



SANDHILLS CENTER

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2021

Via WebEx

Members Present:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ross Streater | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priscilla Little, Secretary |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alan Perdue | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gart Evans |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Walter Salinger | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Alvin Keyes |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tonya Gray | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harry Southerland, Vice-Chairperson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephany Bonds |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kirk Smith | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walter Ferguson |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Criscoe | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carol Whitaker |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Catherine Graham | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matthew Rothbeind |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Allen | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mazie Fleetwood |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leann Henkel | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thad Ussery, Chairperson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Tommy Jarrell |
| <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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bonita Porter |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Anthony Carraway | |

Guest: Lisa Jackson, DMH, LME Technical Assistance Liaison

The Sandhills Center Board of Directors convened for a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held remotely. A WebEx and conference call line was opened for 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 21 Board members were present: 20 voting and one (1) non-voting.

Introduction of New Board Members

Chairperson Ussery took the opportunity to welcome and introduce new Board member Commissioner Catherine Graham, Moore County representative. Chairperson Ussery also noted that Commissioner Graham was given her Oath of Office prior to tonight's meeting.

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 Commissioner Kirk Smith and seconded by Commissioner David Allen to "approve the Agenda". The motion was approved by general consent and without objection. Voting yes – Ross Streater, Priscilla Little, Commissioner Alan Perdue, Gart Evans, Dr. Walter Salinger, Dr. Alvin Keyes, Tonya Gray, Commissioner Harry Southerland, Stephany Bonds, Commissioner Kirk Smith, Walter Ferguson, Commissioner Mike Criscoe, Carol

Whitaker, Commissioner Catherine Graham, Matthew Rothbeind, Commissioner David Allen, Mazie Fleetwood, Leann Henkel, Thad Ussery, and Dr. Tommy Jarrell.

Absent Board Members Justifications

None – all Board members in attendance!

Public Comments

None

Approval of Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk Smith and seconded by Gart Evans to “approve the Consent Agenda”. The motion was approved by general consent and without objection. Voting yes – Ross Streater, Priscilla Little, Commissioner Alan Perdue, Gart Evans, Dr. Walter Salinger, Dr. Alvin Keyes, Tonya Gray, Commissioner Harry Southerland, Stephany Bonds, Commissioner Kirk Smith, Walter Ferguson, Commissioner Mike Criscoe, Carol Whitaker, Commissioner Catherine Graham, Matthew Rothbeind, Commissioner David Allen, Mazie Fleetwood, Leann Henkel, Thad Ussery, and Dr. Tommy Jarrell.

The following were approved:

- January 12, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

New Business

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

Mrs. Whitt welcomed everyone. She introduced Bonita Porter to the Board of Directors and provided background information. Ms. Porter has taken on the role of Chief Compliance Officer, and as Sandhills transitions to become a Tailored Plan, she will lead the readiness review process.

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 Governor Cooper’s Stay at Home Executive Order, which has been extended through the end of February. Remote work options for staff is still available as well as the option for staff to return to their assigned work locations, if they prefer.
- **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 based on the extension granted in the federal COVID-19 relief package approved in December 2020, the NC DHHS has notified Sandhills Center the COVID-19 funding earlier provided can be extended. That funding, previously set to expire on December 30, 2020 can now be extended through March 19, 2021.

The February Finance Agenda includes an extension of these funds to previously identified behavioral health providers in the Sandhills network. Staff will work with these providers to ensure they are aware of the extended eligibility timeframe and submit any eligible claims against this allocation by the new timeframe.

- **Provider Network COVID-19 Outbreak Status** – Mrs. Whitt reported that NC DHHS maintains a listing of COVID-19 Ongoing Outbreaks in Congregate Living Settings and that Sandhills reviews the list routinely specifically looking for network providers with an ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. The late January 2021 report included 27 pages of provider sites throughout North Carolina with active outbreaks. A number of the Sandhills contracted providers, both inside and outside of the catchment area, are included on the list.

Additionally, on the most recent NC DHHS COVID-19 County Alert System, all nine (9) Sandhills counties are listed in red, indicating Critical Community Spread. A tier Red classification includes a case rate of 200 cases per 100,000 population in the past 14 days and a positivity rate above 10%.

Sandhills has continued to receive reports from the provider network regarding COVID-19 outbreaks at their respective sites. Since provider staff with direct member involvement are included in Group

1's Healthcare Worker eligibility, several providers have indicated working with local vaccine distribution outlets to have their staff vaccinated, as supply allows.

B. Behavioral Health Urgent Care (BHUC)/Facility Based Crisis Centers (FBC) Update

- **Randolph County Update** – Mrs. Whitt reported that Daymark has hired and trained staff; however, has had another issue related to licensure to come up. It seems that DHSR Licensure feels there has been too much time to lapse since the construction inspection. DHSR is thinking the construction inspection was conducted in 2018, when in reality it was conducted in 2020. Mrs. Whitt commented that discussion is underway with DHSR Construction and Licensure to get this issue solved. Daymark CEO Billy West will keep Mrs. Whitt updated.

Expectation is that the Behavioral Health Urgent Care unit (23-hour observation chairs) will open in March 2021, and the FBC center to open soon, determined based on the current issue with licensure.

- **Richmond County Update** – Mrs. Whitt reported that Daymark is hiring and training staff. Expectation is that the Behavioral Health Urgent Care unit (23-hour observation chairs) will open in March 2021, and a potential opening in April for the FBC center.

- **Guilford County Update** – Mrs. Whitt reported that the Guilford County FBC center is moving along. A temporary certificate of occupancy was issued January 28th. A DHSR inspection was completed January 29th, with a few issues identified, of which, Mrs. Whitt hopes will be resolved by the end of the week. A significant issue identified was a patient room that does not include a window. Mrs. Whitt feels, as the Owner, each room needs a window. The Architect and Samet are preparing options to remedy this issue. Projected that the provider, Alexander Youth Network, will move in March/April 2021, pending Licensure Inspection.

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 final topcoat is anticipated to be applied March/April, dependent upon the weather. The projected completion date is February 15th. Plans of moving staff from the current Eugene Street location, are underway.

D. Sandhills Center Tailored Plan (TP) Request for Application Response

Mrs. Whitt gave an update to the submission of the Tailored Plan application. Mr. Ward and Ms. Porter delivered the application to DHHS on February 1st. DHHS held a RFA response opening on February 2nd, with staff attending virtually. All seven (7) of the LME-MCOs submitted responses. DHHS will now start the review period, with contracts to be awarded on June 11, 2021. In anticipation of the award, Sandhills has begun the implementation phase.

E. NC General Assembly/NC DHHS Updates

The NC General Assembly convened for the long session on January 13th. Mrs. Whitt commented that she has had conversation with Dennis Wicker, who is keeping her updated to any legislation regarding any areas that may affect the LME-MCOs. Mr. Wicker reports that the conversation in the General Assembly is around COVID.

➤ **Clinical Services & Operations Report – Anthony Ward, Chief Operating Officer/Deputy Director**

Mr. Ward reviewed the following, noting that his reports cover the months of November and December. All benchmarks and measures continue to be met.

- Medicaid Waiver Operations Report – January 2021
- Medicaid Waiver Financial Operations Report – January 2021
- The January 2021 Quarterly Report – demonstrates some of the ways Sandhills is committed to working for the communities to offer support, resources and important information, particularly in these times of crises, extended rate increase to providers, participated in NC DHHS town hall meeting, and announced the selection of Alexander Youth Network as the provider for the FBC center in Guilford County.
- The 2020 Annual Community Report – highlights many of the positive efforts that were undertaken to lessen the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Committee Reports

- 📌 **Finance Committee Report** – Committee Chairperson Gart Evans reported the Finance Committee met remotely on Friday, February 5, 2021, 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 December 31, 2020.

Also presented for review and approval, was the Quarterly Fiscal Monitoring Report and the Federal Income Tax 990.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, a motion was made by Committee Chairperson Gart Evans and seconded by Commissioner Harry Southerland to “approve the Finance Agenda as presented”. Voting yes – Ross Streater, Priscilla Little, Commissioner Alan Perdue, Gart Evans, Dr. Walter Salinger, Dr. Alvin Keyes, Tonya Gray, Commissioner Harry Southerland, Stephany Bonds, Commissioner Kirk Smith, Walter Ferguson, Commissioner Mike Criscoe, Carol Whitaker, Commissioner Catherine Graham, Matthew Rothbeind, Commissioner David Allen, Mazie Fleetwood, Leann Henke, Thad Ussery, and Dr. Tommy Jarrell. The motion passed unanimously.

- 📌 **Client Rights Report** – Committee member Carol Whitaker gave the report.
- 📌 **Consumer and Family Advisory Committee Quarterly Report** – Committee Chairperson Leann Henkel gave the report.
- 📌 **Corporate Compliance & Internal Audit Committee** – Did not meet.
- 📌 **Human Resources Committee Report** – Did not meet.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Gart Evans and seconded by Commissioner David Allen to “go into Closed Session, pursuant to 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 – Ross Streater, Priscilla Little, Commissioner Alan Perdue, Gart Evans, Dr. Walter Salinger, Dr. Alvin Keyes, Tonya Gray, Commissioner Harry Southerland, Stephany Bonds, Commissioner Kirk Smith, Walter Ferguson, Commissioner Mike Criscoe, Carol Whitaker, Commissioner Catherine Graham, Matthew Rothbeind, Commissioner David Allen, Mazie Fleetwood, Leann Henkel, Thad Ussery, and Dr. Tommy Jarrell. The Closed Session began at 6:51 p.m.

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

A motion was made by Gart Evans and seconded by Commissioner Kirk Smith to “reconvene Open Session”. The motion was approved by general consent and without objection. Voting yes – Ross Streater, Priscilla Little, Commissioner Alan Perdue, Gart Evans, Dr. Walter Salinger, Dr. Alvin Keyes, Tonya Gray, Commissioner Harry Southerland, Stephany Bonds, Commissioner Kirk Smith, Walter Ferguson, Commissioner Mike Criscoe, Carol Whitaker, Commissioner Catherine Graham, Matthew Rothbeind, Commissioner David Allen, Mazie Fleetwood, Leann Henkel, Thad Ussery, and Dr. Tommy Jarrell. Open Session reconvened at 7:14 p.m.

A motion was made by Gart Evans and seconded by Commissioner Harry Southerland “to adjust the listing price of the 1120 and 1116 Seven Lakes Drive properties from \$850,000 down to \$790,000. Property 1120 Seven Lakes Drive would be adjusted from list price of \$422,500 to \$375,000 and property 1116 Seven Lakes Drive would be adjusted from list price of \$427,000 to \$415,000.” Voting yes – Ross Streater, Priscilla Little, Commissioner Alan Perdue, Gart Evans, Dr. Walter Salinger, Dr. Alvin Keyes, Tonya Gray, Commissioner Harry Southerland, Stephany Bonds, Commissioner Kirk Smith, Walter Ferguson, Commissioner Mike Criscoe, Carol Whitaker, Commissioner Catherine Graham, Matthew Rothbeind, Commissioner David Allen, Mazie Fleetwood, Leann Henkel, Thad Ussery, and Dr. Tommy Jarrell. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

None

Comments

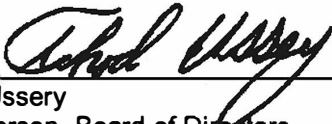
Chair Ussery took the opportunity to thank the Board members for their attendance and support.

Board Materials

- Quality Management Committee Executive Summary (October – December 2020)
- DMA Monthly Financial Report – December 2020
- Human Resources Report

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mazie Fleetwood and seconded by Commissioner David Allen to "Adjourn". The motion was approved by general consent and without objection. The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m. Voting yes – Ross Streater, Priscilla Little, Commissioner Alan Perdue, Gart Evans, Dr. Walter Salinger, Dr. Alvin Keyes, Tonya Gray, Commissioner Harry Southerland, Stephany Bonds, Commissioner Kirk Smith, Walter Ferguson, Commissioner Mike Criscoe, Carol Whitaker, Commissioner Catherine Graham, Matthew Rothbeind, Commissioner David Allen, Mazie Fleetwood, Leann Henkel, Thad Ussery, and Dr. Tommy Jarrell.



Thad Ussery
Chairperson, Board of Directors

3-9-2021

Date

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

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