

**TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2016**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD**

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)  
COUNTY OF DODGE)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE  
MANTORVILLE, MN**

**2016-10 C.O.W.**

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole May 24, 2016, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Government Services Building, Mantorville, MN, at 4:30 p.m. CDT. Chair Steven Gray opened the meeting at 4:38 p.m. CDT.

Meeting Convened

The Chair acknowledged those present:

Those Present

Members present:	Tim Tjosaas	District #2
	Rodney Peterson	District #3
	David Erickson	District #4
	Steven Gray	District #5
Members absent:	John Allen	District #1
Also present:	Paul Kiltinen	County Attorney
	Lisa Kramer	Finance Director
	Becky Lubahn	Deputy Clerk

South Central Human Relations Center (SCHRC) Executive Director Carolyn Wheeler provided the Board with a South Central Human Relations Center annual update.

SCHRC Annual Update

MNPrairie Adult & Disability Services Program Manager Charity Floen was available to comment on the update.

Ms. Wheeler shared the following overview of SCHRC which has offices in Owatonna, Kasson and Waseca:

SCHRC has been operating as a community mental health center serving residents of Steele County and Dodge County since 1964. SCHRC is incorporated as a private nonprofit organization within the state of Minnesota. SCHRC has contracted with Steele County, Dodge County, and Waseca County to provide an array of mental health services. SCHRC employs psychiatrists, clinical nurse specialists, psychologists, clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, case management staff, community support staff, nurses, and vocational specialists. SCHRC provides a full continuum of mental health services within Steele County. SCHRC operates on funding from state grants, county grants, private insurances, Medical Assistance, Medicare, and other forms of third-party payments. These payments are accepted for most services. Residents of Steele County are eligible for a sliding fee scale and no resident is turned away due to inability to pay. Community mental health centers historically have met the mental health needs of their communities and have a special mission to provide services to the severely mentally ill and indigent populations.

Mission: South Central Human Relations Center provides comprehensive behavioral health solutions that are effective and client-centered. They promote hope, wellness and quality of life, encouraging individual success in management of health conditions.



Annual Clients Served: 3,500  
Staff members: 130  
Service Locations: 15 in 3 counties

SCHRC Annual  
Update - Continued

South Central Human Relations Center presently provides a wide array of mental health services. These services include:

1. **Outpatient Clinical Services with mental health professionals** – psychiatrists, social workers, psychologists, and marriage and family therapists.
2. **Dual Recovery Program** – This program treats adults and adolescents who have a substance abuse problem and a co-occurring diagnosable mental illness. This program is available at their main building and at the Steele County Detention Center and reflects the latest research in the area of chemical dependency treatment.
3. **Dissolution and Custody Services** – This program offers classes for parents who are in the process of divorce.
4. **Safe Harbour** – This program is an intensive residential treatment program providing services for adults with serious and persistent mental illness. In January 2012 Safe Harbour relocated to a 12 bed facility that includes two Crisis Beds.
5. **Adult Mental Health Case Management** – This program provides case managers who manage the continuum of care for individuals with a serious and persistent mental illness.
6. **Children’s Mental Health Case Management** – This program employs several children’s case managers that provide management of services for children with a serious emotional disturbance, as well as providing assistance for families.
7. **Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services** – This program provides groups and individual services within the community to adults who suffer from a serious and persistent mental illness. These programs enable adults to function independently and remain within the community setting in a least restrictive environment.
8. **Assertive Community Treatment Team** – This team provides an intensive service to adults with a serious and persistent mental illness. The symptoms are such that they require near-daily contact and management in order to assist these adults to remain within their community setting.
9. **Project Home** – This program is funded through a grant and serves persons who are homeless within a five-county area.
10. **SAGE Center** – This program provides a clubhouse environment and programming for persons with serious and persistent mental illnesses. This program is funded, in part, by a grant through the United Way.
11. **Youngdahl Living** – This is a 16 bed board and lodge and rental apartment complex in Owatonna that opened in January 2012. It offers permanent supportive housing for single adults who have homelessness, and mental illness. It has complex funding streams and was under development for four years.

SCHRC Annual  
Update - Continued

12. **In-Reach Program** – This program employs one full time licensed social worker to conduct systems care coordination services. The program focuses on reducing unnecessary use of the emergency department and connections with services for frequent users of the emergency department. This program also serves the hospital's birth center. The worker is housed at the Owatonna Hospital and the program is funded by Steele County, South Country Health Alliance, and will soon be a Medicaid billable service.
13. **Special Needs Basic Care Coordination** – This program employs one full-time Registered Nurse who coordinates medical care for members of the county-based purchasing health plan South Country Health Alliance. This program is funded by South Country Health Alliance.
14. **Genoa Pharmacy** – SCHRC hosts a site for this pharmacy service at the Florence Avenue location in Owatonna. This was added in October of 2013 and a pharmacist and pharmacy tech fill prescriptions for clients of SCHRC. Many of our clients have multiple medications to manage. The pharmacy can fill meds weekly, twice weekly or monthly. This helps their clients who have changing prescriptions or trouble with med adherence.

SCHRC demonstrated its ability to be a successful collaborator with other organizations, some involving grants, but all intended to improve the quality of life for their clients. For example:

South Central Human Relations Center collaborates closely with MNPrairie County Alliance. SCHRC participates in the Steele County Children's Mental Health Collaborative, attends child protection meetings, and meets regularly with the Human Services Director to evaluate mental health needs and services. SCHRC works closely with Court Services, Public Health, and the Owatonna School District. Recent programs added include: Systems Care Coordinator position, as a result of collaboration with Allina Hospital, South Country Health Alliance, and Steele County. In 2012, the CARE Program of SCHRC worked in collaboration with Steele County Transitional housing and Steele County Detention Center. Together, they worked on receiving funding for housing ex-offenders through the Otto Bremer Grant. In 2013 SCHRC was engaged in conversations with Steele County Public Health about closer coordination around medication management services for clients with mental health needs. For 2013 – 2015, SCHRC has been part of Integrated Care meetings with staff from the Owatonna Hospital Emergency Department, Mental Health Unit, Mayo Clinic-Owatonna, Steele County Human Services to plan for improvements in the local system of care for those with mental health, chemical health concerns. In 2013 SCHRC and the 10 counties of SE MN wrote a successful grant for expansion of mobile crisis services for adults and children; in 2015 SCHRC continues to work with Steele County and the other nine counties to implement the grant, and is one of the three Community Mental Health Centers in Southern Minnesota that will expand the Mobile Crisis Response teams. SCHRC developed Youngdahl Living Center in 2012, in partnership with Steele County and the other nine CREST counties, Owatonna HRA, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. Of the 16 units of permanent supportive housing in the facility, most are filled by Steele County residents. In 2015 they enter their fourth year of service. Since 2013 they have participated on the Health Committee of the Steele County United Way Strategic Planning Initiative.

Since 2013 SCHRC has had active membership on the Steele-Waseca Drug Court, Executive and Education Committees. Since late 2014, they have been working with the Owatonna Hospital to add a Mental Health Professional in the Emergency Department during the work day. They have partnered with Northgate Apartment developers to provide supportive services to four apartment units for long-term homeless individuals. The complex should be completed in 2016.

SCHRC Annual Update - Continued

Also for 2015 they have started the following partnerships: Outpatient therapist to the Center Clinic in Dodge Center twice monthly, a School Linked Mental Health therapist in all school sites of the Kasson-Mantorville School District, at Blooming Prairie School District, and a Family Parenting Worker with a grant from South Country Health Alliance in partnership with MN Prairie County Alliance.

In 2016 they completed an Agreement with Steele County Administration and Detention Center to restart a Substance Abuse Program at the jail. SCHRC started Youngdahl COMMUNITY Living, a scattered site housing and services program for adults with long term homelessness. After becoming certified to deliver Children's Therapeutic Services and Supports, they are hiring staff in Spring 2016. SCHRC staff participates in the Steele-Waseca Drug Court, Steele County Truancy Court and Domestic Violence Task Force, as well as the Children's Justice Initiative in Dodge County.

Ms. Wheeler discussed the Rule 29 Agreement between SCHRC and Dodge County. The agreement is one of their corporate documents being updated, along with the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation and will eventually require Board action to ratify. The agreement has already been reviewed by former County Administrator Jim Elmquist, prior to his departure, and County Attorney Paul Kiltinen.

Commissioner Allen arrived at the meeting.

Commissioner Allen Arrived

The SCHRC Executive Director briefly discussed new services for 2015-2016.

SCHRC Annual Update - Continued

Ms. Wheeler informed the Board a Mental Health Expo was held on Saturday, May 21, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Faith Lutheran Church in Dodge Center.

Breakout sessions were listed as follows:

- Triton School District – Social Worker – School and Mental Health
- Mental Health Resources and Crisis Response Project (Carolyn Wheeler and Tim Hunter)
- Bluestem Center – Child/Adolescent and Family
- NAMI Southeast Minnesota – Mental Health 101

It was pointed out that May is mental health awareness month.

The SCHRC Executive Director shared the following information regarding Crisis Response for Southeast Minnesota:

WHAT THEY DO

- They assess current state and risk
- They provide intervention services including acute stress management
- 24 hour call center provided by Canvas Health
- Crisis Response mobile teams available 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 a.m. Monday through Friday
- 24 hours weekends and Holidays
- Ten counties including their rural areas
- Three Hub model
- Two Practitioners respond face to face for moderate/low risk cases
- One Professional available by phone

2015 NUMBERS

- Four hundred fifteen callers have used the services so far since August
- Majority of callers identified as having a crisis related to their mental health
- Relationship troubles was a distant second
- Two hundred forty-eight calls were self-referrals
- Thirty-seven mobile teams have been dispatched
- Most common users of the service
  - Females
  - 36-54
  - Caucasian

SCHRC Annual Update - Continued

Commissioner Erickson wanted to know if SCHRC works with mental health issues in the jail.

Ms. Wheeler reported Steele County has a contract with ACA for mental health care in the jail and that staff is available to do assessments and referrals for individuals in jail. The Executive Director stated this type of program has not been available in the jail for three years.

The SCHRC Executive Director commented the Care Program is also available to assist inmates as needed.

Commissioner Erickson inquired as to whether SCHRC staff was located in MNPrairie.

Charity Floen reported there are five SCHRC staff members in Steele County and three in Dodge County.

Ms. Wheeler noted this model was developed long ago and works well within the counties.

Discussion took place regarding how MNPrairie and SCHRC are interlaced and how they differ. The two entities work together as needed and overlap as needed to provide a safety net for their clients.

The SCHRC Executive Director noted the two organizations have good synergy.

Ms. Floen reported the two entities are intertwined in a lot of areas.

The Board thanked Ms. Wheeler and Ms. Floen for the update.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m. CDT.

Meeting Adjourned

**ATTEST:**

---

**STEVEN GRAY  
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD**

---

**BECKY LUBAHN  
DEPUTY CLERK**

---

**DATED:**