

**Sioux Rivers Regional Mental Health and Disability Services  
Advisory Board Meeting  
Plymouth County Courthouse Annex**

**April 19, 2017  
Minutes**

**Attendance/Introductions:** Sharon Nieman, Aaron Haverdink, Dr. Shawn Scholten, Clayton Tonjes, Ann Landers.

**Transitional Housing**

- Phone conference with Leann Blau of Hope Haven
- Discussed 2 current RCF facilities that may need a change of usage in order to be in compliance when the new community rules become effective in March, 2019.
- Each of the buildings has a large common room with kitchen, tv area, dining area. 2 wings with 6 bedrooms each and bathroom between every 2 bedrooms. Laundry facilities in each building. Located in Hull and Rock Valley.
- HUD agreements specify that buildings are to be used for low income and either elderly or disabled.
- Checked out possibility of remodeling to bring into compliance, if needed. Estimated \$100,000.
- No firm definition of “transitional housing”, so will need to figure out guidelines regarding who is eligible and what funding is available.
- Suggestion to ask Governance Board to recommend setting up a sub-committee to explore transitional housing.

**Provider Updates**

- The Region will be losing some longevity in leadership for the providers: Jim Rixner, David Van Ningen, and Patrick Schmitz will all be leaving.
- Provider Improvement Grants - \$300,000 approved by the Governance Board. Providers have been notified.

**SOAR Training**

- Sharon Nieman will go through the training in May to become certified with SOAR applications, which helps to expedite applications for SSI and SSDI.

**Peer Support**

- Aaron said that a recommendation will be made to expand peer support to all 3 counties.
- Updates were given on current spending plans for Peer Support and Friendship House/Drop-In centers.

**Advisory Board**

- Additional members are needed for the Advisory Board.
- Need a representative from the Governance Board, another consumer family member, providers representing RCFs, employment, and community mental health.

**Other Business**

- It was suggested that the Region offer some type of educational information about all the different legal terms that families and consumers encounter, such as the differences between POA, medical POA, guardianship, etc.

**Next meeting: July 19, 2017 (Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m.  
Plymouth County Courthouse Annex**