



SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025

The Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board met via zoom. Those in attendance via zoom included: Sue Duhn, Beth Will, Don Kass, Carl Vande Weerd, Kim Wermersen, Dennis Vanden Hull, Barry Whitsell, Joe Van Tol, Shawn Scholten, Kim Keleher, Denise Driesen, Janelle Hultquist, Sherri Bootsma, Jami Van Voorst, Todd Lange, Sarah Wurm, Tammy Bruinsma, Abby Wallin, Cory Altena joined at 1:43.

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS-**

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

2. **APPROVE AGENDA-**

Vande Weerd made a motion to approve the agenda as present. Vanden Hull seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 2/25/25 MEETING MINUTES-**

Whitsell made a motion to approve February 25, 2025, minutes as presented. Van Voorst seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

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

Janelle Hultquist with Seasons Center presented on ACT. There are currently nineteen active ACT clients. Five of those are Sioux Rivers' residents. There are currently open positions in ACT and currently fifteen people on the ACT waiting list.

5. **FISCAL AGENT REPORT AND REGIONAL EXPENDITURES-**

Van Tol reported on the fiscal agent report as we work towards closure of Sioux Rivers. Bootsma made a motion to approve the report as presented. Vanden Hull seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

6. **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS-**

Vande Weerd asked what sustainability is. Duhn reported that sustainability is the amount to keep the programs running. Crisis services are some of those services. There must be people working in those positions at all times even if someone isn't accessing that service. Whitsell made a motion to approve the claims as listed. Bruinsma seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes.

7. **OLD INVOICES-**

Duhn and Will reported on the old invoices that are being received, at this point attorney fees, as a result



SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025

of the letters going out to all providers asking for invoices to be submitted for payment. Duhn asked the board how they would like to handle those. The attorney fees are court ordered services and therefore must be paid. However, they are several years old and are beyond the dates laid out in the management plan to be approved. Vande Weerd suggested those get highlighted in the claims listing going forward so the board is aware they are there. The board agreed it was not necessary to approve those outside the scope of the approval of the claims listing each month.

8. HHS DATA RELEASE-

Duhn stated a small group had met with HHS to discuss the concerns surrounding the data release. An agreement was received from HHS after that meeting verifying how data would be stored and shared by HHS. The group believed this was the best they would get from HHS. As a result, Vande Weerd made a motion to approve the agreement with HHS and sign the data release for ISAC to release the information. Kass seconded the motion to accept the agreement and release of data by ISAC. The motion carried with all ayes. Altena asked if the blank agreement could be sent to all counties so the counties could each individually act on the MH Advocate release. Duhn will send the ISAC blank document to each County Auditor after the meeting, so they have it to go before their individual county boards for MH Advocate data release decisions.

9. HHS CLOSE OUT PLAN-

Duhn and Will discussed the Close Out Plan. The plan will need to be sent to HHS for approval. At this point, it is the plan to close the region by July 31, 2025. Any claims received prior to that date will be paid by the region. Duhn explained that letters have gone out to every provider asking for all invoices to be received by July 21, 2025, for final payment on July 31, 2025. Duhn did confirm with HHS that all money that is not encumbered in the FY26 budget of the plan will need to be returned to HHS prior to June 30, 2025. Any remaining dollars on July 31, 2025, will also need to be sent back to HHS. Kass made a motion to approve the plan. Vanden Hull seconded the motion. The motion carried with all ayes. Duhn will get the plan sent to HHS prior to April 1, 2025.

10. DAP UPDATE-

Duhn and Will updated on the DAP. The DAPs were designated for the districts of the state. Sioux Rivers will be split on July 1, 2025, into separate districts with Emmet and Dickinson going to the District to the East and the other four counties going to the District to the West. Suzanne Watson, Pottawattamie County, will be the DAP CEO for the West counties of Sioux Rivers. Dickinson and Emmet will be in District 2 with Russell Wood, CEO of Central Iowa Community Services. Suzanne has both Districts on the West



SIoux RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025

side of the state. Russel has three districts in the middle. Annie has a district which includes Polk County, and Mae has her District in Eastern Iowa. HHS and the DAP are working on their contracts at this time. Until those are finalized, no additional information will come from the DAPs or HHS.

11. **ASO/PCA UPDATE-**

The PCA and HHS were in Dickinson County on Monday to meet with Duhn and Will. The PCA was seeking information from the region on what we do, how we do it, and how things are going with providers. Crisis services, jail services, and school services were the three main topics discussed. The PCA confirmed that providers should invoice Medicaid for services. Sustainability dollars would come from PCA. They are currently working through contracts to determine which providers will provide which services. Providers should expect contracts with PCA in late May or June. The District Advisory members have not yet been chosen. Everyone that applied was graded, and PCA will be working through their grading scale to get winners announced in the next few weeks. The Advisory Board will likely meet one time before rolling out July 1, 2025, and there quarterly thereafter. The PCA said they are in the business of providing services and supporting providers. The PCA suggested providers tune into the Townhall meetings that are happening. The next town hall meeting is Thursday at 4pm. All questions are being answered through the FAQ site with HHS as well. That is a great place to learn additional information and get those questions answered. It is updated every few weeks.

12. **UPDATE ON FLOOD DOLLARS-**

Duhn provided an update on flood dollars. To date \$16,680 has been encumbered. At this point, Duhn does not think any additional dollars need to be included in the grant. This can be discussed again in April.

13. **MONTHLY EXPENDITURE REPORT-**

Duhn reported on the February 2025 expenditure report. At this point, we are on target. Duhn does believe there will be some dollars that can be allocated to providers yet. There will need to be some additional discussion on this in April. The board will be asked to amend the budget in April to account for the change in the starting fund balance. This is about \$200,000 difference. Any funds that are not encumbered in the FY26 budget will need to be sent back to HHS at the end of June. Any dollars at the counties at the end of June will need to be sent back to the region for payment to HHS as well.

14. **ADJOURN GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING-**

Vande Weerd made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Whitsell seconded the motion. The motion carried with all eyes. The meeting adjourned at 2:12 pm.



SIOUX RIVERS REGIONAL MHDS

GOVERNANCE BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025

Sue Duhn, Secretary

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

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