

**Three Rivers Human Service Zone Board
Meeting Minutes
Three Rivers Human Services Board Room
Mandan
210 2nd Ave NW
August 15, 2024**

Meeting Call to Order:

- Dennis called meeting to order at 10:06 AM

Roll Call:

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

Carson: Charlie Steinkuehler (Absent), Marty Meyer-Phone

Fort Yates: Ken Snider (Absent), John Pretty Bear – (Absent)

Others present: Jodie Leier, Mandy Garrett, Vince Gillette, Jen Wetsch, Whitney Irmien

Approval of Agenda

- Moved by Jackie Buckley to approve the agenda seconded by Rose Mary Lawson. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from July 18, 2024

- Moved by Dawson Holle, seconded by Marty Meyer to approve the minutes from June 20, 2024. All in favor. Motion carried.

Review and Approval of August 2024 Bills:

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

Budget Review

- TRHSZ is operating 7% below budget through the month of July.
- Vehicle we ordered has a recall on the air bags, so delivery has been delayed.
- Jackie mentioned that Dennis was at the last Commission meeting to present the 2025 Budget.

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

- Vince took a moment to share information about what his Tribal Liaison position does for the tribes in the state.
- There are approximately 75-100 SRST foster children placed in ND foster homes that he helps to facilitate visits.
- Standing Rock currently has 23 ND IV-E cases and 36 SD IV-E in ND Foster Homes. There are 150+ Foster Care Placements.
- Vince attends ND IV-E and Tribal IV-E eligibility meetings.
- Vince spends a lot of time dealing with Medicaid payment issues for both ND and SD Foster children.
- Vince has been attempting to engage tribes in claiming expenses for the FMAP monies. The total amount available to the tribes is \$1,291,960 was claimed prior to June 30, 2024.
- 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 in the month of July.
- Vince attended the ICWA conference last month. One of the areas of need is to get more cultural trainings/meeting for Native American children in foster care. They would like to have this training at least monthly.
- There are 610 Native IV-E kids in the ND foster care system. There is a total of 1200 children in the ND Foster Care System not including tribal 638 children.

Mandy Garrett – Income Maintenance/Eligibility Supervisor

- Three Rivers Zone Office Information
 - We currently have 2 Eligibility positions open.
 - The Support Specialist position was filled by April Alton. She is on her second week.
- Medicaid
 - Total Households: July 2024 - 392
 - Total Individuals: July 2024 - 829
 - Total Benefits: N/A
- SNAP
 - Total Households: July 2024 - 447
 - Total Individuals: July 2024 - 1209
 - Total Benefits Paid: July 2024 – \$672.5K
- LIHEAP
 - Total Households: July 2024 – N/A
 - Total Individuals: July 2024 – N/A
 - Total Benefits: July 2024 – N/A
- TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)
 - Total Households: July 2024 – 57
 - Total Individuals: July 2024 – 236
 - Total Benefits: July 2024 - \$46.0K
- Childcare Assistance Program
 - Total Households: July 2024 - 56

- Total Individuals: July 2024 – 213
- Total Benefits Issued: July 2024 - \$171.8K
- Call Center July Stats
 - See the STAT sheet for detailed Tier Information.
 - Tier 1 will be done at the end of October.
- Swim Lanes
 - No updates.
- Support Specialists (Statewide)
 - No updates.
- Hybrid EBT is coming to the offices where cards will be issued by staff here or they can still be gotten through the vendor by the end of the year.
- Foot traffic in the three offices has been monitored since May. They are expecting the foot traffic to double when the Hybrid is implemented.
 - Sioux County 246 in July
 - Grant County 25 in July
 - Morton County 372 in July

Jenny Wetsch – Child Protection

- See the attached Statistical information which was presented during the meeting.
 - 68 total reports in July: 4 Reports in Grant County and 0 Reports for Sioux County.
 - 41 assigned as Full.
 - 3 ATP Assessments.
 - 24 Administratively Assessed or Administrative Referrals.
 - 0 Alt Response.
 - 0 Substance Exposed Infant (SEI) (started 2 but both transferred out of zone).
 - 2 Child Sex Cases
 - 0 Prenatal Drug Cases
 - 0 Courtesy Interview Requests from other zones/1 Law Enforcement
 - 0 Conflict cases for another Zone
- Alicia Grimm has started the parent aide position. She will also be doing her undergrad internship in Social Work while she is here.
- The new FTE position for a Case Aid has been approved and advertised, interviews will begin next week.
- Whitney Irmen began as a master's level intern in Social Work this week.
- Holly Hammarsten completed her Temp position last week.

Natalie Anderson – Foster Care/In Home/FP Licensing (Dennis provided the information)

- See the attached statistical information which was presented during the meeting.
- Currently we have 76 cases.
 - 59 Foster Care
 - 17 In-Home Cases, ICPC, Courtesy Case Management & Home Study's
 - 39 Foster Homes/PATH
 - 2 QRTP/PRTF
 - 12 Relative Care
 - 6-18+
 - 0-YCC

Director's Report

- August 5th, every zone employee completed the multi-factor authentication. Our zone is compliant.
- Customer Service Center (CSC) is looking at ways to add more workers to their Tier 2 team. The Tier 1 team will be abolished by the end of October.
- Kim Jacobson met with Wayne Salter concerning the hoteling of children.
 - They are anticipating policy changes in the state to handle these kids so there can be a stable placement with a possible no reject, no eject policy.
 - There needs to be a safety net for these children.
 - Salter has visited with PRTF Ruth Meyers. They had shut down their facility due to assaults on staff. There is restructuring of the facility to assure safety of children and staff.
- Wayne Salter is reviewing the zone performance metrics. He will begin visiting each zone starting in September.
- The Zone director's September meeting will be held in Devils Lake. The next one will be in Grand Forks or Fargo.
- We received 14 apps for the Case Aid position. We have done pre-screening interviews and have gotten them down to 4. They will begin interviewing next week.

Eligibility Redesign Update

- EBT Hybrid will start by year end.
- Call Center Tier 1 contract will be ending in October. There will be an additional 10 staff added to Tier 2 bringing the number to 28.
 - Buffalo Bridges hired 5 and wants to add 5 additional from the Support Staff.
 - They are also wanting EW to be designated for busy time assistance on a rotation across the state. The directors have placed this concept on hold due to LIHEAP starting soon.

Other

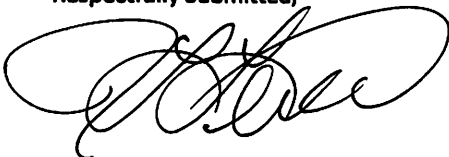
- Jackie Buckley had a question regarding Youthworks and the new procedures.
 - Locally the children have to be cited and placed by Law Enforcement for the kids to be placed in their program.
 - There is no longer shelter care options in Bismarck. We have used the Youthworks in Minot and Sunrise in Dickinson.
 - There is a group home in Standing Rock, but not used. Dennis shared ND HHS information with the director for possible shelter care certification.
 - Spirit Lake and Turtle Mountain have a group home as well.
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Adjourn:

- Moved by Lori Flaaten, seconded by Marty Meyer to adjourn the meeting at 11:21 AM. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting September 19, 2024 – 10 AM, Mandan

Respectfully Submitted,



Jodie Leier
Fiscal Services
Three Rivers Human Service Zone