



# SANDHILLS CENTER

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2020

Via Telephone – 888-363-4734 – access code 6217146#

### Members Present:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ross Streater                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priscilla Little, Secretary |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kay Cashion, Vice-Chairperson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gart Evans                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Walter Salinger           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Alvin Keyes             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Howard Penny                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Tonya Gray                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harry Southerland                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shirley Hart                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kirk Smith                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walter Ferguson             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dottie Robinson               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carol Whitaker              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Otis Ritter                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matthew Rothbeind           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> David Allen                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mazie Fleetwood             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leann Henkel                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Michele Weatherly                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thad Ussery, Chairperson      |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jerry Earnhardt               |   |

### Staff Present:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Victoria Whitt    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sherry Bynum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anthony Ward      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evelyn Quick |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leonard Covington |  |

**Guest:** Lisa Jackson, DMH, LME Technical Assistance Liaison

The Sandhills Center Board of Directors convened for a regular meeting at 6:00 p.m., on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at the Seven Lakes Baptist Church, 1015 Seven Lakes Drive, West End, NC. A conference call line was opened for remote Board member's participation and discussion, also allowing for public participation.

### Call to Order and Invocation

Chairperson Thad Ussery called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and gave the invocation.

### Board Member Roll Call

A roll call of attendance was taken. A total of 16 Board members were present: 15 voting and one (1) non-voting.

### Board Service Recognition

Chairperson Ussery took the opportunity to recognize Board members who are rotating off. Commissioner Kay Cashion and Shirley Hart were presented a gift as a token of appreciation for their contribution to the Sandhills Center Board. They both took the opportunity to express their gratitude of being able to serve on the Sandhills Center Board.

### Conflict of Interest

Chairperson Ussery read the Conflict of Interest statement and asked if any Board member had a conflict of interest concerning agenda items the Board would address in the meeting that would require recusal. No conflicts were stated.

### Certification of Quorum

Priscilla Little, Secretary, certified a quorum.

### Approval of Agenda

*A motion was made by Walter Ferguson and seconded by Shirley Hart to "approve the Agenda as presented". The motion was approved by general consent and without objection. Voting yes – Commissioner Ross Streater, Priscilla Little, Commissioner Kay Cashion, Gart Evans, Dr. Walter Salinger, Dr. Alvin Keyes, Shirley Hart, Commissioner Kirk Smith, Walter Ferguson, Commissioner Dottie Robinson, Carol Whitaker, Matthew Rothbeind, Mazie Fleetwood, Leann Henkel, and Thad Ussery.*

### **Absent Board Members Justifications**

Justifications for Board member absences:

- Commissioner Harry Southerland – Attending a County Commissioner Meeting. Due to the Labor Day holiday, the Hoke County regular scheduled County Commissioner meeting was moved to Tuesday.
- Commissioner Otis Ritter – Attending a special called County Commissioner Meeting.
- Commissioner David Allen – Attending a County Commissioner Meeting. Due to the Labor Day holiday, the Randolph County regular scheduled County Commissioner meeting was moved to Tuesday.
- Michele Weatherly – health issues.
- Matthew Rothbeind – asked to be excused for missing the August 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. He did not attend due to an emergency medical procedure.

*A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk Smith and seconded by Gart Evans to “excuse the Justifications for Absences as presented”. The motion was approved by general consent and without objection. Voting yes – Commissioner Ross Streater, Priscilla Little, Commissioner Kay Cashion, Gart Evans, Dr. Walter Salinger, Dr. Alvin Keyes, Shirley Hart, Commissioner Kirk Smith, Walter Ferguson, Commissioner Dottie Robinson, Carol Whitaker, Matthew Rothbeind, Mazie Fleetwood, Leann Henkel, and Thad Ussery.*

- Not in attendance – unexcused: Commissioner Howard Penny and Tonya Gray

### **Public Comments**

None

### **Approval of Consent Agenda**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Kay Cashion and seconded by Walter Ferguson to “approve the Consent Agenda as presented”. The motion was approved by general consent and without objection. Voting yes – Commissioner Ross Streater, Priscilla Little, Commissioner Kay Cashion, Gart Evans, Dr. Walter Salinger, Dr. Alvin Keyes, Shirley Hart, Commissioner Kirk Smith, Walter Ferguson, Commissioner Dottie Robinson, Carol Whitaker, Matthew Rothbeind, Mazie Fleetwood, Leann Henkel, and Thad Ussery. The following were approved:*

- August 11, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
- Policy Revisions

### **New Business**

#### ➤ **Chief Executive Officer’s Report – Victoria Whitt, Chief Executive Officer**

Mrs. Whitt welcomed everyone. She commented that four (4) Board members are rotating off this month. In addition to Commissioner Kay Cashion and Shirley Hart, Commissioner Otis Ritter and Michele Weatherly are also rotating off. Two (2) positions have been filled: Stephany Bonds will be the new Hoke County representative and she will be sworn in at the October Board meeting; and Dr. Tommy Jarrell will be the new Richmond County representative and he will join in January. Moore County will appoint a representative at their October meeting and Guilford County will appoint a representative at their November meeting.

#### **A. Sandhills Center Response to COVID-19 Pandemic**

- **Employee Work Status** – Mrs. Whitt took the opportunity to update the Board members on the current work status for all employees. Sandhills is operating under the Safety at Home Phase 2.5, and remote work options is still available to employees.

Mrs. Whitt stated that CIT trainings have resumed. Commissioner Smith took the opportunity to attend the recent training in Lee County. A CIT training is scheduled in Moore County next week.

- **Employee COVID-19 Testing** – Mrs. Whitt shared the current statistics of employees COVID-19 testing and the process that Sandhills has in place.

- **Access and Continuity of Behavioral Health Services** – Ms. Whitt explained that in June 2020, the NC General Assembly approved \$50 million from the Coronavirus Relief Reserve for distribution to the LME/MCOs. In August 2020, Sandhills Center received notification of their portion, \$8.6 million. This funding is provided on a one-time basis for the purpose of providing behavioral health and crisis services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This allocation of funding is for services provided from July 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020. The September Finance Agenda includes contract adjustments in recognition of these funds.

- **Provider Network COVID-19 Outbreak Status** – Mrs. Whitt reported that there are no outbreaks reported at this time. Sandhills will continue to review the list, which is maintained by DHHS.

## **B. Comprehensive/Facility Based Crisis (FBC) Centers Update**

- **Randolph County Update** – Mrs. Whitt reported that Daymark is actively recruiting for the nursing positions available at the facility. Once all staff are hired, DHR will start their process for final licensure inspection. Mrs. Whitt stated to let Jerry Earnhardt know of a RN or LPN interested in a job.
- **Richmond County Update** – Mrs. Whitt reported that NC DHHS conducted an on-site inspection on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Some issues were identified. As of today, all the issues have been corrected. DHR plans a return visit on Friday for a walk-through. Daymark is in the recruitment process for the FBC section. Once all staff are hired, DHR will start their process for final licensure inspection.

Mrs. Whitt reported that since the two projects have ran past their completion dates, she continues to work with the General Contractors and legal counsel related to liquidate damages.

Mrs. Whitt stated that it has been suggested to her for the Board of Directors to have a tour of both facilities. She will coordinated dates and times with Daymark and have Sherry poll the Board members of their availability.

- **Guilford County Update** – Mrs. Whitt reported that the Guilford County FBC center is moving along. The substantial completion date of January 14, 2021. Local officials were able to tour the facility last week. An aerial photo was included in the packet.

Commissioner Kay Cashion and Gart Evans were able to tour the facility. They each gave an update on the project. Commissioner Cashion asked how the provider search for the facility is going. Anthony Ward, Chief Operating Officer/Deputy Director reported that the RFP has been released and so far, two (2) applications have been received. The RFP Committee has been formed and they hope to bring a recommendation to the Board in November.

## **C. Robert Porcher Way, Greensboro Renovations (LME/MCO Offices)**

Mrs. Whitt gave an update on the renovations of the LME/MCO offices on Robert Porcher Way. She stated that the renovations are going well. The projected completion date is February 15, 2021.

## **D. NC General Assembly Updates**

Mrs. Whitt gave an update of the happenings of the NC General Assembly, noting that they reconvened on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The General Assembly passed a \$1.1 billion COVID-19 bill and the Governor has signed the bill. Mrs. Whitt commented that a list of how the \$1.1 billion funds are to be distributed, as noted in House Bill 1105 – *Coronavirus Relief Act 3.0* – is included in the Board packet. LME/MCOs were allocated \$38 million; Sandhills part is \$4.6 million. The funding will be made available to providers to allow them to continue providing services during the COVID pandemic.

## **E. Medicaid Transformation/Managed Care**

Mrs. Whitt gave a summary of the Medicaid Transformation for Standard Plans and the Tailored Plans. She plans to provide a more detailed report at the October Board meeting.

Senate Bill 808 includes a launch date of July 1, 2021 for the **Standard Health Plans**. State wide contracts were awarded to: AmeriHealth Caritas; Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC; UnitedHealthcare; WellCare; and Carolina Complete Health Network. All Medicaid beneficiaries, including those with mild to moderate behavioral health problems, will select their plan from one of these contracts. These beneficiaries will include individuals whose behavioral health services are currently managed by the LME/MCOs.

NC DHHS announced that the LME/MCO **Tailored Health Plans** will launch on July 1, 2022, or one (1) year after the successful launch of the Standard Plans. These are specialized managed care plans targeted toward populations with significant behavioral health and intellectual and developmental disabilities (BH/I-DD). In November, the current seven (7) LME/MCOs will be required to complete a RFA to prove their ability to become a Tailored Plan. Tailored Plans will continue to manage non-Medicaid behavioral health services funded with federal, State, and local funding in accordance with current NC and federal laws, rules, and regulations. Mrs. Whitt noted that the current regulatory body will change to the Department of Insurance (DOI), of which Sandhills will be required to meet their general requirements. She also commented that Sandhills is currently in conversations with two (2) of the Standard Health Plans for partnership.

Board members took the opportunity to ask Mrs. Whitt questions regarding Medicaid Transformation.

- **Clinical Services & Operations Report – Anthony Ward, Chief Operating Officer/Deputy Director**  
Mr. Ward reviewed the following, noting that his reports cover the months of June and July. The results shows changes as a result of COVID-19.
  - Medicaid Waiver Operations Report – August 2020, noting that all benchmarks continue to be met.
  - Medicaid Waiver Financial Operations Report – August 2020, noting the financial measures that Sandhills is required to meet.

#### **Committee Reports**

- **Finance Committee Report** – Committee Chairperson Gart Evans reported the Finance Committee met telephonically on Friday, September 4, 2020, and reviewed the Finance Report in detail. Chairperson Evans presented and reviewed the Finance Agenda with the Board of Directors. A review of the Consolidated Balance Sheet and Income Statement reflects services through July 31, 2020.

*On behalf of the Finance Committee, a motion was made by Committee Chairperson Gart Evans and seconded by Commissioner Kirk Smith to “approve the Finance Agenda as presented”. Voting yes – Commissioner Ross Streater, Priscilla Little, Commissioner Kay Cashion, Gart Evans, Dr. Walter Salinger, Dr. Alvin Keyes, Shirley Hart, Commissioner Kirk Smith, Walter Ferguson, Commissioner Dottie Robinson, Carol Whitaker, Matthew Rothbeind, Mazie Fleetwood, Leann Henkel, and Thad Ussery. The motion passed unanimously.*

- **Human Resources Committee Report** – Did not meet.
- **Client Rights Report** – Did not meet.
- **Corporate Compliance & Internal Audit Committee** – Did not meet.

#### **Closed Session**

*A motion was made by Gart Evans and seconded by Walter Ferguson to “go into Closed Session under N.C. Gen. Stat. 143-318.11(a)(1) to discuss confidential information covered under N.C. Gen. Stat. 122C-126.1”. The motion was approved by general consent and without objection. Voting yes – Commissioner Ross Streater, Priscilla Little, Commissioner Kay Cashion, Gart Evans, Dr. Walter Salinger, Dr. Alvin Keyes, Shirley Hart, Commissioner Kirk Smith, Walter Ferguson, Commissioner Dottie Robinson, Carol Whitaker, Matthew Rothbeind, Mazie Fleetwood, Leann Henkel, and Thad Ussery. Closed Session began at 7:23 p.m.*

Sandhills Center Staff in attendance: Sandhills Center Staff Present: Chief Executive Officer Victoria Whitt, Chief Operating Officer/Deputy Director Anthony Ward, Chief Legal Officer/Corporate Compliance Officer Evelyn Quick, and Clerk to the Board/Executive Assistant Sherry Bynum.

*A motion was made by Gart Evans and seconded by Commissioner Kay Cashion to “reconvene Open Session”. The motion was approved by general consent and without objection. Voting yes – Commissioner Ross Streater, Priscilla Little, Commissioner Kay Cashion, Gart Evans, Dr. Walter Salinger, Dr. Alvin Keyes, Shirley Hart, Commissioner Kirk Smith, Walter Ferguson, Commissioner Dottie Robinson, Carol Whitaker, Matthew Rothbeind, Mazie Fleetwood, Leann Henkel, and Thad Ussery. Open session reconvened at 7:36 p.m.*

*A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk Smith and seconded by Shirley Hart to “approve a release of an announcement of requirements for architectural services and solicitation of information from interested architects showing their competence and qualifications for professional architectural services for renovations of the building located at 1100 Seven Lakes Drive”. After discussions, Commissioner Kay Cashion made a substitute motion to include the word ‘possible’ in front of ‘renovations’. The motion reads – “approve a release of an announcement of requirements for architectural services and solicitation of information from interested architects showing their competence and qualifications for professional architectural services for possible renovations of the building located at 1100 Seven Lakes Drive”. The substitute motion was seconded by Walter Ferguson. Voting yes – Commissioner Ross Streater, Priscilla Little, Commissioner Kay Cashion, Gart Evans, Dr. Walter Salinger, Dr. Alvin Keyes, Shirley Hart, Commissioner Kirk Smith, Walter Ferguson, Commissioner Dottie Robinson, Carol Whitaker, Matthew Rothbeind, Mazie Fleetwood, Leann Henkel, and Thad Ussery. The motion passed unanimously.*

#### **Old Business**

None

#### **Comments**

Commissioner Kirk Smith thanked Mrs. Whitt for responding to the report he received regarding Hispanics in Lee County.

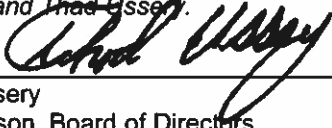
Walter Ferguson stated it has been nice working with Ms. Hart and Commissioner Cashion.

**Board Materials**

- 📌 Board of Directors Standing committees
- 📌 DMA Monthly Financial Report – July 2020
- 📌 Personnel Report
- 📌 Newspaper Articles

**Adjournment**

*A motion was made by Gart Evans and seconded by Walter Ferguson to "adjourn the meeting". The motion was approved by general consent and without objection. Voting yes – Commissioner Ross Streater, Priscilla Little, Commissioner Kay Cashion, Gart Evans, Dr. Walter Salinger, Dr. Alvin Keyes, Shirley Hart, Commissioner Kirk Smith, Walter Ferguson, Commissioner Dottie Robinson, Carol Whitaker, Matthew Rothbeind, Mazie Fleetwood, Leann Henkel, and Thad Ussery.*



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Thad Ussery  
Chairperson, Board of Directors

10-13-2020  
Date

Documents referred to in these minutes may be obtained by contacting Sherry Bynum at [sherryb@sandhillscenter.org](mailto:sherryb@sandhillscenter.org) or 910-673-9111.

*Submitted by: Sherry Bynum, Clerk to the Board of Directors/Executive Assistant to CEO*