



Rolling Hills

Community Services Region

Buena Vista * Calhoun * Carroll * Cherokee * Crawford * Ida * Sac

Special Meeting of the Rolling Hills Governance Board

October 4, 2017 – 10:00 a.m.

Sac County Law Enforcement Center

Minutes

- 1. Call to order – Chair, Rick Hecht**
- 2. Roll call of counties**

Buena Vista: Paul Merten

Calhoun: Scott Jacobs

Carroll: Neil Bock

Cherokee: Dennis Bush

Crawford: Cecil Blum

Ida: Creston Schubert

Sac: Rick Hecht

Staff: Dawn Mentzer, CEO; Louise Galbraith, Lisa Bringle, Leisa Mayer – Regional Coordinators of Disability Services

Guests: Pat Laursen, Howard Center Director/Governance Board Provider Representative

- 3. Discussion of recent County requests to join the Rolling Hills Community Services Region**

Woodbury County and Greene County have made informal requests to engage in discussion with Rolling Hills to explore the possibility of withdrawing from their current Regions and joining our Region. Woodbury County took affirmative action at their Board meeting on October 3, 2017 to withdraw from the Sioux Rivers Region effective June 30, 2018. No action has been taken by Greene County.

Supervisor Hecht and Mentzer would like the input of the full board before proceeding with discussions with any other county wishing to join our Region now and in the future.

Hecht is concerned as to who has the final decision on whether to allow another county to join our Region, the Governance Board or the MH/DS Commission/DHS. Another concern is if we put the time and effort into the merger and whether DHS can deny a county from joining our Region and force them to stay in their current Region.

If the Board chooses to move forward with discussions with the other Counties, Mentzer stated that it would be imperative to look at all aspects, financials, services and staffing needs. Mentzer and Supervisor Bush created a financial projection that demonstrates that with one or both counties joining our Region, our Per Capita would be reduced.

Hecht stated that if we consider Woodbury County it would double our size to help the numbers with DHS and could possibly sustain us as a Region on a more long-term basis. Greene County doesn't change the footprint as much (population) with DHS. He is concerned about the 3-2 vote in Woodbury County to leave their current region. He feels that we worked very hard on the 28E and it is a solid document and with one county coming in, it will not change the voting process.

Jacobs questioned whether the providers are costing Woodbury more than they can financially support? This is not known at this time.

Mentzer provided handouts of the preliminary financials should the Governance Board decide to pursue discussions. Woodbury County's maximum Per Capita would reduce our Per Capita to \$38.60531 as compared to our current maximum of \$42.79. If both Greene and Woodbury would be allowed to join Rolling Hills the max per capita would be \$38.98.

Bush spoke with a supervisor from Plymouth County and if Woodbury County is allowed to join Rolling Hills, they may follow suit. Plymouth County would bring us down financially. Woodbury County brings population, but Siouxland Mental Health Center does not provide services outside of their urban area. They have Mercy Medical Center and Unity Point that bring mental health units and services.

Bock stated that we are utilizing our reserves and it is inequitable to us if a County comes in without any reserve balance. Before any serious discussion, Bock would prefer to know whether both County Boards are engaged and on board so as to not to put a lot of work into this and it becomes a lesson in futility.

Hecht stated that staffing needs would be the decision of the Governance Board and CEO. Any county coming in cannot dictate who is hired or brought in per our 28E Agreement. Blum is concerned about disparity in wages of new persons coming in. With Woodbury County being an urban center, their make-up is very different than our rural counties.

The Board discussed at length the concern that if we were to allow Woodbury County to join that we may be forced to take the remaining two counties; Sioux and Plymouth.

If any County approaches us on their own, they would have to come under our 28E Agreement. Each Governance Board member would need to obtain the consensus of their County Board to allow new member Counties into the Region.

Merten mentioned that we need to consider the increase in workload on the fiscal agent and certain regional staff. If it comes to hiring another person in the Auditor's office due to fiscal agent work, the Buena Vista County BOS would not vote to bring them in.

Bock recommended that we draft a letter that highlights specific conditions that prospective Counties will need to know that are non-negotiable before they enter discussion with our region.

The individual Board members then gave their initial thoughts as to how their County Boards would vote based on preliminary board discussions:

Crawford – No

Carroll – Initial reaction not favorable but facts could overrule.

Calhoun – Would consider Mentzer and Jacobs recommendations

Cherokee – Would consider Mentzer and Governance Board recommendations

Sac – Would consider Mentzer and Governance Board recommendations

Ida – Would consider Mentzer and Governance Board recommendations

Buena Vista – vote would depend on the fiscal agent workload that will increase, and if it would harm the Region. They will ask a lot of questions if it moves forward.

Bock recommended that we draft a letter to interested Counties that we are not soliciting new member Counties, however outline criteria and information needed before we would consider entering into discussions. They would need to accept our philosophy, what we expect and if they align with us, discussion could occur.

Neil Bock made a motion to construct a letter that explains we are not currently soliciting new member counties, however, we are open to discussion if prospective Counties accept Rolling Hills Regional criteria. Second by Cecil Blum

Discussion: Blum questioned whether we trying to meet a timeline. Notice has to be given by November 15, 2017. Not all Boards have to vote by the November deadline.

Vote: Affirmative vote by all Board members in favor of the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Non-negotiable items/criteria:

- Board of Supervisors must vote to enter discussion
- Rolling Hills Region 28E will be enforced
 - Majority of member counties would have to approve any change of membership
 - One County one vote
- Rolling Hills Governance Board and Administration will determine staffing needs, personnel, salaries
- Current financials of County

- Current services within the County
- Basic philosophy of the Governance Board
 - Prioritizing services
 - Sustaining services
 - Make services available throughout the region

Mentzer will draft the letter for Board approval and signature by Chairman Hecht to be sent to interested counties.

Motion to adjourn at 12:03 by Dennis Bush. Second by Creston Schubert.

Minutes recorded by Louise Galbraith, Coordinator of Disability Services/Dawn Mentzer, Chief Executive Officer