

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

Meeting Call to Order:

- Dennis called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM

Roll Call:

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

Absent: Dawson Holle,

Carson: Absent: Marty Meyer, Gerard Kraft

Fort Yates: Absent: Ken Snider, John Pretty Bear

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

Approval of Agenda

- Jackie Buckley requested amending the agenda to include the Great Plains Food Bank regarding philanthropy.
- Moved by Jackie Buckley to approve the amended agenda seconded by Lori Flaten. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of November 20, 2025

- Moved by Rosemary Lawson to approve the minutes from November 20, 2025, seconded by Heidi Peltz. All in favor. Motion carried.

Review and Approval of December 2025 Bills:

- Lori Flaten and Jackie Buckley came early to review the bills.
- Discussed year end purchases, per diem for meals, several funerals and approval to get household pets vaccinations. Dennis explained the pet vaccinations were a requirement for relatives to become licensed foster parents for children under the custody of the zone.
- 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 (Online)	Y
Marty Meyer	A	A
Gerard Kraft	A	A
Ken Snider	A	A
John Pretty Bear	A	A
Dennis Meier	P	Y

Karen Rohr	P (Online)	Y
Dawson Holle	A	A

Budget Review

- Dennis went over October Financials. We are under budget and it looks good for the end of the year. We have begun to make end of year purchases.

Vince Gillette- Three Rivers Human Service Zone Tribal Liaison Report

- The state has hired Two Tribal Liaisons. They have asked Vince to help with training and to do ride-a-longs with them for a while. One area they may have difficulty is adjusting to the complex layers within tribal government.
- There are approximately 50-60 SRST foster children placed in ND foster homes that Vince helps to facilitate visits.
- Standing Rock currently has 37 ND IV-E cases and SD IV-E cases combined in ND Foster Homes.
- The Tribe has approximately 125+ kids in foster care, but he doesn't know where they are all placed as they will not share that information. 25 of these placements are SD IV-E placements in paid ND Foster Care, 16 ND Tribal IV-E children and 16 IV-E placements with relatives.
- Vince spends a lot of time dealing with Medicaid payment issues for both ND and SD Foster children.
- ND Tribes FMAP for new fiscal year 2026 rates have been released and new contracts being sent out. Tribe gets approximately 83% reimbursed.
- Keeping the Culture Alive class will have the third class at the Mandan Library tonight from 6-8 pm. The November presenter was Dakota Wind GoodHouse, professor at UTTC, who presented on story telling. He told the story of Devils Tower from a tribal perspective and two tribal creation stories in shorter versions. There were 29 people in attendance. He was very well received.
- Vince continues to track the Indirect Expenses for Fort Yates for Jodie Leier to report to the state.
- Vince did 11 Foster Care visits for SRST, and 2 F2F for TRHSZ. Three were in Garrison.
- Vince continues to work on the project of updating the TCM (Targeted Case Management Billing). So far this year Three Rivers has been reimbursed \$98,648.00
- We have been shorthanded in the foster care side, so he is helping with visits and transportation.

-Jackie mentioned there is a cultural coordinator at the school. She was wondering if they could work together to expand the cultural activities.

-Karen requested clarification on the Medicaid reimbursements for SD kids placed in ND and how Medicaid is changed. Vince explained if they are in ND they become ND Medicaid, if they go back to SD, it will be paid by SD. FC payments are still paid by SD, but the Medicaid becomes a ND case.

Mandy Garrett – Income Maintenance/Eligibility Supervisor

Three Rivers Zone Office Information

- Current Openings: None
- Medicaid
 - Total Households: November 2025 – 4175
 - Total Individuals: November 2025 – 7026
 - Total Benefits: N/A

- SNAP
 - Total Households: November 2025 - 1533
 - Total Individuals: November 2025 - 3396
 - Total Benefits Paid: \$604.1K
- LIHEAP
 - Total Households: November 2025 – 418
 - Total Individuals: November 2025 – 979
 - Total Benefits: \$42.0K
- TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)
 - Total Households: November 2025 – 78
 - Total Individuals: November 2025 – 184
 - Total Benefits: \$52K
- Childcare Assistance Program
 - Total Households: November 2025 - 145
 - Total Individuals: November 2025 – 461
 - Total Benefits: \$223.5K
- Call Center Stats
 - Total Calls Received: November 2025 – 18,368
 - Answered Calls: November 2025 – 14,753
 - Abandoned Calls: November 2025 – 2,933
 - Average Wait Time: November 2025 – 5 minutes
 - Average Talk Time: November 2025 – 9 minutes
- Swim Lanes
 - Currently 3 weeks behind.
- Support Specialists (Statewide)
 - Nothing to report. There is no backlog.
- Call Center Information
 - Nothing to report.
- Foot traffic in the three offices has been monitored since May 2024.
 - Sioux County 143 in November.
 - Grant County 27 in November.
 - Morton County 324 in November.

Jenny Wetsch – Child Protection

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

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

- Dakota Central/South Country took 9 cases in November.
- Dakota Central will meet to determine assistance in January.
- One worker did 3 removals in the last week. Our help has been taking 4 cases a week and all are assigned by the end of Monday.
- We re-opened the CPS position, and it closed again with only 1 app this time.

Tracy Mertz-Foster Care/In Home

- See the attached statistical information which was presented during the meeting.
- Currently we have 68 cases.
 - 57 Foster Care (counted by child)
 - 11 In-Home Cases, ICPC, Courtesy Case Management & Home Study's
 - 34 Foster Homes/PATH
 - 5 QRTP/PRTF (1 DD GH)
 - 9 Relative Care
 - 9-18+ (We just had one child complete the whole program and age out).
 - 0-YCC

Child Welfare Unit Updates

- Meghan Mitchell provided stats for the visits in October and November. 98% of the visits were made on her case lists.
- We are trying to do more in the residence. (In home visits are up to 81%)
- Overall visits have gone up from 97 to 98 and 68 to 81.
- Vince is going to Bottineau this week with Dennis to deliver gifts.
- Basin Electric, Abate and the County does the gift drive for the kids.
- Burleigh is fully staffed, but in training.
- Roughrider is also fully staffed, but in training.
- We got a case of a family from NH, but we are trying to get records from there.
- HB1095-we met on the mandatory school liaison bill. We met with whatever districts were willing and could meet and documented those that were not interested in meeting.
- Mandan schools will be meeting with us in January.
- Monique Gladue in CW has a couple of cases and jumped right in.

Eligibility Updates

- New apps for Childcare have been placed on a wait list.
 - Priority is for the homeless or economically challenged
 - Medicaid Apps are 90-day retro while childcare will go 30-day retro once approved.
- There are 5 call center positions open across the state.
- For SNAP New rules are being put in place for purchasing soda, energy drinks, chips, no cake mixes or basic baking mixes, candy, no chocolate or flavored baking chips, no trail mixes with candy pieces, etc.
- The reservations have separate programs that duplicate federal programs and you can't be on both at the same time.

Zone Director Updates

- We did interview for the DCA I position in the Carson office. An offer was made to Carmen Taylor who will begin FT on January 30. Cheryl Dix from Hettinger will be doing the supervision and training.

Other:

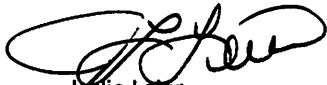
- Grace Renner from the Great Plains Food Bank had approached Jackie Buckley regarding the Harvesting Hope Food Bank in Sioux County. Vince is going to be on the committee and is set to meet in the week of February 23. Hopefully, this meeting will be in person. She had mentioned doing a capital campaign.
- Discussion was held on the food banks in the Ft Yates area and what to do with the excess food boxes that went to the Ft Yates office.

Adjourn:

- Moved by Jackie Buckley, seconded by Heidi Peltz to adjourn the meeting at 11:06 AM. All in favor.
Motion carried.

Next Meeting January 15, 2026 – 10 AM, Mandan

Respectfully Submitted,



Jodie Leter

Fiscal Services

Three Rivers Human Service Zone