN GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING-

Wermersen thanked the board for being in attendance and encouraged all members to be in attendance at the meetings to finish out the regional business. Schumacher asked where we were at with employee incentives as discussed last month. Koedam confirmed the county budgets were already amended and therefore it was decided to hold off at least until FY25. Vande Weerd made a motion to adjourn. Van Voorst seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 2:51 pm.

Sue Duhn, Secretary

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

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