



**Rolling Hills
Community Services Region
Governance Board Meeting
Cobblestone Inn and Suites, Holstein
May 26, 2021– 2:30 p.m.
MINUTES**

- 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
JaMaine Wamberg
Jolene Schmit – not in attendance
Joan Hansen – not in attendance
Brittany Krause – not in attendance
Kim Keleher, PAMHC

Regional Staff: Dawn Mentzer, CEO; Louise Galbraith, Lisa Bringle, Leisa Mayer, Julie Albright, Theresa Jochum, Coordinators; Cindy Wiemold, Advocate

Guests: Clearance Siepker, Pocahontas County; Sandy Loney, Humboldt County; Alison Hauser, CSS; Shawn Fick, Goodwill; Ashley Miller, PAMHC; Sharon Neiman, Sioux Rivers; Lorna Steenbock, Ida County; Steve Kremer, Juvenile Court Services; Clay Adams, Wesco; Todd Lange, Amerigroup; Sue Gehling, Classroom Clinic; Theresa Magnussen, Imagine the Possibilities; Mindi Rotert, St. Anthony; Amy Jeppsen, Trivium; Shari Porter, Simple Life; Sheila Martin, Jessi Maxwell, Nicolle Eaton, Mark

Monson, SMHC; Kim Scorza, Seasons Center; Amy Riesburg, Counseling Services, LLC; Chad Jensen, New Opportunities; Courtney Cook, Prairie Lakes AEA

3) Minutes of Previous Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented by Rocky DeWitt. Second by Wane Miller. Discussion: none. Motion carried unanimously.

4) Approval of Agenda

Changes/additions: None

A motion to approve the agenda as presented by Rocky DeWitt. Second by Rich Ruggles. Discussion: none. Motion carried unanimously.

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

None.

6) Unfinished Business

a) April 2021 Financial Report-Action

Dawn Mentzer presented the April 2021 financial report as summarized:

Beginning Balance as of 4/1/21	\$7,321,977.37
Revenues	\$3,416,416.74
Expenditures	<u>\$4,503,954.09</u>
Ending balance as of 4/30/21	\$6,234,440.02

A motion to approve the April 2021 financial report as presented by Brent Wilhelm. Second by Jean Heiden. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.

b) Potential purchase of property/Access Center – Action

Paul Merten and Dawn Mentzer updated the Board on the current status. Julie Jetter (with DHS) suggested being the owner of the property as the provider could sell it or choose not to use the property for the intended service. We are stalled at making progress on the access center and subacute services until we have a decision on property.

Paul Merten had a discussion with the Sioux Rivers Region Board Chair on Monday. Paul spoke to the Bunea Vista County Attorney who then reached out to the State Attorney General's Office for an opinion. The Assistant AG who he spoke with confirmed that this can be done with the region as the owner and transferring property. There would be a procedure involved and recommended reaching out to the External Auditor. A decision needs to be made that if the building is purchased who the owner would be.

Rich Ruggles asked that if the state took over (mental health), would they compensate the counties back for the asset or would it be given over to the State? Dawn said that Julie Jetter advised to make sure it is clear in the 28E how property is divided if the region dissolves.

Several board members have been advised by legislators to be careful about the purchase of real-estate at this time.

Dawn Mentzer commented that we have the money, and if we are over 40% next year in fund balance we will be penalized. We need to look at moving our services forward however, until the building issue is settled, we cannot move forward with service development. On the other hand, we will have to be able to fund these services once started.

Wane Miller asked if the building is purchased, and the state takes over funding who will maintain the building.

Rocky DeWitt reminded that the structure is purpose built, if we do buy it, it could be worth less. He thinks \$100,000 to \$150,000 is a good price. It is too unsure now with what the state is doing. Would rather have the State claw the money back.

Sheila Marien of Siouxland Mental Health Center: they are accredited for 23 hour, crisis stabilization and mobile crisis that are run from that building now, if they don't have a building how can we be compliant with those core services?

Kim Keleher reported that the advisory committee is recommending Siouxland Mental Health Center purchase the building with the region funding the expenditure.

Sheila Martin needs direction from the region on how to proceed for her to go to her board.

Dawn Mentzer recommends moving forward. If Siouxland Mental Health Center would be owner with us providing the funds she would take that direction. We need to meet compliance standards on these core services and development.

Jean Heiden recommends giving direction to Siouxland Mental Health Center to negotiate and how much we would expend, an "up to" amount.

Rocky DeWitt said discussing this in an open meeting is tipping our hand as to how much we are willing to expend, the other region could take advantage of that.

Brent Wilhelm stated we offered \$325,000 before, why not do it again, it could be owned by us or Siouxland Mental Health Center.

Paul Merten suggests we make a counter offer at \$350,000 contents included, final offer. It can be owned by Siouxland Mental Health. Rocky DeWitt agrees but would like \$325,000.

Jean Heiden comment that we look at the big picture, the services housed in that building and if can't provide the service because we do not have a building people are hurt.

A motion to counter offer Sioux Rivers Region at \$350,000, all contents included, from Rolling Hills by Rocky DeWitt. Second by Brent Wilhem. Discussion: Jean Heiden questioned ownership of the building. Paul Merten said if the offer is accepted then we can work on ownership with legal advice, at some point there needs to be a motion to address ownership of the building. Motion carried. Wane Miller, Scott Jacobs opposed.

c) IRSH Proposal Update

Dawn Mentzer updated the Board. In the last few weeks there has been movement with the State. At the last CEO meeting, the MCO's and DHS were in favor of moving us forward as a pilot project. Dawn is comfortable with Trivium's proposal and ability to move forward with the service.

Amy Jeppsen did receive a contract from Amerigroup to look over and will start negotiations. She believes it can be up and running in 6-9 months.

d) Humboldt & Pocahontas Transition Update

Dawn Mentzer is continuing to meet with providers within the two counties. She is working on contracting for the judicial advocate with the other region she services.

e) Cares Extra Carryover Discussion – Action

Dawn Mentzer reports that if all awards are spent there will be \$116,896.31 left over. Howard Center spent \$500 more than asked for and awarded, she does not have a problem covering it, but there needs to be a paper trail to cover. Dawn needs a decision as to what to do with the carry over.

7) New Business

a) Senate File 619 / Revised Budget Discussion

Wane Miller asked about employees. Dawn Mentzer commented that staff can be paid out of general supplemental if counties choose to employ staff (state dollars to the counties). June 2nd there is a meeting with CEOs to discuss this, so it is consistent across the state. Paul Merten commented that this is also a question from our auditors as it is a reimbursement. If an employee files for unemployment would the state reimburse the county of record? Dawn Mentzer did provide a budget projection based on legislation. Department of Management will be sending all the county auditors' information on the new levy per capita rate.

b) New Perspectives Cares Funds Denial / Appeal

New Perspectives had requested \$40,000 for a purchase of a van which was denied. They are appealing this decision based on Wesco being awarded \$18,000 for a van for Stepping Stones II. Dawn Mentzer spoke with Clay Adams and Wesco is willing to refund \$18,000 (cost of their vehicle paid with Cares funds) back to the region. Clay Adams confirmed that the check has been cut and is on its way to the Region.

A motion to deny the appeal from New Perspectives by Wane Miller. Second by Creston Schubert. Discussion: Bent Wilhem asked if there was language in the applications stating no appeals. Dawn had looked and it was not in the application. Motion carried unanimously.

c) Management Plan Revisions / 28E – Action

Dawn Mentzer provided the updated Management Plan and 28E (via email) which was amended to add Pocahontas and Humboldt Counties. Dawn will be meeting with both counties' boards. Dawn will send the signature sheets to the county auditors for county approval.

A motion to approve the revised Management Plan and 28E agreement by Brent Wilhelm. Second by Jean Heiden. Discussion: none. Motion carried unanimously.

d) Hiring of Coordinator of Disability Services - Action

Dawn Mentzer is recommending the hiring of Alison Hauser for the coordinator position in Pocahontas and Humboldt County. There needs to a recommendation to Pocahontas County to hire Alison Hauser at a salary of \$52,500. Sandy Loney would like to see an increase in the salary for cost of living and is recommending \$55,000 possibly \$56,000. Clarence Siepker asked who sets the salary increases, county or region. Paul Merten explained the current process that the region sets the increase based on an average of the county increases.

Wane miller made a motion at to recommend to Pocahontas County to hire Alison Hauser at \$52,500 as a service coordinator for Rolling Hills Region effective July 1, 2021. Second by Brent Wilhelm. Discussion: none. Motion carried unanimously.

8) Schedule next meeting: To Be Determined

A motion to set the next meeting on June 16, 2021 at 2:30 by Rocky DeWitt. Second by Wane Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to adjourn at 4:30 pm by Rich Ruggles. Second by Creston Schubert. Meeting adjourned.