



# SANDHILLS CENTER

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 13, 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"/> Lewis Weatherspoon                  | <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, April 13, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held remotely and at the Sandhills Center Office Building, 185 Grant Street, West End, NC. A WebEx and 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 6:07 p.m. Dr. Tommy Jarrell gave the invocation.

### Board Member Roll Call

A roll call of attendance was taken. A total of 22 Board members were present: 21 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

Priscilla Little, Secretary, certified a quorum.

### Approval of Agenda

*A motion was made by Mazie Fleetwood and seconded by Carol Whitaker 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, Commissioner Lewis Weatherspoon, 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**

Justifications for Board member absences:

- Subsequent to the March 9, 2021, Board meeting, Stephany Bonds contacted the Clerk to the Board of Directors to explain the reason she did not attend the Board meeting was due to a family emergency. Chairperson Ussery reminded the Board members that they had voted to not excuse Ms. Bonds' absence from the March 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. *A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk Smith and seconded by Priscilla Little to "change Ms. Bonds' unexcused absence from the March 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting to an excused absence". 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 Lewis Weatherspoon, 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.*

### **Public Comments**

None

### **Approval of Consent Agenda**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Alan Perdue and seconded by Walter Ferguson 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, Commissioner Lewis Weatherspoon, 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:

- March 9, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
- Policy Revisions
- Quality Management Program Plan FY 21-22 Update

### **New Business**

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

Mrs. Whitt welcomed everyone and provided the following:

#### **A. FY 21 – 22 County General Budget Request**

Mrs. Whitt reported that the county budget request and program updates to the County Commissioners have started and are going well.

#### **B. 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. On March 25, 2021, the NC Governor announced an accelerated time line for moving to Group 5 (all adults) for vaccine eligibility beginning April 7<sup>th</sup>. Based on this announcement and in preparation for a return to office based work, staff are being encouraged to sign up for a vaccine appointment when they are eligible and if they are interested in receiving a vaccine. A return to work date will be announced when a supply of vaccines for Group 5 is sufficiently available.

- **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 at this point, Sandhills is not aware of any additional federal or state COVID-19 relief funding for behavioral health. Sandhills continues to work with providers and the expenditure of previous allocated funding.

- **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 most

recent March 2021 report included 15 pages of provider sites throughout North Carolina with active outbreaks. The newest report represents a significant reduction from the February 2021 report with 29 pages. At least three (3) of our contracted providers, both inside and outside of the Sandhills catchment area, are included on the list.

On the most recent NC DHHS' COVID-19 County Alert System report, posted in mid-March, only one (1) of Sandhills Center's nine (9) counties is 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%. Three (3) counties are listed in Orange, indicating Substantial Community Spread while the remaining counties are listed in Yellow, indicating Significant Community Spread.

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

☛ **Randolph County Update** – Mrs. Whitt reported that the BHUC/FBC facility in Asheboro is fully staffed and operational!

☛ **Richmond County Update** – Mrs. Whitt reported the current status of the Richmond facility:

- The **Outpatient Unit** is in operation.
- The **Behavioral Health Urgent Care** (23-hour observation chairs) is in operation.
- Hiring continues for the **Facility Based Crisis Center**. Daymark has been successful in identifying nurses, crisis workers, and administrative staff for the facility; however they are having difficulties with the recruitment of clinicians and a child psychiatrist. A request has been submitted to the State requesting a waiver to move recruitment forward, i.e. substitution of a PA or NP supervised by a child psychiatrist, telehealth options, etc.

Mrs. Whitt asked Jerry Earnhardt to give an update on the progress of the openings. Mr. Earnhardt reported that since the opening of the BHUC facility in Randolph County, they have served 165 individuals. Of those 165 individuals, 14 referrals were made to the FBC center, 2 individuals were referred to a psychiatric hospital, and 149 were referred for outpatient services. Mr. Earnhardt noted that the individuals were from several counties, with the most from Randolph County.

Mr. Earnhardt reported that since the opening of the BHUC facility in Richmond County on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 67 individuals have been served. Those individuals were referred to the FBC center, ADATC, and referred for outpatient services.

Mr. Earnhardt took the opportunity to answer questions from Board members.

A list of names, of who received the FBC press release, was distributed. Mrs. Whitt asked Board members to please review and provide her with any name(s) that may need to be added.

☛ **Guilford County Update** – Mrs. Whitt reported that the Guilford County FBC center continues to move along. A DHSR inspection completed in January identified a few issues.

- Most of those identified issues have been addressed/resolved with DHSR, with the exception of:
  - Fire Marshal's approval of the Emergency Responder Radio Receptor; and
  - Health Department's final approval of food service area and food service vendor.
- Only significant issue is a patient room that does not include a window. A window is on order and will require 8 – 10 weeks for delivery with installation requiring one (1) week.
- DHSR has proposed issuing a Phase 1 approval for all items, minus the missing bedroom window, allowing the owner to utilize the facility. Phase 1 is contingent on the Health Department. Phase 2 will be approved and the building complete when the window is installed.
- DHSR Licensure inspection will occur once DHSR Construction has cleared the project.

### D. Robert Porcher Way, Greensboro Renovations (LME-MCO Offices)

Mrs. Whitt gave an update on the renovations of the LME-MCO offices at Robert Porcher Way. She stated that furniture and staff have been moved in. The parking lot paving started yesterday, with plans to be completed by tomorrow night.

**E. Sandhills Center Area Office Corporate Building**

Mrs. Whit updated the Board of Directors on the Area Office Corporate Building project. She noted that a meeting is scheduled for April 28<sup>th</sup> with TFF Architects and Planners. The Project Schedule is being finalized and development of the Schematic Design Phase Concept Diagrams for Owner review, for plans to bring to the May Board Meeting.

**F. NC General Assembly/NC DHHS Updates**

Mrs. Whitt reported that the Governor has released his budget recommendations for FY 21 – 23. Budget highlights include:

- Medicaid expansion to increase health care access and capitalize on enhanced federal match;
- Funds for the transition to Medicaid Managed Care on July 1, 2021;
- Wage increases for long-term care workforce;
- Increase in housing and employment supports for Olmstead settlement; and
- Addition of 520 slots for the NC Innovations Waiver.

The recent disengagement of Union and Cabarrus counties from Cardinal Innovations was discussed. DHHS Secretary Cohen has approved their request to realign with Partners, effective September 1, 2021.

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

Mr. Ward reviewed the following, noting that his reports cover the months of January and February 2021.

- Medicaid Waiver Operations Report – March 2021, noting that all benchmarks continue to be met.
- Medicaid Waiver Financial Operations Report – March 2021, noting the financial measures that Sandhills is required to meet.

➤ **Standing Committees**

The following appointment to the Sandhills Center Board of Directors Standing Committees were made:

- Human Resources Committee – Dr. Tommy Jarrell
- Client Rights Committee – Dr. Walter Salinger
- Corporate Compliance Committee – Commissioner Catherine Graham, Commissioner Lewis Weatherspoon, Commissioner Mike Criscoe, and Commissioner Alan Perdue

Chairperson Ussery thanked everyone for their willingness to serve on a Committee.

**Committee Reports**

- **Finance Committee Report** – Committee Chairperson Gart Evans reported the Finance Committee met remotely on Thursday, April 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 February 28, 2021.

*On behalf of the Finance Committee, a motion was made by Finance 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 Lewis Weatherspoon, 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.*

- **Consumer Family and Advisory Committee** – Consumer Family and Advisory Committee Chairperson Leann Henkel gave the report.
- **Corporate Compliance & Internal Audit Committee** – Corporate Compliance & Internal Audit Committee Chairperson Matthew Rothbeind gave the report.
- **Client Rights Committee Report** – Did not meet.
- **Human Resources Committee Report** – *On behalf of the Human Resources Committee, a motion was made by Human Resources Committee Chairperson Mazie Fleetwood and seconded by Walter Ferguson to*

"go into Closed Session to discuss confidential personnel information. This motion is made in accordance with N.C. General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(6) covering Public Open Meetings Laws". 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 Lewis Weatherspoon, 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. The Closed Session began at 7:01 p.m.

Sandhills Center staff in attendance was Clerk to the Board of Directors/Executive Assistant, Sherry Bynum.

A motion was made by Human Resources Committee Chairperson Mazie Fleetwood and seconded by Commissioner Alan Perdue 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 Lewis Weatherspoon, 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. Open session reconvened at 7:16 p.m.

A motion was made by Human Resources Committee Chairperson Mazie Fleetwood and seconded by Commissioner Kirk Smith to "recommend a 4% salary increase for Mrs. Whitt, based on her exceptional performance evaluation rating, effective July 1, 2021". Voting yes – Ross Streater, Priscilla Little, Commissioner Alan Perdue, Gart Evans, Dr. Walter Salinger, Dr. Alvin Keyes, Commissioner Lewis Weatherspoon, 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**

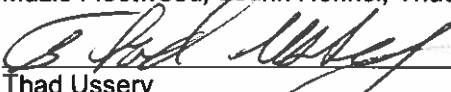
None

#### **Board Materials**

- 📎 DMA Monthly Financial Report – February 2021
- 📎 Human Resources Report
- 📎 Newspaper Articles

#### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Commissioner Alan Perdue and seconded by Priscilla Little to "Adjourn". 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 Lewis Weatherspoon, 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 meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

  
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Thad Ussery  
Chairperson, Board of Directors

5-11-2021  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date