

**Three Rivers Human Service Zone Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Three Rivers Human Services Board Room  
Mandan  
210 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave NW  
July 17, 2025**

**Meeting Call to Order:**

- Dennis called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

**Roll Call:**

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

**Absent:** Karen Rohr, Dawson Holle

**Carson:** Gerard Kraft

**Absent:** Marty Meyer

**Fort Yates:** John Pretty Bear (Phone)

**Absent:** Ken Snider

**Others present:** Jodie Leier, Mandy Garrett, 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 June 19, 2025**

- Moved by Lori Flaten to approve the minutes from June 19, 2025, seconded by Gerard Kraft. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Review and Approval of July 2025 Bills:**

- Lori Flaten came early to review the bills.
- There were no questions about the bills.
- Moved by Lori Flaten, seconded by Gerard Kraft 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	
Gerard Kraft	P	Y
Ken Snider	A	
John Pretty Bear	P (Phone)	Y
Dennis Meier	P	Y
Karen Rohr	A	

Dawson Holle	A	
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**Budget Review**

- Dennis went over June Financials. At the end of June TRHSZ is below budget by 3% following the recalculation.
- Will continue to closely monitor the budget throughout the year and utilize other financial resources when possible.
- We have a child in need of Open-Door Services 5 days a week. The cost for this service is \$40.00 hourly, approximately \$7000.00 monthly. There are no other resources available to pay for this service so it will come from the zone budget. Once school begins there will be less of a need for this service.

**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 helps to facilitate visits.
- Standing Rock currently has 16 ND IV-E cases and 25 SD IV-E cases in ND Foster Homes and 33 PL 638 Foster Care placements.
- There are 9 kids in sub-adopt. There were 68 children adopted last year. The Adoption and Safe Families Act requires the legal custodian to pursue adoption or another PPLA if a child remains in foster care 450 out of 660 days.
- 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 closed for the previous year. The new fiscal year 2026 rates have not been released yet.
- 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, 2 transports of foster kids for SRST and 6 F2F for TRHSZ in June. Two were in Mandan, two in Garrison and 2 in Voltaire.
- Vince explained the Keeping the Culture Alive class for Native American Foster Children is a work in progress. The January - July classes were canceled. They are having trouble securing a location for the classes due to a lack of space. They did have one set up for July 21, but that has fallen through for this month. Looking at the Mandan Public Library.
- Vince continues to work on the project of 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. They are trying to coordinate it for September 24, 2025, when they introduce their new Tribal Liaisons. TCM Rates for 2026 are out at \$22.57 per quarter hour or \$90.28 per hour.
- Heidi shared that she relies on Vince to help her get things and information to get things done on her end. She appreciates his knowledge and assistance.

**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 have recently received approval to reclassify the position to a fulltime Administrative Assistant. This individual will become part of the state redaction team as well. Our permanent part-time team has stated she would retire rather than

going full-time but would be willing to stay on to help train the new individual. Jodie has submitted the posting request.

- The High Efficiency Accuracy Team (HEAT) State Team visited the Mandan, Carson and Ft. Yates offices in June 2025.
- The Eligibility Unit has transitioned to Teams Voice instead of Desk phones and were issued new phone numbers. The Teams Voice is now on the computers. Mandy will get Dennis a list of phones that transitioned to voice. Our old land line phones will be returned to BEK.
- **Medicaid**
  - Total Households: June 2025 – 4284
  - Total Individuals: June 2025 – 7058
  - Total Benefits: N/A
- **SNAP**
  - Total Households: June 2025 - 1699
  - Total Individuals: June 2025 - 3654
  - Total Benefits Paid: \$645.2K
- **LIHEAP**
  - Total Households: June 2025 – 763
  - Total Individuals: June 2025 – 155
  - Total Benefits: \$72.3K
- **TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)**
  - Total Households: June 2025 – 105
  - Total Individuals: June 2025 – 201
  - Total Benefits: \$53.0K
- **Childcare Assistance Program**
  - Total Households: June 2025 - 235
  - Total Individuals: June 2025 – 676
  - Total Benefits: \$223.2K
- **Call Center Stats**
  - Total Calls Received: June 2025 – 21,134
  - Answered Calls: June 2025 – 16,912
  - Abandoned Calls: June 2025 – 3,476
  - Average Wait Time: June 2025 – 5 minutes
  - Average Talk Time: June 2025 – 5 minutes
- **Swim Lanes**
  - CSC (Call Center) is looking to add 35-40 eligibility workers from swim lanes to an On-Demand Team to take SNAP interviews when clients call. This is a Pilot group for reviews and applications only. This is to improve our numbers federally to meet the mandated standards. They are asking for 10 individuals from each region to do this. Tristie from our zone is volunteering for the pilot. The pilot is until September to see if it works.
- **Support Specialists (Statewide)**
  - Nothing to report. There is no backlog.
- **Foot traffic in the three offices has been monitored since May 2024.**
  - Sioux County 244 in June.
  - Grant County 36 in June.

- Morton County 299 in June.

**Jenny Wetsch – Child Protection - (Presented by Dennis Meier)**

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

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

**Tracy Mertz-Foster Care/In Home – (presented by Dennis Meier)**

- See the attached statistical information which was presented during the meeting.
- Currently we have 67 cases.
  - 51 Foster Care
  - 16 In-Home Cases, ICPC, Courtesy Case Management & Home Study's
  - 35 Foster Homes/PATH
  - 3 QRTP/PRTF
  - 6 Relative Care
  - 7-18+
  - 0-YCC

**Child Welfare Unit Updates**

- If caseloads stay low, we may transition a worker to CPS.
- We have been helping Burleigh with FC/In-Home Case Management Services.
- Brooklyn Seime is in Training as parent aid.
- The first Trauma training with Katie Kruckenberg went well.
- Dennis is still trying to connect with Lindsey at EAP for Critical Incident Trauma Training.
- Last week Dennis, Jenny and Tracy toured the ND Life Skills and Transition Center. They said it was a very impressive facility that showed a high level of care and exceptional programming, allowing clients the opportunity to make positive changes.
- Dennis was at the state director's meeting and was able to tour Northern Valley HSZ and the state-run Ruth Meier's Adolescent Center. He also went to the Regional Youth Assessment Center where they have 16 detention beds, 8 assessment beds, 8 transition beds and 2 or 4 attendant care beds. The Grand Forks area has great resources for challenging individuals.

**Eligibility Redesign Update**

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

**Zone Director Update**

- On Tuesday we had our employee appreciation lunch where we gave out service awards and door prizes. Dave Marion from Prairie Recovery Center was our guest motivational speaker.
- Pat Strinden is the interim commissioner at the state.
- On July 29<sup>th</sup>, Dennis and several other directors along with Kristen Harsbargen are meeting with Juvenile Court to go over some issues.

**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.
- At our board meeting in June, we discussed Lori Flaten Having a conversation with the States Attorney from McLean County. At this meeting it was unclear whether the board supported this idea. At today's meeting the board supports Lori contacting the McLean County States Attorney for additional information.

**Other:**

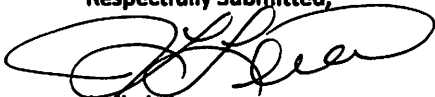
- Dennis plans to be added to the next Morton County Commission agenda to go over the TRHSZ 2026 budget.
- Mission Vision and Values (Culture Realignment) is still in the process with Jason Matthews. Jackie, Wendy, the Admin Team will meet with Jason to go over next steps.

**Adjourn:**

- Moved by Heidi Peltz, seconded by Gerard Kraft to adjourn the meeting at 11:07 AM. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting August 21, 2025 – 10 AM, Mandan

Respectfully Submitted,



Jodie Leier

Fiscal Services

Three Rivers Human Service Zone