



*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: August 15, 2022

Members Present: Damon Hoyte, David Ranieri, Edwina Turner,  
Joseph Williams, Karen Johnson, LaVerne Chaffin,  
Ed Harbison, and Sandra Gill

Members Excused: Nancy Schroeder, April Hughes, and Linda McElroy

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Denise Wade, Susan Gallagher,  
Randall Newberry, Tara Malone, Shannon Robertson,  
and Molly Jones

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was established at that time.

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

**\* SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of June 13, 2022 minutes):** M/S/P Joseph Williams/David Ranieri to approve the June 13, 2022 minutes, Board approved.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW:** Andrea reported the end of June surplus was \$1,052,878 compared to a budget of \$21,940 and the end of FY22 surplus was \$3,377,557 compared to the budget of \$225,701. Days Cash on Hand (COH) at the end of July were 116.87 days Two grants, Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHC) and Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC) have had a major impact on our current financial status, but we must remain frugal and continue to monitor program budgets closely to ensure programs can pay for themselves in order to remain fiscally stable when these grants end.

**\*FY23 PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET:** Andrea thanked Susan for all her hard work in gathering data, creating spreadsheets/reports, and working closely with our shared CFO from Advantage Behavioral Health to keep our financial reporting/data/information up to date. The FY23 Proposed Annual Budget is a product of their collaboration and indicates total revenue for FY23 as 23,527,127 (down from previous years due to number of individuals served), and total expenses of 22,599,721 for a projected surplus of 927,406. Revenue and expense assumptions were also listed and factored into the budget. Board members reviewed the budget. M/S/P Joseph Williams/Edwina Turner to approve the FY23 Proposed Budget, Board approved.

**\*COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS AT THE GACSB STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT (ADDED TO AGENDA):** M/S/P Edwina Turner/Joseph Williams to add Agenda item, Board approved. Andrea announced that DBHDD Commissioner, Judy Fitzgerald, spoke during the retreat she and Mr. Hoyte attended recently. Her opening remarks gave kudos to providers who are becoming CCBHCs, have implemented Co-Responder programs, and are operating I/DD Crisis Stabilization Units and Behavioral Health Crisis Centers/Stabilization Units. She then transitioned into what she termed "difficult conversations/tip toe remarks," beginning with the public perception that DBHDD does not hold CSBs accountable and what would Georgia behavioral health look like without CSBs or if DBHDD was not our primary payor? She reported that services for adults could soon be covered by a Care Maintenance Organization (CMO) procurement process for the aged, blind, and disabled adult population similar to the way children's services are handled now, with GIA, FFS, and I/DD staying with DBHDD. She added that geographical (catchment) areas may no longer be protected, no boundaries enforced, and we will be expected to compete with others, including CSBs, while also looking at opportunities for CSBs to merge when CEOs leave. She emphasized that the future will be defined by providers who can deliver services and who has access to those services.

Andrea added that New Horizons continues to diversify services and funding sources with Behavioral Health Partners (for private insurance individuals), grant opportunities, and increasing Integrated Health services.

**HEALTHCARE STAFFING ANNOUNCEMENT:** Andrea was excited and proud to announce the recent homecoming of our HealthCare Staffing employees' who have transitioned to become New Horizons employees with full benefits, including holidays, leave time, and student loan forgiveness. This has been a huge undertaking for our Human Resources department, but they have risen to the challenge and the process is almost complete. Those transitioning were required to complete paperwork and background checks, at New Horizons' cost. We are delighted to welcome them to our New Horizons family and know that working together on the same team will build morale while enhancing our services and the agency.

**SHELTER PLUS CARE UPDATE/GRANT CONSOLIDATION:** As reported in previous Board meetings, we have transitioned our Shelter Plus Care units in Muscogee County to SafeHouse Ministries as of June 30, 2022. We continue to receive HUD funding for housing services in Harris County through the Balance of State funding. Housing services include a combined rental and utility assistance grant for up to 8 individuals and 18 households. Previously, these were 2 grants that have now been combined into one. Other services include Harm Reduction and Support Services. These have also been combined and cover expenses related to staff, damages to the housing units, and other expenses. Individuals are required to pay up to 30% of their income toward their housing costs. Board members were reminded that

New Horizons' overhead costs made the Muscogee County program challenging for us financially, but partnering with SafeHouse to handle the housing component while we continue to provide case management for the residents is more cost effective for the agency.

**FY22 PI GOALS/OUTCOMES:** Denise presented the annual update for the FY22 Performance Improvement (P.I.) goals and outcomes. Data is collected from programs and reported monthly, quarterly, biannually, or annually. The plan is reviewed during P.I. meetings as we strive to continuously monitor and improve performance. P.I. Goals relate to contract, fidelity, grant, audit, and KPI requirements, and also to identifying needs and improving outcomes. While all program are working toward goals, three programs met their goals within all reporting periods. These were: Mental Health Residential, Georgia Housing Voucher Program, and I/DD Residential. All other programs had mixed results with some quarters met, some not met. Goals related to attendance, enrollment, and staff retention were generally not met, primarily due to the pandemic. For FY23, we are working to change goals to focus on access, efficiency, and effectiveness, how outcomes are tracked, consistently acting on the data, and working more closely with programs throughout the year.

**CARF SURVEY UPDATE:** No date has been given for our upcoming CARF survey, but we anticipate it will be scheduled in October or November. It will be an in-person survey and Board members were reminded that they should plan to attend the CARF entrance and exit sessions and also be prepared for Board member interviews. Once a date is scheduled, members will be notified.

**RECOVERY MONTH PLANS:** A number of events are planned to celebrate Recovery Month in September. Recovery in the Park will be held September 10, 2022 from 10 am – Noon at the Lakebottom Park Bandshell. Speakers, in Recovery from mental health and addictive disease, will share their stories beginning at 11:00 am. Free t-shirts to the first 100 attendees, door prizes, music, and snacks will be available at this family friendly event. Project Change Clubhouse is painting rocks with uplifting messages and placing them at locations in the Community and Midtown Recovery is hosting a cook-out and fellowship at Cooper Creek Park Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. We are proud and honored to recognize and celebrate our individuals and their Recovery.

**JOURNEY TO RECOVERY/CRISIS RESPITE PROGRAM PRESENTATION:** Denise reported that our semi-independent, residential, substance use treatment program, Journey to Recovery, serves adults 18 and older and can accommodate a total of 16 individuals with an average length of stay of six months. Attendees receive off-site substance abuse treatment at Midtown Recovery Program that aligns with their supportive and structured living environment. With a basic rehabilitation focus on early recovery skills and the negative impact of substances and substance use, tools for developing support and relapse prevention skills lead to successful outcomes. The Crisis Respite Apartments offer respite for individuals 18 and older with a primary mental health diagnosis who need a supportive environment due to a housing crisis. They must be able to live independently and be safely served in a voluntary community-based setting. They also must meet one or more of the following criteria: Transitioning back into the community from a psychiatric facility, crisis stabilization unit, or 23-hour observation area, preventing an admission or readmission into a psychiatric inpatient facility, CSU, or 23-hour observation area, chronically homeless, recently released from jail or prison, or frequently seen in the Emergency Room for Behavioral Health needs.

Services for crisis respite include: Individualized engagement, crisis planning, linkage to Behavioral Health Treatment/Supports, linkage to other community resources necessary for the individual to safely reside in the community, and includes transportation assistance when needed to access appropriate services, supports, and levels of care.

**DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Television ads continue to air on WTVM for child and adolescent services, adult services, and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). We will participate in the Chamber of Commerce Partners in Education Kick Off Event for Muscogee County Schools. New Horizons Behavioral Health has been asked to speak on Children's Mental Health and Resources in one of the break-out sessions. The event is Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at the Trade Center from 8 am –11:30 am. Plans are to expand the use of billboards utilizing outreach funds. We continue to post news and information about mental health and New Horizons on our FaceBook page and on our Website.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Andrea announced the GACSB Educational Exchange will be held November 6-8 at Lake Lanier Resort. Board members interested in attending should let Molly know as soon as possible.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. Moye addressed the group on concerns he has related to the recent school shootings and what measures could be taken to prevent them.

Board Members will review and complete Ms. Winston's PMF during the Executive Session today. She encouraged them to make recommendations and provide feedback on her job performance and requested a brief Executive Session in a future meeting to discuss and review her performance as she welcomes their input.

**ADJOURNMENT:** M/S/P Edwina Turner/Joseph Williams to adjourn the meeting at 4:49 p.m. to go into Executive Session, Board approved.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 4:57 p.m., M/S/P Edwina Turner/Joseph Williams to enter into Executive Session to discuss the annual evaluation of our director. At 5:12 p.m., M/S/P Edwina Turner /Joseph Williams to end the Executive Session, Board approved.

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Damon Hoyte  
Chairperson