



A Community Mental Health / Developmental Disabilities / Addictive Diseases Program

*Administration
P.O. Box 5328
2100 Comer Avenue
Columbus, GA 31906*

*(706) 596-5588
FAX (706) 596-5589*

**NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2100 Comer Avenue – New Horizons Training Room
Columbus, GA 31906**

Date of Meeting: August 12, 2024

Members Present: Damon Hoyte, Edwina Turner, Terry Edwards,
April Hughes, Karen Johnson, LaVerne Chaffin,
Nancy Schroeder, Sandra Gill, and Linda McElroy

Members Excused: David Ranieri and Ed Harbison

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Susan Gallagher, Denise Wade McLeod,
Randall Newberry, Chloe Landreth, and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Damon Hoyte at 3:34 p.m. A quorum was not established at that time, but was established later in the meeting.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING: Board Members and staff welcomed Arcola Scott, Stewart County Commission Vice Chair, and New Horizons Behavioral Health staff members, Olympia Alexander, Sandy Jackson, JoAnn Mosley, and Amelia Copeland.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of May 13 and June 17, 2024 minutes):** M/S/P Sandra Gill/Terry Edwards to approve the minutes of May 13 and June 17, 2024, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Susan reported that June is our Fiscal Year End where we accrue financial information around accounts payable and accounts receivable. Information presented is unaudited information for FY24. June revenues demonstrate our continued difficulties around collections for billable services with Medicaid Waiver and Medicaid/Medicare Fees under the monthly targets. Our Grant-In-Aid, Federal Funds, and Contract Revenue collections are well above budget, offsetting the current 80% average billing collections rate. Year to Date our total actual revenue is above budget projections. Our unaudited loss for the fiscal year ending June 30 is \$1,090,555. Audit adjustments may cause this figure to change. We operated in FY24 as a CCBHC Provider with no corresponding CCBHC/PPS payment rate. DBHDD is very supportive of the CCBHC Model of Care and the 4 CSB candidates as we work together toward improving access to care for our communities. We anticipate receiving additional financial support from DBHDD in FY25 as the mechanisms are refined, defined, and implemented for Georgia to have a PPS payment rate.

Salaries and benefits were the largest contributing factors to our expense over budget variance. This demonstrates our move under CCBHC to ensure staff at all levels are paid competitive rates.

***NEW HORIZONS FY25 ANNUAL BUDGET:** The proposed FY25 Annual Budget of \$23,712,009, balanced between revenues and expenses with no support from Fund Reserves, was presented and discussed. Revenue assumptions include Medicaid Waiver Revenue remaining stable, despite the 5% IDD rate increase, Medicaid and GIA-FFS rates continuing to improve, and Contract and Grant-in-Aid revenue increasing. DBHDD is providing a CCBHC supplement of \$1,728,000 for the first 6 months of FY25. Expenditure assumptions indicate salaries will increase by 4% per the State mandated increase, benefits are projected at 38% of total payroll and opportunities exist for expense reduction for Contracted Labor. Building rent will increase due to inflation and expansion, and motor vehicle expenses should decrease. M/S/P Edwina Turner/Terry Edwards to approve the FY25 Annual Budget, Board approved.

CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER UPDATE: Andrea reported there are two main issues we are facing financially with CCBHC: 1) To operate CCBHC without the necessary funding, recoup losses, and be able to pay for CCBHC and, 2) the migration to our new EMR system and the need to increase revenue collection with anticipated waiver and behavioral health rate increases. We have reached out for enhanced technical assistance from the EMR vendor.

MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON HEALTH: Several New Horizons staff are participating on the Commission, founded by Mayor Skip Henderson, to develop a comprehensive program to improve the health of the people of Columbus and to reduce the incidence of both physical and mental health issues. The Commission has gained momentum over the past few months with the following community partners participating: United Way, Tree of Life Healthcare, Valley Healthcare The Bradley Center, MercyMed, Piedmont, Health Equity Navigator Program, St. Francis, DBHDD, Columbus Fire and EMS, and New Horizons Behavioral Health. Current goals of the Commission include information/data sharing between all partners, development of a means/platform that allows sharing of information/data, branding, supporting one another at community events, and addressing a high utilization group. A completed plan of action will be presented by the end of the year.

BACK TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: A number of New Horizons' staff have participated in Back to School events throughout our eight county service area. School supplies and notebooks were distributed in Harris, Stewart, Chattahoochee, Randolph, and Muscogee counties. Chloe added that additional school supplies are available to other counties for upcoming events during the school year,

RANDOLPH-CLAY SERVICE CENTER SUMMER FUN PROGRAMS: Sandy Jackson, along with Olympia Alexander, gave an overview of services offered at RCSC and shared highlights of the many community activities and outings that individuals have enjoyed over the summer. From visits to the Coca Cola Space Science Center and Columbus Museum, to arts and crafts, holiday cookouts, and an ice cream social, staff has ensured that those attending the program participate in and enjoy outings, activities, and fun. The care and compassion of the staff for the individuals was evident in their reporting and through pictures shared of the events. IDD Program Coordinator JoAnn Mosley commended the staff at RCSC and Program Director Mike Giglio for doing a great job.

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS: Chloe reported on outreach events attended recently including Back to School Bashes, Kingdom Faith Outreach Ministries Resource Fair, and Let's Connect Veterans Summit. Youth Mental Health First Aid training was held in June along with the kickoff for the Pops Barnes scholarship at CSU. FaceBook, Instagram, and Constant Contact outreach continue to increase and new Website traffic data shared. The Mobile Unit signage wrap is complete and the ribbon cutting date will be announced soon. Recovery on the River plans continue with 10 speakers confirmed, 4 food trucks, 12 vendors, 9 sponsors, an MC, and a conversation tent. Also in the works are a Columbus CEO video with John Burdeshaw to be posted on-line, a River Valley Regional Commission presentation, and development of marketing materials for our Hospital Liaison services.

PRESENTATION: TALBOT COUNTY BHFIT PROGRAM: Amelia Copeland, Program Director, reported on the Better Health & Fitness (BhFIT) program created through a partnership with Morehouse School of Medicine. Covering Talbot, Chattahoochee, Stewart, Randolph, Quitman, and Clay counties, the purpose of the program is to: Act as a resource for law enforcement to help distribute Narcan and administer Narcan training to help reverse opioid overdoses, implement Red Ribbon Week into the schools in each county, raise awareness about the opioid crisis, provide Peer Recovery (target area males 18-30), and connect with individuals who have substance use disorders to provide intake services. Accomplishments, since April of 2023, include distribution of Narcan to over 300 individuals, provided Narcan training to 120 individuals, implemented Red Ribbon week in Talbot County with goody bags, and door and essay contests. Future goals are to implement Red Ribbon week and Prevention Plus Curriculum in all 6 county schools, administer Narcan training in Quitman and Clay counties, and implement Peer Recovery in all counties. Amelia also presented information on Naloxone (the medicine in Narcan Nasal Spray) Training that illustrated signs of overdose, how to administer Narcan, rescue breathing steps, caring for someone after you give Narcan, and the top five drugs that cause overdoses (Fentanyl, Prescription Pain Relievers, Heroin, Cocaine, Methamphetamine). For additional information, other resources were also made available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Andrea shared a note from Columbus State University and the Barnes family for New Horizons' contribution to the Jerry "Pops" Barnes scholarship fund.

Board Member LaVerne Chaffin has been reappointed for another three year term by the Clay County Commissioners.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Thanks and appreciation to Ms. Scott for attending today's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: At 4:46 p.m. M/S/P Edwina Turner/Terry Edwards to adjourn the meeting, Board approved.

Damon Hoyte
Chairperson