



A Community Mental Health / Developmental Disabilities / Addictive Diseases Program

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NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

September 14, 2020 Via Teleconference

Members Present: David Ranieri, Joseph Williams, Edwina Turner,
Nancy Schroeder, Sandra Gill, LaVerne Chaffin,
Sherrell Terry, and Karen Johnson

Members Excused: April Hughes, Damon Hoyte, Linda McElroy, and
Ed Harbison

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Valerie Bowden, 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. Board Chair 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: Mac Moye, Stewart County Manager.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of August 10, 2020 minutes):** M/S/P Edwina Turner/Karen Johnson to approve the minutes of August 10, 2020 meeting, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Valerie reported New Horizons had a surplus of \$76,870 for the month of July compared to a budgeted surplus of \$41,711. During the month of July we continued to experience reduced revenues due to reduction of services due to COVID. Revenues were below budget because programs are still slowly trying to open back up and we are still looking at the unknown in the current COVID environment. And, we continue to keep expenses down below budget because of the reduced program activity.

Days cash on hand at the end of August were 13.46. Medicaid collections are still down, but we have been keeping expenses down also and were able to increase days cash on hand. While we were able to increase days cash on hand by managing expenses during the reductions in revenue, the DBHDD expectation is that we have 30 days cash on hand. The new fiscal year (FY21) began July 1 and with the State budget cuts and the ongoing pandemic, it leaves us with many unknowns regarding our financial outlook so we continue to look for ways to maximize our resources and build cash reserves in order to be able to operate as we move through the new environment.

***2020 CARE FUND – EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) PROGRAMS:** Seeking Board approval of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding totaling \$379,780 for ESG Emergency Shelter, Rapid Re-housing, Street Outreach, and HMIS to link individuals to permanent housing in Randolph, Quitman, Chattahoochee, Stewart, Talbot, Harris, and Clay counties. M/S/P Joseph Williams/Nancy Schroeder to enter into these grant programs, Board approved.

***CORPORATE COMPLIANCE PLAN:** The plan, that is updated annually, was sent to Board members prior to the meeting for review with no significant revisions from the previous plan. M/S/P Joseph Williams/Sandra Gill to approve the Corporate Compliance Plan, Board approved.

MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT): Susan Gallagher announced that New Horizons has been awarded a 12-month Medicated Assisted Treatment Contract with DBHDD Office of Addictive Diseases. The contract is renewable based on contractor performance as reported in the WITS/GPRA system. New Horizons has been awarded \$350,000 operating costs and \$100,000 medication costs to provide MAT for adults with Opioid Dependence. This project will involve the Pharmacy and Outpatient Clinic for medication dispensing and Midtown Recovery for outpatient treatment to include Peer Support and Individual and/or Group therapy. There are currently 23 DBHDD STR/SOR-funded programs in the state. In Region 6, McIntosh Trail and the South Georgia Treatment Center are the previously funded locations. Being a MAT-facility positions us favorably for the DBHDD Certified Community Behavioral Health Center. Our stated goal is to serve 50 adults annually and track them through the DBHDD WITS reporting system. DBHDD received federal funding for this project and are required to report at Intake, 6 months, and Discharge for all program participants. We are in the third round of awardees. Other programs receiving MAT funding from DBHDD include Grady Hospital System. We have also partnered with the West Central Georgia Health District Opioid Task Force for referrals and assistance with MAT payments for uninsured individuals.

CSB'S OPIOID LITIGATION: As mentioned in a previous Board meeting, the GACSB opted to participate in class action opioid litigation against the big pharmacy companies for violating the Georgia Drug Dealer Liability Act and other causes of action related to their past and ongoing campaign of unlawfully, dangerously, and deceptively marketing and distributing opioids. Because the CSBs are the first line responders at the center of Georgia's opioid epidemic and deliver the health care to those with likely opioid abuse disorder, CSBs have been notified that the complaint has been filed in the Northern District of Georgia. From there, the case should move to federal court in Ohio. New Horizons' attorney, Tom Tebeau, reviewed the complaint and approved our participation. Updates will be provided as they become available.

DBHDD CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER INITIATIVE:

As introduced in our last Board meeting, Andrea reported the CCBHC initiative is large in scope with initial analysis/assessments moving very quickly. CCBHCs, a new provider type in Medicaid, are designed to provide a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use disorder services to vulnerable individuals. While many throughout the State are questioning why now, MTM consultants are busy setting up meetings to meet the timeline of the end of November for completing the gap analysis and readiness assessment tool. Our first meeting is September 17th with Charlie Grantham to review our IT /EMR systems. Following that are an Orientation and Readiness Assessment Tool Review with Michael Flora, and two Gap Analysis sessions and one Gap review with Joy Fruth. Dr. Cyndy Pattillo will lead this effort for New Horizons. She is the Chair of our Performance Improvement Committee and oversees and guides us through our CARF surveys. Some CSBs may not be eligible to become a CCBHC resulting in possible mergers of some providers. We will do our best to prepare and implement this new initiative that could improve services and outcomes, along with rates and funding.

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS UPDATE: Susan reported to the Board on the following:

Development/Grants

- Our Covid Funding Application Part 1 for Material has been forwarded by GEMA to FEMA for review. Our next phase will be for Equipment.
- We were awarded DCA ESG-Covid Funding for (4) programs: Hotel/Motel, Street Outreach, HMIS, and Rural Rapid Rehousing . This funding does not require any matching funds.

Community Relations:

We went Virtual! 4th Annual Children's Mental Health Symposium was Friday, September 4th from 9:30 am to noon and had 66 participants. Perfect Vision in 20/20 – Focusing on Children's Mental Health was the topic with (4) Presenters from the United Way, Family Treatment Drug Court, Bradley Center C & A Unit, and EMERGE.

“RECOVERY ROCKS” is our September Recovery Month Activity. This replaces the Run4 Recovery due to Covid Health & Safety Precautions regarding gathering in groups. Rock painting is a world-wide phenomenon with an estimated 6 million painted rocks creating smiles and chain reactions of kindness around the World. There are numerous Facebook Groups and Communities dedicated to sharing the joy of hiding and finding painted rocks.

To celebrate Recovery Month "RECOVERY ROCKS" will run from September 12 through September 30. CSU art students are painting rocks with uplifting messages that will be placed along the major walking trails in Muscogee County. Rocks will have a sticker with “Recovery Month 2020” and NHBH contact information on the back. Rock finders will post a photo with their rock to Facebook, tag NHBH, and receive a Door Prize for their efforts.

Weekly **Facebook Live Integrated Health** started August 10 at 10AM on Pops Barnes Facebook Feed. He has 5,000 followers that we will be able to reach on various integrated health & wellness topics. We have a schedule and topics for the next 52 weeks with a few holidays in between. Our most recent show was August 31 and covered “Recovery Rocks.”

COVID SURVEILLANCE REPORT: Andrea presented the following:

- Known # individuals exposed to the COVID-19 virus: 86 (18 new exposures since last report to board)
- Known # staff exposed to the COVID-19 virus: 41 (8 new exposures since last report to board)
- Known # individuals with a lab confirmed positive test for the COVID-19 virus: 14 (4 new cases since last report to board)
- Known # staff with a lab confirmed positive test for the COVID-19 virus: 17 (3 new positive cases since last report to board)
- COVID-19 related deaths: 1 (1 new DD Residential)

Covid Numbers by County (per the GADPH):

County	Covid Positive	Covid Deaths
Muscogee	5732	159
Harris	764	21
Talbot	156	5
Chattahoochee	1584	2
Stewart	410	13
Randolph	327	27
Clay	118	2
Quitman	31	1

State of Georgia: 295,337 6353

Andrea reminded everyone to stay safe, follow the guidelines, wash your hands, and get your flu shot.

Mr. Moye reported that Stewart County numbers have increased due to the nursing home and the detention center located there and that reported deaths may be delayed by several weeks. Ms. Gill commented on Quitman County maintaining consistently low numbers. Mr. Ranieri emphasized the mental impact the pandemic is having on everyone and added that New Horizons is doing a great job to support and serve our individuals.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS: Board members provided updates on how they, their families, and communities are handling the ongoing challenges of the pandemic. From exciting news of a new grandbaby, recognition award for volunteering, and everyone isolating and following the guidelines to stay well, to concerns over children and grandchildren (of all ages) returning to school, all enjoy sharing information during this time of not being able to see each other. Board members thanked New Horizons’ leadership and staff for all their efforts in providing services and support to our vulnerable individuals.

*Serving Residents of Chattahoochee, Clay, Harris, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Stewart and Talbot Counties
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ANNOUNCEMENTS: Ms. Gill congratulated Ms. Winston on reaching her milestone 25th year of employment at New Horizons. Other Board members extended their appreciation and congratulations on her years of service.

Andrea reminded Board members that there is currently not a Board meeting scheduled for October and asked if they wanted to revise the schedule to have a meeting or wait until November to meet again. They agreed to keep the schedule as is and our next meeting will be November 9th.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were presented.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, M/S/P Edwina Turner/Joseph Williams to adjourn the teleconference/meeting at 4:34 p.m., Board approved.

David Ranieri
Chairperson