

**Three Rivers Human Service Zone Board
Meeting Minutes
Three Rivers Human Services Board Room
Mandan
210 2nd Ave NW
September 19, 2024**

Meeting Call to Order:

- Dennis called meeting to order at 10:01 AM

Roll Call:

Mandan: Dennis Meier, Jackie Buckley (Phone), Lori Flaaten, Heidi Peltz and Rose Mary Lawson,

Carson: Charlie Steinkuehler

Fort Yates: Ken Snider (Teams)

Others present: Jodie Leier, Vince Gillette, Wendy Bent (Teams)

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes from August 15, 2024

- Moved by Charlie Steinkuehler to approve the minutes from August 15, 2024, seconded by Lori Flaaten. All in favor. Motion carried.

Review and Approval of September 2024 Bills:

- Lori Flaten came early to review the bills. Questions were answered.
- Discussion was held on the bill to DeCoteau Trauma and it was explained that the professional consult is for a potential adoption case.
- Moved by Lori Flaten, 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 (Phone)	Y
Lori Flaten	P	Y
Rosemary Lawson	P	Y
Heidi Peltz	P	Y
Marty Meyer	A	Absent
Charlie Steinkuehler	P	Y
Ken Snider	P (Teams)	Y
John Pretty Bear	A	Absent
Dennis Meier	P	Y
Karen Rohr	A	Absent
Dawson Holle	A	Absent

Budget Review

- TRHSZ is operating under budget through the month of August.
- The zone vehicle we ordered has a recall on the air bags, so delivery has been delayed.
- We have seen an increase in rental deposit assistance this year. Dennis explained we have seen an influx in this area of need over the last year. The money comes from our SPF funds line item.

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

- 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 and 20 in relative placement. 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.
- ND Tribes all got their FMAP reimbursements totaling \$1,291,960.00 for SFY 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 and 2 for TRHSZ in August. Human Service Zones do between 50-70 care visits for Standing Rock depending on the month from all over the state.
- Vince attended the ICWA meeting. Raquel from Standing Rock says that everybody is burned out and planning to quit. Raquel is requesting that the social services responsibilities go back to the state BIA. Historically this is a bad idea. They are now paying seasoned workers \$25 an hour, but still can't get the positions filled.
- Dennis and Vince are in the planning stages of starting a Keeping the Culture Alive class for Native Foster Children and Foster Parents. Burleigh County Social Services and I did a class for about 10 years and Cory Peterson, CFS Director, wants to revive it. Peterson would like to start the classes in Burleigh/Morton before the end of the year. Approximately 90% of Native American foster children are in Non-Native homes and off the reservation. This leaves the kids disconnected from their culture.
- 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 (Presented by Dennis Meier)

- Three Rivers Zone Office Information
 - We currently have 2 Eligibility positions open, but we are interviewing.
- Medicaid
 - Total Households: August 2024 - 432
 - Total Individuals: August 2024 - 904
 - Total Benefits: N/A
- SNAP
 - Total Households: August 2024 - 465
 - Total Individuals: August 2024 - 1279
 - Total Benefits Paid: August 2024 – \$682.9K
- LIHEAP
 - Total Households: August 2024 – N/A
 - Total Individuals: August 2024 – N/A
 - Total Benefits: August 2024 – N/A

- **TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)**
 - Total Households: August 2024 – 64
 - Total Individuals: August 2024 – 257
 - Total Benefits: August 2024 - \$46.7K
- **Childcare Assistance Program**
 - Total Households: August 2024 - 54
 - Total Individuals: August 2024 – 209
 - Total Benefits Issued: August 2024 - \$195.9K
- **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.
- **Foot traffic in the three offices has been monitored since May.**
 - Sioux County 257 in August
 - Grant County 22 in August
 - Morton County 381 in August

Jenny Wetsch – Child Protection (Presented by Dennis Meier)

- See the attached Statistical information which was presented during the meeting.
 - 67 total reports in August: 2 Reports in Grant County and 2 Reports for Sioux County.
 - 45 assigned as Full.
 - 1 ATP Assessments.
 - 22 Administratively Assessed or Administrative Referrals.
 - 0 Alt Response.
 - 0 Substance Exposed Infant (SEI).
 - 0 Child Sex Cases
 - 1 Prenatal Drug Cases
 - 1 Courtesy Interview Requests from other zones/2 Law Enforcement
 - 0 Conflict cases for another Zone
- Paula Seeberg resigned from her parent aide position. We had 2 applications as of Friday. Alicia Grimm has absorbed as many cases as she can, with Dennis and Vince assisting.
- A counseling program began in the schools; however, telemedicine is not in the schools yet. Entities are starting to bring the therapies to the schools.
- State Employees are setting up a group "Courageous Case Management" (CCM) to review cases to see if we can get any kids home sooner.

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

- See the attached statistical information which was presented during the meeting.
- Currently we have 71 cases.
 - 55 Foster Care
 - 16 In-Home Cases, ICPC, Courtesy Case Management & Home Study's
 - 37 Foster Homes/PATH

- 2 QRTP/PRTF
- 10 Relative Care
- 6-18+
- 0-YCC

Child Welfare Unit Updates

- Out of 8 staff in the FC/IH Unit we are down to 4.
 - 3 workers and the supervisor's position are vacant
 - Wendy Bent from the HR Department joined the meeting to discuss the reasons for the turnover.
 - An Action Plan has been developed describing the roles and responsibilities of team members. This team meets weekly. The team members are Lisa Giese (RRHSZ), Megin Mitchel (FSS), Shayla Schultz (BCHSZ) Tracy Mertz (TRHSZ) and Dennis Meier (TRHSZ).
 - Currently we have received 8 applicants for the 3 FC/IH positions.
 - The Interview Team for the Case Management positions will consist of Dennis, Vince and either Wendy or Cheryl from HR.
- Our Parent Aid, Paula Seeberg has resigned her position. The position is posted.

Eligibility Redesign Update

- Plans for implementing the EBT Hybrid are now being questioned.
- Discussion on the amount of SNAP dollars in all areas.

Other: None

Adjourn:

- Moved by Heidi Peltz, seconded by Charles Steinkuehler to adjourn the meeting at 10:57 AM. All in favor.
Motion carried.

Next Meeting October 17, 2024 – 10 AM, Mandan

Respectfully Submitted,



**Jodie Leier
Fiscal Services
Three Rivers Human Service Zone**