



*A Community Mental Health / Developmental Disabilities / Addictive Diseases Program*

*Administration  
P.O. Box 5328  
2100 Comer Avenue  
Columbus, GA 31906*

*(706) 596-5588  
FAX (706) 596-5589*

---

## **NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

May 13, 2019                      Conference Room B – 3:30 p.m.

Members Present:                David Ranieri, Joseph Williams, Nancy Schroeder,  
Sherrell Terry, Karen Johnson, LaVerne Chaffin,  
Edwina Turner, Damon Hoyte, and April Hughes,

Members Excused:                Sandra Gill, Linda McElroy, and Ed Harbison

Staff Present:                      Andrea Winston, Ilyn Camphell, Valerie Bowden,  
Sherry Smith, Susan Gallagher, Denise Wade,  
Kenyetta Plummer, and Molly Jones

**CALL TO ORDER:**                The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.    A quorum was not established at that time, but was established later in the meeting.

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

**\* SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of April 8, 2019 minutes):**    M/S/P Joseph Williams/Edwina Turner to approve the minutes of April 8, 2019, Board approved.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW:**    New Horizons had a \$14,783 surplus for the month of April with a year-to-date surplus of \$2,317. We continue to review all of the agency activity in order to maximize revenue and reduce and be more efficient with our expenses. We have been reviewing our Medicaid claims activity for denied claims, working to get these claims paid, and put systems in place on the front end that will prevent claims from being denied. The current days Cash on Hand as of 04/30/19 is 6.87 days. Cash was impacted in February and March by the Beacon Health Options Edifecs conversion for GIA FFS claims submission. The conversion started on February 20. We did not receive any GIA FFS reimbursement until April 5<sup>th</sup>. The conversion is now approximately 95% complete as some issues have been resolved.

*Serving Residents of Chattahoochee, Clay, Harris, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Stewart and Talbot Counties  
For 24-Hour Emergency Services Call (706) 323-0174 or Toll Free (800) 241-3659*

**BOARD MEMBER TRAINING - CSB 101:** To better understand the history of Community Service Boards and the role of Board Members, the first of several Board Member trainings (CSB 101) was presented in today's meeting. Going back to the late 60's, we were known as the Columbus Area Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Program, under the Department of Public Health. Then in the early 70's under Governor Carter, there was expansion of Behavioral Health services in the State and a merger of Public Health, Behavioral Health, DFCS, and other agencies to create the Department of Human Resources (DHR). For 20 years, the MH/MR/SA system was hospital-based with very limited community services, but public outcry and advocacy initiated SB 811, a study commission of the service delivery system that led to Georgia HB100 and development of 14 principles defining what was expected of a service delivery system. HB 100 was passed in 1993 based on the 811 Study Commission recommendations resulting in the State system being configured into 19 regions, and Community Service Boards were contracted to provide services along with private providers. In 2002, HB 498 was passed, changing the Division name to Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases (MHDDAD), reducing the number of regions, making a state hospital part of each region, adding Regional offices, changing Regional Boards to Planning Boards and defining the position and role of CSBs in the system structure. In 2006, HB 1223 was enacted into law, addressing the problem of board membership size. In 2009, the MHDDAD department was removed from the Department of Human Resources and changed to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), a separate agency reporting directly to the Governor. Following some issues/conflicts involving Gateway CSB in Brunswick, in 2014, SB 349 was passed modifying the composition of the membership of the governing Board to include elected officials and additional oversight by the DBHDD Commissioner. Additional information related to this bill and Board membership will be provided in a future training.

**DEVELOPMENT/MARKETING REPORT:** Susan announced May is Mental Health Month and reported on a number of contracts and grants submitted over the past three months including: Rural Domestic Violence, Muscogee County Jail Services, CCG Drug Court Expansion, C & A Behavioral Crisis Beds, and Family and Juvenile Drug Court Enhancements. Through a partnership with Cascade Hills Church, Columbus Botanical Garden, the Master Gardener Program, and New Horizons, the Ability Garden will provide the opportunity for individuals at Columbus Service Center to develop their gardening skills while creating friendships. Work has begun on the garden site and ensuring sustainability of the garden will be key to its success. Facebook fans continue to increase with a goal to reach 10,000 followers. Stewart County Health Fair, Tree of Life Public Health Kick-Off, Muscogee County Drug Court PORCH Project Announcement, Sex Trafficking Symposium, Artistic Ability, Randolph County Family Connection Luncheon, Personal Care Home Training, and the Clay County Health and Resource Fair are some of the meaningful outreach community events New Horizons has participated in recently. SKY Clubhouse was recognized by the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission for their STEAM Recycling Project on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Upcoming events in the community include: Market Days on Broadway, National HEP C Testing Day May 20<sup>th</sup>, National HIV Testing Day June 27<sup>th</sup>, and the Chattahoochee County Back to School Bash July 21. A number of community trainings, Youth and Adult Mental Health First Aid, and the Children's Mental Health Symposium are scheduled over the next few months.

**EMPLOYEE & PEER EVENTS:** Several employee-related events have been held recently to boost morale, encourage teamwork, and enhance health and wellness. The Chili Cook-Off was held in April at the DD Campus. Transportation Director Jose Quinones planned the event and entered his own special chili recipe competing against entries from several other New Horizons employees/teams. The “Hot Tamales” team from Medical Services/Administration won first prize. On April 26<sup>th</sup>, nearly 100 employees attended the Employee Health and Wellness Fair at the DD Campus. Vendors were on hand with information about fitness, wellness, health screenings, healthy eating, skin care, counseling, and other health-related tips. Employees enjoyed the photo booth, veggie walk, fruit/veggie sculpture contest, and tasty lunch options from the three food trucks on hand. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Fling at Epworth by the Sea was attended by individuals from our Mental Health and Developmental Disability programs, Peer Specialists, those interested in becoming Peer Specialists, and several staff. The event, held April 28 – May 1<sup>st</sup>, focuses on Whole Health, Wellness, Independence and Recovery, Medication, Self-Advocating, Employment, plus many fun and entertaining activities. Johan Dixon, who attends our REACH Day Treatment Program, won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Spring Fling Logo Contest and his drawing was featured on the program, t-shirts, and other materials related to the event. From all reports, the event was a great success.

**PRESENTATION - ADULT DRUG COURT:** Our unique relationship with our local Accountability Courts has put New Horizons on the leading edge of this partnership that is encouraged by DBHDD across the State. Denise Wade reported we have been intentional in creating and maintaining these partnerships resulting in a win/win/win for the participants, the Courts, and New Horizons. The Accountability Courts include: Adult, Adolescent, and Family Drug Courts, and Mental Health and Veterans Courts. We are mandated to serve “high risk/high need” individuals in Drug Court, provide treatment, attend weekly team meetings and court, with housing and case management also provided. Our new CSAT Grant will also include 4 part-time Peer Mentors, Peer Mentor Training, and HIV/HepC Testing. MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) programs are being funded across the State using several medications, Naltrexone, Vivitrol, and Suboxone. The PORCH (Providing Overdose Reversal to give Columbus Hope) Project will provide NARCAN to first responders and the community. New Horizons will provide community education and assist with distribution activities. This continues to be a strong partnership for New Horizons and currently we are serving 125 individuals in Adult Drug Court with most receiving services at New Horizons.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Board Member Karen Johnson reported she had visited the Randolph County Service Center several times recently and noticed that individual attendance was higher on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, but noticeably less on Thursday and Friday and that overall attendance appeared to be lower than in the past. She asked how we could increase the numbers and if it was up to families to decide if individuals attended each day. Andrea explained that access to Developmental Disability services is very different than Mental Health services. A waiver must be applied for through the Region office and there is typically a long waiting list. The waiver covers certain services and units of services, and services must be approved. Ms. Johnson asked who was advocating for the DD individuals to improve this process. Andrea responded that SPADD, the GACSB Association, New Horizons staff, family members, and others advocate for our individuals and the waiver process has been and continues to be a challenging one.

Andrea reported on the severe difficulties we are having in recruiting houseparents for DD and MH homes that could result in closing some homes. We currently have 22 full and part-time houseparent positions open creating challenges in juggling schedules. The Region office has been informed and a meeting is scheduled to discuss our options.

Lyn Campbell has submitted her resignation as Clinical Director effective December 31, 2019. Andrea emphasized it will be a challenge to replace Lyn and the candidate will have big shoes to fill.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. Ranieri thanked Board members for their attendance today and in past meetings.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, M/S/P Joseph Williams/Nancy Schroeder to adjourn the meeting at 4:35 p.m., Board approved.



---

David Ranieri  
Chairperson