

RSR Human Service Zone Board Meeting

RSR Human Service Zone Board met at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, July 28, 2026. This meeting was held at Milnor Fire District and by teleconference over TEAMS. The Board members present were Valerie Nelson, Connie Gilbert, Wayne Ulven, Tammy Metzen, Brenda Wykoff, Becky Devries, Lyle Bopp and Lynn Flieth. Also attending were Auditors Bopp and Fossum.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00pm by Lynn Flieth, Director. A motion to approve the minutes of the June meeting by Lyle Bopp; seconded by Tammy Metzen. All in favor. Motion carried.

Monthly Expenditures – Wayne Ulven made a motion, seconded by Lyle Bopp, to approve the summary of July bills. Motion carried.

Financial report through June - Revenue is 101.55% and Expenses are 50.26%. Connie Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Tammy Metzen, to approve July financial report. All in favor. Motion carried.

Items for Review – Discussion – Decision:

a. Agency Updates

- i. Ransom County Board Member Appointment: Tammy Metzen has been formally appointed as a representative from Ransom County to the RSR Zone Board.
- ii. Personnel Update: Tim Peterson has started as a Child Protection worker, primarily covering Sargent and Ransom counties. He will be spending time in the Richland office during his initial onboarding and training. Kaitlyn Diegel will move from her current position as a Direct Care Associate, to the Administrative Assistant position in the Sargent County office. Interviews for her position are scheduled. There is still a CHINS vacancy in the Bismarck region.
- iii. Economic Assistance updates: All EW's statewide have been working mandatory overtime starting May 28th. They have a minimum of 8 hours required, with a maximum of 12 hours allowed to be worked. There will be a pause in early August to review progress and determine if mandatory overtime will continue. There has been increased focus on processing items timely with reporting to the state on overdue items, as well as causes.
- iv. Review of 2026 Formula Payments: An overview of the 2nd half formula and indirect cost payments to each county were reviewed.
- v. 2027 Budget review/reduction instructions: The Director reviewed the proposed 2027 budget, which was an overall increase of 1.5% from the 2026 budget. Zones were directed to make 3% reductions. (it is not clear if this was individual zones, or 'zones' collectively.) A review of the RSR budget in conjunction with HHS fiscal, did not yield the ability to decrease a full 3%. There has not been any final approval from HHS on the 2027 budgets yet.

b. Misc:

- **Commissioner updates:**
 - i. Ransom County winter storm closures were discussed. Kirsten Gilbert, Ransom County Emergency Manager, indicated the courthouse is not likely to close due to winter weather. The local expectation is that staff report to work or take Annual Leave.
- The Director shared with the Board statewide information pertaining to the CPS Liaison meetings between schools and zones, as mandated by last legislative session. Locally these meetings occurred throughout the last school year and are scheduled to continue on a regular basis going forward.

Date of the next meeting: August 25, 2026. Meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm.



Chair