



A Community Mental Health / Developmental Disabilities / Addictive Diseases Program

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**NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2100 Comer Avenue – Conference Room B
Columbus, GA 31906**

Date of Meeting: June 13, 2022

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

Members Excused: April Hughes and Linda McElroy

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, 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.

A Moment of Silence was observed to honor the memory of our dedicated, valued, and beloved co-worker and Chief Financial Officer, Valerie Bowden, who passed away June 5, 2022.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING: Cyde McQuien, owner of Image by Design, and Martha Williams, spouse of Board Member Joseph Williams.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of May 9, 2022 minutes):** M/S/P Joseph Williams/Nancy Schroeder to approve the May 9, 2022 minutes, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Andrea reported New Horizons had a surplus for the month ending April 30, 2022 of \$518,081 compared to the budget of \$21,940 and a year to date surplus of \$2,185,759 compared to the budget of \$181,821. There were no unusual items in the April financials. Days Cash on Hand (COH) at the end of May were 90.26 days. The COH is high because we have drawn down all of the DBHDD Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) funds, but it has not all been spent yet. The COH amount will decrease some over the next few months.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER RECRUITMENT: While it will be impossible to replace Valerie, who had nearly 25 years of experience, dedication, and a wealth of knowledge about New Horizons and its finances, we are reaching out to other CSBs to discuss the possibility of sharing some CFO time until we have the opportunity to review applications, interview, and choose a candidate to fill the CFO position. Susan Gallagher, who has an accounting background, and Reid Denson, our new cost analyst, are reviewing contracts and handling some financial duties and reports. A meeting with Advantage CSB's CEO and CFO is scheduled tomorrow to discuss how they might assist us during this time. They are one of four CSBs in Georgia, as is New Horizons, working toward becoming a Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC), a complicated process.

***RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CONTRACTS:** The resolution, authorizing submission of responses and acceptance of contracts from the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) and, if awarded, competitive funding, to enter into contracts with DBHDD to provide services as specified was presented for review/approval of the Board. M/S/P Joseph Williams/David Ranieri to approve the resolution, Board approved.

IMAGE BY DESIGN – COMMERCIAL PREVIEW: Cyde McQuien, owner and creative force behind Image by Design (IBD, has been recognized regionally and nationally for his ad agency and design experience. He is a past recipient of the American Advertising Federation Silver Medal Award which is presented in recognition of outstanding lifetime contributions to advertising, creative excellence, and responsibility in areas of social concern. He has served on New Horizons' Development Advisory Board for many years. Cyde is very passionate about New Horizons' "ministry," as he described it, to help those in need in our communities. He has produced several videos for New Horizons including the Telly Award winning "Stop the Stigma" video. Two new commercials, developed by Cyde and IBD were previewed for the Board, one targeting adolescents dealing with anxiety and feelings of helplessness, and the other targeted toward adults with mental health and substance abuse challenges. Both illustrated compelling and very relevant messages while making it clear that help is available and New Horizons is here to help. Cyde emphasized that all of us are impacted by mental illness, many on a very personal level, and we know that people are struggling and hurting. The strong, yet subtle messaging within the commercials will let people know New Horizons wants to help them. While exposure of the commercials on television is currently limited, both can be viewed on You Tube, our website, and Facebook and we hope to secure funding to increase television time in the future. Board members commended Cyde for the excellent job in producing the very moving commercials and his many years of dedication to New Horizons and the individuals we serve.

SHELTER PLUS CARE OPTIONS UPDATE: As discussed and approved in the May Board meeting, options to transfer our Muscogee County Shelter Plus Care units are being considered. Denise reminded Board members that, in 2019, Cheryl Williams presented information to the Board on three Shelter Plus Care Programs, funded through the HUD Continuum of Care. In Muscogee County, we are currently contracted for 31 scattered site housing units for individuals and a matching component which we provide through Case Management services. Individuals housed in the program are required to pay up to 30% of their income towards their housing costs. We consistently have had difficulties in collecting their portion of the rest and also incur costs involved when a unit is damaged, needs repairs or furniture, or has bedbugs or other infestations. We also fund a full-time position with benefits to administer the housing portion of the program. Neither the grant nor DBHDD fund this position. From 2018 to 2022, our average loss has been over \$136,000 annually. In April, a meeting was held with DCA to discuss releasing the Muscogee County Grant to another agency within the GA-505 Continuum of Care (CoC). DCA asked that we provide information on units under lease, persons in each unit, landlords, when each lease expires, and utility providers for each unit. The CoC had indicated the local Salvation Army was interested in taking over the housing operations of the grant. To update the Board, the Salvation Army has decided against moving forward with this plan and additional meetings have been held. SafeHouse Ministries and Neil Richardson have agreed to take over 18 of the 31 Muscogee County units. Notice will be given on the remaining vacant units. The transition is scheduled for late June/early July. New Horizons will continue to provide mental health treatment services for the residents of the units. There will be no housing displacement or utility disruption to program participants. The Harris County Shelter Plus Care program will remain with New Horizons. Andrea reminded the Board that New Horizons' overhead costs have made this program challenging for us financially, but partnering with SafeHouse to handle the housing component while we continue to provide case management for the residents will be more cost effective for the agency.

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS: Susan announced that Recovery on the River will be held Saturday, September 10, 2022 downtown at the corner of 11th and Bay Avenue. T-shirts will be handed out, prizes awarded, and speakers in recovery from substance abuse and mental health will share their stories. The 988 Suicide/Crisis Line begins 7/16/22 in Georgia. "Did you Know" information cards related to our open access services were distributed to Board members. They were encouraged to distribute the cards in various locations in their communities to get the word out on services New Horizons offers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Andrea announced that CareLogic was selected as our new Electronic Health Record vendor. The kick-off begins this week with the transition scheduled to be completed by 12/1/22. It is a mammoth undertaking for the agency, but one we are very excited about. Randall is working with “subject matter experts” throughout the agency to gather data needed in the implementation process.

Andrea also reported:

The CARF Intent to Survey was submitted in May and we expect the Survey to take place in September or October. No date for the survey has been chosen, but the Board will be informed in advance.

Our contract to provide mental health services at the Muscogee County Jail ends 6/30/22. The new medical provider at the jail will also provide mental health services. The transition has begun and New Horizons jail staff will transfer to previous or open positions within the agency.

A reminder that there is no Board meeting scheduled for July.

The August Board Meeting date was changed to August 15th due to the GACSB Strategic Planning retreat that Ms. Winston and Mr. Hoyte will attend August 7-9.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Hoyte thanked Mr. Ranieri for presiding over the May Board meeting in his absence.

Sandra Gill acknowledged the many staff accomplishments highlighted in the June edition of The Quest. Some achieved licensure or their degree, while others were honored for the great job they do or milestones reached.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, M/S/P Edwina Turner/Joseph Williams to adjourn the meeting at 4:42 p.m., Board approved.

Damon Hoyte
Chairperson