



**Rolling Hills
Community Services Region
Governance Board Meeting
September 28, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.**

Meeting to be held via ZOOM only.

Minutes

1) Call to Order –Chairman, Paul Merten

2) Roll Call of Counties – Introductions

Buena Vista: Paul Merten
Calhoun: Scott Jacobs
Carroll: Rich Ruggles (absent)
Cherokee: Wane Miller
Crawford: Jean Heiden
Humboldt: Sandy Loney
Ida: Creston Schubert (absent)
Pocahontas: Clarence Siepker
Sac: Brent Wilhelm (absent)
Woodbury: Jeremy Taylor

Joan Hansen

Joleen Schmit

JaMaine Wamburg

Kim Keleher, PAMHC (nonvoting member)

Steve Kremer, Juvenile Court Services (nonvoting member) (absent)

Regional Staff: Dawn Mentzer, CEO; Kelsey Allen, Administrative Assistant.

Guests: Melissa Drey, Ashley Miller, PAMHC; Niccole Eaton, Sheila Martin, SMHC; Stacy Warner; Trivium; Karla Manternach; Counseling Services, LLC; Amanda Weber, Howard Center; Jonette Spurlock, Center for Siouxland; Taylor Wadsworth, ITP; Karen Rosengreen, Seasons Center; Theresa Magnussen, Imagine the Possibilities; Kevin Grieme, Siouxland District Health Department; Jennifer McCabe, Opportunities Unlimited; Liz Stanek, Partnerships for Families; Deidre Brown, Wesco; Mindi Rotert, St. Anthony's.

3) Minutes of Previous Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented by Sandy Loney. Second Joan Hansen. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.

4) Approval of Agenda

Changes/additions: None.

A motion to approve the agenda as presented by Clarence Siepker. Second Scott Jacobs. 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.

Kim Keleher stated PAMHC, SMHC and Seasons Center each received the CCBHC grant award.

Kevin Grieme stated there are always challenges faced in mental health, but he always speaks very highly of the Region to other partners around the rest of the state know, thank you to all!

Sandy Loney stated the Humboldt Memorial Hospital broke ground on a new mental health building, Humboldt County Memorial Mental Health, Monday, September 26th, they have one counselor hired and are actively looking for two more, the building should be functional by March 2023 (1.8 mil building) Michelle Slater will be CEO.

6) Unfinished Business

a) July 2022 Financial Reports-Action

Dawn Mentzer presented the July 2022 financial report as summarized: Some counties made expenses out of Fund 10, so there will be no county breakdown for July.

Beginning balance as of 7/1/22	\$5,971,958.28
Expenditures	\$502,821.20
Revenues	<u>\$3,119,056.29</u>
Ending balance as of 7/31/22	\$8,588,193.37

August 2022 Financial Reports-Action

Dawn Mentzer presented the August 2022 financial report as summarized:

Beginning balance as of 8/1/22	\$8,746,565.66
Expenditures	\$645,025.07
Revenues	<u>\$443,984.90</u>
Ending balance as of 8/31/22	\$8,545,725.49

The Region received a State payment in July. Revenue from 7/1/22 - 8/31/22 was \$3,380,643.58. Expenditures from 7/1/22 - 8/31/22 was \$853,913.83 (90.84%) FY23 budget of \$9,319,032.00.

A motion to approve the July and August 2022 financial report by JaMaine Wamburg. Second Scott Jacobs. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.

a) Encumbrance Application Results

Dawn Mentzer informed the Board of an approved application to DHS for an Encumbrance, this application allows for any core services that we are putting start-up funds for this Fiscal Year, including Subacute and the Access Center to be sheltered from the payback. We applied for \$1,000,000.00 and were approved for \$547,061.00. Sandy Loney questioned why the full amount was not approved. Dawn Mentzer responded that she went through this with Rob Aiken, DHS, who stated they will not allow ongoing operational expenses.

b) IRSH Update – Stacey Warner, Trivium

Stacey Warner, Trivium, informed the Region they are still working towards accepting first clients as the house is set up, staff is fully hired and trained. They are working with the Region and staff to accept referrals, would like 3-4 individuals that will meet eligibility criteria, preferably all females. Meeting with Dawn (other region) and DHS, with program model and to find out if there are recommendations or if there needs to be changes made, these are the only reasons we cannot accept clients at this time. October we will have a community-wide training in the referral process, waiting on HCBS approval. Dawn Mentzer asked for examples of the issues they are facing, i.e., the alarms. Settings rules (federal guidelines) used to be authorized by HCBS staff, but is now under heightened scrutiny review, waiting on them to approve the settings. Stacey Warner states the issues we are facing include the alarms and current restrictions for individuals, they would not have alarms or cameras in a public space. Clients will need a higher level of care as it is a step down from a hospital setting. IRSH is an intensive recovery, the cameras help keep staff and clients safe. If an individual no longer meets criteria they would not be able to stay in the home, we are working on how we will help them move onto the next level of care. Clients could be in the setting for 6-12 months and then be able to step down with fewer restrictions. Availability of choice is also an issue, there aren't multiple IRSH homes to choose from and clients do not have the ability to choose roommates or homes with only one option. Dawn Mentzer stated that this does not jeopardize the Region meeting core services as this is all federal, we have the service but can't provide it yet.

Stacey Warner would like to thank the Region as they have been beyond supportive.

c) Crisis Services Update – Melissa Drey and Nicolle Eaton

Melissa Drey informed the Board that along with herself, Niccole Eaton, Ashley Miller and Seasons Center have a meeting this week to discuss the 988 system. They have met with Northwest Iowa on how 988 can utilize MCAT, there will be a summit in November to discuss how to access 988 in the entire state of Iowa. The money allocated for the booklets have been sent to printer last week which encompasses all crisis services in the Region, will begin distributing to all entities for the Access Center, Crisis Based Residential, Subacute and Crisis

Services. TV ads and radio station commercials will reach all entities involved. MCAT team results show the month of June saw higher needs while July and August have slowed down.

The new Subacute unit is open and they are taking referrals, there was a final walkthrough with the city on the remodel and everything is good to go. There is constant marketing to ensure people understand the service and that it's available to the community. As of now all our money comes from Regional dollars, once they are Medicaid approved then a portion will go back to the Region

Sandy Loney shared that she is concerned about the monies that the Region is providing is being used properly, as she is not impressed by the last quarter of Fiscal Year 22's numbers.

Sheila Martin responded these are core services that the State of Iowa requires us to provide, it may be a high cost in the beginning, but it is diverting costs for the jail system, hospital system and homeless shelter. Yes, it may seem high, but it is saving indirect cost for taxpayers. The statistical denial rate is 6-7% with a 93% approval rate, the data speaks for itself.

Kim Keleher states there were denials prior to the Subacute unit opening whom may have been good referrals for Subacute, with that in place some denials will be referred.

Jeremy Taylor believes one denial is one too many, but we need to give providers grace and understand some may be thinking of safety for their staff and other residents, hindsight is 20/20, don't be too hard on themselves.

7) **New Business**

a) YES Center Contract – Action

Dawn Mentzer stated the Region has a contract for transportation, all signed and needing to take action. This allows sheriffs' departments to stay local while YES supplies the transportation. They have added a fuel surcharge, but the rates have not changed. Dawn Mentzer recommends approving the contract. Paul Merten states that some counties are members of the Central Iowa Detention, maybe next Fiscal Year the Region could request for them to put in for eastern communities. Dawn Mentzer states we do not have contract with them, the CICS region does, but this one allows us to help any region.

A motion to approve the contract as presented by Jean Heiden. Second Jeremy Taylor. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.

b) Seasons Center Food Bank Funding Request -Action

Dawn Mentzer states we have received a request for funds in the amount of \$5,000.00. Seasons Center is asking for coverage from members of the Region, however, this is not something we are required to do. Care Connections has received a similar request; they approved and funded it last year and are receiving the same request. Some would access it, but with us having to lower our budget we must stick to the core services. Any new requests should be for core services. Paul Merten states that the Region had CARES money to tie that to the mental health side, this is a reach

for mental health part. Jean Heiden agrees with Dawn and Paul.

A motion to deny the request by Wane Miller. Second Jean Heiden. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.

c) 28E Agreement

Paul Merten states the 28E has not been filed as we are waiting on Cherokee County to sign, we have the MOU but no 28E. There have been multiple attempts to reach out to the Cherokee County Auditor and the Cherokee County Attorney with no response. Wane Miller states there needs to be a new 28E. The Cherokee County Attorney has guided that all employees need to be under one County, right now the Board is forcing a county to be employer of record which puts them on the hook for claims down the road, i.e., workman's compensation. We have reached out to DHS and Rob Aiken suggested to add unemployment benefits and workman's compensation in the 28E stating the Region will reimburse the County if either benefit is required. There is not enough time to switch all employees to one County in a month's time as it is a long process. Sandy Loney added that the committee took a year of work to complete, this is something that could possibly be done in the future. The Region will reimburse the County if there is a claim of workman's compensation or unemployment benefits. Dawn Mentzer stated the County may own the W-2; however, the Region reimburses the County if there are any claims made. Wane Miller states the Cherokee County Attorney says workman's compensation insurance does not exist for the Region and this must be fixed before the Cherokee County will sign. Jeremy Taylor asked if all employees need to be made Regional employees before Cherokee will sign. Wane Miller states Cherokee County wants to be financially untied from the responsibility before they will sign. Jeremy Taylor asked where this leaves Cherokee County as a member of the Region until their request is completed. Wane Miller replied that the MOU covers everything except workman's compensation, meaning we are not a signatory. Wane Miller would like the Board to approve the 28E without Cherokee County's signature. Paul Merten states the Region has something in writing from DHS stating the Region will reimburse the counties if there is a claim for workman's compensation. Paul Merten requested the Cherokee County Attorney to have the courtesy to reply to someone as multiple attempts have been made to reach out with no response. Wane Miller states he will speak with the Cherokee County Attorney.

d) FY24 Budget Process Discussion

Dawn Mentzer would like the Region to begin thinking about next Fiscal Year, as DHS can modify, approve, or deny the budget. She would like to engage the board on this topic. For informational purposes, Dawn will create a list of core and non-core services, there will not be enough money in the fund balance to fund everything. Jeremy Taylor believes the Board should discuss recommendations first, as we do not want to just hand that decision over to the State and/or DHS, we should proceed as we normally would. Jean Heiden suggested we should start with core services as those are requirements we have, cutting will not be easy. Sandy Loney would like to know how much non-core services are. Dawn Mentzer states non-core services amount to \$1,700,000.00. There is no need for details as of now, this is just something we need to think about it. Dawn

Mentzer will send out information so all Board Members can take a look and identify what we believe can be cut. Most non-core are such minimal amounts but do the greater good, i.e., rent. Legislation has impacted us in this way. We need to prioritize.

e) Schedule next meeting: November 30, 2022 2:30 pm

A motion to approve the next meeting for November 30, 2022 at 2:30pm by Sandy Loney. Second Jean Heiden. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.

f) Adjourn

A motion to adjourn by Clarence Siepker. Second Sandy Loney. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Kelsey Allen, Administrative Assistant.