



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: May 8, 2023

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

Members Excused: April Hughes, Joseph Williams, David Ranieri,
and Ed Harbison

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Denise Wade McLeod, Susan Gallagher,
Randall Newberry, Armanda Spears, Travis Stokes, Harry Tatum,
John Burdeshaw, Chloe Landreth, and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Damon Hoyte at 3:31 p.m.
A quorum was established at that time.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING: Rob Grant, potential
Board Member candidate from Harris County. Board Members and staff introduced themselves
and Mr. Grant shared that he is Head of the Harris County Commission, a teacher, and coach who
understands the value of behavioral health services and is eager to learn more about New Horizons.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of March 13, 2023 minutes):** M/S/P LaVerne
Chaffin/Karen Johnson to approve the March 13, 2023 minutes, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Susan reported New Horizons closed the month of February with a
monthly surplus of \$302,709 and a year-to-date surplus of \$1,845,354. In February, we had some
areas that were below budget: Medicaid Waiver, Federal Funds, and GIA-FFS. However, we also
had some highlighted areas, Medicaid fees, Contract Revenue, and Grant in Aid, that are surpassing
budgeted expectations. On the February expenditure side, a number of areas are over budgeted
projections: Motor Vehicle Expense, Supplies, Equipment, Food Costs, Pharmaceuticals, Direct
Benefits to Clients, and Travel Expense. Other Operating has been reviewed and additional
expense categories created to limit what is considered Other Operating. In March, we continue to
be below projected revenue for Medicaid Waiver, Federal Funds, and GIA-FFS. However, we
continue to see Medicaid Fees, Contract Revenue, and Grant in Aid surpass budgeted expectations.
We have also directed administrative resources to I/DD to assist with their billing and collections.

On the March expenditure side, we saw the same areas over budgeted that we did in February. March ended with a monthly surplus of \$334,782 and a year-to-date surplus of \$2,069,710. Days Cash on Hand as of March 31, 2023 was 147.12. We met with the Support Team from Acumatica, our Accounting Software, and have completed an automated budget process for FY24. We have budgeted at the program level and rolled those into the overall FY24 budget. Kudos to Reid Denson and Andralescia Clark for their assistance in getting us through this process. We have internally hired an Accounting Tech with the goal of shortening the number of days to close a monthly financial period. We currently have two (2) federal grants in submission: The SAMHSA Grant to Benefit Homeless Individuals and the BJA Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement and Mental Health Partnership. The SAMHSA CCBHC-PDI and CCBHC-1A grant applications are due May 22.

CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER (CCBHC)

IMPLEMENTATION FINANCIAL IMPACT: As Susan has reported in previous meetings, DBHDD is moving to implement the CCBHC model via a State Plan Amendment (SPA) through the Department of Community Health. Implementation date for the PPS rate was originally announced by DBHDD as July 1, 2023. This has changed and we no longer have a firm date or an approved PPS rate. This puts us in a position of financial planning with many unknowns, i.e. When will the SPA be approved? What is the CMS approval process? When is the Go Live date? What is our CMS approved rate per triggering event? We are addressing this uncertainty by keeping a positive attitude and budgeting FY24 as if we are operating without the PPS rate and budgeting for sunset grant funding in September and November 2023. With many unknowns in our future, maintaining our Cash on Hand reserve funds is imperative to preserving our current financial status.

CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER (CCBHC) BOARD

GOVERNANCE: Andrea reminded Board members that CCBHC is a new provider type in Medicaid, designed to provide a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use disorder services to vulnerable individuals. In return, CCBHCs receive an enhanced Medicaid reimbursement rate based on their anticipated costs of expanding services to meet the needs of these complex populations. Governance requirements to ensure consumer participation through a representative Board can be satisfied in one of three ways:

Option 1: Fifty one percent of the board is comprised of families, consumers, or people in recovery from behavioral health conditions (would require amendment to our bylaws).

Option 2: A substantial portion of the governing Board Members meet the criteria, and there are other specifically described methods for consumers, people in recovery, and family members to provide meaningful input to the Board about CCBHC policies, processes, and services.

Option 3: Other means such as an advisory Board are established to enhance the governing body's ability to ensure that the CCBHC is responsive to the needs of its consumers, families, and communities, focusing on the full range of consumers, services provided, geographic areas covered, types of disorders, and levels of care provided.

Andrea indicated that Option 2 would be our preference, with the inclusion of New Horizons' Peer Academy, who provide input through their participation in Staff Executive meetings, features in The Quest, and community involvement. A Peer is a person with lived experience relating to a behavioral health disorder. The Peer Academy is lead by NHBH staff to provide: Recruitment of our Peer Workforce, support in obtaining employment, support in maintaining employment, resources to maintain a recovery-oriented lifestyle and work life balance. They also schedule Peers to attend leadership meetings with the agency and ensure Peers participate in the GACSB education and advocacy meetings and conferences.

EXPRESS CLINIC: Denise reported the Express Clinic Pilot, same day access from clinician intake to provider with quick access to medications if needed, kicked off April 13th and will continue on Thursday and Friday mornings through April and May. The result: It's a Win!! As of May 5th, 21 individuals have been served in Express Clinic, and staff agree that individuals are being helped and leaving New Horizons feeling "hopeful." After action meetings, held each clinic day, ensure needed adjustments are made, with the process closely monitored and managed. Some of the challenges involved include clinician workflow and documentation, productivity concerns, and change...a different way of thinking and doing, not business as usual. In June, Express Clinic will be offered on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, with long-term plans of running Express Clinic daily, rotating providers and the care team, ensuring continuity of care, and looking at ways to reduce clinician time. While the DBHDD standard is 14 business days to see the provider after intake, a goal we were meeting, Denise thanked Ms. Winston for her vision in providing individuals with the care they need in a more efficient, more beneficial way to better meet their needs.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT - NEXUS, MIDTOWN/JOURNEY TO RECOVERY: Armanda Spears, Adult & Children MH/SA Coordinator, introduced herself and Program Directors, Travis Stokes, Midtown Recovery, Harry Tatum, Journey to Recovery, and Peer Recovery Coach at Connections, John Burdeshaw. Ms. Spears praised the staff of Midtown and Journey to Recovery for their dedication and the wonderful services they provide and teamwork they display. Mr. Stokes reported that Substance Abuse treatment is available at Midtown to those seeking intensive recovery support three to five days per week, as well as those seeking aftercare and less intensive treatment one to two days per week. Treatment includes recovery groups based on the 12-step model and evidence-based practices. Additional services include psycho-education regarding substances and the addiction process, group and family counseling, and random drug screens. He also reported on the Nexus program that provides interactive, age-appropriate sessions proven to promote social/emotional well-being, and critical thinking on a range of topics to high school students. He was pleased to report that Nexus training will be conducted in Chattahoochee County beginning in June and thanked Mr. Hoyte for his recommendation. Mr. Tatum reported that Journey to Recovery, a semi-independent living program in Columbus, provides help to men and women struggling with addiction in a supportive living environment. Residents are assisted with achieving sobriety and employment. Crisis beds are available for persons just entering treatment and transitional housing beds for persons needing to continue their aftercare in a safe and structured environment. This program also offers housing for women transitioning from treatment to aftercare as part of the Women's Treatment and Recovery Services Program. John Burdeshaw shared his life experiences of incarceration, homelessness, overdoses, and suicidal ideation, seeking help from four different rehabilitation facilities, to completing Journey to Recovery and becoming a role model, leader, and Recovery Coach at New Horizons' Connections program for three years with a strong desire to help others.

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS: Chloe showed highlights from the H.E.R.O. tour of our southern counties with Susan, Gloria, and our Morehouse School of Medicine partners. Columbus City Council presented a proclamation to New Horizons for Mental Health Awareness Month in May. Several staff were on hand to receive the proclamation. Community outreach events are ongoing with pictures of recent events in Talbot, Harris, and Muscogee counties. Chloe provided a look at the new furnishings in the waiting areas of the main building giving them a more inviting, comfortable feel. Social media contacts are on the rise and upcoming community events were announced. The 2022 Annual Report, was presented to Board Members outlining the counties served, mission and vision, revenue, individuals served and services offered in 2022.

*Serving Residents of Chattahoochee, Clay, Harris, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Stewart and Talbot Counties
For 24-Hour Emergency Services Call (706) 323-0174 or Toll Free (800) 241-3659*

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Andrea reported that several staff attended the National Council on Behavioral Health conference in Los Angeles last week.

Karen Cotton-Everett has been selected as the new Clinical Director effective June 1, 2023.

Information/emails concerning the ongoing opioid case/settlement continue to be received and the settlement may be finalized soon.

Several Board Members have been reappointed recently for three year terms: Nancy Schroeder and Sandra Gill, Muscogee County, Linda McElroy, Quitman County, and Edwina Turner, Stewart County. We so appreciate our Board Members' faithful dedication to New Horizons Behavioral Health and continued service to our Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT: M/S/P Edwina Turner/Nancy Schroeder to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 p.m., Board approved.

Damon Hoyte
Chairperson