

Three Rivers Human Service Zone Board
Meeting Agenda
Three Rivers Human Services Board Room
Mandan
210 2nd Ave NW
10:00 AM – January 20, 2022

Meeting Call to Order:

- Dennis called meeting to order

Roll Call:

Mandan: Dennis Meier, Jackie Buckley, Heidi Peltz, Rosemary Lawson

Carson: John Reinhardt, Charlie Steinkuehler

Fort Yates: John Pretty Bear

Ken Snider came to the meeting at 11:00 am

Staff: Vince Gillette, Jenny Wetsch, Natalie Anderson, Brenda Peterson,

Approval of Agenda

- Moved by Jackie Buckley seconded by Charlie Steinkuehler to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from December 16, 2021

- Moved by Charlie Steinkuehler seconded by Rosemary Lawson to approve the minutes from December 16, 2021. Motion carried.

Review and Approval of January 2022 Bills:

- Jackie Buckley and Charlie Steinkuehler came to the meeting early to review the bills.
- Discussion was held on a Guardian Ad Litem bill from Redman Law Firm. This is a new bill but has been doing work since January 1, 2021. This is a TPR Petition. We could receive additional bills on this. We are responsible for payment under the previous law until this case comes to its fruition.
- Moved by Jackie Buckley seconded by Charlie Steinkuehler to approve the bills as presented. With a unanimous roll call vote the bills were approved.

Name	Roll Call	Bills Approved
Jackie Buckley	P	Y
Edgar Olivera	P	Y
Rosemary Lawson	P	Y
Heidi Peltz	P	Y
John Reinhardt	P	Y
Charlie Steinkuehler	P	Y
Ken Snider	A	Joined us at 11:00 for Remodel Discussion
John Pretty Bear	P	Y
Dennis Meier	P	Y

Budget Review

- CY 2021 budget is still approximately 5.5% underbudget but there are some additional bills still outstanding. Even with those outstanding bills we will end the year under budget. This will be reviewed again during the February 2022 meeting.

Zone Program Stats

Vince Gillette – Tribal Liaison

- Covid Report as of Jan 13, 2022: This report has all the reservation, including the SD districts. In ND the active cases: Long Soldier/Ft Yates 76, Porcupine 10 and Cannonball 11, total 97 active cases in Sioux County.
- Children in Foster Care are required by federal law, to be seen face to face by a worker/legal custodian on a monthly basis, no matter where they are placed. ND CFS and Three Rivers Human Service Zone signed a MOA with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to assist the Tribal CPS unit with visits for their foster children, among other expectations. This is a reminder on why Vince assists the tribe with visits of children in foster care. Vince stated, we are the only zone in the state assisting tribes with visits. These visits need to be recorded and entered into computer systems in ND and SD. In recent months Joe Ashley, SD DHS, and Vince have been working more closely because SD side of SRST has about 30 kids placed in ND homes. SD has different rules for foster care, the foster homes where they are placed, ask questions of the worker of the zone where they are located, that Social Worker doesn't know the answer, so they contact Vince and he contacts Joe and the answer goes back down the chain. Medicaid and foster home payments are issues and take up about 50% of Vince's time, because ND tribal cases have problems with Medicaid and foster home payments and placement issues i.e. ICPC. Vince will apprise this board about ICPC issues in February.
- Vince has a couple adoptions he's assisting with, that involves 4 children. There is a lot of information that needs to be collected and tribal workers are not always able to answer calls from the Adoption unit, and the Unit knows they can contact Vince and they know he will get ahold of someone at the tribe. So, Vince gets those calls from the Adoption unit, Zone Social Workers and Foster parents.
- Vince did 10 face-to-face visits in Dec and 6 visits in January. He helped facilitate 65 visits every month. He works with Zone workers to do visits, PATH and Tribal workers to make sure these are all reported to the correct agency.
- Vince posed a question regarding children vaccination guidance. Through a Zone Directors meeting Dennis was recommended to utilize medical professionals to identify if a child has any underlying health concerns that would prevent or recommend a child to not be vaccinated.

John Pretty Bear reported updated COVID numbers – there are 156 COVID Cases on Standing Rock as of 1/20/2022.

- 35% positivity rate for those that have been vaccinated and boosted.
- Standing Rock is still following the 10 days quarantine

Brenda Peterson – Income Maintenance Supervisor

- See the attached statistical copies for the complete report on Income Maintenance cases and programs.
- Total LIHEAP Applications Received in the TRHSZ as of 1/20/2022: 713
 - Processed LIHEAP Cases: 652

- Pending: 61
- SNAP Cases continue to climb. At the start of the pandemic (03/2021), our Zone had 1402 Cases. As of 01/01/2022, our Zone has 1549.
- Medicaid Eligibles - At the start of the pandemic (03/2021), our Zone had 6233 eligible individuals. As of 01/01/2022, our Zone has 7670 eligible individuals (increase of 1437).
- CCAP Cases had decreased during the pandemic. Lowest was in 09/2020 – 47 cases. As of 01/01/2022, our Zone has 66.
- TANF Cases have decreased. Current numbers are the same as the start of the pandemic (03/2021) – 115
- Received approval to fill the ½ time position vacated by Franc. Announcement will be posted today. We are hoping to hire a person to work in the Carson Office.
- Drop Box for Sioux County Office has not been installed outside. Currently in the entryway. John recommended contacting D & D Electrical out of Selfridge – Andy Deason.
- Sioux County Courthouse is again closed to the public. Staff continue to work.
- John asked what is the protocol for staff who come down to Fort Yates from other offices. We would not send any staff down that is still considered quarantined (for 10 days). We will follow the Standing Rock quarantine policy for staff visiting the Fort Yates office.

Natalie Anderson – Foster Care/In Home/FP Licensing

- See the attached statistical information which was presented during the meeting.
- Workers are carrying caseloads between 12-15 cases each.
- Currently we have 109 cases of which we have custody of 75 children
- During the last month, we opened 11 cases and closed 8.
- We currently have 39 licensed Foster Care Homes in our 3 county Zone.
- Within those foster homes we have 15 tribal children and 5 from other areas.
- We had 5 adoptions finalized in December. There are still 8 children waiting for adoption. There are 3 older children who will age out of Foster Care as they do not want to be adopted.
- Foster Care Licensing will be moving forward with the State taking it over in April 2022.
- Dennis reported that the Department will have all Shelter Care facilities go thru a certification and will receive a \$150,000 start-up/restructuring costs and also adjust the payment rates to assist facilities to continue providing services.

Jenny Wetsch – Child Protection

- See the attached Statistical information which was presented during the meeting.
- Assisted Dakota Central on a courtesy case and sent one out for assistance due to conflicts.
- Vicki continues to work as a temp to help while a staff member is on FMLA to maintain the caseloads.

Courthouse and Social Services Renovation

- Sara Meier from Carson and Dawn Rhone from Mandan attended meeting for this discussion.
- Dennis presented to both Sioux and Grant County Commissions
 - Ken Snider reported the Sioux County Commissions stance is they cannot assist with the Morton County Courthouse renovation. They feel they need their budget for expenses in that office.
 - John Reinhardt reported the Grant County Commissions stance is they cannot assist with the Morton County Courthouse renovation. He also stated, TRHSZ Mandan Office currently has sufficient room for their staff and if Morton County wants to make room to expand the states attorney's office it should not come out of the TRHSZ indirect funds. John went on to say, the

TRHSZ should not be paying any portion of this renovation because the need is with the States Attorney's office.

- Dawn asked if some staff could be sent home to work to free up some offices. Dennis responded, we can pursue this option but we cannot force staff to work from home.
- Charlie asked if there is going to be a need for more room again in the future? If so, should we be considering moving to a new building.

Ken recommended to schedule a meeting with the Commissioners on the Board as well as the Auditors from the three counties and Dennis. This was scheduled for January 26th @ 11:00 am.

Adjourn:

- Moved by Heidi Peltz, seconded by Charlie Steinkuehler to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: February 17, 2022 – 10 AM, Mandan

Respectfully Submitted,



Brenda Peterson
TRHSZ Eligibility Supervisor
Three Rivers Human Service Zone