



Rolling Hills

Community Services Region

Governance Board Meeting

Cobblestone Inn and Suites, Holstein

March 24, 2021– 2:30 p.m.

Minutes (Draft)

1) Call to Order –Chairman, Paul Merten

2) Roll Call of Counties – Introductions

Buena Vista: Paul Merten

Calhoun: Scott Jacobs

Carroll: Rich Ruggles

Cherokee: Wane Miller

Crawford: Jean Heiden

Ida: Creston Schubert

Sac: Brent Wilhelm

Woodbury: Rocky DeWitt (via Zoom)

Joan Hansen (via Zoom)

JaMaine Wamberg (via Zoom)

Joleen Schmit (via Zoom)

Kim Keleher (nonvoting member) (via Zoom)

Brittany Krause (nonvoting member) (via Zoom)

Regional Staff: Louise Galbraith, Leisa Mayer. Via Zoom: Julie Albright, Dawn Mentzer, Theresa Jochum, Cindy Wiemold

Guests: Clarence Siepker, Pocahontas County; Sandy Loney, Kathy Erickson, Dee Stern, Humboldt County; Melissa Drey, Ashley Miller, Plains Area Mental Health; Sheila Martin, Mark Monson, Joel Peterson, Nicolle Eaton, Siouxland Mental Health; Amy Riesburg, Counseling Services, LLC; Steve

Kremer, Juvenile Court Services; Rebecca McCrackin, Seasons Center; Teresa Magnussen, Imagine; Jennifer McCabe, Opportunities Unlimited; Cindy Wilde, Goodwill; Jim France, ARC of Woodbury County; Felicia Bates, I-Start; Mindi Rotert, St. Anthony's; Pat Laursen, Howard Center

- 3) Closed session** Chapter 21.5(1)(i) of the 2015 Code of Iowa - To discuss the purchase or sale of particular real estate only where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property or reduce the price the governmental body would receive for that property.

Approximately 3:00 – Resume open session

Closed session was not held.

- 4) Minutes of Previous Meeting**

A motion by Wane Miller to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Creston Shubert.

Discussion: none. Motion carried unanimously.

- 5) Approval of Agenda**

Changes/Additions: add under new business (B) Appointment of board member to the Children's Advisory Committee.

A motion by Brent Wilhelm to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Jean Heiden. Discussion: none. Motion carried unanimously.

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

None

- 7) Unfinished Business**

- a) Website Demo and quote – Brian McMillan, Neapolitan Labs – Action**

Brian McMillan gave a demonstration of what our website may look like. If approved today, the goal would be to go live on June 1, 2021. Cost is \$13,500 onetime start up and \$1,500 annual thereafter.

Paul Merten believes this can be funded through Cares Act funds.

A motion by Brent Wilhelm to approve the proposal from Neapolitan Labs and for the Chair to sign. Second by Scott Jacobs. Discussion: none. Motion carried unanimously.

- b) Potential purchase of property/Access Center – Action**

Brent Wilhelm and Paul Merten joined the Sioux Rivers Chair and CEO for a zoom meeting. Sioux Rivers wants to work together to get something done, however, they turned down the offer of \$325,000 offer on the building. At the Sioux Rivers Board meeting yesterday, there was a motion to counter at \$395,000. They contacted an appraisal company that could appraise the building in June, Paul contacted another appraisal company that could do it late April or early May. Paul Merten asked the board if we want to make a counteroffer to keep this moving.

Brent Wilhelm is concerned that during the conversation they stated they want to keep working with Rolling Hills, but it sounded like they did not want to pay the same for the service they are now (currently an 80/20 split for cost of service).

Paul Merten commented that financially we still have core services that need to be implemented and contracts that will come in this spring for next years' services. This will bring our ending fund balance down and may leave us short a year or two from now.

Scott Jacobs asked if we can put this off for another year, and concentrate on core services. Also, Scott would like to look at the two crisis homes and if one costs more than the other – does Siouxland Mental Health reimburse (Medicaid and insurance payments that are received) like Plains Area Mental Health Center does with Turning Point. Can 23-hour observation be done somewhere else if we do not have that building?

Rich Ruggles updated the board on the meeting with Region XII Council of Governments (COG). Rich Ruggles, Paul Merten, Dawn Mentzer, Chris Whittaker and two other COG members met, and they think there is an option for a block grant for the purchase, possibly up to 50%.

Concerns with COG is that it is a slow process, and it may not come fast enough. The COG in Woodbury County is looking into it since the building is in their area.

A question asked can grant funds be sought if the building is purchased first.

Jean Heiden stressed not to do a purchase agreement unless the grant is coming in.

Rocky DeWitt would like to let this lay. We must watch out for the financial impact of the region.

Consensus is to table the discussion/decision until next month to gain more information.

A motion by Rocky DeWitt to table the item until next meeting or a special meeting if needed.

Second by Brent Wilhelm. Discussion: we can have the committee come back for discussion with Sioux Rivers Region if needed. Motion carried unanimously.

c) February 2021 Financial Report-Action

The financial report for February 2021 as summarized:

Beginning Balance as of 2/1/21	\$5,129,594.06
Revenue	\$ 211,802.89
Expenditures	\$ 322,248.91
Ending Balance as of 2/28/21	\$5,019,148.04

A motion to approve the February 2021 financial report as submitted by Scott Jacobs

Second by Wane Miller. Discussion: none. Motion carried

d) Humboldt & Pocahontas County Transition /Coordinator Position-Action

Leisa Mayer reported on the meeting held with Pocahontas County. A concern is the difference in how coordination is done now compared to our way of providing coordination. Melissa Drey was present to discuss mobile crisis.

Dawn Mentzer provided numbers of clients served in the two counties.

Discussion: looking at the service needs it is not any more than what we as coordinators are doing now. Direct care service can be done by providers. Transportation is an issue with all our

rural counties. We need to explore other options. Louise and Leisa discussed how coordination is done now.

Sandy Loney spoke that her and Clarence Siepker have discussed that when they came in it was a given that there would be a coordinator for the two counties and would be a Pocahontas County employee. The list of clients that was given to Dawn Mentzer did not include people that she was involved with at the two hospitals.

Clarence Siepker stated that they want a smooth transition and were under the assumption they would have a coordinator.

Paul Merten spoke with Clarence and Sandy in the last week. When Woodbury County came on, they decided on 2 full time coordinators, the Advocate and her assistance for a total of 4 full time employees. The MOU states that Region hires, so as in Woodbury County a committee from the governance board interviewed for the positions.

Kim Keleher of Plains Area Mental Health said they provide IHH services in Humboldt County and they will be going into Pocahontas County to provide services (coordination and connections to services).

Brent Wilhelm sees two options, try Leisa and see how it goes or hire full time person.

A question was asked if the region felt they only needed a coordinator a few days a week would the two counties be able to find other jobs for them to do to make up the rest of the time?

Paul Merten would like to set the salary range, put out the ads. His recommendation is to move forward, track the time and effort and re-evaluate.

Dawn would like the board to consider advertising the position, setting the salary today and to look at restructuring duties of the staff. Dawn will get with the staff to look at restructuring to ease loads.

Wane Miller asked if Dawn is thinking of making current coordinators full time (the three that are split 80/20)? Dawn replied not necessarily, she could be delegating but hard to tell at this time. Wane would like to start low and build up, look at restructuring first and then move forward.

Creston Shubert supports hiring a full-time position.

Brent Wilhelm made a motion to advertise for a full-time coordinator position for the region with salary between \$50,000 - \$55,000. Second by Creston Shubert. Discussion: JaMaine Wamberg asked what was budgeted for the salary. Dawn Mentzer budgeted \$60,000 plus benefits. Motion carried: Scott Jacobs and Wane Miller voted opposed.

e) Cares 4th Round Four Applications – Action

Brent Wilhelm and Paul Merten volunteered to serve on the committee again to work with Dawn Mentzer in going through applications.

Dawn would like to release applications following this meeting with a submission deadline of April 16, 2021 and let the committee adjust for any late arrivals.

A motion by Jean Heiden to send letters out following the meeting with a submission deadline of April 16, 2021. Second by Wane Miller Discussion: none. Motion carried unanimously.

f) I-Start Discussion

Felicia Bates reports that I-Start is requesting \$.50 per capita rate which would provide a reduction to the Region to what is currently being funded.

Paul Merten asked if this needs to be answered today, as we need to look at other options in the budget. Felicia Bates said that yes it can wait however, it would just shorten transition time to pull out if funding is not approved and services have to stop June 30, 2021.

Motion by Brent Wilhelm to table I-Start decision until the next meeting. Second by Wane Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

8) New Business

a) Annual Service and Budget Plan – Action

Leisa Mayer went over the document with the board. Providers in Pocahontas and Humboldt Counties need to be added in as well as a representative from the Governance Board named to the children’s advisory committee. (Dawn Mentzer will provide a new copy once that is completed).

A motion by Rich Ruggles to approve the Annual Service and Budget Plan with additional information added. Second by Wane Miller. Discussion: none. Motion carried unanimously.

b) Appointment of board representative to the Children’s Advisory Committee

Jean Heiden volunteered to serve as the Governance Board representative to the Children’s Advisory Committee.

A motion by Brent Wilhelm to appoint Jean Heiden to the Children’s Advisory Committee. Second by Rich Ruggles. Motion carried unanimously.

9) Schedule next meeting: April 28, 2021 2:30 p.m.

A motion by Brent Wilhelm to set the next meeting on April 28, 2021 at 2:30 pm. Second by Jean Heiden. Discussion: none. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion by Rich Ruggles to adjourn at 5:17 pm. Second by Brent Wilhelm. Meeting adjourned.