



*A Community Mental Health / Developmental Disabilities / Addictive Diseases Program*

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## **NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

July 13, 2020                      Via Teleconference

Members Present:                David Ranieri, Joseph Williams, Edwina Turner,  
Nancy Schroeder, April Hughes, LaVerne Chaffin,  
Sherrell Terry, Ed Harbison, and Karen Johnson

Members Excused:              Sandra Gill, Damon Hoyte, and Linda McElroy

Staff Present:                     Andrea Winston, Valerie Bowden, Denise Wade,  
Susan Gallagher, Shannon Robertson, Kenyetta Plummer,  
and Molly Jones

**CALL TO ORDER:**    The meeting was called to order at 3:32 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 June 8, 2020 minutes):**    M/S/P Joseph Williams/Nancy Schroeder to approve the minutes of June 8, 2020 meeting, Board approved.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW:** Valerie reported we are still closing out the month of June and working on closing out the fiscal year and will have FY20 financial results at the next board meeting. For the month of May we incurred a surplus of \$108,078 compared to a budgeted surplus of \$57,232 which brings us to a year to date surplus of \$147,240 compared to a budgeted surplus of \$156,815. While revenues are below budget due to reduction of services due to COVID, expenses are also down due to reduction of services. We will continue to work to maintain expenses levels within reduced income capacity. Days Cash on Hand at the end of June were 5.54, an increase from May. Medicaid collections were down, but we were able to keep expenses down also. While we were able to increase days Cash on Hand by managing expenses during the reductions in revenue, remember that the DBHDD expectation is that we have 30 days Cash on Hand. The new fiscal year (FY21) began July 1 and the State budget cuts and the ongoing pandemic leave us with many unknowns regarding our financial outlook.

**INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT FY2019:** The FY19 annual Financial Audit was received earlier this year and there were no audit findings. The report has not been reviewed with the Board due to requirements for teleconference meetings the past few months. Our Board Chair received a copy by mail from Baker & Associates for review. The same company will conduct our FY20 audit that is scheduled to begin August 24<sup>th</sup> and will be done on and off site. The plan is for the auditors to review the FY20 audit in a future meeting upon its completion.

**DBHDD FINAL BUDGET CHANGES:** Andrea reported the State cuts were reduced from 14% to 10% with elimination of mental health services to include: ADA Case Manager (\$9600), HUM (High Utilization Manager) (\$132,000), SKY Clubhouse (\$330,000), HOC (Housing Outreach Coordinator) (\$63,000), and APEX (40% salary cut) (\$101,000). IDD cuts include: High School Pilot Program for Employment (\$20,736), Family Support (State Funded) (\$123,189.73), Community Access Group (State Funded) (\$102,598), and Pre Voc Services (State Funded) (\$69,537). While some of our staff and program reductions will be based on the State Cuts, our inability to make up loss Medicaid Revenue over the past two months is forcing us to make our own internal cuts. Denise will review our very aggressive plan for those cuts which began with a number of staff separations to cut our Administrative overhead.

Our Financial Target for the cuts is \$1,750,000. This financial goal is based on the ability to save money and build reserves with minimal impact on the availability of services.

**NHBH PROGRAM CONSOLIDATIONS, RELOCATIONS, & CLOSURES:** SKY Clubhouse, High Utilization Management (HUM), and Housing Outreach Coordinator (HOC) are three programs/positions that have been eliminated due to State/DBHDD budget cuts. Programs consolidating or relocating include: Harris County Mental Health to the Harris-Talbot Service Center building, Harris-Talbot Service Center and IDD SEP individuals will relocate to Columbus Service Center. Stewart-Quitman Service Center individuals will consolidate with Randolph-Clay Service Center. The Stewart-Quitman Service Center building will be used for telehealth services in that area. Leases are being terminated at Midtown and REACH 1, with Midtown individuals relocating to Boxwood Place (Project Change Clubhouse building) and REACH I individuals moving into the Human Resources building on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Human Resources will move to the Administration area on Comer Avenue. Two mental health group homes will become IDD group homes and the Therapeutic Foster Care program is being transitioned to another agency. Many staff will continue to work remotely with team work hubs,

shared break rooms and conference rooms available in the main building for their use as needed. Board members asked about number of individuals being transported due to county relocations. Currently, 3 from Harris-Talbot Service Center to Columbus Service Center and 4 from Stewart-Quitman to Randolph-Clay Service Center, with 3 additional individuals transitioning in a few weeks.

**STAFF SEPARATION/FURLOUGHED NUMBERS & LOCATIONS:** In March, 132 staff were furloughed, 61 New Horizons staff, and 71 Health Care Staffing staff. Some employees have been able to return to work, 22 were laid off, and a few chose not to return due to health concerns or child care challenges, or made the decision to retire. Currently, we have 65 staff on furlough who, we hope, are continuing to draw unemployment benefits.

**GRANT COLLABORATION WITH MSM:** Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) in coordination with New Horizon Behavioral Health (NH) is applying for funds to purchase eligible telecommunications and telemedicine equipment under the USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) grant to implement the Georgia Digital Framework for Health Equity, a telemedicine and telehealth education network in 9 rural counties in Georgia focusing on:

(1) Telemedicine: Treatment & Consultation at the Clinic Level, the Community Level and the School Level for behavioral health and substance abuse treatment including Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder, intervention and management; Family Medicine; chronic disease treatment and management; identification and treatment of Covid-19; and specialty referrals; and,

(2) TeleHealth: Education & Training at the Clinic Level, the Community Level and the School Level for behavioral health and substance abuse education and training including Grand Rounds and Continuing Medical Education (CME) for local health professionals; identification and management of chronic and/or emerging health issues including diabetes and Covid-19; High School Community Health Worker Competency Virtual Training; and Healthcare Career Development Tele-Shadowing.

Under the direction of Dr. Jinjie Zheng, Morehouse School of Medicine and Ms. Andrea Winston, New Horizons Behavioral Health, teams pulled all the components together to create a 100-page application. If awarded funding, New Horizons will receive telehealth equipment, hardware, & software valued at over \$100,000 for sites in our rural counties with Columbus serving as the hub. Morehouse School of Medicine is responsible for the 15% required matching funds. The application was successfully submitted by the Morehouse Team on Sunday, July 12.

### **COVID SURVEILLANCE REPORT:**

#### **Covid Agency Numbers Update:**

As of today, July 13, the COVID-19 numbers for New Horizons are:

- Known # individuals exposed to the COVID-19 virus: **50 (44 new exposures since last report to board on 06/07/20)**
- Known # staff exposed to the COVID-19 virus: **26 (17 new exposures since last report to board)**
- Known # individuals with a lab confirmed positive test for the COVID-19 virus: **10 (5 new cases since last report to board)**
- Known # staff with a lab confirmed positive test for the COVID-19 virus: **13 (7 new positive cases since last report to board)**

**Covid Numbers by County (per the GADPH):**

County	Covid Positive	Covid Deaths
Muscogee	2766	56
Harris	425	12
Talbot	93	3
Chattahoochee	463	0
Stewart	215	3
Randolph	212	25
Clay	61	2
Quitman	22	1

**BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:** Board members provided updates on how they, their families, and communities are handling these very challenging times with all concerned about the increasing number of Covid cases in our area and nationwide. Board members continue to express appreciation to New Horizons’ leadership and staff for all their efforts in maintaining services and support to our vulnerable individuals while faced with difficult choices due to the cuts by the State.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Congratulations to Sherrell Terry who won the primary election in June for Magistrate Judge of Talbot County.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, M/S/P Joseph Williams/Edwina Turner to adjourn the teleconference/meeting at 4:25 p.m., Board approved.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 4:26 p.m, M/S/P Joseph Williams/Edwina Turner to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter, Board Approved. Shannon Robertson instructed Board members on completion of the evaluation and returning it by mail or fax. M/S/P Joseph Williams/Nancy Schroeder to adjourn the Executive Session at 4:36 p.m., Board approved.

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David Ranieri  
Chairperson