



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
2100 Comer Avenue – New Horizons Training Room
Columbus, GA 31906**

Date of Meeting: February 10, 2025

Members Present: Damon Hoyte, Nancy Schroeder, Terry Edwards,
Karen Johnson Bussey, LaVerne Chaffin, Arcola Scott,
and Sandra Gill

Members Excused: David Ranieri, Edwina Turner, Ed Harbison, April Hughes,
and Linda McElroy

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

CALL TO ORDER: Board Chair Damon Hoyte called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.. A quorum was established at that time.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING: Cyde McQuien, Image by Design, Rhonda Collins, Baker & Associates, and Valona Baldwin, DBHDD Regional Coordinator.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of December 9, 2024 minutes):** M/S/P Terry Edwards/Arcola Scott to approve the minutes of December 9, 2024, Board approved.

***ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2025:** As announced in the December Board meeting, it is time to elect officers for 2025. Our current slate of officers are: Damon Hoyte, Chair, Nancy Schroeder, Vice Chair, and Sandra Gill, Secretary. M/S/P LaVerne Chaffin/Arcola Scott to re-elect Damon Hoyte as Board Chair, M/S/P Nancy Schroeder/Damon Hoyte to elect Terry Edwards as Vice Chair, and M/S/P LaVerne Chaffin/Terry Edwards to re-elect Sandra Gill as Secretary, Board Approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Susan presented the FY25 six month Financial Report Card indicating that as of December 31, 2024, we had 177.47 days Cash on Hand and a cash balance of \$10,961,787 (compared to 148.10 days and \$9,797,864 as of June 30, 2024). She reported we are maintaining tight control of expenses, IDD and BH rates have increased (with a July 1, 2024 retro active date), and internal billing and collection rates continue to improve.

Total revenues for the month of December were \$629,481 over budgeted amounts and revenues in January will reflect a slight increase from previous months, but nothing like December due to the retro payments. December ended with a surplus of \$736,037 for the month and a year to date surplus of \$1,693,721. This surplus is needed to serve as a cushion with the anticipated Go-Live date of July 1, 2025 for the bundled CCBHC payment rate. We are planning for delays in approvals, payments and other unforeseen issues as we transition to this new payor model – new for us, DBHDD, and DCH. Supplemental funding from DBHDD will continue to provide \$200,000 per month through June 30, 2025. However, there is no guarantee this funding will continue at the same level if there are delays in the bundled CCBHC payment rate.

As transportation is a major expense in our budget, Susan reminded Board Members that we have an aging fleet of vehicles and are currently doing an analysis to determine if we have the right size and number of vehicles, the age of each, maintenance costs due to age, etc. As some CSBs receive funding for Transportation, New Horizons has and will continue to request funds from DBHDD.

When asked if any recent government program changes have had an impact on our funding, Susan reported there have been none other than the CACFP (Food Program). Grants continue to be available and Susan is currently working on a grant application for our rural areas.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDIT REVIEW: Rhonda Collins, CPA, with Baker & Associates of Albany, Georgia attended today's meeting to discuss New Horizons' annual external audit and answer any questions. The audit report was emailed to Board members prior to today's meeting. The final audit report indicated we received an unmodified opinion, meaning the auditor concludes that the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Ms. Collins reported that the annual audit process went very smoothly and praised staff for their cooperation in providing all information/documents requested. She explained that our audit is driven by Federal and State funding we receive and revenue must match expenses, the agency must follow policies, procedures, and rules/controls we have in place, and grant compliance is required. Ms. Collins' report indicated another successful audit and Board Members thanked her and New Horizons' leadership for the amazing job in completing the audit.

***NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BYLAWS:** The Bylaws were sent out prior to the meeting for Board review. No revisions or additions were recommended. M/S/P Terry Edwards/Arcola Scott to approve the Bylaws, Board approved.

TELLY AWARD: Cyde McQuein, Image by Design, proudly announced that the most recent commercial, The Choice, produced by his company for New Horizons won a Telly Award. The award, based on creative recognition and levels of standard, is one of several we have won over the past few years, all produced by IBD. As Cyde shared, the work of New Horizons is meaningful and has a significant impact on our communities.

Andrea emphasized the commercial will resonate with people and, while we may never know the full impact, it sends a critically important message to enhance our Zero Suicide Mission.

BOARD MEMBER 101: Andrea reported Board Member training is done periodically to educate new members and remind all members of New Horizons mission and vision, educate on regulatory agencies the agency must comply with, and discuss fiduciary responsibilities we must maintain for financial stability. She reminded Board Members that they are Ambassadors for New Horizons to the community/county they represent and encouraged all to share our message with those in their communities including their church, and clubs/organizations they are affiliated with and bring back issues, concerns/problems, and needs of their communities. A Board Member toolkit containing Narcan, NHBH Fact Sheet, brochures, CEO business card with contact information, and a Board Member roster was presented to each Board Member. Additional Board Member training will be presented in future meetings.

Board Members expressed appreciation to New Horizons Leadership and Staff for their enjoyable experience in serving on the Board, all they are learning about New Horizons in the process, and their desire to get the word out in their communities about the agency and services we offer.

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS: Chloe reported on events attended since our last Board meeting including Christmas events in Harris and Stewart counties and the Clay County Career Fair. She shared pictures from the Recovery on the Rise Luncheon held in December featuring inspirational recovery speakers from New Horizons' programs. Several city officials participated in a tour and presentation at the Columbus Service Center. Plans to enhance this location and make it ADA compliant are being discussed with the City and community leaders. Our Mobile Unit has been out in the community recently at three events with 13 people receiving HIV testing. A recent article in the Valley Parent Magazine highlighted the I/DD Family Support program. Upcoming events are the Morehouse School of Medicine Symposium, Carver High School event, Marquis Hill visits to our Apex schools, Mobile Unit Advertising & Tour, Recovery event planning, and sponsorships for several luncheon and awareness events. Facebook, Instagram, Constant Contact, and Website data was shared with increases reflected in our social media presence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: No announcements were presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Valona Baldwin, Region 6 Coordinator, shared the following:

- Save the Date for the Behavioral Health and the Law Conference on Nov. 17-19th 2025. The location is Jekyll Island, GA.
- Co-Responder Teams Professional Development Conference Peachtree City, GA on Feb. 27-28th. Target Audience is for Active Co-Responder Teams. Must register and pending approval, until confirmed.
- SUN Learning Journey Applications are being accepted. Please view email sent to NHBH from Ms. Valona Baldwin containing details on this opportunity on Re-Imagining Waiver Supports. Applications are due 2/14/2025, but extensions on the deadline can be considered.
- CheckPT is LIVE! NHBH should have their CheckPT Administrator register their Agency in CheckPT using their individual business email account. Important Note: Email addresses can only be used one time in CheckPT.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 4:30, M/S/P Terry Edwards/Arcola Scott to go into Executive Session to discuss Executive Evaluation/Retirement Benefits, Board approved. At 4:40 p.m. M/S/P Arcola Scott/Terry Edwards to end the Executive Session, Board approved.

Mr. Hoyte requested an amendment to the Agenda to add the Compensation Agreement for Ms. Winston. With that addition, M/S/P Arcola Scott/Terry Edwards to approve the Compensation Agreement, Board approved.

ADJOURNMENT: At 4:55 p.m. M/S/P Nancy Schroeder/Arcola Scott to adjourn the meeting, Board approved.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Damon Hoyte', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Damon Hoyte
Chairperson