

**Three Rivers Human Service Zone Board
Meeting Agenda
Sioux County Courthouse Commission Room
Fort Yates
303 2nd Ave, Fort Yates
10:00 AM – September 16, 2021**

Meeting Call to Order:

- Dennis called meeting to order

Roll Call:

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

Carson: John Reinhardt, Charlie Steinkuehler

Fort Yates: John Pretty Bear

Staff Present: Vince Gillette, Jodie Leier, Brenda Peterson, Jenny Wetsch, Natalie Anderson

Approval of Agenda

- Moved by Charlie seconded by Edgar to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from August 19, 2021

- Moved by Edgar seconded by Heidi to approve the minutes from August 19, 2021. Motion Carried.

GA Burial Appeal

- Brenda briefed the board on the GA Burial Appeal.
- The board went over policy #702 on GA Burials
- Half siblings have not completed the Relative Affidavit Form. There has been no information provided to the agency to contact half siblings for the completion of the Relative Affidavit Form. Because the half siblings have not completed all necessary paperwork the GA Burial Application was denied.
- Discussion followed on how 1st degree siblings are determined. Jackie suggested we get clarification from the state's attorney
- Moved by Heidi seconded by Charlie that this board get clarification from the state's attorney's office if half siblings are considered 1st degree siblings. If half siblings are considered 1st degree, the father will need to get contact information and the staff will contact both half siblings and have them fill out the affidavit. The approval for the GA burial will be contingent on the vehicle insurance payment and/or the response received by the state's attorney's office. If half siblings are considered 1st degree kinship and it is determined both siblings do not have the financial means to assist with the burial, the application for burial will be approved if there is no vehicle insurance payout. Motion carried on a roll call vote.
- The Mandan office staff will be in contact with the descendant's mother.
- The TRHSZ Director will contact the Morton County States Attorney's Office for a legal opinion regarding the board's question on level of kinship.

Review and approval of September 2021 bills:

- Rosemary, Jackie, and Charlie went through the bills before the meeting.

- Moved by Jackie seconded by Edgar to approve the bills as presented. On a roll call vote the motion was 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	N	
John Pretty Bear	P	Y
Dennis Meier	P	Y

Budget Review:

- 4% under budget
- The charges for legal services are continuing. Currently, we are 256% over budget for this line item. Court ordered guardian ad litem cases which occurred before August 1, 2021 will still be the TRHSZ financial responsibility until the cases come to their fruition. Dennis will contact the attorney to get an understanding of case status.

Zone Program Stats:

Vince Gillette – Tribal Liaison

- Covid case increasing again in Sioux County. The tribe has reported 44 active cases on the reservation, which includes SD. There are 16 in Ft Yates, 7 in Porcupine and 5 in Cannonball, for a total of 28 cases.
- The Sioux County Court House has been closed to the public again. The building we are currently in has been closed to the public since last year.
- Vince has spent a large part of his time in meetings and assisting tribal workers with the completion of paperwork and what paperwork to turn in.
- This past month, Vince provided training to case managers on how to complete forms, when to complete and when to submit.
- Vince is working with the courts on what verbiage needs to be in specific types of court orders. If the verbiage is not correct it can be very expensive for the tribe because facilities such as Home on the Range and Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch charge approximately \$15,000 a month range per child placement.
- South Dakota foster kids coming to ND foster homes. This has taken a lot of time because ND and SD foster care pay different. For example: SD foster care does not pay for child care.
- Many of the children being placed are newborns and young children. It's usually an emergency placement and we don't hear about it until the child has been in placement for a month or more and the foster homes aren't being paid for childcare. SD does not pay for childcare when children are placed in foster homes.
- The interstate compact for the placement of children needs to be in place before a child is placed out of state. This is seldom done in a timely manner, so the SD kids aren't eligible for ND Medicaid. This has become a big problem. It's not so bad in the local area, because most of the providers take SD Medicaid but in other areas of the state it is an issue. We have about 10 youth in the Emmons and McIntosh County and another 8 in the Bowman/Slope area. This is an ongoing problem that Vince continues to work out, because kids need medical care and hospitals refuse them.

- Vince has done 15 visits this month. The numbers of children Vince has visited are down because the Standing Rock Child Protection Director has requested her workers to see their foster kids face to face once every three months. Therefore, many workers are seeing their foster children in September.
- Vince anticipates he will have a large number of visits in the near future because each worker has approximately 49 children. He doesn't think it's possible to see 49 children in one month, especially if they are scattered across the state.

Child Protection Reports – Jenny Wetsch

- 79 total reports for August
- 28 Administratively Assessed
- 6 Administrative Referral
- 8 Assessment Terminated in Progress
- 0 reports for Grant and Sioux Counties
- 1 Child Sexual Behavior
- 1 Courtesy interview
- A new PA started this month
- Has gotten sexual abuse cases at the beginning of September, the cases will be moved to foster care

Foster Care – Natalie Anderson

- 104 cases
- 74 – Foster Care
- 36 Children in foster homes PATH
- 6 Group Care/PRTF
- 32 Relative Care
- Looking at placing some kinds in hotels with supervision by rotation staff because foster homes won't take them, there is a waiting list for all facilities' – Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch and Home on the Range
- An assessment bed facility is needed
- Majority of these youth come from single parent homes
- Very hard to find foster homes for teenagers
- A new staff person has replaced Jen Duletski
- Foster Home Report

General - 32	Relicensing – 4
New – 1	In Process – 10
New Inquiries – 2	
Kinship/ICPC/Guardianship Home Studies – 1	
- The redesign starts in March

Economic Assistance Programs – Brenda Peterson

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| TANF + - 169 | SNAP Only – 136 |
| SNAP/HCC – 1283 | SNAP/CCAP – 0 |
| SNAP/HCC/CCAP – 59 | HCC only – 2417 |
| HCC/CCAP – 47 | CCAP only – 12 |
| Basic Care – 9 | |
| Total 4132 | |
- SNAP is going up

- Fuel assistance applications will be available the week of September 20th
- Deb Weigel's position has been filled
- Nel's position in Fort Yates is filled
- All job openings are advertised in all three office locations
 - Hires can work where they live
 - Hard to get applicants from Grant and Sioux County
 - This is a problem because if all hires live in Mandan they will want to work in Mandan. How will the Mandan office accommodate these new hires? How will other offices be staffed?
- North Dakota will be getting 50-60 Afghan refugees. 5-6 could be in the Bismarck/Mandan area
- Cases of TANF continue to go up. Sioux County has been handling all the TANF for Roughrider North, the Southwest, and Three Rivers Zones. Dennis will ask them to take those cases back. They may give us some programs back.
- A support DCA is needed in Carson
- Brianna is leaving the Mandan office to go to the Attorney General's Office. A request has been made to fill it.

COVID Bonus Workgroup

- A workgroup has been formed
- They will meet at the beginning of October

Fort Yates Office Changes

- Brenda stressed a need to work as a team
- The Fort Yates server is outdated and currently on extended warranty
- NRG is working on the move
- We need to be out of the current space at the end of September

Next meeting: October 21, 2021 – 10am, Mandan

Moved by John Reinhardt seconded by Charlie to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie Buckley
Three Rivers Human Service Zone Secretary