



SANDHILLS CENTER

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 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"/> Lewis Weatherspoon | <input type="checkbox"/> Tonya Gray |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harry Southerland, Vice-Chairperson | <input 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, March 9, 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 6:03 p.m. and gave the invocation.

Board Member Roll Call

A roll call of attendance was taken. A total of 20 Board members were present: 19 voting and one (1) non-voting.

Introduction of New Board Members

Chairperson Ussery took the opportunity to welcome and introduce new Board member Commissioner Lewis Weatherspoon, Harnett County representative. Chairperson Ussery also noted that Commissioner Weatherspoon was given his Oath of Office prior to tonight's meeting. Board members took the opportunity to provide introductions.

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, Commissioner Harry Southerland, 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

Not in attendance – Tonya Gray and Shirley Bonds. It was noted that neither had indicated that they would not be in attendance tonight. A motion was made by Walter Ferguson and seconded by Carol Whitaker to “not excuse their absence”. Voting yes – Ross Streater, Priscilla Little, Commissioner Alan Perdue, Gart Evans, Dr. Walter Salinger, Dr. Alvin Keyes, Commissioner Lewis Weatherspoon, Commissioner Harry Southerland, 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.

**Shirley Bonds’ reason for not attending the March 9th Board meeting was received after the Board meeting. Her excuse will be taken to the Board in April for consideration.

Public Comments

None

Approval of Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk Smith and seconded by Commissioner Alan Perdue 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, Commissioner Harry Southerland, 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:

- February 9, 2021 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 the following:

A. FY 21 – 22 County General Budget Request

Mrs. Whitt reviewed the FY 21 – 22 County General Budget request. She stated that she is recommending that Sandhills not request any additional funding from the counties, noting this is the 17th year that Sandhills Center has not requested additional funding. Mrs. Whitt explained that the funding stays within the counties and is directed for support of the local County Behavioral Health Urgent Care Centers and other county designated services/programs.

Sandhills Center staff and Mrs. Whitt continue to meet with County Managers and others to review the use of current county allocations and to identify behavioral health service areas in the county that may have been under served and identify how available funding could be used to impact those areas.

Presentations to the County Commissioners will begin in April and will include a program update.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk Smith and seconded by Commissioner Harry Southerland to “approve Mrs. Whitt to move forward with the FY 21 – 22 County General budget request amounts and not ask the counties for additional funding”. Voting yes – Ross Streater, Priscilla Little, Commissioner Alan Perdue, Gart Evans, Dr. Walter Salinger, Dr. Alvin Keyes, Commissioner Lewis Weatherspoon, Commissioner Harry Southerland, 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.

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. Sandhills is operating under Governor Cooper’s Stay at modified Stay at Home Executive Order. 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 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 late February 2021 report included 29 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. Sandhills continues to work closely with the providers.

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

- ✦ **Randolph County Update** – Mrs. Whitt reported that on March 2nd, the NC DHSR Licensure Section gave approval to the Asheboro FBC Center!

Currently:

- The Outpatient Unit is in operation.
- The Behavioral Health Urgent Care (23-hour observation chairs) had a soft opening the first week in March.
- The Facility Based Crisis Center is now cleared by the State to start operations. Talks are underway to establish an opening date in March.

Mrs. Whitt asked Jerry Earnhardt to give an update on the opening of the observation chairs. Mr. Earnhardt reported that they have been getting the processes out in the community and training members to come to the downstairs area instead of the upstairs area, of which they are used to. He commented that it has been busy. They are conducting health screens, in addition to clinical assessments, discharge planning, and assisting with available resources. Mr. Earnhardt stated that the goal is to have the observation chairs staffed 24/7 within the next two (2) weeks.

- ✦ **Richmond County Update** – Mrs. Whitt reported that the NC DHSR Construction Section has approved and has recommended its use to Licensure. Daymark continues to hire staff. It is anticipated that once all the staff are hired, the licensure request will be submitted.

Currently:

- The Outpatient Unit is in operation.
- The Behavioral Health Urgent Care (23-hour observation chairs) had a soft opening the first week in March.
- Hiring continues for the Facility Based Crisis Center. It is anticipated that the Center will open in April/May.

Mr. Earnhardt commented that once the Asheboro Center is opened, if needed, consumers can be referred to that facility. Notification to law enforcement and hospitals will be made once the facilities are opened.

- ✦ **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. The Architect has been submitting to the State pictures of

the issues that have been corrected. Continue to work with the selected provider, Alexander Youth Network.

D. 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 ahead of schedule and the building is ready! It is anticipated that the Fire Marshall will issue the Certificate of Occupancy (CO) tomorrow. Staff equipment is in the process of being moved. The final topcoat is anticipated to be applied March/April, dependent upon the weather. Final payments to the General Contractor will reflect funds held out for this work.

E. Sandhills Center Area Office Corporate Building

Mrs. Whit updated the Board of Directors on the Area Office Corporate Building project. She noted that the Board approved the contract with TFF Architects and Planners to provide architectural services for this project at their January 2021 Board meeting. Mrs. Whitt provided the following:

- A Boundary and Topographic Survey of the proposed site has been completed and existing septic system information has been obtained from the Moore County Health Department.
- The Project Schedule is being finalized and development of the Schematic Design Phase concept diagrams, for Owner review, are anticipated by the end of March, with plans to bring to the April Board meeting.

F. NC General Assembly/NC DHHS Updates

The NC General Assembly is in session. Mrs. Whitt commented that she has had conversation with Dennis Wicker, who is not hearing anything of concern. All the talk continues to be around COVID funding.

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

Mr. Ward reviewed the following, noting that his reports cover the months of December 2020 and January 2021. All benchmarks and measures continue to be met.

- Medicaid Waiver Operations Report – February 2021
- Medicaid Waiver Financial Operations Report – February 2021

Committee Reports

- **Finance Committee Report** – Committee Chairperson Gart Evans reported the Finance Committee met remotely on Friday, March 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 January 31, 2021.

Also presented for review and approval, was the Annual Independent Financial/Compliance Audit. It is recommended to proceed with Cherry Bekaert for the third year, at a cost of \$48,850.

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 Lewis Weatherspoon, Commissioner Harry Southerland, 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.

- **Client Rights Committee Report** – Did not meet. Carol Whitaker reported that Walter Ferguson has been appointed Chairperson of the Client Rights Committee.
- **Corporate Compliance & Internal Audit Committee** – Did not meet.
- **Human Resources Committee Report** – Mazie Fleetwood reported that the HR Committee met remotely on Thursday, March 4, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. The Committee elected Mrs. Fleetwood as Chairperson until her term on the Board ends in August of this year. Chairperson Fleetwood reported that Stephany Bonds has been added as a new Committee Member and will also need another Board Member to join before Chairperson Fleetwood’s term expires in August. Dr. Tommy Jarrell indicated that he would like to join the HR Committee.

Chairperson Fleetwood reported that it is that time of year for Board members to evaluate Mrs. Whitt on her job performance as CEO. The evaluation covers the period of April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021. Chairperson Fleetwood stated that a copy of the evaluation will be sent out to Board members via U.S. mail and email and are due back to Sherry by March 26, 2021. The HR Committee will compile the results and present them to the Board of Directors and Mrs. Whitt at the April Board meeting.

For new Board members who may not feel comfortable completing the evaluation, it is understood if they prefer to not participate this year. They were asked to make Sherry aware if they elected not to participate.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Gart Evans and seconded by Commissioner Harry Southerland 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 Lewis Weatherspoon, Commissioner Harry Southerland, 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 6:52 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 Walter Ferguson 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, Commissioner Harry Southerland, 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 7:00 p.m.

Old Business

None

Comments

Chairperson Ussery asked the Board of Directors if they prefer to move the meeting time back to 7:00 p.m. with Daylight Savings Time taking place this coming weekend. After Board members discussion, it was decided to leave the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Chairperson Ussery took the opportunity to read a Thank You Note from the Ussery family for their thoughts, prayers, calls, flowers, cards, memorials, and kindness shown to him and his family during the recent death of his wife.

Chairperson Ussery also reminded Board members of the NC Open Meeting Law and encouraged everyone to follow the "Do Not Reply To All" when responding to emails.

Chairperson Ussery commented that currently a few of the Board Committees have openings and encouraged anyone that is not currently serving to considerate serving. Mrs. Whitt stated that there are five (5) Board members who do not currently serve on a committee. She plans to reach out to the five (5) members, review the different committees, and work with them to see if they are willing to serve on a committee.

Board Materials

- 📌 CIT Year in Review 2020
- 📌 DMA Monthly Financial Report – January 2021
- 📌 Human Resources Report
- 📌 Newspaper Articles

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mazie Fleetwood 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, Commissioner Harry Southerland, 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 7:06 p.m.



Thad Ussery
Chairperson, Board of Directors

4-13-2021

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