

Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board
Minutes
August 23, 2016

The Sioux Rivers Regional MHDS Governance Board Meeting was held Tuesday, August 23, 2016 at the Plymouth County Courthouse Annex Building, 215 4th Avenue SE, Le Mars, Iowa.

1. Chairman Mark Loutsch welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Members present: Mark Loutsch, Dennis Wright, Jim Henrich, Mark Sybesma, Mark Monson, David Van Ningen, Mike Wood, Shane Walter, Julie Albright

Members absent: Matthew Ung

Others present: Aaron Haverdink, Sharon Nieman, Ann Landers, Dennis Butler, Jim Rixner, Kathy Roberts, Dan Gillette, Don Nore, Jolie Corder, Patrick Schmitz, Jennifer McCabe, Nate Vander Plaats, Cindy Wilde, Gary Turbes, Stephanie Schade, Greg Stallman, Todd Harlow, Don Kass, Shawn Scholten, Kim Keleher

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

- A. Motion by Jim Henrich, second by Mark Sybesma to approve the agenda as submitted for August 23, 2016.
Carried 3-0.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 18, 2016 GOVERNANCE BOARD MEETING

- A. Motion by Dennis Wright, second by Mark Sybesma to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2016 Board meeting as presented. Carried 3-0.

4. UPDATES: WORK ALTERNATIVES COMMITTEE/ADVISORY BOARD/ASSESSMENT & STABILIZATION CENTER

- A. David Van Ningen updated on the Work Alternatives Committee.

- I. The Committee completed its first year of the grant that the Region provided to the five providers in the three counties.
- II. He provided to the Board a report summarizing activities of the group and detailing outcomes.
 - a. The first focus group of the grant is to support people in moving away from facility based services into community based services, which is consistent with federal rule and state legislation.
 - i. In the past year they have supported eighty-five people, seventy-five of those coming directly from facility based services. They represent two hundred twenty-three jobs.
 - ii. The average wage for this type of employment is three dollars an hour.
 - b. The other focus group is individual job placements. These individuals are more independent and are working for at least minimum wage.
 - i. In the first year of the project they placed and/or supported ninety people in jobs. Forty-eight of those came from work activity centered type programs. One hundred one different jobs, with the average wage just over eight dollars an hour.
 - c. In year two they are going to continue on training and are going to focus on the development of a service called Individual Placement Services.
 - i. The job placement service is specifically for those individuals with chronic mental illness.
 - ii. They will be working with the local mental health centers on that aspect of the grant.

- B. Mark Sybesma thanked the providers involved and David Van Ningen for all of their efforts.

- C. David Van Ningen reported that the Advisory Board meeting went very well, with a lot of people involved including a representative from one of the managed care companies.

- I. They began setting objectives and goals that the committee will move forward with in the future.

- D. Aaron Haverdink shared that the Advisory Board talked about provider rate increases for the next year and hoped to have something to the Governance Board by the November meeting.
- E. They talked about goals and objectives for the Region.
 - I. If there are service areas where needs that are not being met in the Region, they discussed how they will prioritize those needs.
 - II. They discussed the managed care organizations and where things stood currently between the Region's providers and the MCO companies. The MCO representative was able to hear comments and criticisms. Those comments will hopefully go back to the managed care organizations and will result in some answers to the concerns of the Advisory Board.
- F. Jim Rixner spoke about the Assessment & Stabilization Center.
 - I. As of yesterday, they have had fifty-three people come through the Center for services.
 - a. Forty-six from Woodbury
 - b. Six from Plymouth County
 - c. One of Sioux County
 - d. Fifteen came from hospital emergency rooms
 - e. Seven came from law enforcement officers.
 - II. The average length of stay has been three-and-a-half days. They have care coordinators at the Center so when an individual leaves the facility there is a care plan in place for follow up services.
 - III. The Center is moving towards accreditation with the State of Iowa.
- G. Shane Walter reported that he is currently working on a contract that would allow neighboring regions to utilize the facility at a contracted daily rate. Shane will bring the contract to the Board for approval at the next meeting.
- H. Aaron Haverdink discussed the mission and function of the Advisory Board.
 - I. He expressed that he wanted Board members and attendees to know that the Advisory Board is available if anyone has any direction on unmet needs that the group should be addressing.
 - II. Shane added that the Advisory Board needs to be working to provide advice to Governance Board that would form some of the decisions that are made regarding services.
 - III. Mark Sybesma added that most of the Board members feel dependent upon the Advisory Group for direction.

5. STEPPING UP INITIATIVE: RESOLUTION

- A. Shane reported that several people from the Region attended the NACo Conference in Long Beach, California last month. At this conference they received information regarding the Stepping Up Initiative.
 - I. Each Board member received in their meeting packet information regarding the initiative along with the recommended resolution template.
 - II. Stepping Up is a national initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses incarcerated in jails.
 - III. The group from the Region that attended the conference determined that is the type of a program that would reinforce some of the initiatives that the Region has already begun.
 - IV. It would provide the Region with more framework as it is more formalized. It will also provide the Region more resources that might not otherwise be available locally.
 - V. It is a program that has been implemented nationally. Every state has the Stepping Up Initiative in at least some of their counties. Iowa has a number of counties that have adopted the resolution and are participating.
- B. Shane proposed that the Board consider adopting this resolution and then having the resolution go to the individual counties for their approval.
- C. Mark Monson asked what affect it would have on the Region's jails.
 - I. Aaron Haverdink explained that during presentation at the NACo conference they focused on stabilization after discharge from jail. The biggest key factors they found were having a bed, a buddy, and a job because that prevented the most recidivism.
 - II. Shane added this initiative would help those who are homeless into a living situation that would meet their needs.
 - III. Aaron talked about having a social worker in the jail whose job will help facilitate the transition so they have a place to go; they have appropriate counseling lined up (whether for substance abuse or mental health issues) when they are released from the jail; and then the employment.

- D. Chairman Mark Loutsch recommended having all of the sheriff offices within the Region look at the initiative to get their input and then putting the resolution back on next month's agenda.
 - I. Shane said that all the information that he has on the initiative will be passed on to all of the sheriffs within the Region.
 - II. Mark Monson asked that it get filtered down to the jails.
 - III. Patrick Schmitz asked if the Advisory Board could have the opportunity to discuss the initiative.
- 6. SOCIAL WORKER POSITION TO COORDINATE SERVICES IN COUNTY JAILS
 - A. Shane shared that this position had been talked about in previous meetings and expressed the need to continue to move along that continuum.
 - I. The Regional Board has agreed to pay for the mental health medications for the sheriffs' offices.
 - II. They have agreed to increase the professional therapy availability within the jails.
 - III. The third piece would be to consider adding a social worker position whose responsibility would be to work with all of the sheriff departments within the Region and coordinate aftercare services for those individuals with mental health issues.
 - a. The social worker position would help to connect those incarcerated with a diagnosed mental illness to needed resources within their community.
 - b. This position would work with inmates that are transitioning from the jail back into the community by making certain they have somewhere to go that would provide them with adequate shelter and food. The focus being primarily to allow access to those services needed to keep them from going back to jail.
 - IV. Shane asked the Board to make a decision to move forward in looking into this position to see what it would entail, the cost, etc.
 - V. Greg Stallman shared his thoughts on the social worker position.
 - a. The position would be similar to the Jail Alternative position in Johnson County. Many jails across Iowa are following Johnson County's model. They have had tremendous success, from one hundred ninety-five inmates down to ninety inmates per population.
 - b. He is a firm believer in the position and feels that it should be the next step.
 - VI. Motion by Mark Monson, second by Dennis Wright to move forward in looking into the social worker position for the county jails. Carried 3-0
- 7. MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE: AMENDED JOB DESCRIPTION
 - A. Shane Walter shared that the Mental Health Advocate job description needs to be updated due to changes in Iowa Code.
 - B. Mark Monson expressed his concerns of the job description indicating the Mental Health Advocate reporting to the Woodbury County Service Coordinator, saying he felt since the Advocate covers all three counties within the Region, this position should report to the CEO.
 - C. A discussion was had among Board members and attendees about possible issues that may arise with having the advocate, who is a Woodbury County employee, reporting directly to the CEO of the Region, i.e., approving payroll and resolving grievance appeals.
 - D. Motion by Mark Monson, second by Jim Henrich to approve the Mental Health Advocate job description as written with the exception of changing it to read "Reports to the Sioux Rivers Regional CEO". Carried 3-0
- 8. AVERY BROTHERS SIGNAGE CONTRACT FOR ASSESSMENT & STABILIZATION CENTER
 - A. Avery Brothers dropped their bid from almost \$10,000 for a lit sign to \$5,000 for a non-lit sign and \$6,300 a lit sign.
 - B. Board members expressed that they thought the price was still steep.
 - C. Patrick Schmitz offered to get the names of signage companies they have used in the past.
 - D. Shane agreed to look at other companies for additional bids.
 - E. Chairman Loutsch agreed to table the decision on signage until more options are explored.

9. FRIENDSHIP HOUSE/DROP-IN CENTER ADDITION ON ASSESSMENT CENTER CAMPUS: APPROVE CONTRACTOR
- A. Jim Henrich shared that a few concerns have been expressed to him from others who would like to see the Friendship House be built somewhere other than what is being planned. He also said he would like to learn more about what is being built.
 - B. Kathy Roberts, manager at the Friendship House, spoke to the Board about why the Friendship House should remain in its current location.
 - C. Jim Rixner explained that he doesn't have any real difference of opinion about this. They have always talked about the issue of whether or not this was the best location.
 - I. About three years ago Siouxland Mental Health Center looked into acquiring more space around the current Friendship House.
 - II. Some of the land around the Friendship was donated to Siouxland Mental Health, but there are two additional houses they would have to acquire which may be the biggest single problem.
 - D. Jim Rixner asked the Board to table the Friendship House for the time being and go back to further discussions instead of hiring contractors.
 - E. Board members all agreed table the topic and more discussions need to take place regarding the location of the Friendship House.
 - F. Mark Sybesma expressed his desire to give consideration to some public/private effort.

10. LIGHTING INSPECTION RESULTS AT TRI VIEW BUILDING

- A. The egress lighting was reinstalled at the Tri View Building yesterday, so the building is now up to code.

11. REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH EXPENDITURES: July, 2016

- A. Chairman Loutsch looked over the Regional Mental Health Expenditures for July and everything looked good.
- B. Pending Shane Walter's review of the expenditures, Mark Sybesma moved to approve, second by Jim Henrich. Carried 3-0

12. FISCAL AGENT REPORT

- A. Dennis Butler presented the Fund 110 report which has a balance of \$241,949.
- B. He presented Fund 720 which has a balance of \$5,772,883 as of August 19, 2016.
- C. The Board discussed lowering the levies in the next budget cycle.
- D. Motion by Dennis Wright, second by Mark Sybesma to approve the Fiscal Agent Reports as presented. Carried 3-0

CONCERNS:

- A. Kim Keleher addressed the Board telling them that the Friendship House run by Plains Area is also looking for space. She made the suggestion that a committee be formed to look at all of the friendship houses and drop-in centers within the Region and discuss what would be the best for each of the counties.
- B. Mark Sybesma suggested that the Advisory Board take this up and invite the people involved with all of the friendship houses and drop-in centers to attend the Advisory Board meeting.
- C. Shane stated that clearly they need to go back to the drawing board as far as friendship houses. A group of people will be put together to visit about the situation in each of the counties because the Region is obligated to provide that balance and to make sure that what is being done in one county is done in the others proportionally.

13. APPROVE INITIATION OF CHAPTER 679C MEDIATION PROCESS BETWEEN REGION AND WOODBURY COUNTY

- A. Mark Monson shared some of what has happened in the past week.
 - I. Mathew Ung and Mark Monson met with Jan Heikes and went over the options that Woodbury County would have. One thing that came out of their conversations is that Jan called Shane to see if he would be agree to a meeting her, Mark and Matthew to discuss the issues. Shane has agreed to this meeting.
 - II. Shane added that he would meet them with the Governance Board's approval.

- B. Mark Monson spoke on one of the things he would like to see happen.
 - I. Currently there are four committees that are not being represented by Sioux Rivers.
 - a. The Program Committee
 - b. The Hospitalization Committee
 - c. Criminal Justice Council Committee
 - d. Siouxland Street Project (Homeless)
 - II. Mark Monson was concerned about the lack of the Region's presence and asked that Shane attend these meetings.
 - III. Shane said that he would be more than happy to do that and he would not have a problem with Patty attending either. He asked that Mark Monson send him the information on the meetings.
 - IV. Sharon Nieman asked Mark Monson if he would be comfortable with her or Aaron Haverdink attending some of the meetings. He replied yes.
- C. Mark Loutsch asked if going to these meetings is going to help fix things between the Region and Woodbury County.
- D. Mark Monson responded it was one of the things but thought the Board should go ahead with the formal mediation.
- E. Dennis Wright asked Mark Monson what they would be mediating.
- F. Mark Monson suggested they come up with a list.
- G. Mark Sybesma shared that he thought the Board should wait and see before entering into formal mediation.
- H. Dennis Wright thought it would be best to wait until after Shane's meeting with Jan Heikes, Mark Monson and Matthew Ung. Mark Monson agreed that would be good.
- I. Chairman Loutsch stated that he would entertain a motion, but because it was the consensus of the Board not to move forward on mediation, Agenda Item #13 was dead.

14. GENERAL DISCUSSION: GLENN ZEVENBERGEN, CEO, HEGG MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH HOSPITAL IN SIOUX FALLS

- A. Glenn Zevenbergen requested the Region pursue a contract with the Behavioral Health Hospital of South Dakota for involuntary committals.
 - I. Because of the closings of the Clarinda and Mt. Pleasant Mental Health Institutes it has become huge issue in the hospital emergency departments because they have nowhere to place an involuntarily committed patient.
 - II. Iowa is now 50th in the nation for bed availability per capita for involuntary placements.
 - III. He asked the Board to consider the contract, reviewing the language to see if it would be acceptable to allow the counties in western Iowa to be able to use the Behavioral Health Hospital in Sioux Falls as another source to for their patients to be admitted.
 - IV. Currently there are six counties in Iowa that have agreements in place.
- B. Aaron Haverdink asked if the hospital in Sioux Falls accepts Iowa Medicaid. Shane stated that last he had heard the hospital did not accept Iowa Medicaid.
- C. The Board agreed that they would look into the possibility of a contract.
- D. Shane agreed to work with Glenn to see what the contract might mean for the Region and then it would have to come back to the Board for approval.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- A. Jim Rixner shared with the Board that he thought it was very important for the Region, when talking about reserves and money available, to have ongoing discussions about unmet needs within the Region. He suggested having the Advisory Board meet with the Regional Board to discuss these needs.

ADJOURNMENT

- A. Motion by Mark Sybesma, second by Jim Henrich to adjourn the meeting. Carried 3-0.



Julie Albright, Secretary

Approved by Board: September 27, 2016