



*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*

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

Date of Meeting: June 17, 2024 (Rescheduled from June 10, 2024)

Members Present: David Ranieri, Terry Edwards, Ed Harbison,  
Karen Johnson, and Sandra Gill

Members Excused: Damon Hoyte, April Hughes, Nancy Schroeder, Edwina Turner,  
Linda McElroy, and LaVerne Chaffin

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Board Member David Ranieri at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was not established during the meeting.

**RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING:** Calena Brown, Mental Health Supported Employment Program Director.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH WILLIAMS:** Staff and Board Members expressed their heartfelt sympathy for the passing of Mr. Williams on June 10, 2024. Mr. Williams faithfully served on our Board since 2017 and was a community and servant leader in Stewart County and surrounding areas. He advocated for the citizens of his district and those in need. His leadership and legacy will have a lasting impact on all who knew him and he will be greatly missed. A moment of silence to honor his memory was shared by those attending the meeting.

**\* SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of May 13, 2024 minutes):** A quorum was not established during the meeting.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW:** Susan reported that for May 2024, Medicaid Revenues demonstrate our forward progress with Medicaid Waiver revenue as we are above budget for both the month and year-to-date. However, we continue to experience below budgeted performance with Medicaid Fees and GIA-FFS as we work to improve the collection rate in CareLogic. Our Grant-in-Aid, Federal Funds, and Contract Revenue collections are well above budget, offsetting the current 80% billing collections rate. Year-to-Date (YTD), our Actual Revenue is above Budget Projections. This information is used to make budget predictions for FY25.

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May expenses were \$121,411 over budget with salaries and benefits being the largest contributors to the budget variance. Salary increases and bonuses mandated from the Governor's office contribute to this. Our YTD deficit is \$865,613 for the month ending May 31. We continue to operate under the CCBHC model with no corresponding CCBHC/PPS payment rate. We have been requested by DBHDD to provide updated Costing information to adjust our Unique Daily Visits. DBHDD is very supportive of the CCBHC Model of Care and the 4 CSB candidates as we work together to 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. Key Performance Indicators as of May 31, 2024 indicate 151 days cash on hand with average daily expenditures of \$66,778. The accounting department is working on year-end close process in preparation for the annual external audit. There are over 57 schedules and items required to be provided to the auditors by July 31. We anticipate the auditors to be on-site the third week of August.

**NEW HORIZONS FY 25 ANNUAL BUDGET:** The FY25 recommended Annual Budget of \$21,074,240, balanced between revenues and expenses with no support from Fund Reserves, was presented and discussed. Revenue assumptions include Medicaid Waiver Revenue remaining stable, Medicaid and GIA-FFS rates continuing to improve, and Contract and Grant-in-Aid revenue increasing. Expenditure assumptions indicate salaries will increase by 4% per the State's mandated increase, building rents have been budgeted to more closely reflect actual rents, and additional financial support from DBHDD is anticipated in FY25 for CCBHC implementation. Budget revisions may be made once that information is finalized. As a quorum was not reached at the meeting, no motion was made for FY25 budget approval.

**REVIEW OF GACSB NETWORK – FY23:** Comparisons of New Horizons to our statewide safety-net partners, other CSBs in Georgia, from FY19 to FY23 was reviewed. Adult MH/AD clients served, net operating margin, management and general (overhead) expenses, days cash on hand, and debt ratio categories were categories listed in the report. The most significant findings noted were New Horizons' clients served has decreased (as have other CSBs), and our days cash on hand has significantly increased (many CSBs have not).

**CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER UPDATE:** Andrea reviewed the CCBHC implementation process to date, Covid-related and grant funding received for implementation that was very beneficial to New Horizons, and discussed the financial impact of the delayed PPS rate. Operating as a CCBHC with no PPS rate is creating a deficit month after month. This was discussed in a recent meeting with DBHDD with next steps to submit a detailed request indicating what it will take to continue operating as a CCBHC and how we can remove barriers to help our individuals have better access to care. Maintaining our reserve funds is critical with the uncertainties and delays of the PPS rate being approved and finalized.

**CARELON AUDIT RESULTS:** Karen reported that our most recent Carelon Audit, in March of 2024, had an overall score of 82%, compared to the March 2023 score of 80% and the September 2023 score of 87%. This was our first audit in the CareLogic EMR system so we expected some issues around that, but overall, it went fairly smoothly. Opportunities for improvement include overall progress not documented in some group notes, whole health and wellness not addressed on all treatment plans, “suicide history” flags not included on all records, and some services provided and billed when the service was not listed on the treatment plan for that time period. Strengths and improvements noted during the audit were complete and well-organized staff files that met credentialing requirements, Intensive Case Management charts indicating the timeframe between referral and engagement was within five days, successful discharge of individuals in Crisis Respite Apartments into independent housing and evidence of staff assistance with housing were noted and Psychosocial Rehab Program (9REACH) progress notes detailed specific response from participants. All programs involved in the Quality Review audit worked with the Utilization Management Department to complete a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for specific issues identified, documentation and treatment plan training is being conducted, and EMR updates to streamline workflows implemented.

**CHANGES IN GACSB OFFICE:** Andrea reported that the Georgia Association of Community Service Boards (GACSB) recently announced a change in their relationship with Strategic Healthcare Partners (SHP) and Capitol Strategy Group effective July 6<sup>th</sup>. SHP has provided 16 years of dedicated service to the CSB network and the Strategy Group has represented the CSBs at the Capitol for the past 8 years. The change was sudden and unexpected, and the announcement indicated they are focusing their resources on other opportunities. CSB leadership staff throughout the state will take on a more active role in the Association.

**PRESENTATION: MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT:** Calena Brown, Supported Employment Program Director, reported that Supported Employment provides services to assist individuals, with a mental health diagnosis, in locating and maintaining meaningful employment in their communities. Supports are designed to capture their strengths, needs, and interests. With Supported Employment services, it is likely that people with significant mental illness will have the chance to engage in competitive integrated employment having real jobs and the chance to build financial security. The planned outcomes of SE services are to increase the hours worked by each individual toward the goal of full-time employment and to increase the wages of each individual toward the goal of financial independence. The benefits of steady competitive employment are: Increased income, improved self-esteem, improved social networks, increased quality of life, better control of symptoms, reduced substance use, and reduced use of mental health services. Following the eight principles of supported employment, the program currently has 57 individuals enrolled, 30 are currently employed, and 13 have been employed for over 90 days with pay ranging from \$8.50 to \$20.00 per hour. Two individuals will graduate from SEP at the end of the month and our current Supported Employment rate is 45%. SEP events include monthly workshops with individuals to work on resume skills, job interview tips, work skills, time management, customer service and work attire, and step down celebrations to congratulate the individuals and acknowledge their success.

**DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Chloe reported on a number of outreach events attended recently including a Harris County Rotary Club presentation, Civic Center Hiring Event, and the Pride Festival. Upcoming events are the Juneteenth Jubilee, HIV Testing Day, Kingdom Faith Outreach Event, and several Back to School events throughout our eight county area. Social Media contacts continue to increase on Facebook, Instagram, and Constant Contact. Mental Health First Aid Training for faith leaders was May 30 and Youth Mental Health First Aid Training is offered in English and Spanish June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. A Mental Health Awareness Month Proclamation was presented to Dr. Pamela Shaw and Dr. LaKaren Rickman at the Columbus City Council meeting during the month of May. Dr. Rickman shared results of the Community Mental Health Needs Assessment throughout our eight counties and on local television stations. Recovery on the River will be held in September with a state-wide recovery bus tour and partnerships with DBHDD and the Georgia Council for Recovery, plus local sponsors on board. The new Mobile Unit Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be announced at a later date and the Pops Barnes Scholarship Kickoff is June 18<sup>th</sup>.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** No announcements were made.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No public comments were made.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 4:41 p.m. M/S/P Terry Edwards/Ed Harbison to adjourn the meeting, Board approved.

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Damon Hoyte  
Chairperson