



A Community Mental Health / Developmental Disabilities / Addictive Diseases Program

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**NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

November 9, 2020 Via Teleconference

Members Present: David Ranieri, April Hughes, Joseph Williams,
Ed Harbison, Edwina Turner, Nancy Schroeder,
Sandra Gill, Linda McElroy, and Sherrell Terry

Members Excused: Damon Hoyte, LaVerne Chaffin, and Karen Johnson

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Valerie Bowden, Denise Wade,
Susan Gallagher, Randall Newberry, and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was established at that time. Board Chair David Ranieri welcomed Board members and staff.

For safety concerns during Covid-19 pandemic, today's meeting is a teleconference call and, in accordance with the GACSB rules, will be recorded. Board members were made aware of this prior to the call and it was announced upon dialing in to the call. Molly Jones did a roll call of Board members and staff participating in the call.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING: Mac Moye, Stewart County Manager.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of September 14, 2020 minutes):** M/S/P Joseph Williams/Edwina Turner to approve the minutes of September 14, 2020 meeting, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Valerie reported New Horizons had a surplus of \$126,532 for the month of September compared to a budgeted surplus of \$29,392. During the month of September we continued to experience some reduced revenues due to reduction of services due to COVID. We continue to monitor program activity as we work in the COVID environment as some programs are limited in their ability to maintain required revenue levels in order to maintain social distancing guidelines with program attendance. We also continue to keep expenses down below budget because of the reduced program activity. Some of the measures that DBHDD put in place to maintain the grant-in-aid revenue will be ending soon. The DD retainer billing is minimal now that the time period for this is expiring and the 1/12 Grant in Aid Fee for Service for Behavioral Health services will end in December. Assuming these measures are not extended, we are predicting that the last half of the year we will operate at a little better than break even. This is also assuming that there is not such a resurgence with COVID as to cause us to need to close completely down again.

Days Cash on Hand at the end of October were 22.00 days. Revenue collections are still down, but we have been keeping expenses down also and were able to increase days cash on hand. While we were able to increase days cash on hand by managing expenses during the reductions in revenue, the DBHDD expectation is that we have 30 days cash on hand. The new fiscal year (FY21) began July 1 and, with the State budget cuts and the ongoing pandemic, it leaves us with many unknowns regarding our financial outlook so we continue to look for ways to maximize our resources and build cash reserves in order to be able to operate as we move through the new environment.

***RESOLUTION TO PARTICIPATE IN CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM:** The CACFP federal program provides reimbursement for nutritious meals and snacks at our programs. M/S/P Edwina Turner/Joseph Williams to continue participation in the CACFP program, Board approved.

***CLINICAL PLAN:** The FY21 plan, updated annually, was sent to Board members prior to the meeting for review. Updates to the plan included the Covid-19 impact and response on programs, services and revenue, plus information on the Certified Community Behavioral Health Center initiative that DBHDD is implementing. M/S/P Sandra Gill/Joseph Williams to approve the Clinical Plan, Board approved.

CORE MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING: DBHDD received an additional appropriation for Core Mental Health services as part of the SFY 2021 Adult Mental Health state program budget. When deciding how to allocate these funds, DBHDD utilized a two-part distribution methodology: 1) To provide for some level of growth across the safety-net, and 2) To begin to address the issue of historical inequity in funding across the CSB network. Each CSB was allocated an additional funding increase equal to approximately 5% of their initial SFY21 Maximum Reimbursement Limit allocation. Twelve historically “under-funded” CSBs were identified to receive the remainder of the appropriation per formula. New Horizons was not included in those twelve. In addition to the new funding, DBHDD has decided to extend Covid-19 Base (Fixed) Payments in lieu of Fee for Service reimbursement, through December 31, 2020.

GENOA PHARMACY TRANSITION UPDATE: Genoa has moved their time line up to December 4th for the pharmacy transition and our staff will help with the conversion. The pharmacy will reopen on Monday, December 7th as Genoa Pharmacy. They will be located in the same location, will employ our pharmacy staff, will purchase our inventory, and will rent the space from New Horizons. Signs and notices will be posted for our individuals and staff to notify them of the change. Prescriptions from Primary Care Physicians can also be filled at Genoa and family members and employees can utilize the new pharmacy. A Grand Opening is planned for early January.

***RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR 2020-21 GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS ESG HOMELESS PREVENTION, STREET OUTREACH, HOTEL/MOTEL FUNDING AND SHELTER PLUS CARE FOR HARRIS AND MUSCOGEE COUNTIES:** Requesting Board approval for participation in three Federally funded contracts: Shelter Plus Care - Harris County (Family) - \$223,752, Muscogee County - \$317,112, and ESG Hotel/Motel - \$9030, ESG Street Outreach - \$30,412, and ESG Homeless Prevention - \$34,353. M/S/P Joseph Williams/Linda McElroy to enter into Shelter Plus Care and ESG Contracts, Board approved.

DBHDD CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER INITIATIVE UPDATE: MTM Consultants have conducted several virtual meetings as part of the initial fact finding/assessment phase of the CCBHC initiative. The IT/EMR Assessment went well with only a few recommendations and the Gap Analysis has been done. The GACSB is redefining work groups to coincide with the CCBHC initiative to make the process go more smoothly. There are questions and concerns of why now for the CCBHC initiative and what the future holds for CSBs who do not meet the standards. The Governor formed a Behavioral Health Commission last year and many are wondering what impact they may have on the initiative. The planning phase begins in 2021 and updates will be provided to the Board as they develop.

STRATEGIC PLAN: The Strategic Plan was sent to Board Members prior to today's meeting for review. The plan is updated annually with progress reported quarterly on defined objectives of the Strategic Goals. Valerie highlighted several objectives including implementation of the Revenue Cycle process, preparations for Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers, implementation of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), and development of systems/processes related to Covid-19 with progress noted on each.

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS UPDATE: Susan reported to the Board on the following:

Development/Fundraising

- Our FEMA application for \$18,000 in COVID-19 funds was sent to Legal review on September 11. As of October 25, it is still under review.
- Talbot County GA APEX Project Notice of Funding from DBHDD will be released soon. No definitive word if we are included in the funded applications.
- Implementation continues of the Opioid Response MAT-SOR Project. Contract start date is October 1 and we have currently have (3) referrals. Our target number is 50 referrals for the program year.

Marketing /Community Relations

- Facebook Live with Councilman Jerry Pops Barnes continues weekly on Mondays at 10 am. Gloria Mott presented on COPD November 2. Susan Gallagher presents on “Diseases of Despair” Nov 16 and will present on the same topic Nov.19th on the CCG Focus on Health show. “Diseases of Despair” are Anxiety, Depression, Suicide, Opioid and Substance Abuse Disorders.
- New Horizons Behavioral Health provided (50) water bottles to the Talbot County School System, (40) fidget spinners to the Chattahoochee County School District and (125) stuffed cinch bags to the Quitman County School District for Red Ribbon Week October 23-31 The Quitman County Family Connection provided candy for the cinch bags. These items were former SKY Clubhouse items so there was no cost to New Horizons and the school districts were very happy to get the items.
- Susan Gallagher conducted a QPR Suicide Gatekeeper Training via Zoom for the Tri-City (Talbot County) Housing Authority.
- A total of 14 Recovery Rocks were found in the community. Door prizes remaining will be used as part of the NHEAT campaign giveaways.

Employee Wellness

- Ms. Winston regularly sends All Employee Bulletins regarding health and wellness during the Covid Pandemic. The Quest regularly features articles on wellness.

COVID SURVEILLANCE REPORT: Andrea reported Covid-19 numbers are escalating in many areas and encouraged everyone to be tested, as needed, and continue following the CDC guidelines. She presented the following numbers for Georgia and our eight county area:

Covid Numbers by County (per the GADPH):

County	Covid Positive	Covid Deaths
Muscogee	6789	181
Harris	926	26
Talbot	215	8
Chattahoochee	1865	2
Stewart	617	17
Randolph	357	30
Clay	132	3
Quitman	59	1

State of Georgia: 391,000 8428

Andrea commended New Horizons staff for their vigilance in following guidelines and taking all precautions to keep our individuals as safe as possible. We have been very fortunate, so far, to avoid any outbreaks in our programs, especially residential sites, and hope to continue this trend until a vaccine is available.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS: Board members shared information on how they, their families, and communities are handling the ongoing challenges of the pandemic. With new additions to families, balancing work and school from home and in-person while following social distancing and other guidelines, we continue to adapt to the many different directions our lives have taken. Getting updates from Board members and staff during this time of not being able to see each other is very meaningful for us.

A special thank you was extended to our Veterans and family members of Veterans for their service to our country as we approach Veterans Day on November 11th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: A brief discussion of whether the December Board meeting should be held via teleconference or in person was held. Although everyone would love to meet in person, out of an abundance of caution, it was determined the meeting will be a teleconference.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sherrell Terry announced that she was recently elected Probate/Magistrate Judge of Talbot County and was congratulated by fellow Board members and staff. She wanted to ensure there was no conflict in her serving as both a Board member and elected Judge.

A Happy Thanksgiving was extended to all Board Members and Staff along with appreciation for the meaningful work we do.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, M/S/P Ed Harbison/Edwina Turner to adjourn the teleconference/meeting at 4:32 p.m., Board approved.

David Ranieri
Chairperson