



# Rolling Hills

## Community Services Region

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

### Governance Board

January 24, 2018 – 2:00 p.m.

HOWARD CENTER

Harry Rasmussen Building, 514 North 13<sup>th</sup> St. Sac City, IA 50583

### 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: Creston Schubert

Sac: Rick Hecht

Advisory Board Representatives: Pat Laursen, Pam Haberl

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

Guests: Dianna Ossman, ISI; Sandy Pingel, Terry Johnson, Genesis Development; Melissa Drey Ashley Miller, Kim Kelleher, Lori Bush, PAMHC; Jeremy Taylor, Dennis Butler, Rocky DeWitt, Woodbury County; Karla Manternach, Counseling Services; Clay Adams, Deidra Brown, Wesco Ind.; Dick Owens, Sioux City; Fitzgerald P. Grant, Sanford Center; Jim France, Sioux City; Audrey Larson, Sheila Martin, Siouxland Mental Health Center; Teresa Magnussen, Pride Group

**3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

*Cecil Blum made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, with the clarification that the motion he made concerning the approval of the Supported Employment Grant was for funding for a one-year time period. Second by Neil Bock. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously*

**4. Approval of Agenda**

*A motion to approve the agenda as presented by Scott Jacobs. Second Dennis Bush.*

*Changes/additions: None. Motion carried unanimously*

## **5. Appointment of 2018 Chair and Vice Chair**

*Paul Merten motioned to appoint Rick Hecht as Chairman for 2018. Second by Cecil Blum.*

*Discussion none. Motion carried unanimously*

*Scott Jacobs motioned to appoint Paul Merten as Vice-Chairman for 2018. Second by Dennis Bush.*

*Motion carried*

## **6. Old Business**

### **a) Quarterly Supported Employment Grant Update**

Sandy Pingel of Genesis Development gave a report from the four agencies involved the grant.

The average time of those working in the community is more than 15 hours per week, and are earning more than minimum wage at an average of \$8.61 starting wage.

### **b) Turning Point /Crisis Services Updates – Ashley Miller & Melissa Drey**

Ashley Miller reported 168 individuals have been served since February 2016, with 1,868 total bed days, 3,676 open beds. Average daily census is between 3-5 individuals. Ashley and Melissa are working on marketing including a new mailer that will be sent out, outreach to hospitals and primary care providers and other mental health centers (Berryhill Center). Working on corrective action for State accreditation and billing should be starting after February 8, 2018 and they are getting ready for that. Kim Kelleher explained the process leading to Medicaid reimbursement, which may not occur before July 2018.

Melissa Drey is actively working on getting out to all the hospitals including Jenny Edmundson in Council Bluffs. Magistrates are being met with to explain services at Turning Point and also ITP that is being established within the jails and hospitals. Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) teams have 15 persons trained in Sac City. A training in Denison is being planned. One person was deployed to Crawford County to cover a stressful incident. Melissa has a data base of all persons trained and can be contacted to be deployed to a situation.

The Sac City officer that went through CIT training has left his employment. Melissa is looking for others law enforcement personnel who are willing to be trained. PAMHC has offered contracts for jail services, ITP is setting up. Pre-screenings have been given to the hospitals for committals, a few individuals have been diverted from commitment when it was used. Melissa and Dawn Mentzer met with Buena Vista and Sac Counties to discuss mobile response and ITP in the jails/ED's, however it was decided to hold off on mobile response until ITP is in place to prevent duplication of service.

### **c) Stepping Stones Update – Lisa Meyer**

Deidra Brown provided the update for Lisa Meyer. From August 2016 to date 41 persons have been served with 3,242 bed days, 94 referrals. Currently there are 6 persons in the program with 12 on waiting list. Referrals are coming from Turning Point, PAMHC, Manning Recover and regional coordinators as well as other providers. They have hired another nurse so a nurse will be there daily to work with medical needs and helping them set up with medical/dental and vision appointments.

**d) Woodbury County Request to join Rolling Hills Region**

Dawn Mentzer met with all the local Boards of Supervisors this month and presented information and discussion concerning this request. Need to have the board continue discussion. Consensus of the Governance Board was to delay a vote until more discussion is held.

Jeremy Taylor addressed the board representing Woodbury County. Jeremy stated that they are looking for direction from Rolling Hills Region as they move toward budget certification. Jeremy wanted to make clear that they are not seeking to subsidize or be subsidized but would like to 'pay our own way'. They realize that staying in Sioux Rivers Region or joining Rolling Hills Region, reductions in services/costs would have to be made either way. A per capita rate of \$28.50 is programmed in their budget at this time and they will rely on reserves to fill the gap/difference in what is needed. Woodbury would agree to language such as, "Woodbury will not spend more than what is contributed" if the Rolling Hills Region 28E agreement would be amended. The language was just a suggestion to help ease the concern of Woodbury County being subsidized.

Discussion:

**Cecil Blum:** what about unfulfilled client needs with reduction in services?

Jeremy Taylor: this would have to be reevaluated, we (Woodbury County) would have to live within means with either region (Rolling Hills or Sioux Rivers).

**Cecil Blum:** has been looking at finances – Rolling Hills June 30, 2018 per capita reserve balance is estimated at \$32.99. If Woodbury County came in on July 1, 2018 they would have to bring \$3,390,579 to match our balance which would result in full parity. Rolling Hills projected reserve balance buy-down of \$1,165,476 for fiscal year 2019 with an ending balance of \$1,998,786. Actual cost to provide services is \$36.15 per capita. Adding Woodbury, per capita expenditures of \$34.22 is above the recommended levy of \$32.24 and results in a deficit and he believes that this projection shows Rolling Hills will be subsidizing Woodbury County after the first year. Per two county attorneys once accepted into the region every county would have to be on the same per capita rate. Cecil does not believe that a mechanism exists for Woodbury County to fund the shortfall.

**Jeremy Taylor:** On the 58% reserve question, he doesn't see the need to bring up the reserve to buy it back down. If they are able to use a portion of Woodbury County reserves along with \$28.50 per capita levy rate, it would bring their contribution up to \$32.24. After the first year that is when Woodbury would have to live within their means by not funding services above the level contributed. Suggestion made to amend 28E to provide assurance that Woodbury County would not be able to utilize more than they contribute financially to the region.

**Cecil Blum:** Asked if Woodbury County be OK with a level of services for Rolling Hills and a lesser amount of services in Woodbury County? Also do they expect Rolling Hills to amend the 28E to include Taylor's suggested language?

**Jeremy Taylor:** The 28E suggestion is just a suggestion as a safe guard for Rolling Hills and a way to give a counter balance.

**Scott Jacobs:** Doesn't believe that could be written into the 28E without discussing it with our attorney because they would have to be equal with the rest of the counties. Calhoun County has

limited services, therefore in doing so it would imply that Calhoun County could decrease their contribution to only what they receive in services.

**Neil Bock:** Sees a disadvantage to a higher populated area is they are going to use more services and a higher cost.

**Cecil Blum:** After the first year, he believes that we will be subsidizing Woodbury County.

**Rick Hecht:** Believes that Taylor is suggesting to amend the 28E to solidify the point that that they would adhere to paying their fair share of services.

**Dennis Bush:** If we take them in with the scenario of pairing down services in Woodbury County, we would be the bad guys by saying we are not going to fund services. Services need to be uniform across the region.

**Jeremy Taylor:** In their current region (Sioux Rivers) they cannot garner more than \$3.1 million, they do not have the desire to increase funding but want to provide high quality services and be fiscally responsible. Rolling Hills has a higher per capita max but they do not desire to tax up to that level if it can be avoided.

**Neil Bock:** Appreciates the offer to amend the 28E, but then we would not be operating as a region. Woodbury would be operating as a county within the region and is uncomfortable with that.

**Scott Jacobs:** Thinking of providers, joining with us or not, he is worried about providers being funded after July 1st.

**Dennis Bush:** DHS is not allowing counties to stand alone and no region is going to allow less than three counties.

**Jeremy Taylor:** They are trying to educate the public and providers that there will be cuts either way, staying in Sioux Rivers or joining Rolling Hills.

**Cecil Blum:** Asked whether DHS was asked to come in 2016 to mediate in Sioux Rivers?

**Jeremy Taylor:** Believes there was informal mediation but he was not on the Sioux Rivers board at that time. He does not know the specific parameters of mediation, and it was not shared with the full Woodbury County board.

**Cecil Blum:** Shocked that they want to go through the effort of switching regions but yet don't want to know or tell us what the mediators said.

**Jeremy Taylor:** I would share that information if I knew.

**Scott Jacobs:** At the last meeting, it was going to go back to the Woodbury County board to fund a higher per capita rate, is that not an option? With per capita set at \$28.50 but Woodbury could levy to \$30.49 are they assuming that there will be a higher reserve coming back at the end of the year?

**Jeremy Taylor:** Levy and fund balance contribution to make the \$32.24 would be an acceptable contribution.

**Dennis Bush:** Looking at our budget without Woodbury County, at the end of FY'19 we could be at over \$2 million fund balance they would have to come in with \$2 million. If you want to come in with equity the second year (skip this year because they can't meet our balance), at some point it will come together however he doesn't know how it will work with all the land mines along the way.

**Jeremy Taylor:** Would there be a certain level to levy to come into Rolling Hills? We can't look at a 58% fund balance times our per capita and issue a check for \$3 million.

**Dawn Mentzer:** In the past, (forming of Rolling Hills) there were conversations about budgeting by county, but it wasn't done. From her position, yes, first year they come in and pay their way and

year 2 are they going to be able to cover their services. She will budget as always, combined, not pulling Woodbury County out. Services are funded as a region and does not want to put Woodbury County out on an island. We should not draw lines around counties, we are a region.

**Scott Jacobs:** Doesn't like to see levy rates going up and down (spiking). However, one way to make it work is to decrease the levy to say \$12 and buy down reserves to bring them in.

**Rick Hecht:** Is not comfortable with the 20-25% mandate on reserves. With that demand we will barely be able to cover costs, changing our levy needs some thought. DHS is looking at taking out the 20-25% mandate on reserves. Right now, we can pick our partners under our 28E. Rick is guessing they are going to increase region sizes and we would have to work out new 28E agreements. At this time, Woodbury County is willing to work under our 28E.

**Neil Bock:** If the 28E is amended, when would it (the amendment) be terminated to work as a region?

**Jeremy Taylor:** That would be at recommendation of the CEO and approval of the board. There would be historic information to help with input on reductions.

**Dennis Bush:** The only way he sees it coming together is a two-year levy agreement. Would need to amend our 28E to accomplish that. Woodbury County wait another year for us to draw down our reserves and then they reapply. At some point he sees regions being larger with DHS mandates, but does not see a way to easily reconcile a way to make it financially feasible. Would have a hard time taking this back to his board if we will be subsidizing to a significant amount.

**Neil Bock:** When would it be a good time to table this to? A year seems a long time to resume the discussion.

**Jeremy Taylor:** Sometime prior to November 15<sup>th</sup>? If it is tabled they can seek other options and think what the best way forward for Woodbury County would be.

**Scott Jacobs:** Sometime in March when budgets are certified, there should be a better understanding of fund balances. We can have Dawn run the numbers and see what it would look like if we were to reduce the per capita next year. Is March too late for Woodbury?

**Jeremy Taylor:** No but the longer this goes on, uncertainty looms. If it is still a potential to join, but does not want to report back to Woodbury County if there is not the will of the majority of the board, then it doesn't change. If there is a path forward they would consider, but if not they would like to know.

**Cecil Blum:** We can't take action today. I support Dennis' idea of waiting a year.

**Rick Hecht:** If \$1.4 million is the fund balance coming out of Sioux Rivers, how much of that will be used to combine with the levy?

**Dennis Butler:** About \$300,000 to supplement the levy and the rest to the Rolling Hills for reserve balance for 25% to cover first three months and anything over that they can use the second year.

**Cecil Blum:** Asked if Woodbury County is OK with using reserve funds remaining from Sioux Rivers to equal their levy contribution, they will more than likely not have funds remaining for year 2. Cecil sees three options, lower levy to reduce fund balance, wait a year or amend the 28E.

**Dennis Bush:** Can Woodbury County bring \$1 million July 1, 2018 as a cash contribution to equal our balance?

**Dennis Butler:** With the 25% on top it would be difficult. That would be a \$4.1 million contribution.

**Creston Schubert:** Wondered if there would be efficiencies if we bring them in.

**Neil Bock:** Look at Polk County. Larger areas cost more to operate so doesn't believe the efficiencies would be there.

**Scott Jacobs:** Asked if their crisis home is always full if not it could provide efficiencies.

**Sheila Martin:** (Siouxland Mental Health) some days they are full. They have 6 observation chairs and 9 crisis beds.

**Rick Hecht** Asked for consensus of the board.

**Cecil Blum:** Leaning toward Dennis' idea of waiting a year, but resistant to a spike in the levy.

**Dennis Bush:** Not sure if waiting a year would still be his option, as Scott Jacobs's idea to buy down reserves quickly and spike the levy could be an option.

**Neil Bock:** Waiting may provide DHS removing the 20-25% reserve option.

**Dennis Butler** Suggested to table it for a month to get with Dawn Mentzer and go over these options to determine what they need to come in with.

**Rick Hecht:** In fairness to everyone there should be an up or down vote at the next meeting.

***Consensus of the board is to table until next meeting.***

**7. Comments from the Public: Everyone will have an opportunity to speak. Therefore, comments may be limited to three minutes on any one item.**

Dick Owens of Sioux City asked the board to take time to look at information he provided. Right now, Sioux Rivers subsidizes Woodbury County roughly \$1million. Cuts in services could impact 375 – 500 people. He has qualms coming here (Rolling Hills Region) if people will be served, rather than cutting more people from services than Rolling Hills currently serves. Dick thinks that everything should be delayed a year.

Sheila Martin, of Siouxland Mental Health Center addressed the board concerning a demand letter their attorney had written to Sioux Rivers Region. Sheila wants Rolling Hills board to know that they want to proceed with joining this region, they want a clean break (from Sioux Rivers Region) and continue to move forward with Rolling Hills. Their goal is to not proceed with any litigation with Sioux Rivers and they are taking it off the table.

**8. New Business -none**

**9. Schedule next meeting – March 5, 2018 2:00 p.m. (Harry Rasmussen Building, Sac City)**

*Motion to adjourn at 4:17 pm by Dennis Bush. Second by Cecil Blum. Meeting adjourned.*