



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: December 12, 2022

Members Present: Damon Hoyte, Nancy Schroeder, Joseph Williams,
Ed Harbison, Edwina Turner, Sandra Gill, LaVerne Chaffin,
and Linda McElroy

Members Excused: David Ranieri, Karen Johnson, and April Hughes

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Denise Wade McLeod, Susan Gallagher,
Danny Davenport, and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Damon Hoyte at 3:31 p.m. A quorum was established at that time. Mr. Hoyte welcomed Board Member Linda McElroy to the meeting. She has not been able to attend a meeting for some time due to some health concerns,

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

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of October 10, 2022 minutes):** M/S/P Joseph Williams/Ed Harbison to approve the October 10, 2022 minutes, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Susan reported New Horizons closed the month of September with a surplus of \$352,578 and a year to date surplus of \$874,422. Medicaid waivers and Medicaid revenue increased some, but were less than budgeted. Personnel costs are lower than budgeted, due to a large number of vacant positions. With an aging vehicle fleet, resulting in more costly repairs, our motor vehicle expense is higher than budgeted. October ended with a surplus of \$187,436 and a year to date surplus of \$1,061,858, Rental/Utility assistance was \$22,000 over the budgeted amount. Days Cash on Hand at the end of October was 119 days. Our CareLogic go live date is January 3rd and we anticipate some billing issues and glitches with the system that would cause billing delays. Having reserve funds will help us maintain financial stability during the transition to CareLogic and in becoming a CCBHC in July of 2023 with the new Medicaid reimbursement schedule. Large numbers of individuals on the Medicaid waiver waiting list are causing delays in services for many individuals and loss of funds for providers. We closely monitor billing and contract revenue and keep a watchful eye on our expenses.

CARF SURVEY REVIEW: Denise reported the CARF Survey in November went very well and thanked Cyndy Pattillo, our Board Members, and all staff who participated and worked hard to ensure it was a success. Of the 2,114 CARF standards the surveyors reviewed, we had 13 recommendations (requirements) and 11 suggestions (optional). Some of the recommendations included: Add projection of capital expenditures to budget, update evacuation routes and post them in more locations, test disaster recovery annually, add efficacy of medications (current and past) to Assessment, add information about Military history (not just yes or no) to Assessment, add information about experience with trauma, neglect, violence, and sexual assault to Assessment, and add triggers to Safety Plan. Suggestions ranged from keeping a master policy/document tracking grid for updating plans and policies to locating Narcan at every program with easy access. We are awaiting the official CARF report, but work has begun on corrective action plans to address the recommendations. While not official, we are expecting a three-year accreditation.

Board Members inquired about availability of Narcan in rural counties and were told to contact their local health department. Denise and Susan provided additional information about Narcan supplies that will be emailed after the meeting.

*** APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) HOTEL/MOTEL & SUPPORT SERVICES:** Board approval is requested for two Department of Community Affairs grants for Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Hotel/Motel funds of \$2,460.00 and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Support Service funds of \$24,000.00. These grants are in effect from July 2022 to June of 2023. M/S/P Joseph Williams/Ed Harbison to approve the two grants, Board approved.

FY23 – ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS (JANUARY MEETING): Andrea reminded Members that Board Officers for 2023 will be elected in January. Please give some consideration to your selections for Board Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: It was announced recently, and somewhat unexpectedly, that DBHDD Commissioner Judy Fitzgerald had submitted her resignation and Monica Johnson had been named as the Interim Commissioner. Within a few weeks, Kevin Tanner, head of the Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission since 2019 and County Manager of Forsyth, was appointed the new DBHDD Commissioner effective December 16th. Mr. Tanner previously served four terms as a State Representative for District 9 and has a total of thirty-two years in public service. He was recognized in 2011 as the Appointed Official of the Year by the Georgia Association of County Commissioners. This transition has happened rather quickly and we are bracing for any changes that it may bring.

April Hughes has been appointed for another three year term by the Chattahoochee County Commissioners. We appreciate her service and dedication to New Horizons Behavioral Health.

PUBLIC COMMENT: LaVerne Chaffin thanked New Horizons staff for providing services to some of the school children in Clay County. Ms. Winston added that if there are other areas that New Horizons can be of assistance in the counties, to please let us know.

Linda McElroy indicated she was excited to join fellow Board members and staff at today's meeting and hoped to be able to attend more meetings in the future. Board members extended thoughts and prayers on her upcoming medical procedures.

ADJOURNMENT: M/S/P Joseph Williams/Ed Harbison to adjourn the meeting at 4:07 p.m., Board approved.

Fun, food, games, and fellowship followed.

Damon Hoyte
Chairperson