



**Rolling Hills
Community Services Region
Governance Board Meeting
Rolling Hills Regional Office, 605 Cayuga St. Storm Lake
February 28, 2024 at 2:30 p.m.**

Minutes

- 1) Call to Order –Chairman, Paul Merten**
- 2) Roll Call of Governance Board Members**

Buena Vista: Paul Merten

Calhoun: Scott Jacobs

Carroll: Gene Meiners

Cherokee: Cheryl Ellis – via Zoom

Pocahontas: Clarence Siepker – via Zoom

Woodbury: Daniel Bittinger – via Zoom

Education System: Joan Hansen – via Zoom

Calhoun County Public Health (Family Representative): Joleen Schmit – via Zoom

Mental Health Matters, LLC (Family Representative): Jamaine Wamburg – via Zoom

Plains Area Mental Health (Provider Representative): Kim Keleher

Juvenile Court Services: Robert Fritz (absent)

Law Enforcement Representative: Brian Flikeid – via Zoom

Children’s Provider Representative: Kim Scorza – via Zoom

Regional Staff: Dawn Mentzer, CEO; Kelsey Allen, Administrative Assistant; Caylyn Bishop, Lisa Bringle, Alison Hauser, Theresa Jochum, Coordinators.

Guests: Ashley Miller, Tracy Delao, PAMHC; Nicolle Eaton, SMHC; Deidra Brown, Clay Adams, Katie Schurke, Heather Stapleton, WESCO; Becky Shelton, ITP; Sandy Loney, Humboldt County; Cindy Wilde, Goodwill; Julie Sather, Buena Vista County Public Health; Jean Heiden, Crawford County; Karen Rosengreen, Sara Heinrichs-Wurm, Seasons Center; Chad Jensen, New Opportunities.

- 3) Minutes of Previous Meeting – Action**

A motion to approve the December 20, 2023, and January 3, 2024, minutes as presented by Gene Meiners. Second Kim Keleher. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.

4) Approval of Agenda – Action

Changes/additions: None.

A motion to approve the agenda as presented by Scott Jacobs. Second Joan Hansen. 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.

Sandy Loney shared that Kelly Garcia attended the ISAC Annual Supervisor’s meeting and called out the regions for not using their money appropriately, stating there’s a lot of money sitting in the Incentive Fund and that Regions should have started looking at how they can use their money. There seems to be a misunderstanding about mental health availability in rural areas. Gene Meiners did not appreciate the comments made about the regions; he took it as blaming the regions for not doing their job properly. Jean Heiden agreed with Gene and Sandy.

Sandy Loney feels that having the governance board go from 100% county to 49% is wrong as we know our own people, however, she stated it was cut for a reason.

Brian Flikeid attended the meeting for law enforcement and felt the same way about shaming the regions for the way their money is spent. Afterwards, he emailed the sub-committee and received some positive feedback with the proposed plan. Brian suggests everyone to give their input.

Paul Merten believes the top priority of the region was to maintain a system that we can continue. The state does things differently, however, he feels we have always made the right choices. He does not believe it will be just mental health affected.

Chad Jensen has been contracting with the state of Iowa for many services, with new ASO’s some providers would have to contract with three behavioral health districts and each district will have a contract with the state of Iowa. Each layer must have administrative duties in order to handle all the contracts. Kim Keleher agreed with Chad, stating the administrative piece was paid once and now will have to be paid three times.

6) Unfinished Business

a) December 2023 & January 2024 Financial Reports – Action

Dawn Mentzer presented the December 2023 & January 2024 financial report as summarized:

Beginning balance as of 1/1/24	\$6,116,719.55
Expenditures	\$187,131.66
Revenues	<u>\$623,475.96</u>
Ending balance as of 1/31/24	\$6,553,063.85

Revenue from 7/1/23 – 1/31/24 was \$5,204,400.80. Expenditures from 7/1/23 – 1/31/24 were \$4,058,460.94 (53.08% remaining). FY’24 budget of \$8,650,277.00.

A motion to approve the December 2023 & January 2024 Financial Reports as presented by Clarence Siepker. Second Kim Scorza. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.

7) New Business

a) Seasons Center Respite Funding Request – Action

Sara Heinrichs-Wurm shared they have a request for summer camp for kids from the Carroll and Calhoun areas for one week of respite, staff transportation, and staff accommodations.

Dawn Mentzer added that this will be the third summer the region helps with funding, if approved. Paul Merten asked if the costs are the same as in previous years. Dawn Mentzer stated that it has gone up a bit, last year was \$20,063.00. Kim Scorza emphasizes the positive effect that camp has for kids and families. Paul Merten asked what the reason for the price difference is. Sara Heinrichs-Wurm stated there is a rate increase and possible cost of living increase. The majority of the funding is to cover 40 kids attending.

A motion to approve the Seasons Center Respite Funding Request of \$35,405.00 as presented by Kim Scorza. Second Cheryl Ellis. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.

b) School Based Funding Request from Decat Coordinator – Action

Dawn Mentzer received a request from Molly Scott, HHS, at the end of January for the Region to pick up funding that DECAT has been paying for. Molly's board directed her to seek out other funding. It is unclear where the funding from JCS has gone. The request is in the amount of \$67,000.00, which does not include Greene County as it is not in our region. If we approve this request, we cannot guarantee funding after FY25.

Kim Keleher believes the state will take it over as new bills for court services will most likely eliminate DECAT. Kim Keleher stated that she was told by Mollie Scott that funding will stop.

Kim Scorza stated there are three proposals out now stating the money doesn't go away, they are just looking to realign it, however, they are still undecided. Dawn Mentzer asked if the region should approve the funding request on a contingency. Kim Keleher will follow up with Molly Scott.

A motion to table this request until further information can be provided by Gene Meiners. Second Scott Jacobs. Abstain: Kim Keleher. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.

c) Wesco Training Funding Request – Action

Clay Adams shared that Wesco has been looking for training and has settled on two, Advanced De-escalation and Kevin Hines. They previously had a few employees see him and would love to have him back for all employees. Deidra Brown stated that she personally saw Kevin and believes her staff would benefit greatly from the training. Wesco is seeing more clients with mental health needs so they need to keep up with training the staff.

Dawn Mentzer asked if these trainings are open to anyone interested or just Wesco staff.

Clay Adams stated they can open the registration to anyone interested and hold them at the theater, which can seat up to 200, instead of Wesco. Sara Heinrichs-Wurm has hosted Kevin Hines and had 140 attendees, she suggests opening it up to community training. Deidra Brown expressed that Wesco cannot feasibly send all their staff out of town. Having the trainings in Denison allows 90 plus staff to attend. Kim Keleher highly recommends both trainings.

A motion to approve the Wesco Training Funding Request of \$18,847.00 as presented by Kim Keleher. Second Gene Meiners. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.

d) Hunzelman and Putzier FY'22 Audit Engagement Letter – Action

Dawn Mentzer explained that Hunzelman and Putzier have been doing the region's audit for years, they have been very detailed, precise and Tammy Carlson is very responsive. Dawn received the engagement letter on February 7, 2024, explaining the policies and procedures. Paul Merten stated the company is familiar with our region and has done it well in the past. The cost is not to exceed \$6,000.00.

A motion to approve the Hunzelman and Putzier FY'22 Audit Engagement Letter as presented by Gene Meiners. Second Scott Jacobs. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.

e) FY'25 Annual Service and Budget Plan – Action

Dawn Mentzer discussed the FY'25 ASBP which is due to the State by April 1, 2024.

Please see FY'25 Annual Service and Budget Plan attached at the end of the minutes for detailed information.

Kim Keleher asked if this is the final budget with no further request being accepted.

Dawn Mentzer stated that the region has the spending dollars that will allow us to take requests without amending the budget. Any funds the region has left after FY'25 will go back to the State for the new Behavioral Health Districts. The plan has been approved by the Advisory Board on February 26, 2024, and once approved by the Governance Board it will go to the State.

A motion to approve the FY'25 Annual Service and Budget Plan as presented by Clarence Siepkner. Second Kim Keleher. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.

f) Governor's Behavioral Health Alignment Bill

Dawn Mentzer mentioned the many meetings she has attended about the upcoming alignment.

Please see HHS Behavioral Health Bill attached at the end of the minutes for detailed information.

ASO's must achieve the outcomes shown to receive money going forward. There will be no regions as of July 1, 2025. Disability services will align with Aging. The current 13 Mental Health Regions and 19 Substance Use Regions will align to become seven districts with one ASO per district, however, one ASO can cover more than one district. There will no longer be any governance boards, only an advisory board for each district consisting of nine members, which will be overseen by HHS. There will be an elimination of certain code sections including select sections of Chapter 125 and the entirety of chapters 142A, 225C, 227, 230A, and 347B.

Effective July 1, 2024, renames 231 to Aging and Disability Services and repeals sections 225C.35-225C.42 & 225C.45.

Effective July 1, 2025, moves disability services section from 225C to 231.

The majority of our counties will be in the Northwest district with Sioux Rivers and Care Connections, however, our location does not determine what district we can apply for. A couple regions have reached out to discuss alignment. Until HHS makes an announcement, we will not know how many entities are interested in moving to an ASO, however, an MCO cannot bid for it. All unobligated monies will be returned to the state on June 30, 2025, the monies and grants will be put into one pot of dollars

overseen by HHS while the ASO's handle contracts for providers. It is unclear how the monies will be dispersed amongst the districts, but likely based on population. ASO's must keep their administrative costs at a 7% limit. All core services we have worked hard to provide will be moved under contracts with ASO's. As of now, public health is not included but that could change.

Kim Keleher stated that 225A will include 230A with four amendments coming out, but the language for 230A is not in there, it is very vague. The language needs to be cleaned up, maybe the amendments will address it. Mental health centers receive federal funds which will be given to ASOs to be dispersed with contracts. The federal contracts are tied to both pots of money, however, the language in the bill is not consistent with the bill itself. The first transition plan was going to come out in September 2024 and has now been moved up to July 1, 2024.

Paul asked if the State would have to meet some requirements to receive federal funds. Kim Keleher stated that is for a CCBHC, which are parallel. As a provider and CCBHC, most services will be under CCBHC, if they are chosen to be a demonstration state, which we won't know until June 2024. If the CCBHC doesn't go through, those enhanced monies from federal won't draw down and all working towards a CCBHC goes away and funding to support will have to come from ASOs.

g) Revised County Coverage / Compensation – Action

Paul Merten discussed that when Leisa Mayer retired the region went through interviews and with legislature dropping the new Behavioral Health Bill, we questioned what to do. Our remaining staff agreed to absorb the three counties and additional work with some question about adding compensation. The region did previously give a stipend a couple years ago. If our staff are willing to take control of the excess counties and work, Paul believes the board should approve another stipend. If this does not work, we can hire someone and go down that path.

Dawn Mentzer added that Kelsey Allen has also been taking on extra paperwork and documentation for the staff so they have more time to assist clients. The coordinators, Caylyn Bishop, Alison Hauser, and Lisa Bringle have taken on a county and Kelsey Allen is stepping up and taking on additional work for them. Gene Meiners believes a stipend is the better option. Clarence Siepker agrees that the region should give them a stipend. Scott Jacobs asked if there is a proposed amount. Dawn Mentzer believes this needs to be a decision made by the board. It is a hard call because a low number can deter staff and a high number can deter the board.

Clarence Siepker believes \$5,000.00 is a fair amount for what they are taking on. Paul Merten stated we have what is left of Leisa Mayer's salary to cover the stipends. Gene Meiners stated that the employees can still decide to leave after receiving the stipend. Scott Jacobs suggested giving a \$3,000.00 stipend now and another \$3,000.00 after some months in case someone chooses to leave. Paul Merten added this stipend will need to get through June 30, 2025. Dawn Mentzer would like everyone to keep in mind that all staff will be receiving a 4% salary increase on July 1, 2024. Kim Keleher believes \$6,000.00 would be about 10% of a salary if they are making \$60,000.00. Cheryl Ellis suggested two increments being paid out on March 1, 2024, and again on June 1, 2024, so it fits in this fiscal year and also entices staff to stay as we need them. Kim Keleher asked if the stipends need to be paid this year. Dawn Mentzer stated we have Leisa Mayer's salary in FY'24 and not FY'25, it would be better to do this year.

Lisa Bringle added that we keep hearing what if the staff leave, but what if we stay, a lot of changes are happening and we are trying to trust the process. Sandy Loney agrees that we are not giving our staff enough credit. Sandy does not think they will just abandon the region and their clients. Kim Keleher asked if this is for retention or additional work being done. Dawn Mentzer stated it is only for additional work.

Clarence Siepker stated that a \$6,000.00 stipend is more reasonable and made a motion for it. Scott Jacobs asked how much of Leisa Mayer's salary is left. Dawn Mentzer stated there is about

\$24,000.00 for salary and benefits. Kim Keleher stated if we give them a stipend for 10% of their salaries then it will be less than the \$24,000.00. Caylyn Bishop added that some of the lower paid staff are taking on bigger counties.

Paul Merten asked for clarification that there is a motion for a \$6,000.00 stipend to be paid now. Clarence Siepker stated yes. The staff have been doing this work for two months now and will continue to do this. Paul Merten asked for clarification. Brian Flikeid made a motion to give a \$6,000.00 stipend for a year and then if they are still doing more work then we can make another stipend. Clarence Siepker stated this stipend will cover a year of work, to June 30, 2025. Brian Flikeid would second that motion. Paul Merten asked if Clarence Siepker is willing to change his motion to add the four individuals' names to clear up any misunderstandings. Clarence Siepker and Brian Flikeid both stated yes with the payment to begin on March 1, 2024. Dawn Mentzer would like everyone to keep in mind that if any coordinators or Kelsey choose to leave, we will have to hire someone or contract with another region to cover.

A motion to approve a one-time stipend in the amount of \$6,000.00 each for additional work completed effective March 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, to four individuals, namely, Alison Hauser, Caylyn Bishop, Lisa Bringle, and Kelsey Allen as amended by Clarence Siepker. Second Brian Flikeid. Ayes: Clarence Siepker, Daniel Bittinger, Brian Flikeid, Joan Hansen, Cheryl Ellis, Jamaine Wamburg, Joleen Schmit, Kim Keleher. Nays: Paul Merten, Scott Jacobs, Gene Meiners, Kim Scorza. Motion carried.

h) Schedule next meeting – March 27, 2024 at 2:30

A motion to schedule the next meeting for March 27, 2024, at 2:30pm by Scott Jacobs. Second Cheryl Ellis. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.

i) Adjourn

A motion to adjourn by Gene Meiners. Second Brian Flikeid. Discussion: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Kelsey Allen, Administrative Assistant.