

**Three Rivers Human Service Zone Board
Meeting Minutes
Three Rivers Human Services Board Room
Mandan
210 2nd Ave NW
February 19, 2026**

Meeting Call to Order:

- Ken Snider called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM

Roll Call:

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

Absent: Karen Rohr

Carson: Marty Meyer (Phone), Gerard Kraft (Phone)

Absent:

Fort Yates: Ken Snider

Absent: John Pretty Bear

Others Present: Jodie Leier (online), Jenny Wetsch, Tracy Mertz, Vince Gillette, David Phillips (Bakke Grinolds Wiederholt Law Firm), Kristi Hastings (3rd Party Investigator Pemberton Law Firm), Josh Scherr and Wendy Bent

Approval of Agenda

- Moved by Heidi Peltz to approve the agenda as amended seconded by Lori Flaten. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of January 15, 2026

- Moved by Lori Flaten to approve the minutes from January 15, 2026, seconded by Rosemary Lawson. All in favor. Motion carried.

Grievance/Complaint of Misconduct by Josh & Nicole Scherr against TRHSZ and Staff.

- Board Members, Dennis Meier and Lori Flaten recused due to conflict of interest
- Attorney David Phillips representing TRHSZ explained the hearing process and proceeded to disclose the findings of the investigation carried out by Kristi Hastings.
 - 6 allegations of misconduct were made against zone employees by Scherr's.
 - The investigation revealed there was no evidence that supported any of the allegations of misconduct.
 - A recommendation was made by the investigator for TRHSZ staff to review the policy for removal of children from foster homes to make the emotional transition easier for all involved.
 - Mr. Scherr was given the opportunity to provide a statement to the board.
 - Jackie Buckley made a motion to accept the findings and dismiss the complaint/grievance.
 - Heidi Peltz provided the second.
 - Roll call vote was held Ken Snider, Jackie Buckley, Dawson Holle, Gerard Kraft, Marty Meier, Rosemary Lawson voting yes.
- The individuals involved with the complaint left the proceedings and Ken Snider turned the meeting back over to Dennis Meier to chair.

Review and Approval of January 2026 Bills:

- Lori Flaten came early to review the bills.
- Moved by Ken Snider, 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 (Phone)	Y
Heidi Peltz	P	Y
Marty Meyer	P (Phone)	Y
Gerard Kraft	P (phone)	Y
Ken Snider	P	Y
John Pretty Bear	A	A
Dennis Meier	P	Y
Karen Rohr	A	A
Dawson Holle	P(Online)	Y

Budget Review

- Dennis shared the year end financials. The financials came in at 7% under budget.
- Ken Snider moved to accept the year end budget with Jackie Buckley providing the second. All were in favor and motion carried.

Vince Gillette- Three Rivers Human Service Zone Tribal Liaison Report

- There are approximately 50-60 SRST foster children placed in ND foster homes that Vince helps to facilitate visits.
- 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, 39 ND Tribal IV-E children and 16 IV-E placements with relatives.
- Vince continues to spend a lot of time addressing 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 to be signed and returned.
- The state has hired two more tribal Liaisons. One will do what Vince does for reimbursements and other tribal interactions, with the other focusing on case management. These are evolving positions.
- Keeping the Culture Alive class for January 22 was postponed due to the weather. The next class at the at the Mandan Library will be on February 26, 2026, from 6-8 pm. John Eagle, Sr from the Native American Graves Protection Repatriation Act Specialist for the ND State Historical Society will be presenting. He is working on the project to revive the lineage of Sitting Bull's horses.
- Vince continues to track the Indirect Expenses for Fort Yates for Jodie Leier to report to the state. The Ft Yates office will be moving in March or April to the old Extension Office Building, so the rent may increase.
- Vince did 7 Foster Care visits for SRST.
- Vince continues to work on the project of updating the TCM (Targeted Case Management Billing). He is still working on getting the TCM for Turtle Mountain started. They have 10 staff that would meet the qualifications to bill Medicaid right now.

- Vince has provided additional visits for other zones regarding children placed in our area when their staff are unable to make visits. Currently, there is a Pembina case with a child housed in Burleigh County. Burleigh is unable to assist so Vince is taking responsibility for those visits.
- Vince acknowledged Dawson Holle from TRHSZ Board for giving an address during the Pow Wow at the Civic Center.

Mandy Garrett – Income Maintenance/Eligibility Supervisor (report shared by Dennis Meier)

Three Rivers Zone Office Information

- Current Openings: None
- Medicaid
 - Total Households: January 2026 – 4146
 - Total Individuals: January 2026 – 6939
 - Total Benefits: N/A
- SNAP
 - Total Households: January 2026 - 1533
 - Total Individuals: January 2026 - 3396
 - Total Benefits Paid: \$566.6K
- LIHEAP
 - Total Households: January 2026 – 799
 - Total Individuals: January 2026 – 2047
 - Total Benefits: \$64.3K
- TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)
 - Total Households: January 2026 – 87
 - Total Individuals: January 2026 – 367
 - Total Benefits: \$52.6K
- Childcare Assistance Program
 - Total Households: January 2026 - 233
 - Total Individuals: January 2026 – 873
 - Total Benefits: \$156.3K
- Call Center Stats
 - Total Calls Received: January 2026 – 30,192
 - Answered Calls: January 2026 – 15,869
 - Abandoned Calls: January 2026 – 12,463
 - Average Wait Time: January 2026 – 17 minutes
 - Average Talk Time: January 2026 – 9 minutes
- HRCC Outreach Stats
 - # of Staff Attended: January 2026 - 3
 - # of Inmates Seen: January 2026 - 14
 - # of MA Apps Completed: January 2026 - 8
 - # of Change Reports: January 2026 – 8
 - # of SNAP apps completed: January 2026 - 0
- Swim Lanes
 - Group 1 backlog: 4,595 work items (as of 2/10/26)
 - Group 2/3 backlog: 9,783 work items (data as of 2/10/2026)

- Group 4 backlog: 572 work items (as of 2/10/26)
- Support Specialists (Statewide)
 - No data
- Call Center Information
 - Starting to get a lot of calls about work not being processed timely-highest wait time noted in December was 1 hour and 28 minutes.
- Foot traffic in the three offices has been monitored since May 2024.
 - Sioux County 222 in January
 - Grant County 34 in January
 - Morton County 347 in January
- 2025 ND State Payment Error rate is 9.79% with no current data available.
 - States with error rates above 6% will be required to cover between 0-15% of benefit costs.

Ken Snider expressed concerns over the service of the call center and the swim lanes being so far behind.

Jenny Wetsch – Child Protection

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

- 84 total reports in January: 1 Report in Grant County and 0 Reports for Sioux County.
 - 34 assigned as Full.
 - 0 ATP Assessments.
 - 50 Administratively Assessed or Administrative Referrals.
 - 0 Alt Response.
 - 2 Substance Exposed Infant (SEI).
 - 3 Child Sex Cases
 - 0 Prenatal Drug/Alcohol Cases
 - 0 Courtesy Interview Requests from other zones/1 Law Enforcement
 - 0 Conflict cases for another Zone
- Dakota Central/South Country took 11 cases in January. These cases are not reflected in our numbers.
- We are fully staffed in the CPS Unit.
- One worker will be going on maternity leave in April and Dakota Central may be able to help us again.
- We are looking at bringing Holly Hammarsten back as a temp for the summer again if approved to help cover for the maternity leave. She has stated she would be willing to come back to assist.

Tracy Mertz-Foster Care/In Home

- See the attached statistical information which was presented during the meeting.
- Currently we have 80 cases.
 - 63 Foster Care (counted by child)
 - 17 In-Home Cases, ICPC, Courtesy Case Management & Home Study's
 - 40 Foster Homes/PATH
 - 5 QRTP/PRTF (1 DD GH)
 - 11 Relative Care
 - 7-18+

- 0-YCC
- There are currently approximately 1500-1600 kids in the state of ND in care.

Child Welfare Unit Updates

- We have hired Keyona Gonzalez who will be returning to the Foster Care Unit on March 16.

Eligibility Updates

- No new information at the time of this meeting.

Zone Director Updates

- No new information at the time of this meeting

Other:

Adjourn:

- Moved by Ken Snider, seconded by Lori Flaten to adjourn the meeting at 11:33 AM. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting March 19, 2026 – 10 AM, Mandan

Respectfully Submitted,



Jodie Leier

Fiscal Services

Three Rivers Human Service Zone