



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 10, 2022

Members Present: Damon Hoyte, Nancy Schroeder, David Ranieri, Joseph Williams, Karen Johnson, and Sandra Gill

Members Excused: Edwina Turner, LaVerne Chaffin, April Hughes, Ed Harbison, and Linda McElroy

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

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Damon Hoyte 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 September 12, 2022 minutes):** M/S/P Joseph Williams/Sandra Gill to approve the September 12, 2022 minutes, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Susan reported we closed the month of August with a surplus of \$248,496 for a Year to Date surplus of \$521,844. Revenues for the month were \$40,098 more than budgeted, however, our Medicaid Waiver and Medicaid fees continue to be less than budgeted and expenses were \$103,898 less than budgeted. Some County funds were not received due to a delay in receiving the appropriation letter from Columbus Consolidated Government. We continue to closely monitor billing revenue and contract revenue while working to ensure we continue to keep expenses under control. Days Cash on Hand (COH) at the end of August was 117.73 days Susan indicated the CSB average for Days Cash on Hand is 51 days. Andrea added that based on the Commissioner’s remarks at the GACSB Strategic Planning event and the transition to CCBHC, CSBs are encouraged to have reserve funds and more diverse funding sources as we prepare for changes with Medicaid reimbursements. Board members inquired about plans for filling the CFO position, and Andrea responded that the shared CFO and Susan are doing a great job in working together to ensure financial data/reporting is up to date.

CARF SURVEY PLANS: Cyndy reported our CARF survey dates are November 16 – 18 and five surveyors will conduct the survey. CARF Orientation will be on the 16th in Conference Room B and Board members should plan to attend, if possible. Board Member interviews will be held following Orientation. Cyndy provided some examples of questions they might be asked. The CARF Exit meeting will be November 18th, we expect around 2:00 p.m., in Conference Room A and board members are also encouraged to attend. The surveyors will give an overview of their findings during the Exit, with official results and a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) expected 6 to 8 weeks after the survey. More details will follow once the schedule is finalized.

***FY23 PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT (PI) PLAN & GOALS:** With a brief review in the September Board meeting, Cyndy provided more detailed information of the FY23 PI Plan that was sent to Board members prior to the meeting, outlining the structure and purpose of Performance Improvement and the development of the FY23 PI Goals. With many changes in requirements for services/programs, PI goals focus on access (easier to get into services), efficiency (a system that saves time and money), and efficacy (ensure treatment is effective and symptoms are reduced). Goals may be revised or added to throughout the year and outcomes are reported quarterly and reviewed at the end of the fiscal year. M/S/P Joseph Williams/David Ranieri to approve the FY23 Performance Improvement Plan, Board approved.

***FY23 CLINICAL PLAN:** The FY23 Clinical Plan, sent to Board members prior to today's meeting, outlines the agency's purpose and scope, history, population served, organization and services structure, and treatment philosophy/planning among many topics covered. New additions include Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHC), Co-Responder Program, Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Pilot Program, Community Mental Health Center (CMHC), and CareLogic. Services, programs, or agencies no longer included are Jail Services, Shelter Plus Care – Muscogee County, and Healthcare Staffing agency. Changes resulting from the impact of Covid-19 focus on increasing the number of individuals served and continuing to offer and improve telehealth services. M/S/P Joseph Williams/Nancy Schroeder to approve the FY23 Clinical Plan, Board approved.

BEACON AUDIT RESULTS: Karen presented an overview of our recent Beacon Behavioral Health Quality Review that took place September 19-23. Forty charts were reviewed, five individuals interviewed, and seven Crisis Respite apartments charts were reviewed, along with a virtual visit. Our Overall Score was 94% (up from 89% on previous audit), Billing Validation - 88%, Focused Outcome Areas - 97%, Assessment & Planning - 95%, and Service Guidelines - 95%. Significant strengths and improvements included the overall score, Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale completed in all records, and Psychiatrists/Extenders notation of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program being utilized to avoid medication errors/over-utilization. Opportunities for improvement noted were: Individuals with a history of suicidal ideation were missing a history flag, some records were missing minimum contacts, some discharge/transition plans were missing all required components, and some progress notes were not entered within seven calendar days. Kudos to the Revenue Acquisition Team, that includes Utilization Management, Operations, and Billing, for doing a great job in preparing for the audit, using information from previous audits to improve our systems, and for working so well with the auditors in providing information promptly to keep the audit running smoothly.

CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER (CCBHC) TIMELINE:

As discussed in previous meetings, CCBHCs are a new model of service delivery. New Horizons was awarded a CCBHC grant to cover costs prior to implementation of the new model, \$2 million a year for two years, from December 1, 2021 to December 30, 2023. Karen indicated that CCBHC will provide an increase in access to care, quality of care, and care coordination. Integrated healthcare is a key component of care coordination. Becoming a CCBHC will impact the entire agency and assist us in becoming more accessible for our individuals, having enhanced efficiencies in our operations, and will result in a more equitable level of reimbursement for all of the wonderful services we provide. The goal of CCBHC is to strengthen community-based mental health and addiction treatment services, integrate behavioral healthcare with physical healthcare, and use evidence-based care more consistently. Our accomplishments so far include: Assignment of Trauma-Informed Care and Military Culture trainings, hiring Care Coordinators, expanding Integrated Care to the main clinic, attestation and evidence submission to DBHDD with feedback and resubmission, CareLogic contract began, expansion of intake hours, submission of the first forms of cost study, and submitting the National Association of Dually Diagnosed (NADD) application. Next steps are certification review and implementation of prospective payment system.

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, & PUBLIC RELATIONS: Susan reported that today is World Mental Health Day, an international day for global mental health education, awareness, and advocacy against social stigma. It was first celebrated in 1992 at the initiative of the World Federation for Mental Health, a global mental health organization with members and contacts in more than 150 countries. Susan and other New Horizons staff are participating in community events throughout the area. Gigi Robinson and Katrina Cummings participated in the Chattahoochee County Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Walk for a Cure event. Juan Garcia attended the Columbus Chamber of Commerce's Annual Partners in Education (PIE) Kick Off. A promotional video, CSB is Me, is posted on New Horizons' Facebook page. The Morehouse School of Medicine will visit New Horizons Thursday, October 13th to interview and film New Horizons leadership staff and other community partners promoting the H.E.R.O. (Health Equity and Rural Opportunities) through digital health project. We are proud to have this great partnership with Morehouse.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Andrea reminded Board Members that the GACSB Educational Exchange is November 6-8 at Lake Lanier Resort. Several Board Members and staff are planning to attend and registration and lodging reservations have been made.

One of our sister CSBs, Bridge Health in the Lookout Mountain area, reached out to other CSBs for assistance due to flooding in their area. We were able to provide some of the items needed and, thanks to Amazon, have them delivered. They were very appreciative of all the support and help they received.

We are excited to welcome guests from Morehouse School of Medicine this Thursday.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Hoyte thanked New Horizons' staff for attending the ChattCo event in Cusseta over the weekend. He also expressed appreciation for thoughts and prayers extended to him while he was out with Covid and for Mr. Ranieri's recovery from recent surgery.

ADJOURNMENT: M/S/P Joseph Williams/Nancy Schroeder to adjourn the meeting at 4:32 p.m., Board approved.

Damon Hoyte
Chairperson