



A Community Mental Health / Developmental Disabilities / Addictive Diseases Program

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NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

June 8, 2020 Via Teleconference

Members Present: David Ranieri, Joseph Williams, Edwina Turner,
Nancy Schroeder, Sandra Gill, and April Hughes

Members Excused: Sherrell Terry, Damon Hoyte, Karen Johnson,
Linda McElroy, LaVerne Chaffin, and Ed Harbison

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 3:31 p.m. A quorum was established at that time. 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: Mack Moye, Stewart County Manager.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of May 11, 2020 minutes):** M/S/P Edwina Turner/Joseph Williams to approve the minutes of May 11, 2020 meeting, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Valerie reported we are still closing out the month of May and will present May revenue & expense results at the next board meeting. For the month of April, we incurred a surplus of \$48,308 compared to a budgeted surplus of \$61,823. Revenues are below budget due to a reduction of services related to COVID, but expenses (personnel, supplies, food) are also down due to reduction of services. Normally, the last quarter of the fiscal year is our strongest performance period, but the current COVID pandemic has impacted this. We have been able to manage our expenses and, even though we didn't meet budgeted surplus, we were able to operate in a surplus for April. That brings us to a year-to-date surplus of \$39,162, compared to a budget surplus of \$99,583.

Days Cash on Hand at the end of May increased to 3.43 days as compared to 2.81 days in April. Medicaid collections were down, but we were also able to keep expenses down resulting in a slight increase of days Cash on Hand.

OVERVIEW OF DBHDD CUTS: On May 1st, Governor Kemp announced that each state department would need to prepare and present a 14% budget cut with no exceptions. On May 26th, we received the proposed budget from DBHDD with the 14% cuts that we have been using to develop our strategy of cuts. On June 3rd, Governor Kemp announced that, in the coming weeks, he will send the updated revenue estimates to both Appropriations Chairs, England and Tillery and, after seeing reassuring signs of fiscal resiliency in our state, he has asked the Office of Planning and Budget to send a letter to the House and Senate Budget Offices to plan for an estimated reduction for FY21 of 11% v/s 14% previously requested.

On June 12th the Human Development & Public Health Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee will meet to review the proposed budgets to include that of:

- Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
- Department of Human Services
- Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
- Department of Veterans Service
- Department of Public Health
- Sexual Offender Review Board
- Office of the Child Advocate
- DHS -Division of Child and Family Services
- Council on Aging
- Family Connection
- Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission
- Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities

June 15th is the date for the 2020 Legislative Session to reconvene and the new State of Georgia fiscal year begins July 1. We don't know exactly what the new cuts will be, but we are grateful that they will be reduced. DBHDD has proposed substantial cuts of their own departments to include 24 days of furlough, reduction of administrative travel, and elimination of a number of field office positions as well as hospital positions. CSBs across the State will be impacted by the cuts, but smaller providers, so far, have not been affected.

The cuts that impact us are categorized into four (4) sections to include:

- Adult Addictive Diseases
- Adult Developmental Disabilities
- Adult Mental Health
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health

NHBH PROPOSED PROGRAMMATIC & SERVICE CHANGES: The proposed cuts and changes will fall into either of two categories that may be subject to change when the new DBHDD budget is revealed sometime after June 15th. As stated earlier, in previous board meetings, all cuts will be painful. Andrea indicated, “However, I am of the mindset that our posture in the community is to be the safety net and that our focus should be on the most vulnerable and underserved populations. Given that we cannot be all things to all people, it is my desire and vision to right size this organization so that we can provide excellent services to those who are most in need. I have tasked Valerie, our CFO, with developing a budget that would allow us to achieve a positive margin of at least one day Cash on Hand each month. As an organization, we need to have reserves that would allow for regular raises for our team members, and capital improvements in the near future such as facility and vehicle upgrades, and an upgraded medical record to name just a few. Our clients and team members deserve programming and services that are able to keep pace with the rapidly changing landscape, lest we fall behind and become the provider of last resort. In my vision, the changes are necessary, but I can assure you that we are making every effort to ensure that those who will be adversely impacted will be linked with any available resources to assist the.” DBHDD proposed mandated cuts (by varying amounts) include: APEX, Autism, Case Management, DD Service Centers, Georgia Housing Voucher, HUM, and ICM, with closures of Recovery Support Centers and C & A Clubhouses. New Horizons’ recommendation is to close our Therapeutic Foster Care program and transition it to DFCS with no disruption to the children or parents. With salaries being our largest expense, staffing cuts are expected in Administration and in programs that are closing, although staff could move to other programs if positions are available. If telehealth/telemedicine services continue, those would be more heavily utilized. All of this could change after June 15th when we know more about the State’s cuts. Andrea assured Board members that any cuts, closures, and impacts in their counties will not be taken lightly. Mrs. Turner asked that any updates on the Apex Program in Stewart and other southern counties be shared as it becomes available.

NHBH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES STATUS: Denise reported that we are working to open our programs for delivery of face to face (F2F) services. There is a growing need for our services and it is important that we be available to provide these much needed services. While telephone/telehealth has been extremely helpful, and we hope it continues, F2F is also important. One example of this is an individual who sits outside of our Midtown Recovery building waiting for the day it will open again. News reports tell of increasing numbers of overdose-related deaths and, in our local recovery community, some individuals in long-term recovery have relapsed. Our services are more critical now than ever before. There are obviously challenges with opening programs.

Here is a brief update on the status of many of our programs:

- Residential Sites – Continue to operate (AD, DD and MH).
- MSU / Clinic – Continues to operate for both F2F and telephone/telehealth visits.
- REACH Program – Now operating F2F on a limited basis.
- SKY Clubhouse – Now F2F operating on a limited basis.
- PCC – Now operating F2F on a limited basis.
- Connection ARSC – Now operating F2F on a limited basis.
- Midtown Program – Scheduled for soft-opening, limited basis, on Tuesday, June 9.
- Case Management – Continues to operate – primarily remotely for now.
- ICM – Continues to operate – primarily remotely for now.
- MHC Program – Continues to operate – primarily remotely for now.
- Apex Programs – Continue to operate – primarily remotely for now.
- MH SE – Continues to operate – primarily remotely for now.
- EMERGE – Continues to operate – primarily remotely for now.
- DD Service Centers – Continue to be impacted by the Shelter in Place order – looking at a soft opening July 1.
- DD SEP – Continue to be impacted by the Shelter in Place order – looking at a soft opening July 1.

In those programs where we provide F2F services we follow CDC guidance around screening, cleaning & disinfecting, social distancing, masks, and group sizes. Our programs are impacted by the limitations on the number of individuals who can be safely transported on the same van at the same time and by the number of individuals who can safely be in the same group room at the same time (social distancing). Our programs are also impacted by the number of individuals who are comfortable returning to services. Some report being eager to return, and others are more reluctant. We are finding our way and, in some ways, blazing a trail in the “new normal”.

Covid Agency Numbers Update:

As of today, the COVID-19 numbers for New Horizons are:

Known # individuals exposed to the COVID-19 virus: 6 (3 new exposures since last report to Board)

Known # staff exposed to the COVID-19 virus: 9 (2 new exposures since last report to Board)

Known # individuals with a lab confirmed positive test for the COVID-19 virus: 5 (3 new cases since last report to Board)

Known # staff with a lab confirmed positive test for the COVID-19 virus: 6 (2 new positive cases since last report to Board)

Covid Numbers by County (per the GADPH):

County	Covid Positive	Covid Deaths
Muscogee	868	22
Harris	143	6
Talbot	43	2
Chattahoochee	180	0
Stewart	58	1
Randolph	187	20
Clay	49	2
Quitman	14	1

DEVELOPMENT/MARKETING PLANS: Susan presented the following updates for Development, Marketing, and Community Relations:

DEVELOPMENT:

Covid Funding

- Healthcare Georgia Foundation awarded \$15,000 for PPE/Telehealth.
- Covid Community Fund awarded \$3,000 for PPE/Telehealth.
- GEMA Covid Funding Application in process. Reimburse for eligible expenses related to Covid.
- FCC Covid funding application in progress.
- Enterline Foundation for I/DD services. Updating application process for current cycle.

Other Funding:

- USDA Rural Utilities Services due July 13.
- DBHDD MAT application.
- DBHDD Georgia APEX application.
- SAMHSA HIV Navigators program Application submitted December 2019. Awards not announced yet.

MARKETING:

- SKY Clubhouse was featured on all (3) networks as a Summer Program for children with ADHD/Behavioral Health needs.
- Featured May 17 on Davis Broadcasting “Sunday Conversations” with Michael Soul.
- Website newsfeed featuring: Children’s Emotional Literacy; Mental Health and LGBTQ individuals, National HIV Testing Day. Updated regularly.

Facebook traffic has decreased since April. We lost 10 followers.

Top 3 Posts:

- May 7: 617 Reached 46 engagement “How to Recognize Anxiety in Yourself and Others.”
- May 7: 575 reached 106 engagement “Homeless No More in Randolph County.”
- May 22: 513 reached 23 engagement “SKY Clubhouse Summer Program.”
- May 7: 369 reached 64 engagement “Chamber Donates Hand Sanitizer.”

“Stop the Stigma” video has over 33,333 hits on YouTube. The video has been used across the nation and across the world in various campaigns, from Tuberculosis stigma to teen bullying. Image By Design president & CEO is working to get some local coverage on this fact and to share the video locally. There are plans to prepare a press release on the video and we have contacted members of the local Commission on Diversity with a link to the video. We hope to get more exposure to this timeless message.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

National Guard Infection Control Team sanitized both our facilities in Randolph County.

Run4Recovery is scheduled for September 12th. may change from run to walk.

Children’s Mental Health Symposium is scheduled for September 4th.

On-line Community Presentations using ZOOM.

Columbus City Council presentation on June 23 as part of the Mayor’s Agenda.

*** REAPPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBER:** Sandra Gill was previously appointed as an optional Board Member and her term expires June 30, 2020. M/S/P Edwina Turner/Nancy Schroeder to approve her reappointment for another three year term on the Board, Board approved. Gratitude and appreciation for Mrs. Gill’s dedicated and faithful service to the Board was expressed and shared. She responded that if there is anything she can do or assist with to please let her know.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS: Board members gave updates on how they and their families are handling these very challenging times and continue to express appreciation to New Horizons' leadership and staff for continuing to provide services and support our individuals, though it is difficult to hear news of cuts by the State.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Congratulations and best wishes to David Ranieri on his wedding this past weekend.

Sherrell Terry has been reappointed by the Talbot County Commissioners for another three year term on the Board.

Our thoughts, prayers, and sympathy are with Mr. Rosso, former Board Chairman, on the loss of his wife on May 19th.

We have received notification of transportation funding in the amount of \$23,000. While this amount does not come close to covering our transportation needs, it will help and lets us know our needs were recognized. We continue to pursue other transportation options for our individuals.

The Board meeting calendar for 2020 did not have a meeting scheduled for July. However, due to all the changes and updates during this pandemic, the Board was asked if they preferred to have a meeting next month. M/S/P Edwina Turner/Nancy Schroeder to approve having a Board meeting on Monday July 13, 2020, Board approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, M/S/P Edwina Turner/Sandra Gill to adjourn the teleconference/meeting at 4:45 p.m., Board approved.

David Ranieri
Chairperson