



A Community Mental Health / Developmental Disabilities / Addictive Diseases Program

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**NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

October 11, 2021 Via Teleconference

Members Present: David Ranieri, Edwina Turner, Damon Hoyte,
Sandra Gill, Nancy Schroeder, Joseph Williams,
LaVerne Chaffin, and Karen Johnson

Members Excused: April Hughes, Ed Harbison,
Linda McElroy, and Sherrell Terry

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Valerie Bowden, Denise Wade,
Susan Gallagher, Cyndy Pattillo, and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m. A quorum was established at that time. Board Chair David Ranieri welcomed Board members and staff.

Today's meeting was originally scheduled as an in-person/teleconference option per Board approval. Due to DBHDD and GACSB having recent cancellations of trainings and conferences and with Covid numbers increasing in many areas, it was decided that today's meeting would be a teleconference call and, in accordance with the GACSB rules, will be recorded. Board members were notified of the change and it was announced upon dialing in to the call that the meeting would be recorded. A decision will be made about the December Board meeting at a later date. Molly did a roll call of Board members and staff participating on the call.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING: No guests were in attendance at today's meeting.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of September 13, 2021 minutes):** M/S/P Joseph Williams/Edwina Turner to approve the minutes of September 13, 2021 meeting, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Valerie reported New Horizons had a surplus of \$14,456 for the month of August compared to a budget of \$32,703. This brings the year to date surplus to \$37,400 compared to a year to date budget of \$54,635. There were no unusual items in August. We continue to receive only GIA FFS payments for services that we bill for versus receiving 1/12 of our GIA FFS allocated funds each month, which has greatly reduced our monthly revenue. And, there are no provisions for the DD waiver billing in the new fiscal year. Based on current activity, we projected what we would be billing for GIA FFS and DD Medicaid Waiver in order to ensure that we can meet our monthly expenses. So far, for the year, we are meeting the projected GIA FFS billing and DD Medicaid Waiver billing. Some of the programs are actually exceeding the projected GIA FFS billing activity as they work to increase attendance at programs.

We are now operating on a thin margin and continue to review programs to look at ways we can operate more efficiently and continue to increase our cash position and not decrease cash.

Days Cash on Hand at the end of September were 47.00 days.

***DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING GRANTS:** New Horizons has received two Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) grants through the Department of Community Affairs (DCA): PSH Support Services - \$25,282 and PSH Harm Reduction - \$40,000 and Board approval is required for the grants. M/S/P Joseph Williams/Damon Hoyte to approve the DCA grants, Board approved.

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER GRANT AWARD: With much excitement, Andrea announced that two weeks ago, around midnight, an email arrived announcing notice of award for an FY22 CMHC two year, SAMHSA, federally-funded grant in the amount of \$5,000,000. This is game changing, phenomenal news for the agency and our largest grant to date. The purpose of the funding is to return to providing services to those who were unable to receive services during the pandemic for various reasons. Andrea thanked Susan and the leadership team for their hard work in applying for the grant. Board Members gave a standing ovation and extended many congratulations for an outstanding job in securing this funding.

Susan indicated that New Horizons Behavioral Health is a DBHDD-recognized Community Mental Health Center providing services to persons with mental illness, developmental disabilities and/or addictive disease and the award of \$2.5 million per year over two years from SAMHSA should return our service level to pre-Covid numbers served. Over the past five years we have seen a steady increase in the numbers of children and adults served with SED, SMI and COD to include Veterans. However, there was a significant drop of 934 individuals served due to the Covid Pandemic in FY20 and an even bigger drop in FY21.

Eight other CSBs in Georgia were awarded this funding: Advantage, Aspire, DeKalb, Highland Rivers, Middle Georgia, Pineland, River Edge and Unison. CaringWorks, Inc. Decatur and Chris 180 Inc, Atlanta were two other Georgia entities that received the funding. 232 Community Mental Health Center Awards were made across the country.

Project “RECOVERY. RESILIENCY. RESTORATION.” will return SED, SMI and COD services to pre-pandemic levels using a combination of enhanced telehealth services, increased staffing, evidence-based practices, targeted outreach, cultural competencies and staff mental health wellness support to achieve this goal over the two-year project period. We will also enhance our IT Infrastructure to include our HR HMIS, training, credentialing and supervision systems.

Project “RECOVERY.RESILIENCY. RESTORATION.” will allow us to meet the needs, especially in rural west central Georgia, of timely access and availability of early intervention and treatment, especially for mental health disorders arising from the pandemic and worsening of pre-existing behavioral health conditions. The Project expands the availability of socially distanced in-person treatment as well as HIPAA-compliant Telehealth Services. The Project is designed to increase access and availability of medications, to include long-lasting injectables and medicated assisted treatment for opioid use disorders, and increase access to the Georgia Crisis and Access Line.

Our multi-faceted approach will restore the delivery of clinical services that were impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and effectively address the needs of individuals with SED, SMI and COD, especially minority populations and economically disadvantaged communities, within our geographic area.

Denise Wade McLeod has been identified as the Project Director. Susan Gallagher will work to ensure all reporting requirements, to include Multi-Year Progress reports, budget reports and financial reports, are submitted through the National Institute of Health eRA Commons reporting system, as required by SAMHSA.

As part of our reporting requirement to SAMHSA CMHS, we are required to perform a Baseline GPRN NOMS form on 500 individuals each year with a follow-up at 6 months and at discharge. We have budgeted (2) data entry personnel to assist with this process.

We are also required to report on our IPPs - Infrastructure Development, Prevention and Mental Health Promotion. IPPs cover 14 various categories from Policy Development to Workforce Development and Training to Awareness and Accessibility.

We have contracted with Columbus State University’s Center for Health Disparities to assist with the evaluation process of GPRN NOMS and IPPs as well as the overall goal of numbers served.

We are required to hire a Wellness Coordinator who focuses on staff wellness. This position will be housed in the Human Resources Department and assist with Employee Recognition and Training, as well as work with staff wellness and morale.

The largest part of the budget covers personnel costs for the project with \$1,979,791 proposed for salary and fringe benefits for 31 staff positions. We are awaiting CMHS approval of our final budget for Years 1 and 2.

Our Grant Project Officer is Asha Stanly and our Grants Management Specialist is Sherri Jones, both with CMHS. We have a required new grantee meeting via Zoom on October 13th at 1 PM.

FY21 PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT GOALS/OUTCOMES: The FY21 PI Report was sent to Board Members prior to the meeting for review. Cyndy indicated the report and number of goals has increased due to additional guidelines/requirements with the State (KPIs), CARF, and other agencies. The three main areas of focus are: Access, Efficiency, and Efficacy. Most goals were measured quarterly, which proved to be helpful during the ever changing and challenging pandemic. The pandemic also resulted in a number of goals being unmet and some will carry over to FY22. We continue to collect data and are working on finalizing goals for next year that will incorporate new goals related to CCBHC and the new grant.

***FY22 CLINICAL PLAN:** A copy of the FY22 plan was sent to Board members prior to the meeting for review. Denise reminded the Board that the plan is updated yearly with new census data, population served (decreased due to Covid-19), and changes in services. Telehealth services have increased due to Covid and this treatment option is expected to continue. Covid has also impacted revenue, attendance at programs, and created staff shortages. New contracts and services are outlined in the plan as are readiness efforts for CCBHC. Leadership, financial structure, collaborative efforts, and the transition from New Horizons pharmacy to Genoa Pharmacy are also described in the plan. M/S/P Damon Hoyte/Joseph Williams to approve the FY22 Clinical Plan, Board approved.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AUDIT/IDD SEP: Andrea reminded Board Members of the sheltered workshop programs we have operated at the Columbus Service Center and the Randolph-Clay Service Center. These programs gave our I/DD individuals the opportunity to work on-site packaging fishing lures, recycling, and cleaning plugs for Mead. Through a waiver, individuals were able to be employed and earn below minimum wage, which made the program affordable for the agency. The waiver expired in 2019 and, for a number of reasons, we were unable to renew the waiver. Operating the program without the waiver requires us to pay the individuals minimum wage, resulting in a loss for New Horizons. An audit by the Department of Labor has resulted in New Horizons being required to pay \$46,000 to approximately 22 individuals, the difference in what they were paid and the minimum wage total. Assisting them in handling the money in a way most beneficial to them without jeopardizing their benefits is of critical importance. Renewal of the waiver is on hold until the matter is resolved, but the direction for I/DD is for individuals to be employed in the community, not in sheltered workshop settings, and the Region 6 office is assisting in transitioning some of the individuals to outside community work environments. We hope to continue the recycling program in Randolph County, but are unsure about the other contracts we had for sheltered employment. Whether transportation could be provided for individuals for community jobs will depend on their needs and job coaches will be available to help during the transition. Updates will be provided to the Board as more information becomes available.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE: A copy of the final updated FY21 Strategic Plan was sent to Board Members prior to the meeting for review. The agency made good progress on most of the goals with the exception of a few goals that were greatly impacted by COVID. Many of these goals will be rolled over into the FY22 Strategic Plan and a few more items added.

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Susan reported on the following:

Development: New Horizons is submitting a Technical Proposal to DBHDD to become one of two state-certified CCBHCs in the state. If awarded, the Technical Proposal is a 2-year contract at \$2 million per year to provide CCBHC services. The Proposal is due via e-mail by 5 PM Wednesday, October 13th.

Marketing: City Councilman Pops Barnes has produced a 30-second spot promoting Integrated Healthcare with New Horizons Behavioral Health and Tree of Life Healthcare, Inc. The spot is airing on the NHBH Facebook Page and promotes our Outreach and Education Events that will be occurring each month at various recreation centers throughout the Community. The first event was held at the Shirley Winston Super Center on October 6th. We had no foot traffic at the event, but WTVM did come by and promote the event on the evening news. Participants included the West Central Georgia Cancer Coalition, the Sickle Cell Association of the Chattahoochee Valley and Georgia Strong Families and the Fatherhood Initiative. We may look at changing the events to the evenings if there is no foot traffic at the centers during the day. The next event is scheduled for Tuesday, November 2 at the Pop Austin Recreation Center on Alexander Street from 11 AM – 1 PM. Visit our Facebook Page or You Tube site to see the 30 second spot.

The Facebook Live on Mondays with Councilman Pops Barnes has resumed after a hiatus of a few months. A show was cancelled today due to the Columbus Day Holiday.

Community Relations: The Development Office works hard to promote community education opportunities. On Saturday, October 23, there is a presentation for volunteers and staff at the Sexual Assault Center at 909 on the Intersection of Intimate Partner Violence with Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Disorders. This is a regular quarterly training at the Center with typically about 10 people in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Andrea reported that Board Member Linda McElroy's mother is still in ICU at Piedmont Medical and our thoughts and prayers continue for her and her family. Molly's mother continues to improve from recent health concerns.

Andrea announced that New Horizons' PATH (Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) Team received the Regional Outstanding Behavioral Health Provider Award for Region 6. These awards recognize DBHDD providers that have demonstrated exceptional performance and service. The award was announced during the 2021 Behavioral Health Symposium held earlier this month. Kudos to the PATH Team !!

The National Council Hill Day at Home is October 19th.

Mental Health Day at the Capital, virtual edition, is scheduled for January 26, 2022.

The GACSB Annual Educational Exchange is November 7-9 at Legacy Lodge at Lake Lanier Islands, Georgia. Registration for Board Members and staff who plan to attend have been submitted and rooms reserved. Strategic planning will be held following the exchange November 9-10 with our Board Chair and CEO scheduled to attend.

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GACSB Strategic planning for 2022 is scheduled for April 25-27 and Commissioner Fitzgerald has been confirmed to speak.

Mr. Ranieri reminded Board members there is no Board meeting in November and indicated he hopes the December meeting will be in-person and include a special recognition for Pops Barnes acknowledging his dedication and support of New Horizons. Based on Covid data, a decision will be made prior to the meeting on whether it will be in-person and/or teleconference. He congratulated New Horizons' Leadership Team on the awesome five million dollar grant award and offered prayers and concern for Ms. McElroy's mother and Molly's mother.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were presented.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, M/S/P Joseph Williams/Damon Hoyte to adjourn the teleconference/meeting at 4:36 p.m., Board approved.

***EXECUTIVE SESSION:** M/S/P Joseph Williams,/Edwina Turner to go into Executive Session at 4:37 p.m., Board approved.

During the Executive session, a motion was made, M/S/P Joseph Williams/Sandra Gill, Board Approved, to establish a sub-committee of the Board to address the CEOs performance evaluation process and executive compensation package. Members to serve on the sub-committee are: Edwina Turner, Joseph Williams, and Karen Johnson. The committee will work with Valerie Bowden on its goals and objectives and will report back by February's Board meeting to make a recommendation to the Board for the CEO compensation package as well as performance evaluation process for the new year.

M/S/P Joseph Williams/Edwina Turner to adjourn the Executive Session at 5:00 p.m., Board approved.

David Ranieri
Chairperson