

**Three Rivers Human Service Zone Board
Meeting Minutes
Three Rivers Human Services Board Room
Mandan
210 2nd Ave NW
November 21, 2024**

Meeting Call to Order:

- Dennis called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM

Roll Call:

Mandan: Dennis Meier, Jackie Buckley, Lori Flaaten, Heidi Peltz, Rose Mary Lawson, Karen Rohr, Dawson Holle (Absent)

Carson: Charlie Steinkuehler (Teams), Marty Meyer (Phone)

Fort Yates: John Pretty Bear (Absent) and Ken Snider (Absent)

Others present: Jodie Leier, Vince Gillette, Jenny Wetsch, Mandy Garrett

Approval of Agenda

- Moved by Jacke Buckley to approve the agenda seconded by Heidi Peltz. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of October 17, 2024

- Moved by Heidi Peltz to approve the minutes from October 17, 2024, seconded by Charlie Steinkuehler. All in favor. Motion carried.

Review and Approval of October 2024 Bills:

- Jackie Buckley and Lori Flaaten came early to review the bills. Questions were answered.
- Moved by Jackie Buckley, seconded by Karen Rohr 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
Lori Flaten	P	Y
Rosemary Lawson	P	Y
Heidi Peltz	P	Y
Marty Meyer	P (Phone)	Y
Charlie Steinkuehler	P (Online)	Y
Ken Snider	A	Absent
John Pretty Bear	A	Absent
Dennis Meier	P	Y
Karen Rohr	P	Y
Dawson Holle	A	Absent

Budget Review

- TRHSZ is operating under budget through the month of October.

- Dennis mentioned we will have another large DBGR bill coming for the month of November. The child has exceeded their approved stay, so we are responsible for payment until placement is found through PATH.
- We are budgeted to purchase another zone vehicle in 2025. This has been ordered.

Vince - Three Rivers Human Service Zone Tribal Liaison Report for September 2024

- There are approximately 50-75 SRST foster children placed in ND foster homes that help to facilitate visits.
- Standing Rock currently has 42 ND IV-E cases and 36 SD IV-E in ND Foster Homes and 11 in paid Foster Care placements.
- Vince attends ND IV-E and Tribal IV-E eligibility meetings. The meetings are about keeping cases current with court orders and paperwork, so the children don't lose their benefits.
- Vince spends a lot of time dealing with Medicaid payment issues for both ND and SD Foster children.
- ND Tribes all got their FMAP reimbursements totaling \$1,292,229.00 for SFY 24-25. The new amounts for the Tribes are MHA \$201,926.00, Spirit Lake \$329,960.00, Standing Rock \$204,652.00, and Turtle Mountain \$551,691.00. Tribes have until June 30, 2025, to get their requests in.
- Vince has been contacted by 2 tribes, MHA and Turtle Mtn. to assist with training their staff to bill for the FMAP and IV-E Admin Reimbursement.
- Vince continues to track the Indirect Expenses for Fort Yates for Jodie to report to the state.
- Vince did 12 Foster Care visits for SRST and 1 for TRHSZ in August. Human Service Zones do between 40-50 care visits for Standing Rock depending on the month from all over the state. I have been assisting Joe Ashley with getting his visits from the ND agencies that do them.
- We are short-staffed on the Foster Care side and Vince has been helping to cover visits and transportation. For October, Vince picked up some Foster Kid's stuff from a placement in Underwood, took 2 kids to medical appointments and sat in interviews for the Foster Care Supervisor position. Four candidates were interviewed.
- Vince also participated in Courageous Case Management for foster care workers. Other case workers and supervisors looked at our cases and gave some suggestions on things that could be done to send the foster children home. The goal is to assist the family to make changes so that the children can return home, The belief is a fresh set of eyes on the case and can help with suggestions to speed up the process.
- Dennis and Vince are still in the planning stages of a Keeping the Culture Alive class for Native Foster Children and Foster Parents. They had to postpone the November event due to scheduling conflicts.
- Vince has been in the Mandan Office full-time since September.

Mandy Garrett – Income Maintenance/Eligibility Supervisor

Three Rivers Zone Office Information

- We currently have 2 Eligibility positions open, which we are waiting for background checks to come back.
- We have reported the open Admin Assistant position for the Ft. Yates office. The position closed yesterday. Interviews will be arranged for next week.
- Medicaid
 - Total Households: October 2024 - 2023
 - Total Individuals: October 2024 - 3947
 - Total Benefits: N/A
- SNAP
 - Total Households: October 2024 - 1879
 - Total Individuals: October 2024 - 4759

- Total Benefits Paid: October 2024 – \$679.4K
- LIHEAP
 - Total Households: October 2024 – 434
 - Total Individuals: October 2024 – 998
 - Total Benefits: October 2024 – \$9.2K
- TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)
 - Total Households: October 2024 – 120
 - Total Individuals: October 2024 – 498
 - Total Benefits: October 2024 - \$49.2K
- Childcare Assistance Program
 - Total Households: October 2024 - 241
 - Total Individuals: October 2024 – 910
 - Total Benefits Issued October 2024 - \$188.6K
- Call Center October Stats
 - Unavailable at the time of this meeting.
- Swim Lanes
 - Group 4-CCAP/LIHEAP/MA/SNAP/TANF group still processing from October.
- Support Specialists (Statewide)
 - Currently back logged one week with over 1155 items as of 11/14/24.
- Foot traffic in the three offices has been monitored since May.
 - Sioux County 311 in October.
 - Grant County 70 in October.
 - Morton County 573 in October.

Jenny Wetsch – Child Protection

See the attached Statistical information which was presented during the meeting.

- 84 total reports in October: 0 Reports in Grant County and 0 Reports for Sioux County.
 - 55 assigned as Full.
 - 3 ATP Assessments.
 - 29 Administratively Assessed or Administrative Referrals.
 - 0 Alt Response.
 - 1 Substance Exposed Infant (SEI).
 - 2 Child Sex Cases
 - 0 Prenatal Drug Cases
 - 1 Courtesy Interview Requests from other zones/1 Law Enforcement
 - 0 Conflict cases for another Zone

Foster Care/In Home - (Dennis provided the information)

- See the attached statistical information which was presented during the meeting.
- Currently we have 74 cases.
 - 57 Foster Care
 - 18 In-Home Cases, ICPC, Courtesy Case Management & Home Study's
 - 38 Foster Homes/PATH
 - 2 QRTP/PRTF
 - 10 Relative Care

- 7-18+
- 0-YCC

Child Welfare Unit Updates

- The 3 vacant FC/IH Case Manager positions have been filled.
- The Case Manager Supervisor position is closing, and interviews will begin in the next 2 weeks. The Interview Team for the case manager supervisor position will consist of Dennis, Vince, Kristen Hasbargen, Director of Zone Operations, and Wendy Bent, Morton County HR.
- The CPS Unit has had no turnover, but has been holding and working cases longer until the new FC/IH staff are trained in.

Eligibility Redesign Update

- No updates at the time of this meeting.

Zone Director Minutes Review

- Nexus Path have transition agreements of 90 days for a Path home transition. With emergent placements of connecting children to a Path foster homes in 30 days.
- CPS Intake Unit will be closed the Friday after Thanksgiving.
- CFS Luncheon in December is to discuss emergencies and to have 4 families on call per day.
- The Commissioner of DHS, Wayne Salter, has resigned. He has been here since January.
- Dr. Wiebe has also resigned from the state.
- Kristen Hasbargen, Director of Zone Operations, informed directors that the Remarkable Tablets do not meet the security requirements per NDIT. Staff must lock the tablets when not in use.
- The Director's meeting on December 3rd will be held at the Comfort Suites in Mandan to prepare for the 2025 Legislative Session and discuss strategy for upcoming bills.
- Representatives and Senators Robin Weisz, Kathy Hogan and Judy Lee discussed how term limits affect the sessions.
- It was decided that a Zone director needs to be present at the capital each day of the legislative session (Zone Director of the week).
- Currently, there are over 600 bills drafted for this session, but not all pertain to DHS and the Zones.
- Zones are struggling with States Attorney Offices accepting Safety Framework Model as the standard of practice because it is not in NDCC or Administrative Code.
- ND lacks the number of dentists that accept ND Medicaid recipients.
- Jordan Falcon (Recruiter) is assisting 20 hours per week searching for qualified candidates for positions.
- The CACs across the state would have liked to have a blanket MOU for all the Zones, but it was decided it was best to make individual agreements with zones.
- Bismarck has the only CAC that provides physical exams on site.
- Currently, Zone EW units are responsible for completing the WHODAS assessments and 1915i paperwork. Starting the middle of December, the state will have a department to do this work.
- Zone Metrics Standards of Practice from July to September. Our Zone is falling with our children in FC, IH, CPS and in Eligibility for applications reviewed timely. The department is working on assuring the Data is accurate.
- The Security form on new employees will change as it is updated. The new SFN 428 will be available in mid-December.

- The EW redesign is considering an additional Lead Worker for Group IV (TANF).
- The Tour of Zones for 2025 will be in July with the location TBD and September in Stanley.
- The tour of zones was in WCHSZ and MLHSZ.
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Other:

- Dennis' Evaluation Process for 2024. Zone employee evaluation will be done in April – May every year. The zone board will need to do a six-month evaluation for the director covering 1/1/2024 – 6/30/2024 ASAP.

Adjourn:

- Moved by Jackie Buckley, seconded by Karen Rohe to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 AM. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting December 19, 2024 – 10 AM, Mandan

Respectfully Submitted,



Jodie Leier

Fiscal Services

Three Rivers Human Service Zone