



## SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

### GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2021

The Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board met in person and via zoom at 1:30pm. Those in attendance included: Kim Wermersen, Mike Van Otterloo, Don Kass, Mark Sybesma, Carl Vande Weerd, Cory Altena, Mavis Anema, Shane Walter, Sue Duhn, Christina Eggink-Postma, Sharon Nieman, Jerry Birkey, Lisa Rockhill, Ryan Dokter, Kasey Fear, Tammy Bruinsma, Janice Hill, John Steensma, Doug Smit, Barry Whitsell, Denise Driesen, Nicholle Eaton, Mike with Roscrance, Dennis Vanden Hull arrived at 1:33pm, John Pluth arrived at 1:40pm, Bill Leupold arrived at 1:41pm, Beth Will arrived at 1:49pm, Tim Schumacher joined at 2:36pm.

#### 1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS-**

Wermersen welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

#### 2. **APPROVE AGENDA-**

Vande Weerd made motion to approve the agenda. Birkey seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

#### 3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 9/28/21 MEETING MINUTES-**

Altena made motion to approve the September 28, 2021 meeting minutes. Steensma seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

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

Dokter reviewed the September 2021 financial report. Dokter reported the dollars from the state and the sale of the building are included in the revenues. The fund balance at the end of September was \$4,492,549.88. Sybesma made motion to approve the financial report. Kass seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

#### 5. **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS-**

Kass asked about the charges with Integrated Telehealth Partners. Walter stated those charges are related to care coordination for the local hospitals which is phone calls to find inpatient beds. Walter stated he plans to vacate that contract and work towards only paying for the crisis evaluations instead of the care coordination piece. Duhn reported the Sandy Law Firm attorney fees are in part for cases that have been closed due to the judge and assistant county attorney working through cases prior to their retirements. Van Otterloo asked if ITP is being used for jails. Anema stated ITP rarely goes into our jails. Vanden Hull asked if there were other options with that contract. Walter stated Plains Area does do some of that on a limited basis. Eggink-Postma asked if the outcomes were different at the hospital because of ITP making those calls. Kass asked about the dollars spent at the access center. Duhn stated the dollars were split among number of clients. Van Otterloo made motion to approve the claims. Vanden Hull seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes.

**6. APPOINT GOVERNANCE BOARD MEMBER TO CHILDREN'S ADVISORY BOARD & POSSIBLE PARENT REPRESENTATIVE & APPOINT REPRESENTATIVE TO ADULT ADVISORY BOARD-**

Nieman reported Sherri Bootsma, as a Governance Board Member, needs replaced on the Children's Board as well as a parent individual that the Children's Board has not yet voted on. That will need to come back to the board next month. The Children's Meeting is a quarterly meeting that meets via zoom. Kass is willing to participate as the Governance Board member on that Children's Advisory Board. Vande Weerd made motion to approve Kass as the Governance Board member to the Children's Advisory Board. Van Otterloo seconded the motion. Motion carried with all ayes. Rockhill presented Trudy Ahrens as the Adult Advisory Member. Pluth made motion to approve Trudy Ahrens as the Adult Advisory Member. Kass seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

**7. NOVEMBER 2021 AND DECEMBER 2021 MEETING DATES-**

Wermersen stated with the holidays coming the board needs to decide when to hold the meetings the next few months. It was reported the Strategic Planning Meeting is scheduled for November 22, 2021. The Governance Board decided to stay with November 23, 2021 for the Governance Board Meeting in November. At this point, December 21, 2021 will be the new scheduled Governance Board meeting date for December. This will be discussed again at the November meeting to determine if a quorum will be available, if this will be a zoom only meeting, or if the meeting is even needed in December.

**8. LAKES LIFESKILLS CONTRACT AND FY22 ADDENDUM-**

Walter reported Lakes Lifeskills was awarded a contract for Intensive Residential Home by the MCO's. As a Governance Board, we need to designate that agency and be certain the checklist that DHS requires is being met. The checklist has been done with Lakes Lifeskills. The training piece has not yet been met, but Lakes Lifeskills has one year from the start of that contract in August to meet that training. Walter stated the region would support Lakes Lifeskills with some dollars if needed. Kass asked about certification. Walter confirmed that is all in place. Sybesma made motion to approve Lakes Lifeskills contract. Vanden Hull seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

**9. ROSCRANCE JACKSON CHILDREN'S CRISIS SERVICES MOU-**

Walter stated he has been working with Roscrance on a MOU. At this time, that MOU has not been completed. A list of needs has been supplied for items needed to provide services in that MOU. The hope is to have the MOU to the Governance Board by November.

**10. TRAINING OPPORTUNITY IN COLLABORATION WITH ROLLING HILLS AND CARE CONNECTIONS OF NORTHERN IOWA-**

Anema was contacted by Rolling Hills and Care Connections of Northern Iowa for a training opportunity to

be held two days, one in our area, and one in Care Connections of Northern Iowa. Two additional days will be held in Rolling Hills. The training will be for law enforcement and first responders to learn about responding to mental health needs at the scene. Anema has not yet received the cost to the region for these trainings. Anema suggested we wait to make a decision on the training until the costs are received. It will be a one-day training only, but offered a couple different dates. Van Otterloo asked if it would meet the mandatory requirements for law enforcement. Anema and Rockhill believed it would as long as the trainers are certified to do so, and it is believed they are. Sybesma believes the prior presentation was a good one and it would be beneficial. Anema will get more information and the cost for the board meeting next month.

**11. STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN UPDATE-**

Rockhill stated the date has been decided for November 22, 2021. At this time, the hope is to have that meeting at the Assembly Meeting at the Courthouse in Primghar. The meeting location will be confirmed for everyone. An additional half day will also be scheduled, but at this time, there are scheduling issues. That will need to be a posted meeting as well.

**12. BUDGET UPDATE-**

Walter stated we have had a couple of staff meetings regarding the budget. We do still have some questions regarding some of the costs to incur. We do have some dollars needed for IRSH. We have also received a proposal for Community Based Crisis Services with Seasons Center. Duhn will send that proposal out to the Governance Board members this afternoon. Eggink-Postma commented that staff would need to be hired to provide that service. The plan is to provide that service by March 1, 2022. It is utilizing the existing mobile crisis staff as well as clinical staff within Seasons Center. The plan is to share the resources with Care Connections of Northern Iowa. The initial cost is about \$22,000 through February 2022. Then an additional \$.10 per capita as the ongoing costs. Walter was pleased to receive the proposal. It is a mandated service.

**13. GENERAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES-**

Wermersen would like to thank Walter and Will for the meeting at the Lakes Regional Healthcare Monday. Marissa and Rob from DHS attended at that meeting. They did a great job in assisting with that meeting. Wermersen stated that a lot of education needs to happen with the hospitals and the police departments. Another meeting will be held in November with that same group of people to move towards additional education for everyone to let them know there are other options if they allow the region to help them get there. Wermersen wants to invite everyone in to join in creating the policies and be a part of the process. Anema asked if it was wise on behalf of our region to start reaching out to other law enforcement



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agencies. Wermersen agreed this needs to happen with all counties. Van Otterloo agreed this is an issue everywhere. He believes we should meet with the Northwest Iowa Sheriff's (they meet quarterly) and discuss these issues down the road as well. Van Otterloo can help facilitate this when the group is ready to do so. Birkey asked if deputies are still sitting at hospitals for several hours. Van Otterloo did state that some of this has not changed. Wermersen believes because of this we need to sit down and have these discussions. Van Otterloo agreed we need to have the discussions and try to make things better. If we do nothing, nothing will certainly change. Will stated the other take away from that meeting was DHS wanted to know the gaps. They were taking notes to take back to the state.

Dokter reported on the change to the finances with the change of state dollars. Dokter has reached out to the other county Auditors. The budget forms are changing. All of the funds sitting in Fund 10 at the County level need to be sent to the region. This may mean the counties need to do a Budget Amendment to make this happen. This needs to be done by the end of the fiscal year. Dokter will do a follow up webinar with the county Auditors as this moves forward.

Nieman stated there was a Children's Advisory Meeting in October. The mental health concerns for younger kids have spiked as well. It has been difficult on both ends of the spectrum. The older kids as well as the young elementary kids because of Covid. Seasons Center has a new service for primarily foster and adoptive children and families. Family Support Center is the name of the program held in the Sioux Center Office. Nieman also stated the misconception is kids need to be charged to get help.

Christina added finding a place for kids to go has been difficult. There just are not places to go. There has been an increase in mobile crisis usage recently.

Tammy Bruinsma asked if it would be beneficial to add a consumer to the meetings like those that have been held in Spirit Lake. She wonders if the groups understand what people with mental illness look like. Bruinsma knows that many people have a rigid misconception of what mental illness is. Bruinsma agrees more education is needed and she is willing to volunteer to attend meetings going forward if needed.

Walter did state we did talk in length yesterday about restoring some dollars to our providers. He hopes at the November meeting to have that discussion.

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

Vande Weerd made motion to adjourn the meeting. Van Otterloo seconded the motion. The motion carried all eyes. Meeting adjourned at 2:48pm.

Sue Duhn, Secretary



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