



## Rolling Hills

### Community Services Region

#### Governance Board Meeting

December 14, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.

Cobblestone Inn and Suites, 2011 Indorf Ave. Holstein

**Face to Face Meeting attendance available for the public. Zoom link available below for anyone who wishes to attend via Zoom.**

#### Minutes

**1) Call to Order –Chairman, Paul Merten**

**2) Roll Call of Counties – Introductions**

Buena Vista: Paul Merten

Calhoun: Scott Jacobs

Carroll: Gene Meiners

Cherokee: Wane Miller (absent)

Crawford: Jean Heiden

Humboldt: Sandy Loney

Ida: Creston Schubert (absent)

Pocahontas: Clarence Siepker

Sac: Brent Wilhelm (absent)

Woodbury: Jeremy Taylor – via Zoom

Joan Hansen – via Zoom

Joleen Schmit (absent)

Jamaine Wamburg (absent)

Kim Keleher, PAMHC (nonvoting member)

Steve Kremer, Juvenile Court Services (nonvoting member) – via Zoom

Regional Staff: Dawn Mentzer, CEO; Kelsey Allen, Administrative Assistant; Caylyn Bishop, Theresa Jochum (via Zoom), Lisa Bringle (via Zoom), Coordinators; Cindy Wiemold, MHA.

Guests: Melissa Drey, Brenda Erickson, Ashley Miller, Heidi Lohff, PAMHC; Nicolle Eaton (via Zoom), Kathy Roberts (via Zoom), SMHC; Clay Adams (via Zoom), Deidra Brown (via Zoom), Wesco; Jonette Spurlock (via Zoom), Center for Siouxland; Deb Burnett (via Zoom), St. Anthony's; Kris Dam (via Zoom), Shesler Hall; Valerie Uken, Urban Native Center; Matt Ohman, Dave Ferris, Sara Johnson, Hope Street of Siouxland.

**3) Minutes of Previous Meeting**

*A motion to approve the minutes as presented by Sandy Loney. Second Jean Heiden. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.*

**4) Approval of Agenda**

Changes/additions: There will be no data presentation today, will be replacing with Hope Street of Siouxland, Urban Native Center and Stables for Jed.

*A motion to approve the agenda as presented by Clarence Siepker. Second by Gene Meiners. 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.**

**6) Unfinished Business**

**a) September & October 2022 Financial Reports-Action**

Dawn Mentzer presented the October 2022 financial report as summarized:

Beginning balance as of 10/1/22	\$9,923,879.26
Expenditures	\$924,783.79
Revenues	<u>\$157,048.34</u>
Ending balance as of 10/31/22	\$9,156,143.81

Revenue from 10/1/22 - 10/31/22 was \$5,491,391.80. Expenditures from 10/1/22 - 10/31/22 was \$2,471,845.86 (73.48% remaining). FY'23 budget of \$9,319,032.00.

*A motion to approve the financial report as presented by Scott Jacobs. Second Sandy Loney. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.*

**New Business**

**a) Termination of Services for Shesler Hall, Kris Dam, Executive Director/Request to transfer contract to the Center for Siouxland – Action**

Dawn Mentzer shared that she met with Kris Dam, Shesler Hall, in September about their \$86,000.00 grant per year including the emergency bed. Kris Dam is wanting to retire and transition the women in Shesler Hall to Bridges West through Center for Siouxland. Kris Dam shared that Shesler Hall would like to transfer the remainder of the grant to Bridges West (ending June 2023) starting January 1, 2023. Shesler Hall will be closing their doors on December 30, 2022. Kris Dam stated the amount of persons in 2022 was 12, but held at 9, this is a large reason for closing, lack of rental income. Dawn Mentzer states we pay fee for service. As for Bridges West funding after June, would we keep the same amount or take it out during budget discussion. Paul Merten would like to know what amount has been spent out of the \$86,000.00 per year we have budgeted for fee for service. Dawn Mentzer responds the region has spent

about \$14,000.00 out of the budget. Paul Merten verified that we would transfer \$70,000.00 to Bridges West. Kris Dam states the original contract was for 19 persons at a daily rate and the remainder of emergency beds (\$1667.00) \$10,000.00 for emergency beds and the ability to submit 19 people at the daily rate (9.80x19 plus 10,000) Dawn Mentzer believes the terms of the contract can be transferred to Bridges West with no rate increase. Kris Dam would like to backdate the transfer to December 1, 2022. Jonette Spurlock shared that the Center for Siouxland runs Bridges West, this is just the name of a sub program.

*A motion to approve the transfer beginning December 1, 2022 by Jean Heiden. Second Sandy Loney. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.*

**b) Invoice for building rent from one county – Action**

Dawn Mentzer shared that Kris Glienke, Cherokee County Auditor, is requesting the region to pay \$3,874.34 for workman’s compensation, unemployment insurance and rent. This has never been requested from any other county and there was no breakdown of the cost, need guidance from board. Scott Jacobs stated this has never been done in the past and nobody else is asking for this, we should say no. Dawn Mentzer stated that unemployment insurance and workman’s compensation is already outlined in the MOU. Paul Merten suggests that we reply to the email and request a breakdown of the cost, we will take this under advisement at the end of FY. Scott Jacobs reiterates this is for unemployment insurance and workman’s compensation and not for rent as the county agreement states counties must provide office space.

*A motion to table this discussion to future board meeting toward the end of the fiscal year by Sandy Loney. Second Jean Heiden. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.*

**c) Pocahontas School Request for Funds – Action**

Dawn Mentzer discussed receiving this request in October 2022 for Berryhill Center and the schools in the counties of Pocahontas and Humboldt, for consultation time, this is something we pay to other providers. A one-time payment of \$1,791.72. Recommend approving.

*A motion to approve the one-time request for funds in the amount of \$1,791.72 by Jean Heiden. Second Gene Meiners. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.*

**d) Hope Street Funding Request– Action**

Matt Ohman and Dave Ferris, Hope Street of Siouxland, shared that Hope Street formed in June 2019, helping the male homeless issues in Sioux City. They originally rented a 10 bed building, strictly for men whom are homeless or homeless and out of prison. Residents must apply to get in and they have strict rules to follow, with the focus on teaching men to get back into society property and teach them life skills they don’t get at treatment facilities. They now have 54 men living on their own with jobs because of Hope Street. Hope Street has an opportunity to buy Shesler Hall, which includes 26 beds, they believe

this could give them the opportunity help many more. Shesler Hall can be purchased for \$100,000.00, they intend to fundraise \$50,000.00 and are asking for the remaining \$50,000.00 from the region. Hope Street has been funded over \$400,000.00 by one person, they feel it is time to stop depending on her; however, they do not receive any state or federal assistance. Sandy Loney asked if they have started fundraising yet. Dave Ferris shared they have not started fundraising, as this just came about. Shesler Hall wants Hope Street to purchase their building by December 31, 2022; however, with the holidays that is probably unlikely. Clarence Siepker would like to know if there is anything needing to be done to the building before moving in. Dave Ferris replied there are four air conditioners needing to be replaced but they will receive a \$4,000.00-\$10,000.00 grant from the city for those. Nothing else needs to be done, they can move in roughly 8 hours. There are currently 61 applicants on the waiting list. Matt Ohman added the waiting list is why they need a bigger place (Shesler hall) as it is hard to fulfill everyone with only 10 beds. Dave Ferris shared the residents have access to a kitchen, recreational room with a pool table and big screen TV. Cindy Wiemold shared that the region has a number of individuals with Substance Abuse and Mental Health issues that have been to Hope Street, she would love to see them expand. Dawn Mentzer would like to know what percentage of residents have Mental Health needs. Dave Ferris replied that 99% to all of them. Jeremy Taylor believes \$50,000.00 seems reasonable and is supportive of this request. Jean Heiden shares that we should give \$50,000.00 to each funding request. Dawn Mentzer wonders if we should wait until we know what the state payments will be. Jean Heiden is all in favor, but two others we need to look at. Sandy Loney shared that she is more apt to fund Hope Street. Stables for Jed seems high and believes we need to look at each county when looking at noncore services. Jean Heiden states that most residents have mental health issues and believes this would be a good use of \$50,000.00. Gene Meiners believes the region should commit these dollars upon completion of the purchase of Shesler Hall.

*A motion to approve this funding request, contingent on purchase, by Gene Meiners. Second Jeremy Taylor. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.*

**e) Urban Native Center Funding Request– Action**

Valerie Uken, Urban Native Center, is requesting a one-time fund of \$47,000.00. The Center started working with youth in January 2022; however, the Center has been open since March 2019. The native community is 70% in poverty, we had 50 kids the first night. The youth group is open to anyone in Sioux City and the surrounding area, anyone that would like to come is welcome. The Center hasn't asked anyone in other regions and/or states for funding as those kids don't come as often. The Center goes into school districts to speak with youth and see more come forward voluntarily with their issues in school and at home, find resources and solutions for the youth. Currently, they are seen once a week, but we would like to see them every day. The Center has been involved in a grant beginning in January 2022; however, we are now looking to provide a native mental health coordinator, we believe this would be helpful to all our youth. The coordinator is currently being paid through the Winnebago Tribe. Valerie Uken shared the Center received a grant for \$900,000.00 for three years. Gene Meiners would like to know where the \$900,000.00 grant is being spent. Valerie Uken responded that it is being used for a Native Mental Health Specialist onsite. Jean Heiden recommends funding \$25,000.00 but would like the funds for general support not for hiring and after knowing what future funding will be, we can

revisit it. Valerie Uken stated the coordinator position would be full-time, 40 hours plus special events, from 12:00pm-8:00pm during the school year and 9:00am-5:00pm during the summer months. Dawn Mentzer shared that our coordinators do work with kids, i.e., persons with a SED diagnosis. The annual report sent to DHS could impose some questions as this could be a grey area. Gene Meiners would like to hear the other funding requests and possibly table this discussion until FY'24 budget is decided. Paul Merten would like to table this discussion and believes the region needs to be careful where we spend our money. (All board members in agreement)

*A motion to table this discussion after FY'24 budget discussion by Sandy Loney. Second by Jean Heiden. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.*

**f) Stables for Jed – Action**

Jean Heiden suggest the board should hear from the Megan Riesselman personally before making a decision. She understands this is a huge ask; however, \$250,000.00 is a place to start to make this program move forward. Dawn Mentzer believes this program has merit; however, \$250,000.00 for a stable might not fit DHS standards.

*A motion to table this discussion until Megan Riesselman can present by Jean Heiden. Second Gene Meiners. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.*

**g) FY'24 Budget Forecast – Discussion**

Dawn Mentzer shared the regions ending fund balance as of 10/31/22 in the amount of \$9,156,143.81, needs to be down to 20% at the end of the fiscal year. Wesco receives the amount of \$602,897.00 for Stepping Stones with the \$10,000.00 per month increase, Stepping Stones would rather close and move to Denison or move clients as they need \$60,000.00 to stay open and are not in a position to furnish \$60,000.00. We will not have the money in July for block grants, we must refigure how we pay our block grants. The current timing of payments is 50% of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter payments being paid in July and January, the remaining 50% of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter payments being paid with 100% of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter payments in October and April. Care Connections and Sioux Rivers contracts are currently contributing \$432,606.00. There will be a Seasons Center Crisis Residential program opening in Spencer next spring, which would affect our payments with Sioux Rivers and Care Connections by picking up the majority of costs. Dawn recommends an increase for staff when we do the budget. Sandy Loney would like to know if we can use their facility if one of our programs close. Sandy Loney believes we should make both fee for service payment service. Other regions need to look at our budget also, we could be overpaying and need to be realistic. Sandy Loney shared there are other things in Humboldt County that can be utilized by being on the other side of region. Dawn Mentzer states there are a lot of questions about how our funds are spent, but if we do not contract with mental health centers then we can lose core services. Jean Heiden believes all board members should be concerned with the amount of money we are spending and seeing empty beds and clients not being served. Dawn Mentzer shared that the region has a few options for the budget; make a cut to the block grants to achieve reductions of roughly 11-12%, reduce Stepping Stones, or cut Stepping Stones or go fee for service with other providers. Kim Keleher addressed the board and stated that they do not think cutting Turning Point is the answer, it is a step backwards. Sandy Loney believes they should be more efficient. Kim Keleher shares they are

already minimally staffed; they are open 24/7 for 365 days a year with only 14 staff. Clay Adams, Wesco, shared they have 180 bed days per month, with half coming from Woodbury County. Kim Keleher agrees that Stepping Stones needs to stay, there are other ways to look and cut things. They are closing the den in Denison and selling the building. They cannot do fee for service; it will shut them down tomorrow. We need the centers. Scott Jacobs asked if Humboldt County can offer everything Turning Point does. Dawn Mentzer believes they are only doing therapy. Scott Jacobs states that if we lose Turning Point and Stepping Stones, all our clients will have to go to Sioux City. Sandy Loney believes we all need to be open minded and looking outside of the box. Dawn Mentzer shares that we have been doing everything we can to keep all services. Kim Keleher believes cutting Turning Point is a terrible decision. Sandy Loney states that she never said that but wonders if we need both. Scott Jacobs states that we cannot cut Sioux City as we just paid for the remodel. Kim Keleher shares that Plains Area Mental Health also serves the CICS region under contract, they have other partners but all the money comes back to the region. They are not encumbering those Medicaid dollars, they reimburse the region. Gene Meiners asked why a fee for service would shut them down, but it doesn't shut hospitals down. Kim Keleher replied that they get to reconcile Medicaid at the end of the year, while Plains Area Mental Health does not. Only Medicaid will pay for crisis service. Dawn Mentzer explained how the last sheet shows our financial projection; however, this is not solid and does not include the reduction. Jeremy Taylor expressed that crisis services will not always look efficient.

**h) Schedule next meeting – January 11, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.**

*A motion to approve the next meeting for January 11, 2023 at 2:30pm by Jean Heiden. Second Sandy Loney. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.*

**i) Adjourn**

*A motion to adjourn by Clarence Siepker. Second Jean Heiden. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.*

*Minutes recorded by Kelsey Allen, Administrative Assistant.*