



SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2021

The Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board met in person and via zoom at 1:30pm. Those in attendance included: Kim Wermersen, Don Kass, Carl Vande Weerd, Cory Altena, Christina Eggink-Postma, Lisa Rockhill, Sue Duhn, Kim Keleher, Jay Ricke, Sharon Nieman, Beth Will, Denise Driesen, Shane Walter, Mavis Anema, Nicolle Eaton, Sheila Martin, Sherri Bootsma, William Leupold, Mike Van Otterloo, John Steensma, Mavis Anema, Rob Aiken, Shawn Scholten, John Pluth, Deb Brodersen joined at 1:40pm, Kasey Fear joined at 1:43pm, Beth Morrisette joined at 1:45pm.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS-

Wermersen welcomed those in attendance and opened the meeting at 1:30pm.

2. APPROVE AGENDA-

Vande Weerd made a motion to approve the agenda. Altena seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 7/27/21 MEETING MINUTES-

Van Otterloo made a motion to approve the July 27, 2021 minutes. Bootsma seconded the motion. Wermersen requested a correction to a typo in the minutes. In reference to #8 of the minutes, the amount agreed to was \$136,500 and not \$138,500. With that correction, the motion carried with all ayes.

4. FISCAL AGENT REPORT AND REGIONAL EXPENDITURES-

Walter reported on Dokter's report. Kass made a motion to approve the report. Vande Weerd seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

5. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS-

Vande Weerd asked about all the attorney fees. Walter explained these are committal fees and regions are obligated to pay those. Leupold made a motion to approve the claims as listed. Altena seconded the motion. Van Otterloo asked about the rate for the attorney fees. Duhn state they are standard throughout the region, though there is not a set rate. They are currently \$60-\$65 per hour. With no additional conversation, motion carried with all ayes.

6. PLAINS AREA AMENDED CONTRACT-

Walter discussed the amended Plains Area contract. The dollars were included in the approved \$136,500 rate, so there are no additional dollars being approved. The contract is only being amended to include Turning Point. Pluth made a motion to approve the amended contract. Kass seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

7. SEASONS CENTER AMENDED CONTRACT-

Duhn reported on the amended contract. The contract is amended for to include reporting changes to be more in line with the statewide reporting. Vande Weerd made a motion to approve the amended contract. Alena seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

8. LAKES LIFESKILLS UPDATE-

Walter reported on the update of Lakes Lifeskills. The City of Spirit Lake denied the zoning request. At this time, we are done with that location. Walter stated the issue is beyond zoning. Meetings will be put together with stakeholders in Dickinson County to work on relationships. Wermersen added he does not believe the zoning issue is going to be overturned. There are options to look at other locations. The other issue is a provider. Lakes Lifeskills needs to be accredited to do the service, but at this time, that process is not final. Wermersen believes the board needs to look at other options. At this point, it is unknown if Lakes Lifeskills will get the accreditation process finished. Alena asked if the state is going to tell us that it does not work anyway and wonders if we should continue the process or wait. Walter does not believe so. He stated the CEO's are working very close with the state to work on performance standards for all regions. Walter believes there is a good partnership with DHS right now. DHS is very aware of the difficulties regions are facing. One of those being lack of staff. Walter believes we will get there, but at this time, it is going to take some more work to get there. Walter states that DHS wants to be involved in some of the conversations especially with crisis. At this point, nothing changes with adding the state, other than where the dollars come from. We will be responsible if we are not able to develop services, and we cannot show that we are working towards services. Wermersen asked about his concern with the center in Sioux City when it becomes an access center. Walter stated that the site in Sioux City would continue to offer both services, if the access center comes to fruition. Walter did state one of the MCO's had signed with Lakes Lifeskills to provide IRSH, though Lakes Lifeskills is not yet there as work needs to be done with Chapter 25. Walter stated staff talked yesterday about setting priorities, one of those might be IRSH. Walter stated we have time to work on crisis services. Kass asked about moving the building to the highway in Spirit Lake for zoning purposes, and not needing zoning change there. Wermersen stated that is not the case, since it would need to go in front of a board for approval too. Vande Weerd asked if the access center and the 23-hour services could be in the same facility. Walter stated it could be done with some changes to the building. Eaton did state they do need to be two separate units. The living and dining spaces need to be separate. It would mean renovations to the current building. Kass asked about the Pride Group facility by Primghar. Walter stated the provider would need to be willing to provide the facility. Van Otterloo asked if the facility was empty. It was confirmed that RCF is nearly full. Walter wants to council Lakes Lifeskills to slow down a little bit to work on relationships, and then have all

stakeholders move together in that direction. Walter stated at a meeting at the hospital in July, Walter sat next to the CEO and believed they were on board then. Lakes Lifeskills can continue with IRSH regardless of zoning. Wermersen stated the Administrator of Spirit Lake is not going to change his mind, in his opinion. The relationships need to be mended with the hospital and law enforcement regardless.

9. STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN POTENTIAL FACILITATOR, PROPOSAL, AND UPDATE-

Beth Morrisette went through her power point introducing her team. Beth is the CEO and brings her experience of a former foster parent, and a school board member. Dr. Valerie Calderon is the director of strategy and capacity building. Kay Doyle is the director of system change. The stakeholder input offers three options: interviews, online surveys, focus groups. The online survey is limited to about 12 questions. The Wave method workshop works to connect trends. The visioning workshop ties nicely with the wave method. What is the action, impact, or case for the future? The strategic planning works to goal plan for the next three to five years. This step works towards finding those barriers and overcoming those. Wermersen asked the cost. Morrisette stated the ala carte items are listed in the proposal. Virtual facilitation can be done as well as in person. Wermersen asked if there were any other comments or questions. Rockhill said the strategic plan is \$4500. Any other pieces would be an additional cost beyond that total. Wermersen asked the staff what is needed. Nieman stated a strategic plan was done several years ago and a strategic plan was done then with a facilitator. Kass asked if we even need a facilitator. Plymouth County had one done years ago, and to his knowledge they have not been referenced. Kass said a facilitator could not change legislation, providers, and staff. Rockhill did state she had discussions with both SW Iowa and Central Iowa. There is a report provided that would assist with outcomes going forward. Walter stated he was the one that believes we need to do strategic planning. We have added three counties in the last two years, we have mandates we need to achieve. Walter believes we need to think about where we are and where we need to go. He believes it brings us all together to determine the needs, and how to meet those needs. Walter believes having a professional to assist is beneficial. Walter believes this would be a framework to look at going forward. Altena asked how long ago the regions were set up. Walter stated they were created in 2014. Altena said in three years the regions could be completely upset again. Will believes the strategic planning process is important to help us move forward. Will is on the fence, as we do need the outcomes. Walter stated the strategic plan is to help us all be on the same page to get from here to there. Will mentioned the hospitals do strategic planning and she has tapped into those for needs assessments. Van Otterloo asked if there are other firms in the area that could be used that would better understand Northwest Iowa. Rockhill believes it is important for us to have the same vision and have the same goals. Vande Weerd asked if an outside firm would be able to give us a direction. Walter stated he believes they would be able to assist with that. Van Otterloo asked



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Nieman for her opinion. Nieman believes the concept is good and that \$4500 is not a large amount in the scheme of things. Nieman also stated the rates are good through March 2022 so a decision does not have to be made now. Keleher asked if providers would be included in the process. She believes the communication with providers has been lacking lately. Walter stated providers would be included in the planning process. Wermersen states he is hearing a cry for help. He knows that we need to get something done, and maybe this is the way to help us get something done. Wermersen sees the frustration on the faces of board members, staff, and providers. Kass does not believe an outside group is going to solve our problem, though does see the process as important. He suggests we try our own thing before hiring an outside firm. Van Otterloo did state the positive that did come from prior strategic planning was the teamwork that came from that. In that respect, it could be positive. Vande Weerd would like to talk to some of the supervisors that have utilized this firm to see what was gained from the process. Vande Weerd is not confident we can do what really needs to be done with \$4500. Wermersen states it needs to be addressed. Vande Weerd made a motion to table the proposal to the next meeting. Van Otterloo seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

10. GENERAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES-

Eggink-Postma with Seasons Center provided an update. Kim Scorza, the current CEO of Seasons Center did resign. Her last date is Tuesday, August 31, 2021. Dan Ries has been appointed the interim CEO. Scorza will stay on as a consultant through the end of the calendar year. The Family Support Center in Sioux Center has a new therapist on board for foster care kids. Nieman stated the family first model has kids staying home longer with their families when they have special needs. The grant is primarily to assist foster kids and families.

Scholten reported the Adult Advisory Board is meeting September 9, 2021. She will be able to provide an update at the next meeting.

Will reported the Spirit Lake Schools was awarded \$100,000 for mental health services through a grant.

Vande Weerd reported on the YES Center. Cheryl is working to be able to have the YES Center provide a crisis center for juveniles in Cherokee. Emmet County needs to get back on the board, as they have already paid their fees. Pluth stated he would look into this. Nieman confirmed the need for the crisis center. Because shelters are lacking, they would like to see crisis services at the YES Center. This could be done through telehealth or at the location. A full 30-day evaluation will be provided. Pluth stated they



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are having troubles at Forest Ridge as well. The Emmet County Sheriff did go to Des Moines and talk with DHS regarding Forest Ridge. Walter plans to meet with the new director at Forest Ridge again next month. Walter stated a meeting with Roscrance would be held next week too.

Kass stated the commission has been wondering how we get more mental health professionals. Eggink-Postma with Seasons Center said the only way to get mental health professionals is to pay them. Kass wondering about staff taking on interns. Will did state all privacy things need to be addressed if we were to bring in interns. The paperwork for mentors is quite a bit too. Kass did state we would be tasked with 5% carry over. A recommendation by the commission was made to the state for 18% carry over.

Anema stated the resource fair went over well. The conversations and networking among providers were good. Seasons reported they got referrals from that. Keleher did state the workforce shortage all comes down to rates. She asked that all regions request rate changes and advocate for that at the state.

11. **ADJOURN GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING-**

Vande Weerd made a motion to adjourn. Altena seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 3:15pm.

Sue Duhn, Secretary

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

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