

**Three Rivers Human Service Zone Board
Meeting Minutes
Three Rivers Human Services Board Room
Mandan
210 2nd Ave NW
August 21, 2025**

Meeting Call to Order:

- Dennis called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM

Roll Call:

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

Absent: Dawson Holle

Carson: Marty Meyer

Absent: Gerard Kraft

Fort Yates: Ken Snider

Absent: John Pretty Bear

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes of July 17, 2025

- Moved by Heidi Peltz to approve the minutes from July 17, 2025, seconded by Rosemary Lawson. All in favor. Motion carried.

Review and Approval of August 2025 Bills:

- Lori Flaten came early to review the bills.
- There were no questions about the bills.
- Moved by Lori Flaten, seconded by Rosemary Lawson 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)	(came after vote)
Lori Flaten	P	Y
Rosemary Lawson	P	Y
Heidi Peltz	P	Y
Marty Meyer	P	Y
Gerard Kraft	P	Y
Ken Snider	P (Phone)	Y
John Pretty Bear	A	A

Dennis Meier	P	Y
Karen Rohr	P	Y
Dawson Holle	A	A

Budget Review

- Dennis went over July Financials. In July we were still below the budget by 3% following the June recalculation.
- We continue to be fiscally responsible with our budget and will utilize all other funding sources available.
- We have a child in a foster home in another zone that is in the Day Treatment Program at Open Door Services. The cost is \$40 per hour and there is no other funding source available. The monthly cost is approximately \$7000 and will be paid by TRHSZ. It will be less once school starts again, but the child will still need the day program for days school is not in session and couple hours after each day of school.

Vince Gillette- Three Rivers Human Service Zone Tribal Liaison Report for May 2025-(Dennis Meier presented for Vince)

- There are approximately 50-75 SRST foster children placed in ND foster homes that Vince helps to facilitate visits.
- Currently, Standing Rock has 18 ND IV-E cases and 25 SD IV-E cases in ND Foster Homes and 33 PL 638 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 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.
- Kelsey Bless has recently taken over foster care administrative job responsibilities that Dean Sturn once had
- 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, 1 transport of foster kids for SRST and 6 F2F for TRHSZ in July. Two were in Mandan, two in Garrison and 2 in Voltaire.
- Dennis and Vince shared updates on the Keeping the Culture Alive classes for Native Foster Children and Foster Parents. January, February, March, April, May, June and July classes were canceled due to a lack of space to host the classes. They were having trouble securing a location for the classes. A meeting was held with the Mandan Public Library on August 11 to discuss renting their space. We can rent their space for a \$50 fee to the library and \$100 to the Friends of the Mandan Public Library who have also agreed to do the setup of the space and be the "vendor" for us to purchase the beverages and pizzas for the classes.
- 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 help.

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 Mandan Office. Interviews were held the other week for the Administrative Assistant position in Carson. An offer has been made to an individual and we are awaiting the response.
- The Supes for Mandy's Region III are doing in-person meetings. They did the first one at the Dream Center.
- Region III Supes are to meet with the Directors 1x a month. Dennis sent an email out to the directors in our area. They all agreed they should meet so everyone understands any concerns. The first one will be scheduled after the director's meeting for the 3rd week of September.
- Medicaid
 - Total Households: July 2025 – 4308
 - Total Individuals: July 2025 – 7054
 - Total Benefits: N/A
- SNAP
 - Total Households: July 2025 - 1692
 - Total Individuals: July 2025 - 3603
 - Total Benefits Paid: \$624.9K
- LIHEAP
 - Total Households: July 2025 – 771
 - Total Individuals: July 2025 – 168
 - Total Benefits: \$90.40
- TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)
 - Total Households: July 2025 – 107
 - Total Individuals: July 2025 – 184
 - Total Benefits: \$50.2K
- Childcare Assistance Program
 - Total Households: July 2025 - 235
 - Total Individuals: July 2025 – 685
 - Total Benefits: \$242.1K
- Call Center Stats
 - Total Calls Received: July 2025 – 22,247
 - Answered Calls: July 2025 – 17,981
 - Abandoned Calls: July 2025 – 3,472
 - Average Wait Time: July 2025 – 5 minutes
 - Average Talk Time: July 2025 – 5 minutes
- Swim Lanes
 - Effective 9/1/25 all EW's will work both applications and reviews.
- Support Specialists (Statewide)
 - Nothing to report. There is no backlog.
- Foot traffic in the three offices has been monitored since May 2024.
 - Sioux County 203 in July.
 - Grant County 23 in July.
 - Morton County 326 in July.

Jenny Wetsch – Child Protection

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

- 90 total reports in July: 1 Report in Grant County and 0 Reports for Sioux County.
 - 50 assigned as Full.
 - 1 ATP Assessments.
 - 40 Administratively Assessed or Administrative Referrals.
 - 0 Alt Response.
 - 1 Substance Exposed Infant (SEI).
 - 1 Child Sex Cases
 - 1 Prenatal Drug/Alcohol Cases
 - 1 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 72 cases.
 - 61 Foster Care
 - 11 In-Home Cases, ICPC, Courtesy Case Management & Home Study's
 - 41 Foster Homes/PATH
 - 3 QRTP/PRTF
 - 10 Relative Care
 - 7-18+
 - 0-YCC

Child Welfare Unit Updates

- 1 opening in FC
- We have been helping Burleigh where needed.
- HB1095-School Liaison Bill as introduced was a concern for zone directors. It evolved through the legislative process and now zones and school districts are expected to work more closely together and meet twice yearly to address issues, open lines of communication etc. It mandated the Zones to meet with the school districts 2x/year. Once in the fall and once in the spring, then report annually to our Board of Directors and the Children's Cabinet. We have 15 districts in our zone. We will invite all private schools. Once the meetings are set up there will be a slide deck presentation from the state so that the same information is shared with all districts.
- We have been invited to different schools on their staff development days to do breakout sessions on how child welfare works with the schools.

Zone Director Update

- Two staff members have been placed on administrative leave. One on the foster care/in-home unit and , and on on the CPS unit. We will pull back a bit on the help we've been providing to BCHSZ.

Breach of Confidentiality Case Discussion

- Last August information was sent to BCI for investigation regarding a breach of confidentiality issue that arose regarding two former employees. Lori Flaten has done some research into the determination of the State's Attorney's office and the reasoning for decision made.

- Lori explained that she had been in contact with our state's attorney and with states attorney Ladd Erickson from another area who handled it as a conflict case for us. After reviewing the case records obtained through the open records request, she determined that Ladd had proceeded correctly.
- Things that can be done to keep this from happening in the future are to have Morton County and the Zone make a policy. Do some in-house training and show the statutes and what the consequences are.

Other:

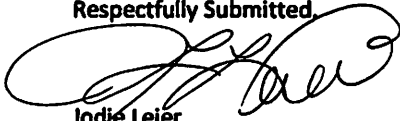
- Jackie shared with the group that the Morton County Commission passed a policy for public comment related to any past or current agenda due to a legislative mandate.

Adjourn:

- Moved by Heidi Peltz, seconded by Karen Rohr to adjourn the meeting at 11:23 AM. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting September 18, 2025 – 10 AM, Mandan

Respectfully Submitted,



Jodie Leier

Fiscal Services

Three Rivers Human Service Zone