



SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 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, Brenna Koedam, Sue Duhn, Kim Wermersen, Don Kass, Dennis Vanden Hull, Joe Van Tol, Cory Altena, Katie Morgan, Abby Wallin, Shawn Scholten, Sherri Bootsma, Barry Whitsell, Beth Will, Denise Driesen, Sarah Heinrichs-Wurm, Kerri Dandy (Spencer Hospital), Beth Will, Jami Van Voorst, Karen Rosengreen joined at 1:34 pm, and Rob Aiken joined the meeting at 1:55 pm.

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS-**

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

2. **APPROVE AGENDA-**

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

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 10/22/24 MEETING MINUTES-**

Whitsell made a motion to approve the minutes. Van Voorst seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

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

Katie Morgan, O'Brien County Attorney asked to speak. Morgan came to the meeting to discuss an issue within the committal process. Morgan does not believe mental health committals have been followed by the Iowa Code in the past, though this is getting better today. Morgan briefly discussed the committal process. A written evaluation must be submitted upon committal being filed and evaluation completed and processed through the court. The code also states the evaluator shall be present at the hearing. Morgan's issue is with Flowstate being unwilling to fill out the report and testify at the hearing. Morgan is having some issues with hospitals as well. This is a growing concern with Morgan as the increase of mental health committals continues. Morgan did submit a proposal through the Iowa County Attorney's Association to let the providers credentials be different. Vande Weerd suggested Morgan reach out to ISAC to get this as a legislative proposal and priority. Koedam asked what Morgan would like the board to do. Morgan would like the region to go back to the local hospitals to make sure they know who can and cannot submit those reports. Whitsell asked if Morgan would send the letter she sent to the other county attorneys so that letter could be sent to the hospitals so they understand what is going on. Koedam did state we have a contract with Flowstate to provide consultation services to local rural hospitals. Before Flowstate, it was ITP, which was contracted in the same way. The hospitals can choose to use Flowstate or not, it is up to them. Flowstate also provides placement services for individuals for inpatient if needed.

Koedam said the hospitals know Flowstate does not fill out those reports, as Koedam has sat in on those onboarding meetings. Wermersen did state it ultimately falls on the hospital to follow the code which states the hospital must complete the paperwork. Bootsma asked if these situations could be sent to a different hospital, such as a hospital in Sioux City. Iowa Code states they must go to the local hospital. Koedam did state the attending physician can trump the evaluation from Flowstate as they are the attending in the emergency room. Kass asked if Plains Area, or a different provider, could do these evaluations in these rare situations. Koedam does say she feels this may be a CCBHC item, however we are still unsure what things may look like when the state changes things July 1. Morgan believes a conversation with the hospitals needs to be had so they are providing the correct people to testify in those hearings. Whitsell did state in the medical field the issue is they are not getting compensated and that is why they are not willing to do so. Wermersen asked if the evaluator could do a taped statement. Morgan stated this wouldn't work because they have to have the ability to cross examine. Koedam will reach out to the local hospitals and remind them of their role in the commitment proceedings. The region cannot hold the hospitals accountable if they do not complete the paperwork or testify. Koedam has had conversations with Flowstate as well and will discuss the concern once again with them however it is not in the contract that they will complete the paperwork or testify as they are consultive in nature and the hospital remains responsible for the individual in their care. It comes down to how they are compensated for their time sitting and waiting for a hearing that may not even happen.

Rosengreen discussed the Open House, for the crisis residential center at Seasons Center scheduled for December 5th 11-1pm at the main office. Be looking for invitations.

5. FISCAL AGENT REPORT AND REGIONAL EXPENDITURES-

Van Tol reported on the fiscal agent report. There were a few small revenues and the monthly expenditures. The fund balance is around 2 million. Van Voorst made a motion to approve the fiscal agent report. Altena seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

6. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS-

Whitsell made a motion to approve the claims as listed. Driesen seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

7. FY24 ANNUAL REPORT-

Koedam asked if anyone had any questions about the report. There is a lot of data within the report regarding services and utilization of those services. There are also highlights of how some of the extra dollars were spent. Koedam did state the crisis coalition is doing some great things, and those agencies are

all working together very well. IRSH went from three beds to eight beds in FY24. Rog's corner has been a huge hit and the outreach with that has been amazing. Koedam did discuss the flooding response at the end of FY24 as well. Page thirty-three of the report discusses the gaps that were paid by the region. Kass made a motion to approve the report which includes the FY24 fund balance certification. Van Voorst seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

8. TRANSPORTATION DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE CONTRACT-

Koedam discussed some transportation issues with local hospitals and YES Center not having transportation options available, or no response is received. One of the hospitals brought them another transportation option, Red River. Sioux Center Health asked if the region would contract with Red River as another transportation option besides YES Center. Koedam did state Red River would need to be available for all six counties if the region contracted with them. Red River rates are far more expensive than YES Center. Vande Weerd asked Koedam to ask what the guarantee is on time frame for Red River. Vande Weerd did state the YES Center is now fully staffed again, and there are younger staff doing transportation for them. Whitsell suggested the hospital contract with Red River, but the region could reimburse the amount the YES Center is willing to pay. Koedam will discuss this with the Sioux Center hospital. Koedam is still waiting for the signed FY25 contract, from the YES Center. Kass will look into this.

9. FLOWSTATE REQUEST-

Whitsell stated up front he does not agree with this and it is up to providers to work with their banks when needed. Flowstate is asking all three of his regions to prepay January and February due to the reasons listed on his request. Basically, the request discusses the revenue cycle challenges with insurance payments. Wermersen stated this opens every provider to ask the same thing. Vande Weerd made a motion to deny as this sets precedence. Kass seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

10. OVERTIME COMPENSATION-

Koedam discussed the need for additional compensation for staff as the region is down three staff. Koedam did state we do not need to amend the budget because we have money for two additional staff. Kass made a motion to have Koedam come up with a formula for \$50,000 to divide up among the three employees for a stipend for the first half of the year (July 1, 2024-December 31, 2024). Whitsell suggested a different option. Kass withdrew his motion. Whitsell made a motion to approve \$8,000 per employee



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for the past two quarters (July-Dec) with \$4,000 per employee per quarter going forward. Koedam would like the first half payable in the first paycheck in December with the others going forward payable each quarter. Kass seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

11. **SIoux RIVERS ASSET DISCUSSION-**

Koedam did state HHS asked for a list of assets. The board agrees the vehicles are leased from Sioux County and are titled Sioux County, and therefore Sioux County vehicles.

12. **ADJOURN GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING-**

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

Sue Duhn, Secretary

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

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