



SANDHILLS CENTER

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 11, 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 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 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, May 11, 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 6:01 p.m. and gave the invocation.

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

Sherry Bynum, Clerk to the Board of Directors, certified a quorum.

Approval of Agenda

Chairperson Ussery stated that tonight's agenda would need to be amended to include two items: Under New Business, Commissioner Alan Perdue would like to present a request from the Guilford County Commissioners to fund a second playground addition at the Greensboro Child FBC Center; and after Committee Reports, add a Closed Session. A motion was made by Walter Ferguson and seconded by Commissioner Harry Southerland to "amend the Agenda adding the two items as stated". 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, Thad Ussery, and Dr. Tommy Jarrell.

Absent Board Members Justifications

Justifications for Board member absences:

- 👉 Leann Henkel – on vacation
- 👉 Tonya Gray – family medical emergency
A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk Smith and seconded by Commissioner Harry Southerland to “excuse the Justifications for Absences as presented”. 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, Thad Ussery, and Dr. Tommy Jarrell.
- 👉 Not in attendance – unexcused: Stephany Bonds

Public Comments

George Reynolds took the opportunity to voice his concerns and asked questions regarding Medicaid Transformation. He commented that Medical Transformation was discussed in the Client Rights Committee tonight.

1. Does Sandhills Center have any idea about how many people they will be losing?
2. Will any Sandhills Center employees be affected that may have an impact on services?
3. Have there been any issues with the requirement that people who want to stay with Sandhills Center must fill out a request form that has to be approved by the NC DHHS?
4. Will the private provider have a Clients Rights group or something similar?

Approval of Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Alan Perdue and seconded by Commissioner Harry Southerland 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, Thad Ussery, and Dr. Tommy Jarrell.

The following were approved:

- 👉 April 13, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
- 👉 Policy Revisions

New Business

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

Mrs. Whitt asked that a copy of the questions discussed in the Client Rights Committee meeting tonight be forwarded to her. She also commented that any questions regarding the Standard Plans should be addressed to the Department. 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. Sandhills Center continues to allow remote work options for staff as well as the option for staff to return to their assigned work locations. In preparation for a return to office based work, staff are being encouraged to sign up for a vaccine appointment. A return to work date will be announced when a supply of vaccines is sufficiently available. Currently reviewing the existing work place/remote policies and procedures and updating them as necessary. Also, receiving assistance from Human Resources Advisers from Willis, Towers, and Watson.

👉 **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** – Mrs. Whitt stated that in April, Sandhills Center received notification from NC DHHS of revisions to the COVID-19 relief funding that was earlier approved and allocated to Sandhills. The notification adjusted the split between UCR and Non-UCR funding and extended the effective dates for providers claiming their allocated funding. Adjustments related to this change are included on the Finance Agenda, of which will be presented for review and approval tonight.
- **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 April 2021 report continues a recent trend of fewer provider locations being identified with active outbreaks. The current report, includes 11 pages of provider sites. While there are fewer provider sites included, at least four (4) 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-April, none of Sandhills Center's nine (9) counties are listed in Red, this highest community spread tier. Four (4) of our counties are listed in Orange, the second highest tier indicating Substantial Community Spread. Three (3) are listed in Yellow, the third highest tier indicating Significant Community Spread. The remaining two (2) counties are listed in Light Yellow, the fourth highest indicating Moderate Community Spread. No counties are listed in the lowest tier of Green, indicating Low Community Spread.

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

- **Randolph County Update** – Mrs. Whitt took the opportunity to review data she received from Daymark, of which shows the number of persons served, number of hospital diversions, the number of persons referred to a higher level of care, and the payment sources for the months of March and April at the Richmond BHUC Center and the Randolph BHUC/FBC Centers.
- **Richmond County Update** – Mrs. Whitt reported the current status of the Richmond facility:
 - DHHS has approved Daymark and Sandhills Center's request to approve certain service definitions to assist with moving recruitment forward, allowing:
 - Substitution of a Physician Assistant, Nurse Practitioner, or Adult Psychiatrist supervised by a Child psychiatrist, for a full time Child Psychiatrist;
 - Expansion of telehealth options;
 - Allows a contract arrangement with a part time psychologist as opposed to a full time psychologist; and
 - There are no concessions around nurses. That would be a fundamental change in the service definition.
 - Hiring status to date:
 - Positions hired: 2
 - Recruited and awaiting hire: 16 (meaning these people are ready to be hired and brought on board – do not want to bring these positions on until fully staffed).
 - Positions still being recruited: nurses, clinicians; contract psychologist, crisis workers, and medical prescriber (psychiatrist, NP, PA).

Mr. Jerry Earnhardt provided an updated. He commented that they are seeing a steady increase in services. He feels that people are happy the facilities are there. The security in Randolph County will be handled by the Sheriff's Department. The security in Richmond County will be handled by a private company.

- **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, of which have been addressed/resolved. The Architect has requested that DHSR issue a Phase I approval allowing the building to be utilized. Once Phase I is approved, Alexander Youth Network will be able to pursue DHSR licensure. The one patient room, that does not include a window, is the only outstanding significant issue. The window is expected to be delivered around the first of June, with a week for installation. Once the window is installed and the Fire Marshal has approved the Emergency

Responder Radio Receptor, DHSR Contracting will issue a Phase 2 approval and clear the entire 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, stating that the parking area has been completed and final payment to the General Contractor has been issued. Employee furnishings/equipment has been moved in, with an employee move in date to align with the Governor's COVID Executive Order.

E. Sandhills Center Area Office Corporate Building

Mrs. Whitt updated the Board of Directors on the Area Office Corporate Building project. She noted that a meeting was held on April 28th with TFF Architects and Planners, to review materials, including boundary and topographic surveys of the proposed site, existing septic system information, set back requirements, an elevation study, preliminary site plan, and proposed space allocations and layouts.

- A proposed one (1) story building would be similar to the current office building located on Grant Street, in design and in construction (including brick, windows, design and roof materials, and colors).
- Program spaces would include a lobby/reception area, approximately 15 offices, two (2) conference room, a Board Room, break and kitchen areas, sufficient number of bathrooms, utility and support areas.
- Total building space is projected to be approximately 6,777 square feet and not to exceed 7,000 square feet, based on site requirements.
- Based on current construction costs, building estimate would be 7,000 square feet x \$250/square foot = \$1,750,000.
- TFF to take all recommendations/changes back and develop a schematic design for further review and discussion.
- Mrs. Whitt expects to have the updated design to bring to the June Board meeting.

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

Mr. Ward took the opportunity to discuss the Standard Plan transition process.

- Medicaid Waiver Operations Report – April 2021, noting that all benchmarks continue to be met.
- Medicaid Waiver Financial Operations Report – April 2021, noting the financial measures that Sandhills is required to meet.
- April 2021 Quarterly Report – demonstrates some of the ways Sandhills is committed to ensuring the wellbeing of members by strongly supporting providers to continue offering quality services and increased safety measures by extending enhanced provider reimbursement rates for some specific services; and the development of a new program to counteract the pandemic's emotional toll on the younger individuals, of which the new program will connect them and their families to the care they need to cope during these difficult circumstances.

➤ **Guilford County Request**

Commissioner Alan Perdue presented a proposal from the Guilford County Commissioner. He stated that during their May 6th meeting, they voted unanimously to support fully funding a therapeutic outdoor play space to be added to the Child FBC Center in Greensboro. The Guilford County Commissioners strongly feels that the addition of the second outdoor play space is necessary in order to allow for better separation of age groups for juveniles.

A motion was made by Commissioner Harry Southerland and seconded by Carol Whitaker to 'accept the offer from Guilford County to fully fund a therapeutic outdoor play space to be added to the Child FBC Center in Greensboro'. 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, Thad Ussery, and Dr. Tommy Jarrell.

Committee Reports

- **Finance Committee Report** – Commissioner David Allen reported the Finance Committee met remotely on Friday, May 7, 2021, and reviewed the Finance Report in detail. Commissioner Allen presented and reviewed the Finance Agenda with the Board of Directors. Reviewed the following:
 - The State/IPRS Contracts – items in **red** are changes due to COVID-19 and items in **blue** are regular agenda items
 - Medicaid Contracts and B3 Services Medicaid Contracts List
 - A summary of the Consolidated Balance Sheet and Income Statement, which reflects services through March 31, 2020
 - Quarterly Fiscal Monitoring Report – March 31, 2021

The Board of Directors and Mrs. Whitt took the opportunity to discuss the current Fund Balance amount and what is included in that amount, i.e. reinvestment and COVID funds.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, a motion was made by Commissioner David Allen and seconded by Carol Whitaker 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, Thad Ussery, and Dr. Tommy Jarrell. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Client Rights Committee Report** – Client Rights Committee Chairperson Walter Ferguson 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 Dr. Tommy Jarrell 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 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, Thad Ussery, and Dr. Tommy Jarrell. The Closed Session began at 7:11 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 Commissioner David Allen 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, Thad Ussery, and Dr. Tommy Jarrell. Open Session reconvened at 7:23 p.m.

Old Business

None

Comments

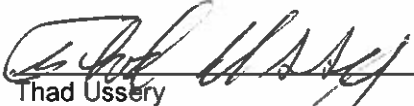
None

Board Materials

- Quality Management Executive Summary
- DMA Monthly Financial Report – March 2021
- Human Resources Report
- Newspaper Articles

Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Alan Perdue and seconded by Commissioner Kirk Smith 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, Thad Ussery, and Dr. Tommy Jarrell. The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.



Thad Ussery
Chairperson, Board of Directors

6-8-2021

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