

Three Rivers Human Service Zone Board
Meeting Minutes
Three Rivers Human Services Board Room
Mandan
210 2nd Ave NW
September 18, 2025

Meeting Call to Order:

- Dennis called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM

Roll Call:

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

Carson: Gerard Kraft **Absent:** Marty Meyer

Fort Yates: John Pretty Bear **Absent:** Ken Snider

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

Approval of Agenda with the addition of county policy regarding open meetings and Zoner Director minutes. Moved by Heidi Peltz to approve the agenda seconded by Gerard Kraft. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of September 18, 2025. Moved by Jackie Buckley to approve the minutes from August 21, 2025, seconded by Rosemary Lawson. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Dennis will follow-up with Karen Rohr regarding updating the laws and statutes on Breach of Confidentiality for next legislative session.

Review and Approval of September 2025 Bills:

- Lori Flaten and Jackie Buckley came early to review the bills.
- There were no questions about the bills.
- Moved by Jackie Buckley, seconded by Lori Flaten 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	P	Y
Marty Meyer	A	A
Gerard Kraft	P	Y
Ken Snider	A	A
John Pretty Bear	P (came later)	A
Dennis Meier	P	Y
Karen Rohr	A	A
Dawson Holle	A	A

Budget Review

- Dennis went over August Financials. TRHSZ remains within 2025 allocated budget.
- Dennis presented the budget to the county commission earlier in the month. Our 2026 budget didn't increase substantially over 2025. The commission had questions on the indirect expenses which were based off of the 2024 indirect costs

Vince Gillette- Three Rivers Human Service Zone Tribal Liaison Report

- There are approximately 50-75 SRST foster children placed in ND foster homes that Vince helps to facilitate visits.
- Standing Rock currently has 17 ND IV-E cases and 25 SD IV-E cases in ND Foster Homes and 33 PL 638 Foster Care placements.
- Vince spends high percentage of his time addressing Medicaid payment issues for both ND and SD Foster children.
- ND Tribes FMAP available reimbursements are closed for the 2025 year. The new fiscal year 2026 rates have not been released yet.
- Keeping the Culture Alive class will have the first class at the Mandan Library on September 25th from 6-8 pm. TRHSZ is now managing the financial part of this program. Keith Bear, a world renowned Native American Flute player will be providing a presentation. Keith was also in foster care in his youth and will bring a unique perspective to his presentations. Fargo wants to duplicate the program by doing some of this over TEAMS.
 - Discussion ensued regarding paying hotel stay and meals for the presenters as many are elderly and may have difficulty driving long distances at night. The board was supportive of this and held a roll call vote.
 - Jackie made the motioned to pay travel, motels and meals for the presenters. This was seconded by Heidi Peltz. Roll call vote was held and was unanimous.

Name	Roll Call		Bills Approved
Jackie Buckley	P		Y
Lori Flaten	P		Y
Rosemary Lawson	P		Y
Heidi Peltz	P		Y
Marty Meyer	A		A
Gerard Kraft	P		Y
Ken Snider	A		A
John Pretty Bear	P		Y
Dennis Meier	P		Y
Karen Rohr	A		A
Dawson Holle	A		A

- 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 4 F2F for TRHSZ in July. Two were in Garrison and 2 in Voltaire during the month of August.
- Vince continues to work on the project of updating the TCM (Targeted Case Management Billing). \$68,915 has been billed so far this year.
- We have been short handed in the foster care side, so he is helping with visits and transportation.
- The state is planning to hire 2 more Tribal Liaisons across the state.

Mandy Garrett – Income Maintenance/Eligibility Supervisor

Three Rivers Zone Office Information

- Current Openings: 1 EW in the Mandan Office. Interviews were held the other week. An offer has been made to Deiyonna Beck who will transition from the call center to group 2/3.
- For efficiency and compliance, we are looking at moving the Foster Care unit to the EW side and the EW's to where the FC unit is housed instead of having to use a sign in/out process for greater security.
- We would need to look at getting some desks as the cubicles are unable to be moved anymore due to condition. They are from the 1980's.
 - Board suggested checking with Basin Electric as they get rid of desks periodically and maybe checking with the state Lab because they will be moving to their new building soon.
- Currently do not know what the SNAP reductions will be with the "Big Beautiful Bill". It may also change the Healthcare requirements to require people to work.
- SNAP miscalculations may require the state to pay back for errors to the Feds.
- HEAT visit to the office will be October 28.
- The Cognos reports are no longer available as of August 13, 2025.
- Medicaid
 - Total Households: August 2025 – 4182
 - Total Individuals: August 2025 – 7197
 - Total Benefits: N/A
- SNAP
 - Total Households: August 2025 - 970
 - Total Individuals: August 2025 - 2733
 - Total Benefits Paid: \$602.2K
- LIHEAP
 - Total Households: August 2025 – 57
 - Total Individuals: August 2025 – 204
 - Total Benefits: \$477.20
- TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)
 - Total Households: August 2025 – 124
 - Total Individuals: August 2025 – 509
 - Total Benefits: \$51.8K
- Childcare Assistance Program
 - Total Households: August 2025 - 130
 - Total Individuals: August 2025 – 483
 - Total Benefits: \$247.5K
- Call Center Stats
 - Total Calls Received: August 2025 – 22,866
 - Answered Calls: August 2025 – 17,921
 - Abandoned Calls: August 2025 – 4,034
 - Average Wait Time: August 2025 – 5 minutes
 - Average Talk Time: August 2025 – 5 minutes
- Swim Lanes

- All EWs are working both applications and reviews.
- Queues are full. OT and Comp time have been offered for up to 7 hours/week if they have work in their queues to do.
- Looking at timeliness and accuracy.
- Support Specialists (Statewide)
 - Nothing to report. There is no backlog.
- Foot traffic in the three offices has been monitored since May 2024.
 - Sioux County 206 in August.
 - Grant County 24 in August.
 - Morton County 328 in August.

Jenny Wetsch – Child Protection

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

- 77 total reports in August: 0 Report in Grant County and 0 Reports for Sioux County.
 - 48 assigned as Full.
 - 1 ATP Assessments.
 - 29 Administratively Assessed or Administrative Referrals.
 - 0 Alt Response.
 - 0 Substance Exposed Infant (SEI).
 - 3 Child Sex Cases
 - 0 Prenatal Drug/Alcohol Cases
 - 1 Courtesy Interview Requests from other zones/0 Law Enforcement
 - 0 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 76 cases.
 - 64 Foster Care
 - 12 In-Home Cases, ICPC, Courtesy Case Management & Home Study's
 - 37 Foster Homes/PATH
 - 2 QRTP/PRTF
 - 17 Relative Care
 - 8-18+
 - 0-YCC

Child Welfare Unit Updates

- 1 opening in FC/IH position closed today, waiting for the list of eligibles.
- 1 opening in CPS, waiting for the list of eligibles.
- Results of the quarterly FC visit reports show that we have gone up to 96% compliance.
- FC Redesign is in process. A meeting will be held next week on the case management Redesign Readiness Team. Looking at the first phase to begin in January 2026.
- Jenny explained the many messy home cases we have received lately where the staff have gone to assist in cleaning up so the children can return home.

Zone Director Update

- The Child Welfare Redesign is expected to roll out Phase 1 in January 2026 and Phase 2 in April 2026. January to April is where they will work out any bugs.
- OCEANS will go live in December 2028. They are developing Work Stream Teams to address the different areas of the process.
- Case Coordinators will be in all areas of the state. They will assist with finding placements in PRTF, QRTP, PATH and Foster Homes.
- Tony Moppin is working with the vendor for Remarkable Tablets to see if they will be compatible with OCEANS and Frame.
- They are developing a Child Protection Response Team to assist other zones that are struggling with staffing shortages and high caseloads. The plan is to develop a 4–6-person team to respond to zones in crisis. South Country and Dakota Central are interested in hiring for these positions.
- Child Safety Liaison work group is being formed to work on making the slide deck for the presentations.
- The Supervisor Mentoring Program is in the process of implementation through the Child & Family Services Training Center. They would like to implement this for new supervisors and to have this as part of the new redesign.
- The legislative committees are meeting and have requested the directors to attend.
- The zone director association will be transitioning chairperson leadership. Kristie Frederick will be taking over for Kim Jacobson starting October 1.

Other:

- Jackie shared with the group the Morton County Commission policy for public comment related to any past or current agenda due to a legislative mandate. This addresses any comments from the public regarding the previous or current meeting. The board will now provide an opportunity for the comments in the Other Agenda Items section.

Adjourn:

- Moved by Jackie Buckley, seconded by Lori Flaten to adjourn the meeting at 11:27 AM. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting October 16, 2025 – 10 AM, Mandan

Respectfully Submitted,



Jodie Leier

Fiscal Services

Three Rivers Human Service Zone