

**Three Rivers Human Service Zone Board  
Meeting Agenda  
Three Rivers Human Service Zone 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Mandan Office  
210 2nd Ave. MW Mandan  
10:00 AM – October 21, 2021**

**Meeting Called to Order:**

- Chairman, Dennis Meier, called the meeting to order

**Roll Call:**

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

Carson: John Reinhardt, Charlie Steinkuehler

Fort Yates: Ken Snider, John Pretty Bear

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

**Approval of Agenda**

- Moved by Rose Mary seconded by John Reinhardt to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes from September 16, 2021**

- Moved by Heidi seconded by John to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**Review and Approval of October 2021 Bills**

- Jackie went through the bills prior to the meeting
- Moved by Jackie seconded by John Reinhardt to approve the October bills. Roll call vote approved. See Table Below. Motion carried.

**Budget Review:**

- The zone continues to operate under budget

**Zone Program Stats:**

Vince Gillette – Tribal Liaison

- The Standing Rock Tribal Chairman election is under review.
- Sex trafficking of 25 tribal youth in the last month as reported by the Police Youth Bureau
- Sioux County currently has 18 active cases of Covid and has 15 deaths from Covid.
- The Sioux County Courthouse is open to the public by appointment only. Social Services is closed to the public, we continue to help clients through the door.
- Social Services completed its move to the Sioux County Courthouse on Oct 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Standing Rock Tribal CPS lost one of its most seasoned workers. She had 49 cases that are being divided up among current workers, including the case managers from SD, so things are in a bit of transition at CPS.
- Vince has completed 17 visits since the last board meeting. Vince continues to help arrange about 40 visits for tribal kids placed throughout the state.
- Vince is still spending a lot of time with Foster Care Medicaid issues for the tribe attempting to get foster kids on Medicaid. This is taking a lot of my time.

- Tribal CPS is short staffed and is having difficulty returning calls due to be short staffed. Because of this, Vince is spending a lot of relaying information and getting forms signed.
- Dennis and Vince meet monthly with the Director of CPS and any other zone workers than have children in their homes. Vince is also involved in a monthly meetings with the FC unit and the tribe going over the status of the IV E applications and cases.
- Vince met with the Region VII zone directors yesterday in Washburn and they will meet again in December. Zone directors feel it is helpful having Vince at these meetings to get the pulse of the Standing Rock Tribal CPS and areas of need.

#### **Child Protection – Jenny Wetsch**

- 93 total reports
  - 36 Administratively Assessed
  - 7 Administrative Referrals
  - 9 Assessment Terminated
  - Grant County – 2 – 1 was transferred to Ward County – family relocated
  - Sioux County – 0
- Alternative Response Cases – 2
- Child Sexual Behavior – 3
- Prenatal Exposure – 1
- Courtesy Requests – 1
- Closing as many applications as getting new ones

#### **Foster Care – Natalie Anderson**

- Case load Total – 104
- Foster Care – 76
  - Foster homes – 39
  - Group Care – 6
  - Relative Care – 31
  - Shelter YW – 0
- 28 In-Home Cases, ICPC and Courtesy Case Management
- Still struggling with kids in need of placement
- Getting emails every day from the Tribe for placements
- Staff is burnt out
- State isn't doing anything about it, trying to fix it at the local level
- Youth Works rates are going up
- There has been some housing of youth at county offices

#### **Foster Home Report: 37 Total**

Relicensing – 2

In Process – 7

Guardianships – 0

Inquiries - 6

New: 6

ICPC in Process – 1

Kinship/Relative Home Study in Process – 1

## **Summary of Economic Assistance Programs – Brenda**

Number of households Receiving Benefits by Program as of October 1, 2021

TANF – 151	SNAP – 1611
Medicaid – 4068	Child Care – 123
LIHEAP – 51	Total – 6004

- LIHEAP and SNAP applications are up. LIHEAP applications opened October 1.
- In October working as a complete zone
  - Programs are no longer broken down by the county; this may be harder to do the breakdown of reports in the future
  - 4 Groups – SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, LIHEAP and Child Care are together
- Still doing cases for Burleigh County because clients would rather use the Mandan Office

### **Zone Assistance for TANF Cases:**

- Due to the increase in eligibility case across the zone, the TRHSZ can no longer assist RNHSZ and SDHSZ with TANF cases
- Will be finishing up all cases before October 8<sup>th</sup>

### **Fort Yates Office Changes**

- Moved into the Sioux County Courthouse as of October 1
- Accessing the Morton County Server
- Move has been going well
- The Sioux County Office remains closed

### **GA Burial Assistance Manual – Brenda Peterson**

- Dennis handed out the draft copy for the statewide GA Burial Policy – the draft followed many aspect of the previous Morton County policy
- It may go into effect by January 1, 2022

### **GA Burial Hearing Report**

- The funeral home received \$3500.00 payment through another venue
- Moved by John Reinhardt seconded by Charlie to uphold the staff's initial decision regarding the denial of the GA Burial Application due to the receipt of payment which supersedes our allowable GA Burial. Motion carried with a roll call vote. See table at the bottom of board meeting minutes.
- The Mandan office will communicate with the family regarding the board's decision.

### **COVID Bonus Work Group**

#### **Statutory Requirements**

- The employee has held a position in any zone on or before 11/30/2020. This may include an employee who transitioned from on zone to another zone with no break in employment. The employee must have successfully completed the required 6-month probationary period in the new zone prior to 11.30.2021.
- The employee is a full-time or part-time regular non-probationary employee holding a regularly funded non-temporary position. (Basically, this means they must be in an FTE and off probation.)

- The employee’s overall annual performance evaluation satisfies the agency’s performance bonus program criteria for receiving a bonus.
- The employee has not received a previous performance bonus during the fiscal year.
- No performance bonus may exceed \$1500

The COVID Workgroup is still working on the tier criteria.

**Moratorium on Congregate Care Beds**

- There are 372 beds in the pool
- Less than ½ are in use
- Lost beds will only be used if there are no other resources available
- The department is putting a work group together to work on challenging to place youth

**Other**

- The position to replace Brianna has been filled and the person will start November 1.
- Region 7 Zone Directors Meeting
  - The social service office in Mercer County has been closed and the building is sold
  - BCHSZ has reported high staff turnover, they need to request a new position in the CPS unit
  - SCHSZ is helping BCHSZ with its CPS caseload

**Roll Call Votes**

Name	Roll Call	Bill Approval	GA Burial
Rose Mary Lawson	P	Y	Y
Jackie Buckley	P	Y	Y
Heidi Peltz	P	Y	Y
Dennis Meier	P	Y	Y
John Reinhardt	P	Y	Y
Following Members Arrived after 10am			
Ken Snider	P		Y
Charlie Steinkuehler	P		Y
John Pretty Bear	P		Y
Edgar Olivera	A		

**Next Meeting: November 18, 2021 – 10:00am, Mandan**

John Pretty Bear moved to adjourn the meeting seconded by John Reinhardt. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Jackie Buckley**  
**Three Rivers Zone Secretary**