



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: March 10, 2025

Members Present: Terry Edwards, Nancy Schroeder,
Karen J. Bussey, LaVerne Chaffin, and Arcola Scott

Members Excused: Damon Hoyte, David Ranieri, Edwina Turner, Ed Harbison,
April Hughes, Linda McElroy, and Sandra Gill

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Susan Gallagher, Denise Wade McLeod, Danny Davenport, Chloe Landreth, Kenyetta Plummer, Karen Cotton-Everett, Edward Minor, and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: Board Chair Damon Hoyte was unable to attend the meeting. Vice Chair Terry Edwards called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.. A quorum was not established during the meeting.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING: Valona Baldwin, DBHDD Regional Coordinator.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of February 10, 2025 minutes):** No vote was taken, as a quorum was not established during the meeting.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Susan reported that January saw 2.5 revenue generating days lost due to inclement weather, however, the month ended with actual revenue slightly over projections. Medicaid Waiver and GIA-FFS Revenue continued their upward trend while Medicaid Fees were more significantly impacted by the inclement weather. We should be at 58% of budget for the month of January. Private insurance, DD work activity, and other fees were significantly higher than budgeted amounts. January ended with a modest surplus of \$110,426 for the month and a YTD surplus of \$1,802,825. 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 3% below total budgeted expenses YTD. Leadership is keeping overall expenses under control. Maintenance and repairs are significantly over budget due to the fire in April 2024 at Veterans ITR.

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Repairs due to the fire will be offset by the insurance reimbursement received in February, but other repairs and updates to the home are needed.

Days Cash on Hand as of January 31, 2025 is at 185.3 with average daily expenses of \$60,414.

Susan indicated a change to the presentation of the Monthly Balance Sheet will include a category titled "Restricted Donations" reflecting investments of a bequest of \$20,000 from Velma Klayder in 2003, plus earnings from that bequest, and proceeds from sponsorships for the Annual Event held each September during Recovery Month.

***RESOLUTION FOR GEORGIA OPIOID ABATEMENT TRUST:** In 2021, a nationwide settlement was reached to resolve all opioids litigation brought by states and local political subdivisions against the three largest pharmaceutical distributors, McKesson, Cardinal Health, AmerisourceBergen and against manufacturer Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and its parent company Johnson & Johnson. These National Settlements have been finalized, and payments have already begun. In all, nationally, the distributors will pay up to \$21 billion over 18 years and J & J will pay up to an additional \$5 billion over no more than nine years. Georgia and its local governments stand to receive approximately \$638 million under the settlement agreement. An email for Board approval of the resolution to receive payments will be sent to Board Members after the meeting.

CCBHC UPDATE: Susan reported that the Go Live date of July 1, 2025 continues to be the goal for CCBHC, but no PPS rate has been confirmed. The bridge funding from DBHDD continues through June and our Days Cash on Hand of 185 days will help us weather delays and other issues we anticipate once CCBHC begins.

BOARD MEMBER 101: The 2024 Annual Report, compiled by Chloe, was presented to Board Members and reviewed to further explain the role of Board Members, services offered, the break down of individuals served by county, service, gender, and race, ancillary and partnership services, annual revenue, special events, and highlights of individuals and staff. Changes in the Board makeup over the past few years, to now include three elected officials, were also discussed. Reducing stigma, the mobile unit, express clinic, and the Community Mental Health Needs Assessment are also featured in the report.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: SUICIDE REDUCTION INITIATIVE: With the goal of reducing suicides to zero, a task force was formed to study the last five suicides, any commonalities, our policies/procedures related to suicide, and what our next steps should be. Dr. Minor reviewed the history of the last five individuals who died by suicide (over a three year period). Kenyetta Plummer reviewed DBHDD policies/procedures and commonalities of deficiencies in the Safety Plans, Treatment Plans, and the Columbia Suicide Rating Scale. She outlined DBHDD Policy 01-0118 that includes suicide prevention screening, monitoring the individual, Safety Plan development and implementation, and addressing suicide in the Treatment Plan. Karen Cotton-Everett reported that next steps will include implementation of a new, more streamlined DBHDD Suicide Prevention Policy along with guidance on how it will be implemented, increasing engagement and outreach efforts at all levels, continued work towards reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors, and enhanced, regular training on assessment tools, EMR alerts, and processes. Other recommendations are evidence-based treatment approaches and increased therapy and skill building along with Clinical Corner and supervision sessions to discuss specific cases and share information to create a culture of consulting.

Andrea thanked task force members, adding that we want to establish a culture of greater awareness of suicidal ideation, know what to look for, and that suicide is treated like other emergencies. Karen added we have recently added two additional QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) trainers and the training can be provided to groups throughout our communities/counties. Farmers and Veterans have had an increase in suicides over the past few years and numbers, overall, are higher since the pandemic.

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS: Chloe reported on events attended since the last Board meeting including Carver High School Resource Fair, Goodwill Career Fair, Neighborhood Health Day, and CSB Day at the Capitol. Youth Motivational Speak Marquis Hill gave presentations at the Apex schools in Randolph and Harris Counties and in Talbot County. The Mobile Unit continues to travel to our county offices and 3 partners have submitted event requests. A group of I/DD individuals attended the Night to Shine event at Cascade Hills. Upcoming events are the Morehouse School of Medicine Symposium, Fatherhood Men's Resource Fair, Chattahoochee County Community Day, and the Health and Wellness Expo. The 2024 Sponsorship History showed a number of partnerships/events that New Horizons participated in and provided tickets for individuals/staff through funding provided by Kaiser Permanente. Facebook, Instagram, Constant Contact, and Website data was shared, with increases indicated in our social media presence. Also in the works are three new billboards placed around Columbus, new public service announcement planning, Recovery on the River and Recovery Bus Tour beginning stages, and I/DD proclamation presentations for March in Columbus and Cuthbert.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: As a Board Member and ambassador for New Horizons Behavioral Health, Terry Edwards reported she provides brochures and other information about New Horizons services at Family Connection and other community events.

New Horizons' next Board Meeting is Monday, May 12th, there is no meeting in April.

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

- New Crisis Safety Platform will launch March 25th for CSU's.
- Carelon is now more efficient and transparent.
- Statewide I/DD meeting will be held Wednesday, March 12th in Macon.

ADJOURNMENT: At 4:36 p.m. M/S/P Nancy Schroeder/Arcola Scott to adjourn the meeting, Board approved.



Damon Hoyte
Chairperson