



Rolling Hills

Community Services Region

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

Governance Board

October 1, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.

Cobblestone Inn & Suites, 2011 Indorf Ave. Holstein

Face to Face Meeting attendance available for Board Members, Prospective New Member County Supervisors and essential staff only. Zoom link available for Attendance by the Public.

Meeting Agenda

1) Call to Order –Chairman, Paul Merten

2) Roll Call of Counties – Introductions

Buena Vista: Paul Merten

Calhoun: Scott Jacobs

Carroll:

Cherokee: Dennis Bush

Crawford: Cecil Blum

Ida: Creston Schubert

Sac: Brent Wilhelm

Woodbury: Rocky DeWitt

Jolene Schmidt – voting member

Absent - JaMaine Wamburg – voting member

Joan Hansen – voting member

Absent - Brittany Krause non-voting member

Kim Keleher – non-voting member

Regional Staff: Dawn Mentzer, CEO; Louise Galbraith, Coordinator

Regional staff on Zoom link: Lisa Bringle, Theresa Jochum, Coordinators; Cindy Wiemold, Judicial Advocate

Guests in person: Clarence Siepker, Pocahontas County; Allison Hauser, Pocahontas/Humboldt Counties; Alex Leu, Fonda Police Chief

Guests on Zoom link: Steve Kremer, Juvenile Court Services; Jennifer McCabe, Opportunities Unlimited; Linn Block, Manning Regional Hospital; Nicki Eaton, SMHC; Melissa Drey, Ashley Miller, PAMHC; Amy Riesberg, Counseling Services, LLC; Clay Adams, Sandy Loney, Jan Heikes, Kristen Nehring, Maggie Martinez

3) Approval of Agenda

A motion by Rocky DeWitt to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Cecil Blum

Discussion: none. Motion carried unanimously.

4) Special Meeting Agenda Item – Discussion of Pocahontas and Humboldt Counties Request to join Rolling Hills Community Services Region

Dawn Mentzer presented information she put together that shows difference between operations and services available in Rolling Hills and those in Pocahontas and Humboldt Counties (through CSS Region).

- 16,287 is the combined population of Pocahontas and Humboldt Counties and their combined per capita (at the Rolling Hills rate) would be \$696,921.00.
- FY'20 expenditures in two counties is approximately \$400,000 which is under the per capita funds that can be levied so that should not be an issue.

Differences:

- Rolling Hills does not fund persons with brain injury as CSS does.
- Financial eligibility for Rolling Hills 150% of the poverty level and below – CSS uses 150% up to 300% with a cost share.
- Rolling Hills uses SCL and community support providers. Since Pocahontas and Humboldt Counties do not have providers, staff provide direct care services.
- Rolling Hills is in compliance with the access standards in Chapter 25 Administrative rules. Pocahontas and Humboldt Counties do not have family support services so do not meet the access standards currently.
- Rolling Hills has two Crisis Stabilization programs. Pocahontas and Humboldt do not have the services but use CFR in Fort Dodge.
- Rolling Hills has two Mobile Crisis programs. Pocahontas and Humboldt Counties utilize mobile crisis through Berryhill Center.
- Rolling Hills has 23 hour observation (Sioux Rivers Assessment Center) while Pocahontas and Humboldt (CSS Region) do not have this service.

Discussion:

Alex Leu stated that what impresses him about Rolling Hills is the relationship with law enforcement. They want to be in Rolling Hills and believes they would be good partners. He would rather come in this way than be orphaned and assigned to a region by DHS.

Sandy Loney – even though they do not have a lot of services or providers they have a heart for mental health and feel they can bring a lot to the table. They understand not all their funds may be used in their counties but know the services they will be contributing to would be there for them.

Dawn Mentzer conveyed that the direct services provided by staff is a concern. We would work to bring in services to the two counties to reduce liability. We would have to research what would be available and provider(s) that would be willing to expand into the areas.

Rocky DeWitt spoke about the many services in Woodbury County, would the two counties be willing to go to Woodbury County for those services (Assessment Center etc.) – would distance be a factor? Clarence Siepker said they are now going to Waterloo (150 miles), so Sioux City (100 miles) would be closer. They have been researching this for two years, it has not been taken lightly. They have looked at the other regional options and feel that Rolling Hills is the best fit for them.

Rocky DeWitt asked what is the reason for leaving CSS Region? Clarence Siepker replied that with Webster and Cerro Gordo counties leaving CSS they are no longer connected to CSS and have no choice. Sandy Loney believes they are easy to get along with, they want to move forward and make sure the people who need services are taken care of.

Scott Jacobs wanted to let them know that not everything is going to coming out of Woodbury. He questioned why they are not seeking to form a new 6 county region? Clarence Siepker replied that partly it is the amount of work it would take. They went through numbers as to what it would cost, a lot of work in a short time. They would rather join an established region.

Sandy Loney never wanted to form a new region, the proposed budget didn't appear to be accurate, being realistic the core services would not be met and per capita would be higher. She would rather join an established region as well.

Jan Heikes wanted to make everyone aware that the expenditures presented are accurate based on residency, but did not include staff or shared services.

Cecil Blum asked why most of the services come out of Waterloo, are there not services in Fort Dodge? Clarence Siepker stated that CFR in Fort Dodge provides crisis stabilization services. Cecil Blum stated that we have a stable board, however, there will be three retirements at the end of this year, so this board will also have new people. When we started out, we put in a lot of hard work in to get to where we are now. Clarence Siepker replied it was the same in CSS Region when they joined in 2013 and just kept getting bigger.

Paul Merten confirmed that process started in the beginning took a long time, Ida was placed with us, Cherokee came on later. Woodbury took time to enter the region last year. Paul asked Jan Heikes if there is any reason that CICS will not take Webster County? Jan stated CICS is looking at the services in Cerro Gordo and Webster and are interested in taking them on (this is just what she has heard). Paul commented that if that happens Pocahontas and Humboldt would be orphaned, and if CICS doesn't take Webster would they be orphaned and placed by DHS as well? Jan said that DHS is hoping counties will make the decisions on their own. They, DHS, would look at the area were the providers are located. Paul has a concern that if Webster isn't accepted by CICS they could be placed into Rolling Hills.

Clarence Siepker and Allison Hauser commented that Hancock County is looking at Northwest IA Care Connections.

Sandy Loney provided population and levy for Webster. She has heard that if CICS takes Webster and Cerro Gordo counties they requested having two different board members.

Cecil Blum asked Jan Heikes what are the advantages of taking them now, what are the risks of waiting for them to possibly be assigned by DHS? Jan replied that the incoming counties would have better negotiating coming in now, if they are assigned, they have to accept our 28E as is. Dawn Mentzer said that to have them assigned in February, it is a short time to bring them in and budgets would not be done. Clarence Siepker believes that CICS is interested in taking on additional counties but are still gathering information and will make a decision at their October 22, 2020 meeting. So that decision would be made before Rolling Hills meets on October 28, 2020.

Rocky DeWitt asked if Pocahontas County had a unanimous decision to come to Rolling Hills. Clarence Siepker confirmed it was a unanimous vote to send the letter of request to join Rolling Hills.

Dennis Bush reminded that there was a lot of the discussion when Woodbury joined concerning financials and would we have to subsidize. We have not had that discussion on fund balances. Dawn Mentzer replied that when you look at the two counties compared to Woodbury, it is not a valid comparison as these are two counties without services and Woodbury who is rich in services. Whatever money they leave CSS with they should bring those funds to Rolling Hills and they would have to levy the per capita. If the counties had a lot of services, she would be more concerned with having to subsidize them.

Jan Heikes asked if all the counties are aware how the per-capita is set by DOM? Dawn Mentzer said yes, she believes the per capita rates are so close it would be ok not to move quickly. We have an equal per capita contribution among our counties and it is up to each county to levy the amount to meet that (if using fund balance in combination).

Cecil Blum believes per capita is the fairest way.

Scott Jacobs commented that we are not as top heavy with administration (as CSS Region) and it is up to this board to decide who works in the counties of Rolling Hills. When Woodbury County came in, jobs were posted and staff had to apply. Sandy Loney asked if it would be done before they came in? Dawn Mentzer said that yes it would and staff can apply. Paul Merten commented this would also apply to the budget; it would have to be developed this fiscal year. Jan Heikes reminded that their staff are employed by CSS Region, not the counties. Clarence Siepker said they worked on this for 4 years, so they would be going back to county employees. Dawn Mentzer said Rolling Hills Region would determine staffing needs and they would be county employees.

Paul Merten said the board will formally take action on this at the October 28, 2020 meeting.

Following the discussion regarding Pocahontas and Humboldt Counties, Paul told the other board members that they are looking at possible IT solutions for Zoom meetings to enhance the meeting's

audio and visual capabilities and wants to know if the board is in consensus. Dawn Mentzer said they are looking at an Owl system with a camera and microphones. The board is in consensus.

Rocky DeWitt made a motion to adjourn at 10:09 am. Second by Creston Schubert. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Louise Galbraith, Coordinator