



Rolling Hills

Community Services Region

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

Governance Board

November 29, 2017 – 2:00 p.m.

Sac City Community Center

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order – Chair, Rick Hecht

2. Roll Call of Counties – Introductions

Buena Vista: Paul Merten

Calhoun: Scott Jacobs

Carroll: Neil Bock

Cherokee: Dennis Bush

Crawford: Cecil Blum

Ida: Absent

Sac: Rick Hecht

Regional Staff: Dawn Mentzer, CEO; Lisa Bringle, Leisa Mayer, Louise Galbraith, Coordinators; Rosie Stotts, Social Worker

Guests: Melissa Drey, Ashley Miller & Kim Kelleher, PAMHC; Terry Johnson, Genesis Development; Pat Laursen, Howard Center; Cindy Wiemold, Faith Hope and Charity; Lisa Meyer, Wesco Ind.; Dennis Butler, Jeremy Taylor, Woodbury County; Rob Byers, Crossroads; Audrey Larson, Siouxland Mental Health Center; Cindy Carstens, Stewart Memorial Hospital; Bret Hayworth, Sioux City Journal and Erin Sommers, The Graphic Advocate.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion by Dennis Bush to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Second by Cecil Blum.

Discussion: none. Motion approved unanimously

4. Approval of Agenda

Requested changes/additions: Dawn Mentzer would like to add FY'18 financial update under new business.

Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of FY'18 financial update, by Neil Bock. Second by Scott Jacobs. Discussion: None. Motion approved unanimously

5. Comments from the Public

None

6. Old Business

a) Legislative Forum

The Legislative Forum has been rescheduled due to a Republican Caucus to December 20, 2017 @ 10am at the Sac County Law Enforcement Center. Dawn Mentzer has sent emails to all area legislators. An agenda needs to be planned and she would like board members to assist with this. Rick Hecht and Paul Merten will assist and Dawn will set the date with them. Rick Hecht asked if anyone had topics to discuss other than SF 504. Neil Bock would like to keep SF504 as the main topic.

7. Program Updates

a) Stepping Stones Transitional Living Program

Lisa Meyer reported there have been 2,944 bed days to date. Currently there are 7 individuals in the program with 6 persons on the waiting list. Two persons are ready to move out and the waiting list will be gone over to fill the beds. Lisa reports that referrals from regional coordinators and Turning Point are worked first if possible. Average length of stay is getting closer to the 3-month time frame which is the goal, it is getting easier to set up services.

b) Turning Point Crisis Stabilization Program

Ashely Miller reports 1,753 bed days to date and 159 persons have been served. The program was audited in October for accreditation and a letter will be coming with an outline of recommendations. Ashley believes that overall, they were impressed with the program. Ashley and Melissa Drey are continuing to work on marketing including social media and outreach to hospitals. Medicaid rates were released but no guidance on IME billing structures have been released. MCO's are waiting for IME and are expected by February. Ashley has begun tracking referrals for non-admissions (April 16, 2017 – now) and reasons why they did not enter the program. Of all the reasons the highest was persons choosing not to admit (34 out of 115). 44 individuals have been admitted that are homeless. In July 2017, two persons were admitted from Northwest Iowa Care Connections Region. Approval for payment from CSS Region has been granted, referrals have been coming from Pocahontas County. Neil Bock asked if Medicaid funding will be retroactive, and Dawn Mentzer said there will be no back payments. Once Medicaid does pay, PAMHC will reconcile at the end of the year with the region.

8. New Business

b) Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report - Action

Dawn Mentzer provided a summary of the report which was emailed to the board prior to the meeting. Some of the information contained in the report include: Numbers of persons served in FY'17, duplicated count by diagnosis, unduplicated count served, expenditure and revenue reports, updates on progress of strategic plan goals, and outcomes.

Questions: Paul Merten, asked about information on page 12 concerning county levies. Fund balances were used to off-set county levy amounts, each county contributed the same per capita.

*A motion to approve/accept the 2017 annual report by Cecil Blum. Second by Dennis Bush.
Discussion: none. Motion approved unanimously.*

c) Resolution to join the Rolling Hills Region from Woodbury County - Discussion

Dawn Mentzer received an email from Matthew Ung, Chairman of the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors as well as a copy of the resolution by Woodbury County to become a member county of the Rolling Hills Region along with a letter of support as such from Siouxland Mental Health Center's Board President.

Jeremy Taylor, Woodbury County Board of Supervisor stated that Woodbury County is in agreement with the letter from Rolling Hills Region and is respectfully asking to consider Woodbury County joining the region. Financial information was provided as a projection for June 2018 which contained three scenarios.

Discussion:

Rick Hecht stated that we really do need to know what will be available for reserve funds. Jeremy Taylor responded that a request to engage in mediation with Sioux Rivers Region as the 28E states there is no refund of expended funds, and silent on unexpended funds. Nothing in formal writing from Sioux Rivers Region has been received. Woodbury County is confident with the three scenarios of what the ending fund balance will be. Rick Hecht would like to have the financials sorted out in advance of asking to join the region. Dennis Butler, Woodbury County Budget Director reviewed the handout of projections and feels confident with the information provided. Per Jeremy Taylor, scenario #2 would be the most likely outcome with Woodbury County exiting Sioux Rivers with \$1,237,325.

Neil Bock asked about obligated vs. non-obligated money in terms of what funds are obligated or not. Dennis Butler explained that cash on June 30 would not be obligated, but would have to wait for accrual period (July and August) to pay for services rendered in FY18.

Cecil Blum was glad the letter was referenced as the status of existing employees has been a point of discussion. Blum stated that if we can't quantify the numbers it gives him heartburn, policy and other items are a leap of faith, but believes the money has to be settled. Also, he doesn't want to upset the current regional harmony by bringing a county that may do so. Jeremy Taylor reiterated that they are confident in the fund projections provided today.

Scott Jacobs questioned if there is enough levy capacity to provide for the providers in Woodbury County now? Jeremy Taylor answered that there is enough to fund the providers. However, there is a fear with some providers that there would be cuts in services coming into Rolling Hills Region, yet, cuts may come either way. There is no objection to advancing their reserve balance into the region and they do not expect the counties in Rolling Hills to subsidize Woodbury County.

Paul Merten asked about services provided in Sioux Rivers Region questioning whether there are any overlapping with those provided in Rolling Hills. Paul also questioned if Woodbury County is ahead of us in services provided. Dawn Mentzer answered that she is not as familiar with Sioux Rivers services, but know they have crisis stabilization center and 24-hour observational care (which we do not have the observation unit). Other than that Dawn believes our core services are similar.

Scott Jacobs asked if they have a transitional home. Jeremy Taylor responded that they do not and utilize RCFs.

Siouxland Mental Health Center gave a brief list of some of the regional funded services they provide including: Mental Health Court (jail based), Five school based therapists, Friendship House, medication management, and peer support.

Paul Merten stated our levy is set and budgets for the next two or three years are projected out, with an eventual increase to a higher levy rate. The levy rate is set by the governance board and he questioned if we increase to a higher levy rate will that be a concern with the Woodbury County Board and the taxpayer group? Jeremy Taylor responded that right now \$17.58 is their current levy, which is going to have to be raised by the Sioux Rivers Region anyway. The Woodbury County Board is conservative yet want to provide high quality services and long-term stability. At the same time, they may not want to go to the max rate right away, however will accept the vote of the region. Looking at the max rate in Sioux Rivers Region it may not be enough to sustain current services. They want to match the services to the need in the most fiscally conservative way.

Paul Merten asked that with the current region we have to be at 25% ending fund balance by FY2020 and by adding Woodbury County that would change to 20%, would that still make us cash flow? Dawn Mentzer stated that we need to address this issue with legislators for a change to the 20% as eventually we would not be able to cash flow the beginning of the fiscal year.

Rick Hecht discussed SF504, the fund balance issue and sustaining projects, and how SF504 is opposite of what we have been working toward. SF504 requires a reduced levy for the first two years to spend down then a big increase to sustain. The change needs to be legislative, when the 20% and 25% came in it changed our projections.

Cecil Blum asked Jeremy Taylor if at the present levy does he believe quality services are provided, and with a jump in the levy will the taxpayers expect more services or better services? Will ongoing litigation come in to a factor? Jeremy Taylor reiterated that part of the problem is the levy is too low in Sioux Rivers Region right now and they will increase either way. He also understands that Rolling Hills' max levy is higher but the jump would not be immediate. They need to educate their public as they want to keep taxes stable and conservative while maintaining quality services. They have asked for mediation and started with dissolution of the

Sioux Rivers Region since a two-county region cannot stand on their own. They have provided a withdrawal notice and nothing prevents that from happening. The crisis and stabilization center building has to be discussed. He believes Sioux Rivers Region is waiting for Rolling Hills Region to make a decision before they address it and believes if we (Rolling Hills Region) make a decision it will flow easily.

There was discussion concerning the other two counties coming into the region. Dawn Mentzer stated that DHS would have to get involved with the other two counties but believes there will not be an assignment by DHS as that time frame has expired. DHS sent a letter to confirm that there is nothing in legislation to address counties leaving regions, so our levy would not change and counties coming in would fall under our levy.

Rick Hecht discussed one requirement by Rolling Hills is that we are not obligated to take staff and that it would be determined by administration and the Rolling Hills board. Also, the extra expense to the CEO would need to be addressed and determining what staff would be necessary. Current Rolling Hills staff would remain in same duties and staff would have to be added for Woodbury County as well as extra expense to the fiscal agent (Buena Vista County). Woodbury county has no issue with the change of fiscal agent or staffing.

Neil Bock stated that the Carroll County Board is reluctant due to the thought that if Woodbury County is taken in we could acquire the other two counties and they would still be together. Jeremy Taylor responded that there is a difference of a board this size and the CEO and that Rolling Hills is a better model. It is speculation if the other two counties would come to Rolling Hills. Neil Bock reminded that each individual county has to vote and wondered since we already have the items that Woodbury can bring (population, money and services), what else can be brought? Jeremy Taylor was not sure if he can go beyond initial offerings without speculation. Neil Bock encouraged Woodbury County to work out issues with the other counties in Sioux Rivers Region.

Cecil Blum asked what the issue that led to withdrawal was. Jeremy Taylor replied that two different supervisors were on the Sioux Rivers Region board last year and they had concerns. Jeremy thought that with a change in board members issues would resolve, but they see the same issues with no resolve. School based funding (\$450,000) and a gang out-reach program in Woodbury County are issues and when asked for this to be discussed, he couldn't get it on the agenda. When a compromise was reached to have licensed clinicians in the programs, which was voted down. Money spent in Woodbury County schools is not being spent well. They are not looking to shift the responsibility of determining services and funding, or making Rolling Hills the 'bad guys'.

Scott Jacobs asked if all the providers work well together. Jeremy Taylor does not see a battle but a few providers are fearful of one-time funding not continuing and such. He believes they have good providers such as Siouxland Mental Health.

Rick Hecht doesn't see the other two counties being forced into our region, as the authority of DHS to do so is no longer there.

Dennis Bush states that we are the 4th or 5th smallest region and there is a desire from DHS for less regions. Taking Woodbury County could control our destiny if DHS would combine regions for population base.

Cecil Blum asked if there was ever harmony in Sioux Rivers Region? Jeremy Taylor responded that while observing, when not on the regional board, there was not. Once board members changed he thought it would stop and they would work collaboratively but it has not changed. One main issue has been wanting to have a seat at the table, to have a chance to be heard and give perspective and weigh in on what the levy should be or have special meetings if needed.

Audrey Larson stated that every month there is a provider meeting to discuss community and patient problems and to collaborate. Working with providers is great although the struggle is maintaining a level of support from the Sioux Rivers Region to provide the services.

Dawn Mentzer asked what the next steps will be? We are going into budget and in January need have to set levies. What is Woodbury County's time frame? Jeremy Taylor stated it is on the agenda for mediation for withdrawal but it is unsure if it will be successful, but mediation for reconciliation could be. Neil Bock stated we are not obligated to make a decision by July 1 even though that is the date as Woodbury County has requested.

Paul Merten would like to see two budget projections (with and without Woodbury County) in January as that may affect decisions.

Neil Bock stated this is a big decision and does not want to rush it, but make it timely.

Cecil Blum stated the rush to make this decision is not our fault and we need to do what is best for our existing region.

Dawn Mentzer has done preliminary projections with Woodbury County coming in and there would have to be reductions and is not comfortable giving numbers right now until more information is known in regards to what they would exit the Sioux Rivers with.

Rick Hecht asked how long will mediation take? Jeremy Taylor is not sure what the time line would be. Neil Bock asked if arbitration would be binding? Dawn Mentzer replied the process and decision is binding. Jeremy Taylor thinks the only thing that would be arbitrated would be the one building but not withdrawal from the Sioux Rivers region.

Paul Merten commented if we brought in Woodbury County this would bring in a new level of not just combining counties but providers. He hasn't heard any feedback from our providers. Cindy Wiemold commented that it is all about services for the people and the providers that bring the services. What would Woodbury bring to the table for the people of our region?

Rick asked for Woodbury County to keep the board updated on the progress in Sioux Rivers Region so they can address and make a decision.

9. FY 18 financial update

Dawn Mentzer gave the board an update on the current financials. About 40% of the budget has been expended.

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| <u>Accrual Fund Balance as of 6/30/17:</u> | | \$4,510,039 |
| 2017-2018 Budget: | | \$3,439,362 |
| Expenditures to Date: | Admin→ | \$61,794 |
| | Services→ | <u>\$1,345,085</u> |
| | <i>Total:</i> | <i>\$1,406,879 (40%)</i> |

Revenues:

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Buena Vista County | \$334,754 |
| Calhoun County | \$80,189 (second quarter forthcoming) |
| Carroll County | \$334,836 |
| Cherokee County | \$189,062 |
| Crawford County | \$279,230 |
| Ida County | \$114,802.50 |
| Sac County | \$163,694 |
| Security Bank – Interest | \$11,459.75 |
| Miscellaneous | \$4,226.40 |

Total: \$1,512,253.65

**Miscellaneous (Reimbursements from other regions for advocate fees, Turning Point, Commitment Fees for Children)*

10. Schedule next meeting – December 20, 2017 1:00 p.m. – Sac City Law Enforcement Center

Motion to adjourn at 4:15 pm by Dennis Bush. Second by Neil Bock. Motion carried unanimously

Minutes recorded by Louise Galbraith and Dawn Mentzer