



SANDHILLS CENTER

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes January 12, 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 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"/> 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 | |

Guest: Lisa Jackson, DMH, LME Technical Assistance Liaison

The Sandhills Center Board of Directors convened for a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 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. Commissioner Kirk Smith gave the invocation. Chairperson Ussery took the opportunity to thank the Board of Directors and Sandhills staff for their thoughts, prayers, calls, flowers, cards, memorials, and kindness shown to him and his family during the recent death of his wife.

Introduction of New Board Members

Chairperson Ussery took the opportunity to welcome and introduce two (2) new Board members: Commissioner Mike Criscoe, Montgomery County representative, and Dr. Tommy Jarrell, Richmond County representative. Chairperson Ussery also noted that Commissioner Criscoe and Dr. Jarrell were given their Oath of Office prior to tonight's meeting.

Election of 2021 Board of Directors Officers

- 🌈 **Nominating Committee Recommendation** – Nominating Committee Member, Commissioner Harry Southerland, gave the recommendations. He reported that the Nominating Committee met and agreed with the following slate of officers for 2021:
 - Chairperson – Thad Ussery
 - Vice-Chairperson – Commissioner Harry Southerland
 - Secretary – Priscilla Little
- 🌈 **Nominations for the Floor for each Officer** – Chairperson Ussery asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. There were no other nominations from the floor.
- 🌈 **Election** – As there were no other nominations, Chairperson Ussery asked if there was a motion to elect the slate of officers as recommended by the Nominating Committee, and to vote to close out the nominations. *A motion was made by Walter Ferguson and seconded by Commissioner Kirk Smith to "accept the recommendations made of the slate of officers as presented by the Nominating Committee and to close out the nominations". Voting yes – Ross Streater, Priscilla Little, Commissioner Alan Perdue, Gart Evans, Dr. Walter Salinger, Dr. Alvin Keyes, Commissioner Harry Southerland, Stephany Bonds, Commissioner Kirk Smith, Walter Ferguson, Commissioner*

Mike Criscoe, Carol Whitaker, Matthew Rothbeind, Commissioner David Allen, Mazie Fleetwood, Leann Henkel, Thad Ussery, and Dr. Tommy Jarrell. The motion passed unanimously. Mazie Fleetwood commented that the slate of officers presented were the unanimous vote of the Nominating Committee.

Chairperson Ussery thanked the Nominating Committee for their work, thanked the Board members for their services, and their work in their communities.

Oath of Office for Elected Officers

Elected Officers for 2021 were administered the Oath of Office: Thad Ussery, Chairperson, Commissioner Harry Southerland, Vice-Chairperson and Pricilla Little, Secretary.

Board Member Roll Call

A roll call of attendance was taken. A total of 19 Board members were present: 18 voting and one (1) non-voting.

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

A quorum was certified.

Approval of Agenda

The Agenda 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, Commissioner Harry Southerland, Stephany Bonds, Commissioner Kirk Smith, Walter Ferguson, Commissioner Mike Criscoe, Carol Whitaker, Matthew Rothbeind, Commissioner David Allen, Mazie Fleetwood, Leann Henkel, Thad Ussery, and Dr. Tommy Jarrell.

Absent Board Members Justifications

Not in attendance – unexcused: Tonya Gray

Public Comments

None

Approval of Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda 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, Commissioner Harry Southerland, Stephany Bonds, Commissioner Kirk Smith, Walter Ferguson, Commissioner Mike Criscoe, Carol Whitaker, Matthew Rothbeind, Commissioner David Allen, Mazie Fleetwood, Leann Henkel, Thad Ussery, and Dr. Tommy Jarrell.

The following were approved:

- November 10, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
- Policy Revisions

New Business

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

Mrs. Whitt welcomed everyone and provided an update to the appointments to the Board of Directors. She reported that Commissioner Catherine Graham has been appointed to the Sandhills Center Board of Directors for Moore County. Commissioner Lewis Weatherspoon has been appointed for Harnett County replacing Commissioner Mark Johnson.

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 January. 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 the nearly \$900 billion federal COVID-19 relief package approved late in December 2020, has been extended through September

30, 2021. Currently awaiting on word on whether that extension will apply to the behavioral health funding that was added to State funded network provider contracts earlier in the fiscal year.

- 🚩 **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 December 2020 report included 20 pages of provider sites throughout North Carolina with active outbreaks. A number of the Sandhills Center 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.

While the providers are working actively to test, identify and isolate individuals who test positive for COVID-19 and are taking measures to prevent spread of the virus, the level of active COVID-19 cases is having an impact on the community service operation. Due to the COVID-19 outbreaks, Sandhills has experienced delays in transitioning individuals between providers and in discharges from hospitals, as receiving providers have delayed admissions. Additionally, receiving providers often require COVID-19 tests and other health information that can delay admission and transitions between sites.

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

- 🚩 **Randolph County Update** – Mrs. Whitt reported that Sandhills Center’s legal counsel continues to work with the General Contractor’s legal counsel on closeout and determination of liquidated damages. She recently received an update from Jerry Earnhardt and Sharon Wilcox on the Asheboro Center: a potential opening date for the FBC center in February, the Behavioral Health Unit in March, and the licensure information has been submitted, with a tentative inspection date of January 27th.
- 🚩 **Richmond County Update** – Mrs. Whitt reported that Daymark continues to recruit for staff. Expectation is to have staffing recruitment completed in January and February for the 23-hour chairs, with an opening in March, and licensure information to be submitted in March, with a potential opening in April. All the dates are dependent on the State.
- 🚩 **Guilford County Update** – Mrs. Whitt reported that the Guilford County FBC center is moving along. The expectation is that a temporary certificate of occupancy will be issued by the end of this week, anticipate DHSR inspection toward the end of January/first of February, with substantial completion date of February 12th. Potential delay factors include DHSR construction approvals and Duke Power easement approval issues.

The selected provider, Alexander Youth Network, have been involved and anticipate a mid/late-March move in.

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. Next will be moving of staff from the current Eugene Street location, which must be completed by July 2021.

D. Board of Directors Annual Declaration – Conflict of Interest

The State requires that Board members do not engage in any activities that could be construed as a conflict of interest to participate on the Sandhills Center Board of Directors and to ensure the protection of individually identifiable health information. Mrs. Whitt asked the Board members to review and complete the forms, and return to Sherry.

E. Employee Longevity Awards

Mrs. Whitt presented the employee longevity awards list. She noted that staff, who have met longevity milestones, are normally recognized at a January staff meeting; however, due to the pandemic, the meeting will be held virtually. Plans for the virtual meeting are being finalized.

Chairperson Ussery expressed his appreciation to the staff for their years of service. Commissioner Kirk Smith recognized, and thanked, Mrs. Whitt on her 40 years of service.

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

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

- 📌 Medicaid Waiver Operations Report – December 2020
- 📌 Medicaid Waiver Financial Operations Report – December 2020

➤ **Sandhills Center Board of Directors Standing Committee Appointments**

Chairperson Ussery reported that Stephany Bonds has agreed to serve on the Human Resources Committee and Dr. Alvin Keyes has agreed to serve on the Finance Committee. He reviewed the Standing Committee membership list and commented that anyone is welcome to join any committee, to let Mrs. Whitt or him know if interested in joining a committee.

Committee Reports

- 📌 **Finance Committee Report** – Committee Chairperson Gart Evans reported the Finance Committee met remotely on Friday, January 8, 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 November 30, 2020.

Also presented for review and approval, was the Capital Project Ordinance Amendment – FBC/Outpatient Unit in Richmond County.

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

- 📌 **Client Rights Report** – Did not meet.
- 📌 **Corporate Compliance & Internal Audit Committee** – Committee Chairperson Matthew Rothbeind gave the report.
- 📌 **Human Resources Committee Report** – Did not meet.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Commissioner David Allen and seconded by Commissioner Alan Perdue 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, Commissioner Harry Southerland, Stephany Bonds, Commissioner Kirk Smith, Walter Ferguson, Commissioner Mike Criscoe, Carol Whitaker, Matthew Rothbeind, Commissioner David Allen, Mazie Fleetwood, Leann Henkel, Thad Ussery, and Dr. Tommy Jarrell. The Closed Session began at 6:57 p.m.

Sandhills Center Staff staff in attendance: 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 Commissioner David Allen and seconded by Gart Evens 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, Commissioner Harry Southerland, Stephany Bonds, Commissioner Kirk Smith, Walter Ferguson, Commissioner Mike Criscoe, Carol Whitaker, Matthew Rothbeind, Commissioner David Allen, Mazie Fleetwood, Leann Henkel, Thad Ussery, and Dr. Tommy Jarrell. Open Session reconvened at 7:11 p.m.

A motion was made by Gart Evans and seconded by Commissioner Alan Perdue “to accept TFF Architects & Planners proposed fee for architectural/engineering services associated with the design and construction of a corporate office building in West End, NC.” Voting yes – Ross Streater, Priscilla Little, Commissioner Alan Perdue, Gart Evans, Dr. Walter Salinger, Dr. Alvin Keyes, Commissioner Harry Southerland, Stephany Bonds, Commissioner Kirk Smith, Walter Ferguson, Commissioner Mike Criscoe, Carol Whitaker, Matthew Rothbeind, Commissioner David Allen, Mazie Fleetwood, Leann Henkel, Thad Ussery, and Dr. Tommy Jarrell. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

None

Comments

None

Board Materials

- 📄 DMA Monthly Financial Report – November 2020
- 📄 Human Resources Report
- 📄 Newspaper Articles

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned by general consent and without objection at 7:14 p.m. Voting yes – Ross Streater, Priscilla Little, Commissioner Alan Perdue, Gart Evans, Dr. Walter Salinger, Dr. Alvin Keyes, Commissioner Harry Southerland, Stephany Bonds, Commissioner Kirk Smith, Walter Ferguson, Commissioner Mike Criscoe, Carol Whitaker, Matthew Rothbeind, Commissioner David Allen, Mazie Fleetwood, Leann Henkel, Thad Ussery, and Dr. Tommy Jarrell.



Thad Ussery
Chairperson, Board of Directors

02/09/2021

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