

Three Rivers Human Service Zone Board Meeting
Minutes
Three Rivers Human Service Zone I^N Floor Conference Room Mandan Office
10:00 AM - February 18, 2021

Meeting Call to Order: Dennis Meier, Chairman

Roll Call:

Grant County: John Reinhardt, Charlie Steinkuehler

Morton County: Jackie Buckley, Ron Leingang, Edgar Olivera, Rosemary Lawson

Sioux County: Ken Snider, John Pretty Bear

Staff: Vince Gillette, Brenda Peterson, Jody Leier, Brianna Verkaik, Natalie Anderson

Guests: Amber Schriock – ND Association of Counties

Approval of Agenda

- Moved by Rosemary seconded by Charlie to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from January 21, 2021

- Moved by Ken seconded by Edgar to approve the minutes from the January 2021 minutes with the addition of the additions to the Tribal Liaison Report from Vince Gillette. Motion carried.

Review and Approval of February 2021 Bills:

- Jackie reviewed the bills prior to the meeting.
- Moved by Jackie seconded by Ken to approve the February 2021 bills.

Approval of Bills	Vote
Jackie Buckley	Yes
Ken Snider	Yes
Rosemary Lawson	Yes
Charlie Steinkuehler	Yes
John Reinhardt	Yes
John Pretty Bear	Yes
Ron Leingang	Yes
Edgar Olivera	Yes
Dennis Meier	Yes

Budget Review:

- 7.24% of the 2021 budget has been utilized as of 1/31/2021.
- No questions or concerns from the Board members

Office 365 Update: Amber Schriock

- The process for transitioning zones to Office 365 continues.

- The larger zones with their own email addresses are experiencing some challenges due to not have an nd.gov email address.
- Amber will get back to us when the zones are further along with the process.

Zone Program Stats

Grant County

TANF – 0	SNAP 88
ACA – 170	MA TECS – 21
MA Vision – 11	QS – 20
CCAP – 8	LIHEAP – 152

- LIHEAP is low for this time of the year
- Lots of local deaths because of COVID

Sioux County

TANF – 99 open 1 pending	CCAP – 2 open
SNAP – 471 open 9 pending	HCC – 1007 open 1 pending
ME TECS – 23	ME QS – 17
QS – 9	MA Vision – 76

Vince Gillette

- Sioux County 640 cases of COVID to date. 11 deaths and 1 active case. The new cases have slowed in the last couple weeks. They have been vaccinating for the virus and finished their first round of 2 shots on Feb 6th. The reservation has 8 districts, 3 in ND and 5 in SD. IHS hospital in Ft Yates is giving out vaccinations by appointment and Vince hasn't heard of anyone being turned away.
- All tribal offices are still closed to the public, there is still a Tribal mask mandate in place.
- Vince continues to have monthly visits with Tribal IVE foster children. Vince continues to conduct these visits through video chat. There are approximately 60 IV E cases and this number is getting harder to track. All the foster care cases for Sioux County have been transferred to a state unit, effective Feb 1st. Spending a lot of time with questions they have about Sioux's Cases and explaining the tribal process. I'm averaging about 35 visits a month right now. This is only possible because video calls are allowed during the COVID pandemic. When we go back to face-to-face visits, this will require traveling out to see foster children and I'm not sure how we are going to cover all of those visits. Even now some workers are doing their own visits, or I wouldn't be able to get 60 visits in every month.
- Tribal CPS director, their licensed SW and business manager resigned from their positions earlier this month. Jerald Thompson, who is the Child Support director, has been made the interment director until a new one is hired. Dennis and Vince met with Jerald yesterday, to discuss what we are doing, if there was anyone else that could provide assistance and some suggestions that might help them manage the workload better. They discuss other funding sources for a better cash flow. There is a program,

targeted case management, which can have a reimbursement rate of about \$80 an hour. Vince forwarded Jerald some information regarding this program. The plan is to have monthly meetings to assess areas the zone could provide some assistance.

Morton County

Brenda Peterson

- Applications as of 2/ 14/21
 - TANF – 9
 - SNAP – 39
 - Medicaid – 50
 - Child Care – 5
 - GA Burials – 0
- Applications are dropping off
- More LIHEAP applications during the cold spell
- There were some power shut offs during the cold spell
- Joann Jochim is retiring
- Currently have 2 interns from BSC – they seem to be working out
- Cases are up from 2020 – 2844 in 2020 – 2905 in 2905

Jenny Wetsch – Child Protection

- 74 total cases
 - 17 Administratively Assessed
 - 7 Administrative Referrals
 - 10 Assessment Terminated in Progress
- Grant County – 0
- Sioux County 0
- Alternative Response Cases – 0
- CSB cases – 1
- Prenatal Exposure – 0
- Courtesy Interviews – 0
- Numbers of assigned cases are up
- Cases are coming through central intake

Natalie Anderson – Foster Care

- 87 cases
- 68 Foster Care
 - 26 in foster homes
 - 8 in group care
 - 34 in relative care
- 9 total staff and 2 parent aids
- It would be good to get parent aids involved sooner
- Foster home report
 - General – 30
 - Relicensing – 4
 - In process – 10
 - New inquires – 4
 - Kinship/ICPC/Guardianship Home Studies – 4
- Experiencing growing pains
- Staff is feeling incompetent
- Staff need to wade through tough times
- Feel that staff is being set up to fail
- Change takes time
- Staff are on a high learning curve

- Natalie has support from her field specialist

Human Service Zone Roles (Handout)

- Clarifies the roles of the state and county board
- No comments

Zone Supervisor for Zone Eligibility Units

- Dennis is asking for a supervisor for eligibility workers in all 3 counties
- Current job duties would not change
- Hire someone that is currently employed in the zone
- Comments from the board
 - Why would we do this when we can't fill positions currently open
 - The board would like to see a job description
 - Vince commented that you cannot know all the aspects of eligibility
 - Vince thinks a supervisor is needed
 - Supervisor would supervise 15 workers
 - Do we have staff that can take over the supervisors duties if hired?
 - Don't want the zone to become too top heavy in administration
- Need to work on the organizational chart at the March meeting

Review of Child Welfare Changes, Processes, Responsibilities and Overview of THRSZ Implementation

- Centralized intake
 - Getting more cases
 - Only gather information by intake
 - 80-100 calls/day
 - Working out the bugs
 - Law enforcement does not like central intake – no local contact
 - More in-depth questions asked
 - Very time consuming
 - Shortened time frame
 - Need to see kids under 5 sooner and more frequent
 - Trying to balance caseloads – experienced staff are looking for different jobs because of stress
 - Child Protection has a high burn-out rate
 - Does the board need to be advocates for our workers?

Other:

- 2 positions in Grant County
 - Lisa Hanson's position will be filled
 - Jessica Beck's position will be reclassified to a Family Service Specialist and filled
 - Supervision part of Jessica's job will not be handled by the Family Service Specialist
- Agenda item for March meeting
 - Organizational Chart

Ron moved to adjourn the meeting seconded by Edgar. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: March 18, 2021 —10 AM, Mandan