



# SANDHILLS CENTER

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2021

1120 Seven Lakes Drive, West End, NC

### Members Present:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Mims                         | <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"/> Matt Nicol                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tonya Gray                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harry Southerland, Vice-Chairperson |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kirk Smith                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walter Ferguson             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carol Whitaker                      |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Catherine Graham                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matthew Rothbeind           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> David Allen                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ann Shaw                    |
| <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"/> Patrick Sloan     |   |

**Guest:** Lisa Jackson, DMH, LME/MCO System Performance Liaison

The Sandhills Center Board of Directors convened for a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at the Administrative Office at 1120 Seven Lakes Drive, West End, NC.

### Call to Order and Invocation

Chairperson Thad Ussery called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Harry Southerland gave the invocation.

### Oath of Office of New Board Members

Anson County representative, Commissioner Robert Mims, and Randolph County representative, Ann Shaw, were welcomed and administered the Oath of Office.

Mrs. Whitt reported that in November, Mike Ayers, Randolph County representative and Jackie McLean, Hoke County representative, would be joining the Board. She stated that Mike Criscoe resigned from the Montgomery County Commission and that they are in the processing of appointing his replacement.

### Certification of Quorum

Priscilla Little, Secretary, certified a quorum.

### 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.

### Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Gart Evans and seconded by Ann Shaw to "approve the Agenda". The motion was approved unanimously.

### Absent Board Members Justifications

Justifications for Board member absences:

- 👉 David Allen – prior meeting commitment

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 unanimously.

### **Public Comments**

Chairperson Ussery took the opportunity to read a thank you note from Mazie Fleetwood expressing her appreciation for the recognition of her service to the Board and the beautiful clock she received.

### **Approval of Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Commissioner Alan Perdue and seconded by Priscilla Little to "approve the Consent Agenda". The motion was approved unanimously. The following were approved:

- 📁 September 14, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
- 📁 Policy Revisions

### **New Business**

#### ➤ **Board of Directors Compliance Training – Bonita Porter, Chief Compliance Officer**

Ms. Porter presented a PowerPoint presentation on *Compliance Expectations for Health Plan Board of Directors: Part Three – the Compliance Program Drivers – Entities, Laws, Regulations, Standards & Contracts*, highlighting the following:

- Compliance Orientation will be broken into four (4) parts:
  1. Part One: Compliance Update – presented at the August meeting
  2. Part Two: Compliance Program and Annual Work Plan – presented at the September meeting
  3. Part Three: Compliance Program Drivers
  4. Part Four: Driven by Data: Compliance Risk Assessment – to be presented at the November meeting
- Ms. Porter explained that the charge as a Tailored Plan is: to service all eligible members and recipients in the right way; by ensuring access to medically necessary services; and, being good stewards of the taxpayer's dollars.
- Ms. Porter explained that the Compliance Program is organized around specific drivers and she provided examples of each.
  - External drivers that include state, federal, national accreditation and contractual requirements.
  - Internal drivers that include operational plans, policies and procedures, Code of Ethics, and the Standards of Conduct.
- At the November Board meeting, other drivers – data and information – will be presented.

Ms. Porter took the opportunity to answer questions from Board members.

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

Mrs. Whitt welcomed everyone and provided the following:

##### **A. Davidson and Rockingham Counties' Realignment Updates**

Mrs. Whitt gave an update on the Davidson and Rockingham Counties' realignment activities. She stated that the weekly meetings with NC DHHS, Cardinal Innovations and their consultant Cansler Collaborative Resources, Davidson and Rockingham Counties continue, and Sandhills is beginning to get the data from Cardinal needed for the transition.

December 1<sup>st</sup> is the official date that Davidson and Rockingham Counties will join Sandhills. Mrs. Whitt reported the recent breakfast held in Davidson County was very positive and they expressed their interest in CIT. A provider meeting has been scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup>. Consumer and family meetings are scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup> for Davidson and November 2<sup>nd</sup> for Rockingham.

DHHS continues to work with the LME/MCOs on the transfer of funding (Fund Balance, Medicaid Risk Reserve, State Single Stream, Federal Block Grant, and other funds).

**Structure of Area Board (122C-118.1)** – Mrs. Whitt reported that approval has been received from each of the Sandhills Center Board of County Commissioners allowing the additional Board seats. She expressed her appreciation to the Commissioners on their effort on presenting the resolution and getting it approved. Mrs. Whitt also reported that she has received approval from DHHS allowing Sandhills Center

to add the additional three (3) Board seats for Davidson County and the additional two (2) Board seats for Rockingham County, effective December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Davidson and Rockingham County Contributions (Maintenance of Effort)** – Mrs. Whitt stated that Davidson and Rockingham Counties each provide behavioral health support for their counties. Davidson County contributes \$824,000. Rockingham County contributes \$600,000, of which, some of the funds are managed through the County and some are managed through the LME/MCO. Beginning December 1<sup>st</sup>, Sandhills will begin receiving the 1/12 payments, which support the county initiatives.

**Resolution to Approve the Addition and Realignment of Davidson County** – *A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk Smith and seconded by Carol Whitaker to “approve the addition and realignment of Davidson County”. The motion was approved unanimously.*

**Resolution to Approve the Addition and Realignment of Rockingham County** – *A motion was made by Gart Evans and seconded by Commissioner Alan Perdue to “approve the addition and realignment of Rockingham County”. The motion was approved unanimously.*

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

✦ **Guilford County Update – Child Facility Based Crisis Center** – Mrs. Whitt reported that work has begun on the courtyard, with an expected completion time of 12 weeks. The original project’s contract (minus the courtyard) has been completed and paid out.

Alexander Youth Network has received its licensure from NC DHSR. An opening date had been set for late October/early November. Offers have been made on final staff positions and currently waiting on candidates to work their notices with their current employers.

✦ **Richmond County Facility Based Crisis Center Update** – Mrs. Whitt reported that Daymark continues to have difficulties in hiring of nursing staff. Daymark and Sandhills Center have submitted to NC DHHS a request for a waiver that would allow for the substitution of other professionals to fulfill some duties previously requiring nursing staff. Waiting approval of the waiver.

**C. 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.

✦ **Employee COVID-19 Testing** – Mrs. Whitt shared the current statistics of employees COVID-19 testing and the process that Sandhills has in place.

**D. Sandhills Center Nominating Committee/Election of Officers**

Mrs. Whitt reported that the Nominating Committee would need to convene to select officers for the 2022 year. She provided the following guidance:

- At the November 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, the Board will elect a Nominating Committee and the Nominating Committee Chairperson.
- The Nominating Committee must consist of five (5) members, no more/no less, inclusive of the Chairperson.
- If there are less than five (5) volunteers prior to the November Board meeting, volunteers will be taken from the floor, prior to election/selection by the Board.
- The Board Chair may not serve on the Nominating Committee; however, any other Board member may serve on the Nominating Committee.
- Nothing prohibits the members of the Nominating Committee from consulting the Chair or other members of the Board in making its selection.
- The Nominating Committee is required to convene an in-person meeting, where feasible, in order to present a slate of nominees for the officer positions (Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary) at the January 2022 regular Board meeting.
- The meeting of the Nominating Committee must provide for active participation and involve all members of the nominating committee.
- Anyone interested in serving as an officer should make their interest known to a member of the Nominating Committee.

- Sherry will help to facilitate the meeting of the Nominating Committee and will take minutes.
- The Nominating Committee must confirm the willingness of the nominees to serve in each role prior to the January Board meeting.
- The Board Chair will call for nominations from the floor for each office at the January meeting.
- The Board will vote to elect each officer by a simple majority of the quorum.
- The new officers will be installed at the January Board meeting.
- The terms of each officer shall be for one (1) year or until their successors are elected.
- No officer may serve in any one (1) position for more than two (2) consecutive terms beginning in January 2021.
- Current officers for the year of January 2021 are eligible for re-nomination and election for one (1) additional consecutive term.

Mrs. Whitt stated if anyone is interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, let Board Chairperson Ussery know before the November meeting.

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

Mr. Ward took the opportunity to review the following:

- Medicaid Waiver Operations Report – September 2021, noting that all benchmarks continue to be met. Mr. Ward noted the changes since the launch of the Standard Plans.
- Medicaid Waiver Financial Operations Report – September 2021, noting the financial measures that Sandhills is required to meet.

**Committee Reports**

➤ **Finance Committee Report** – Committee Chairperson Gart Evans reported the Finance Committee met prior to tonight's Board of Directors Meeting and reviewed the Finance Report in detail. Chairperson Evans presented, for review and approval, the Finance Agenda with the Board of Directors. The following was reviewed:

- The State/IPRS Contracts
- Medicaid Contracts and B3 Services Medicaid Contracts List
- A summary of the Consolidated Balance Sheet and Income Statement, which reflects services through August 31, 2021

*On behalf of the Finance Committee, a motion was made by Committee Chairperson Gart Evans and seconded by Dr. Alvin Keyes to "approve the Finance Agenda as presented". The motion was approved unanimously.*

➤ **Human Resources Committee Report** – Elected chairperson, Dr. Tommy Jarrell reported that the Human Resources (HR) Committee met prior to tonight's Board of Directors Meeting. Chairperson Jarrell presented and reviewed in detail the 2022 Health and Dental Benefits and recommendations approved by the HR Committee:

- That consideration be given to a re-design of the current Health Plan to leverage potential savings commonly derived with providing participating employees (and eligible dependents) more choices. Particular emphasis to be placed on options to redirect the rising pharmacy cost trend. And,
- That the projected expenditure increases for the Health Plan (6.1%) and Dental Plan (3.2%) be absorbed by Sandhills Center (employer) for the 2022 calendar year.

*On behalf of the Human Resources Committee, a recommendation was made by Commissioner Kirk Smith and seconded by Walter Ferguson to "approve the recommendations as presented". The recommendation was approved unanimously.*

➤ **Client Rights Committee Report** – Did not meet.

➤ **Compliance/Regulatory Committee** – Did not meet.

Chairperson Ussery took the opportunity to discuss the December Board meeting. *After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Kirk Smith and seconded by Ann Shaw to "cancel the official meeting of the Board scheduled for December 14, 2021, and to hold an informal social gathering at a place to be determined in its place". The motion was approved unanimously.*

**Closed Session**

A motion was made by Commissioner Harry Southerland and seconded by Gart Evans to "go into Closed Session, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143-318.11(a)(5) to discuss negotiation strategies for the potential purchase of real property". The motion was approved unanimously. The Closed Session began at 7:56 p.m.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Harry Southerland and seconded by Priscilla Little to "reconvene Open Session". The motion was approved unanimously. Open Session reconvened at 8:15 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk Smith and seconded by Gart Evans to "remove the two (2) properties, 1120 and 1116 Seven Lakes Drive, from the market and revisit at a later date". The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Harry Southerland and seconded by Gart Evans to "accept the presented schematic design for the corporate building at the 1100 Seven Lakes Drive property, and allow the Architect to proceed with the final construction drawings and documents with an expectation of doing the contractor bidding for the project in early January 2022". The motion was approved unanimously.

**Old Business**

None

**Comments**

None

**Board Materials**

- Community Stakeholders Breakfast Agenda
- DMA Monthly Financial Report – August 2021
- Human Resources Report
- Newspaper Articles

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Priscilla Little and seconded by Ann Shaw to "Adjourn". The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

  
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Thad Ussery  
Chairperson, Board of Directors

11-9-2021  
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Date