

**Three Rivers Human Service Zone Board
Meeting Minutes
Three Rivers Human Services Board Room
Mandan
210 2nd Ave NW
June 19, 2025**

Meeting Call to Order:

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

Roll Call:

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

Carson: Marty Meyer (Phone) **Absent:** Gerard Kraft

Fort Yates: John Pretty Bear (Phone) **Absent:** Ken Snider

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes of May 15, 2025

- Moved by Lori Flaten to approve the minutes from May 15, 2025, seconded by Heidi Peltz. All in favor. Motion carried.

Review and Approval of June 2025 Bills:

- Lori Flaten came early to review the bills.
- Any questions on bills were answered.
- Moved by Lori Flaten, seconded by Lori Flaaten 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	P (Phone)	Y
Gerard Kraft	A	Absent
Ken Snider	A	Absent
John Pretty Bear	P (Phone)	Y
Dennis Meier	P	Y
Karen Rohr	A	Absent
Dawson Holle	A	Absent

Budget Review

- Dennis went over May Financials. At the end of May we are managing below budget.
- We will continue to access all available resources to stay within budget through the remainder of 2025.

Vince Gillette- Three Rivers Human Service Zone Tribal Liaison Report for May 2025

- There are approximately 50-75 SRST foster children placed in ND foster homes that Vince assists with monthly visits.
- Standing Rock currently has 34 ND IV-E cases and 33 SD IV-E cases in ND Foster Homes and 15 in paid Foster Care placements.
- 10 kids are in sub-adopt. Vince explained sub-adopt and how it pays for care and Medicaid until the child is 18.
- 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 FMAP available reimbursements are out totaling \$1,292,229.00 for SFY 24-25. The new requests for reimbursements need to be in by June 30, 2025.
- Vince reported the completed F-MAP for Turtle Mountain from July 2024 to September 2024 is \$260,000. There is an additional \$290,000 that can be claimed prior to June 30, 2025. Turtle Mountain has completed the appropriate documents and they should be submitted soon.
- Ft. Berthold reached out to Vince 2 months ago for FMAP assistance, but they haven't followed up.
- Dean Sturn, the administrator of the foster care program, sent out an email announcing his retirement on June 12, so he wants all reimbursement requests sent in early.
- Vince continues to track the Indirect Expenses for Fort Yates for Jodie Leier to report to the state.
- Vince did 10 Foster Care visits for SRST, 4 transports of foster kids for SRST and 2 F2F for TRHSZ in May.
- Vince explained the Keeping the Culture Alive class for Native Foster Children and Foster Parents is a work in progress. The January, February, March, April and May classes were canceled. They are having trouble securing a location for the classes due to a lack of space.
- Vince continues to work on the project for updating the TCM (Targeted Case Management Billing). Native American Training Institute is working with Vince to set up a date for training and a meeting on TCM.

Mandy Garrett – Income Maintenance/Eligibility Supervisor

The Stats shown on the attached paperwork show the difference between the Power VI System vs Spaces System.

Three Rivers Zone Office Information

- Current Openings: 1 EW in the Carson Office. We are looking at reclassifying the position to an FT Administrative Assistant. This individual will become part of the state redaction team as well. Our permanent part-time temp has stated she would retire rather than going full time, but would be willing to stay on to help train the new individual.
 - The High Efficiency Accuracy Team (HEAT) State Team will be visiting the Mandan office in June 2025. They will be doing visits to all three offices for the State EBT Team.
- Medicaid
 - Total Households: May 2025 – 4235
 - Total Individuals: May 2025 – 7073
 - Total Benefits: N/A

- **SNAP**
 - Total Households: May 2025 - 1706
 - Total Individuals: May 2025 - 3731
 - Total Benefits Paid: \$621.9K
- **LIHEAP**
 - Total Households: May 2025 – 756
 - Total Individuals: May 2025 – 163
 - Total Benefits: \$47.3K
- **TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)**
 - Total Households: May 2025 – 106
 - Total Individuals: May 2025 – 219
 - Total Benefits: \$57.5K
- **Childcare Assistance Program**
 - Total Households: May 2025 - 233
 - Total Individuals: May 2025 – 661
 - Total Benefits: \$229.7K
- **Call Center Stats**
 - Total Calls Received: May 2025 – 21,872
 - Answered Calls: May 2025 – 17,569
 - Abandoned Calls: May 2025 – 3,516
 - Average Wait Time: May 2025 – 5 minutes
 - Average Talk Time: May 2025 – 5 minutes
- **Swim Lanes**
 - Queues continue to be low with work.
 - LIHEAP program is moving to a year-round program starting June 1st was changed last minute due to unknown Federal funding. Clients can still apply for LIHeap any time, but no payments will be made in the summer months. The change in LIHeap reviews will still begin with the first reviews starting in October 2025.
- **Support Specialists (Statewide)**
 - Nothing to report. There is no backlog.
- **Foot traffic in the three offices has been monitored since May 2024.**
 - Sioux County 210 in May.
 - Grant County 39 in May.
 - Morton County 384 in May.

Jenny Wetsch – Child Protection

- We hired Brooklyn Seime last Wednesday for our parent aid position. She is doing a good job so far, she jumped right in and hit the ground running.

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

- 100 total reports in May: 0 Reports in Grant County and 0 Reports for Sioux County.
 - 62 assigned as Full.
 - 0 ATP Assessments.
 - 38 Administratively Assessed or Administrative Referrals.
 - 0 Alt Response.

- 0 Substance Exposed Infant (SEI).
- 2 Child Sex Cases
- 1 Prenatal Drug/Alcohol Cases
- 0 Courtesy Interview Requests from other zones/0 Law Enforcement
- 1 Conflict cases for another Zone

Tracy Mertz-Foster Care/In Home -

- See the attached statistical information which was presented during the meeting.
- Currently we have 64 cases.
 - 48 Foster Care
 - 19 In-Home Cases, ICPC, Courtesy Case Management & Home Study's
 - 28 Foster Homes/PATH
 - 3 QRTP/PRTF
 - 6 Relative Care
 - 8-18+
 - 0-YCC

Child Welfare Unit Updates

- Hoteling a sibling group has been very challenging. Wendy Bent voiced concerns that she felt we need to establish a plan to avoid staff burnout if the need for hoteling goes on for an extended amount of time.
- Case management load is an average of 10 cases per worker compared to other zones.
- Mary Brown, TRHSZ Administrative Case Aid, is in Employee Spotlight for Morton County this month.
- Secondary Trauma Training with Katie Kruckenbergl will begin later this month.

Eligibility Redesign Update

- The review team will be here June 25 and 26.

Zone Director Update

- Other items were covered in the above areas.

Breach of Confidentiality Case Discussion

- Last August information was sent to BCI for investigation regarding a breach of confidentiality issue that arose from two employees.
- Wendy Bent explained the results of the investigation of the case and feels we have hit the end of the road. There is no true employment action available to us. Due to the breach violating state law, they felt they needed to interview the two employees who both refused interviews. The case was forwarded back to Morton County State's Attorney's Office, who sent it to McClean County. The McClean County States Attorney determined he wouldn't move forward with charges. This would also be a hard case to take to jury and would not be easy to prosecute. Wendy Bent and Lori Flaten will attempt to get an explanation from Ladd.

Other:

- Dennis contacted Chelsea Flory regarding The Keeping the Culture Alive events. She requested Dennis look for a backup plan in the Mandan area. The Mandan Library was contacted and will be on deck if

needed. Chelsea will reconnect with Lorraine Davis. She will let Dennis know her findings at the next Director's meeting.

- The blue highlander was backed into while a staff member was filling gas. Insurance companies have been contacted.
- Mission Vision and Values Survey was completed and focus groups were created. Results of focus group meetings were a mixed bag.

Adjourn:

- Moved by Heidi Peltz, seconded by Marty Meyer to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 AM. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting July 17, 2025 – 10 AM, Mandan

Respectfully Submitted,



Igaite Leier

Fiscal Services

Three Rivers Human Service Zone