



A Community Mental Health / Developmental Disabilities / Addictive Diseases Program

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

Date of Meeting: October 14, 2024

Members Present: David Ranieri, April Hughes, Terry Edwards,
Ed Harbison, Karen Johnson Bussey, LaVerne Chaffin,
Sandra Gill, and Linda McElroy

Members Excused: Damon Hoyte, Nancy Schroeder, Edwina Turner, and Arcola Scott

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

CALL TO ORDER: Board Chair Damon Hoyte was unable to attend today’s meeting. Board Member David Ranieri called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.. A quorum was established at that time.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY’S MEETING: No guests were in attendance.

*** SECRETARY’S MINUTES (Approval of September 9, 2024 minutes):** M/S/P Terry Edwards/Ed Harbison to approve the minutes of September 9, 2024, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Susan indicated that August saw an improvement in Medicaid Waiver, Medicaid Fees, and Grant-in-Aid Fee for Service collections as the Revenue Acquisition and IT Teams continue to work with CareLogic Support. Staff across the agency is growing more familiar with CareLogic while targeted training supports individuals and programs. August continued the positive trend of an operating surplus, however, without the CCBHC supplement from DBHDD of \$1.7 million for the first 6 months of FY25, we would be operating at a YTD deficit of approximately \$190,000. We are maintaining strict controls over Salary/Benefits with current personnel costs at 70% of total budget. This compares favorably with median personnel costs across the Safety Net of 73%. Leadership continues to look at the Total Administrative Overhead costs for the agency exploring opportunities to create efficiencies and reduce redundancies. We posted a monthly surplus of \$212,618 for August with a YTD surplus of \$375,246.

New Horizons' Financial Key Performance Indicators (KPI) scores indicated days Cash on Hand is at 158.3. Days Cash on Hand is a formula based on cash in the bank and average daily expenses (\$59,641 as of August FY25).

***EMERGENCY SERVICE GRANTS (ESG) APPROVAL:** Updates on Residential Funding from the Department of Community Affairs include the following ESG grants: Homeless Prevention - \$30,000.00, Hotel/Motel - \$9,100.00, Rapid Rehousing - \$93,870.00, and Street Outreach - \$36,140.00. M/S/P Ed Harbison/Terry Edwards to approve the grant funds, Board approved. We are expecting a contract from DCA for an additional \$100,000 for Housing Case Management expenses and have applied for a special Support Service Grant in the amount of \$101,300.00.

STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW/OUTCOMES - FY24: The Strategic Plan lists the following goals: Demonstrate Superior Treatment Services, Financial Viability, Technology, and Improve Community Awareness and Decrease Stigma with objectives measured quarterly. The report was emailed to Board Members prior to the meeting for review and also presented in the meeting with discussion of several goals met and some to carry forward.

STRATEGIC PLAN – FY25: The FY25 plan is nearly complete and will be presented in the December Board Meeting.

***PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT (PI) PLAN – FY25:** The PI Plan is administered by New Horizons Behavioral Health, through the Performance Improvement Committee, with input from individuals, family members, and staff members. The committee works to develop a systematic, coordinated, and continuous approach to design, assess, and improve the performance of those functions and processes determined to be most directly related to positive outcomes for individuals. Every New Horizons' program has goals that are directed by CARF standards with data typically reported monthly or quarterly. Goals and projects are selected by identifying opportunities for improvement, collecting data, analyzing the data, and making recommendations to leadership. The plan, including the goals, scope, organization, and effectiveness is reviewed annually. M/S/P Terry Edwards/LaVerne Chaffin to approve the FY 25 PI Plan, Board approved.

PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT (PI) GOALS/OUTCOMES – FY24: FY24 PI goals and outcomes were sent to Board Members prior to the meeting. Cyndy provided information related to the goals, outcomes, and data collection.

PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT (PI) GOALS – FY 25: The FY25 PI goals were sent to Board Members prior to the meeting. A review of the goals was presented.

REQUEST FOR COLUMBUS SERVICE CENTER ENHANCEMENTS: Susan presented information on the Columbus Service Center building that is leased to New Horizons and owned by the Columbus Consolidated Government. Intellectual/Developmental Disability services offered at the building include: Supported Employment, Pre-Employment, Community Access – Individual, and Community Access – Group. The Facility is 40 to 50 years old, does not meet current American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, and is in need of repairs, enhancements, and improvements. A meeting with City officials, including the Mayor, New Horizons' staff, family members and individuals receiving services was held October 10, 2024 at the building on Buena Vista Road.

The group toured the facility and reviewed architectural renderings developed by Hecht Burdeshaw of exterior improvements. Next steps are to continue to work with Hecht Burdeshaw around ADA compliant improvements and enhancements to the interior of the building, collaborate with the Community Reinvestment Department around the history of the facilities (building next door is also leased and City owned) to include any HUD financing requirements, continue to partner with the local elected officials, particularly Councilman Bruce Huff as the facilities are in his District, and to explore opportunities to partner with the Community around fundraising and project development. Susan indicated that our vision is for the building to become a community center where people could have meetings/events, share in a community garden, and participate in yoga or other classes to enhance that area of Columbus. Updates will be provided to the Board as the project progresses.

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS: Chloe reported that, unfortunately, due to inclement weather, Recovery on the River was cancelled. A proclamation, presented by the City, was presented to celebrate Recovery month and the Georgia Recovery Tour Bus stopped by New Horizons for the presentation. A Recovery Luncheon is planned for December 5th at the Trade Center featuring Recovery speakers who were scheduled for the September event, plus a luncheon. Other outreach events attended by Chloe and staff recently include the Tri-City Latino Festival, Spook Fest, and Pride Festival. FaceBook, Instagram, and Constant Contact outreach numbers indicated an increase and Website and Page Traffic data was reviewed. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Mobile Unit was held September 17th. Upcoming events include a Men's Resource Fair, Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities Town Hall, and the Randolph County Crossroads Festival. Other development projects are hospital relationship building and Red Ribbon Week activities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Behavioral Health Exceptional Recovery-Oriented Service Award. was presented to New Horizons at the DBHDD Symposium at Lake Lanier October 9th – 11th.

The GACSB Leadership Conference is October 27th-29th at Lake Lanier. Registrations have been sent for several Board Members and staff. Any Board Members interested in attending should let Molly know today.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments were made.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 4:24 p.m. M/S/P April Hughes/Terry Edwards to go into Executive Session to discuss Executive Evaluation and Retirement Benefits, Board approved. At 5:05 p.m. M/S/P Ed Harbison/LaVerne Chaffin to end the Executive Session, Board approved.

ADJOURNMENT: At 5:08 p.m. M/S/P LaVerne Chaffin/Terry Edwards to adjourn the meeting, Board approved.

Damon Hoyte
Chairperson