



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

April 8, 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, April Hughes,
Sandra Gill, and Linda McElroy

Members Excused: Ed Harbison

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Lyn Campbell, Valerie Bowden,
Randall Newberry, 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 established at that time.

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

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of February 11, 2019 minutes):** M/S/P Joseph Williams/Nancy Schroeder to approve the minutes of February 11, 2019, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: New Horizons had a deficit for the month of February of (\$16,945) with a year-to-date surplus of \$428. During the month of February we had another ERS employee to retire. Between the annual leave payout for the staff and the payment to ERS for forfeited leave time, the total cost of the retirement was \$52,700. The annual leave payout expense was recognized in February and the payment to ERS made in March will be a March expense. We are still working on closing out the month of March. The current days Cash on Hand as of 03/31/19 is .69 days. Cash has been impacted 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 5th. The conversion is now approximately 80% complete as some issues have been worked out. We currently have approximately \$75,000 in outstanding claims.

DEVELOPMENT/MARKETING REPORT: March was a very busy month with many events scheduled for I/DD Awareness Month and community outreach events in Muscogee and outlying counties. Susan highlighted the I/DD Talent Show and Starry Night Prom with great pictures from both events. The events were a huge success with many individuals from our I/DD programs participating and all having a great time, along with family members and community guests. Artistic Ability is April 12th at 5:30 p.m. at the Bo Bartlett Center. Future projects include plans for an Ability Garden at the Columbus Service Center to further enhance the I/DD program and the enjoyment of gardening. Cascade Hills Church, Columbus Botanical Gardens, and the Master Gardener program are our community partners in this innovative project. SKY Clubhouse is being recognized by Keep Columbus Beautiful for their STEAM Recycling Project on May 9th at the Cunningham Leadership Center at CSU from 11:30 to 1:00. Looking ahead, other events we are excited about include Market Days on Broadway, Family Connection meetings/events, Resource and Health Fairs, Children's Mental Health Symposium, National HIV Testing Day, National HEP C Testing Day, and the Run4Recovery on September 7th.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Andrea reported that House Bill 514, the Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission, passed in the House during the 2019 Legislative Session. The bill creates a Commission comprised of 23 experts to develop a statewide plan for mental and behavioral health. The current version now includes one voting position for a Community Service Board member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor. Once a plan is developed, recommendations will follow. The impact this will have on Community Service Boards is unclear at this point and whether it will be a potential problem or an opportunity.

TALBOT COUNTY DISASTER RESPONSE: The March 3rd tornadoes that struck our area left a trail of destruction in Lee County, Alabama, and in Talbot and Harris counties in our service area. In the southern counties, Stewart County reported damages to several homes. Our P.A.T.H. team reached out to those in need quickly and made us aware that our Disaster Response Team and the Crisis Debriefing Team were needed in Talbot County. The team responded with donations, support, and outreach for the community and in the school system, assisting the faculty and students in processing what had happened by offering counseling and coping skills in dealing with the aftermath of the storms. A team of 14 Mental Health professionals from New Horizons participated in the debriefing sessions within the school system. Recommendations for ongoing counseling were made for a number of children and the school system will continue services for those individuals. The experience had a profound impact on the Talbot County community and on our staff. Seeing the devastation first hand and being able to provide support, comforting hugs, a listening ear, and resources to those affected by the storm was an experience the team will remember for a long time. Training and preparing for events such as these, and collaboration with other community agencies, has enhanced our disaster response efforts.

PRESENTATION(S):

CONNECTIONS: Denise Wade reported that Connections...the Place 2B, is our new peer-led recovery-oriented sanctuary. The program is governed by representatives from the local recovery community and offers individuals and families participation in activities that promote recovery, self-advocacy, self-determination, well-being, and independence. Connections envisions a world where recovery from addiction to alcohol and drugs is understood, embraced, promoted, and enjoyed, and that all who seek recovery have equal access to the support, care, and resources they need to achieve and sustain long-term recovery. Offering peer to peer check-in, group check-in, recovery meetings and special monthly activities, other options for those attending are Café 2B, Activity Room, Gym Room, a Library, and Meditation Rooms. Being connected to Community, Peers, Self, Family, Wellness, and Resources is the key to long-term Recovery Success.

GEORGIA APEX: The Georgia Apex Program was renewed for Chattahoochee County and will expand into Muscogee County thanks to an award of \$330,000 by DBHDD to initiate school-based mental health services in the Muscogee County School District. With a start date of June 1st, New Horizons plans to hire three Masters Level clinicians to work in six elementary schools. The clinicians will complete intakes, refer the child to other services as needed, assist with de-escalation of behaviors, and provide intensive case management services. Assisting with parent trainings, teacher in-services, and support groups for the children are key components of the program. In addition, New Horizons will sponsor two Mental Health First Aid Trainings, participate in a status update annually with each school principal, speak at one school board meeting, if requested, and support tele-mental health services in the schools that we are serving. As Board Member April Hughes acknowledged, the Apex program has made an impact in the Chattahoochee County School System and we are excited to bring these meaningful and much needed services to the children in Muscogee County. Lyn reported that a counselor is providing services in the Stewart County School System where Apex funding was applied for, but unfortunately, not awarded.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: As discussed in the February Board meeting, the time to make a formal request for additional funds to supplement transportation costs has come. A letter to Robert Dorr, DBHDD, was sent April 1st with supporting documents of FY18 and F19 Transportation budgets and the Days Cash on Hand Trend. Board members received a copy of these documents in their folders. Mr. Dorr's response was that the issue will be addressed for the network of CSBs, rather than individual CSBs, in two work group sessions.

According to Georgia Health News, in his final days as Georgia governor, Nathan Deal submitted a letter to the U.S. Department of Justice asking for an end to federal oversight of the state's mental health and developmental disabilities system. In the letter, he wrote, "Georgia has made tremendous improvements in the quantity, quality, and availability of community-based services." However, an independent reviewer of the settlement agreement noted that gaps in supported housing remain.

Andrea suggested adding CSB Board Trainings to the meeting agenda to help Board Members better understand their role. Board Members responded favorably to this recommendation.

Three Board Member's terms will expire in 2019: David Ranieri in June, Karen Johnson in August, and April Hughes in November. Reappointment letters will be sent to each of them requesting a response on serving another term.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments were presented.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, M/S/P Edwina Turner/Joseph Williams to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 p.m., Board approved.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David B. Ranieri", written in black ink.

David Ranieri
Chairperson