



SANDHILLS CENTER

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2022

Via WebEx

Members Present:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Mims | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priscilla Little, Secretary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Karen Watford | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Billy Louya |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trish Baker | |
| <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"/> Matt Nicol | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tonya Gray |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harry Southerland, Vice-Chairperson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jackie McLean |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kirk Smith | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walter Ferguson |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Hassell | <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"/> Ann Shaw |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Ayers | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thad Ussery, Chairperson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Tommy Jarrell |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Richardson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keith Duncan |
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Leonard Covington | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bonita Porter |
| <input 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, January 11, 2022. Due to COVID-19 concerns, the meeting was held remotely. A WebEx 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 7:00 p.m. and gave the invocation.

Introduction of New Board Members

Chairperson Ussery took the opportunity to introduce and welcome the new Board members from Davidson and Rockingham Counties. Chairperson Ussery stated that the Oath of Office was given prior to tonight's meeting.

- Davidson County – Commissioner Karen Watford, Billy Louya, Trish Baker
- Rockingham County – Commissioner Mark Richardson, Keith Duncan

Election of 2022 Board of Directors Officers

📌 **Nominating Committee Recommendation** – Nominating Committee Chairperson, Priscilla Little, gave the recommendations. She reported that the Nominating Committee met and agreed to the following slate of officers for 2022:

- 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 a vote to close out the nominations. *A motion was made by Walter Ferguson and seconded by Mike Ayers to "accept the recommendations made of the slate of officers as presented by the Nominating Committee and to close out the nominations". Voting yes – Commissioner*

Robert Mims, Priscilla Little, Billy Louya, Trish Baker, Commissioner Alan Perdue, Gart Evans, Dr. Walter Salinger, Dr. Alvin Keyes, Tonya Gray, Commissioner Harry Southerland, Jackie McLean, Commissioner Kirk Smith, Walter Ferguson, Commissioner Mary Hassell, Carol Whitaker, Commissioner Catherine Graham, Matthew Rothbeind, Commissioner David Allen, Ann Shaw, Mike Ayers, Thad Ussery, Dr. Tommy Jarrell, Commissioner Mark Richardson, and Keith Duncan. The motion passed unanimously.

Oath of Office of Elected Officers

Due to the Board meeting being held remotely and the expiration of the Emergency Video Notarization Law December 31, 2021, the Oath of Office for the Elected Officers will be given at a later date. Because the successors are the same as the present incumbents, the Oath of Office administered last year will be valid until a new Oath is administered.

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

The Agenda was approved by general consent and without objection.

Absent Board Members Justifications

Justifications for Board member absences:

- Commissioner Karen Watford – vacation
- Commissioner Matt Nicol – sickness

A motion was made by Jackie McLean and seconded by Commissioner Harry Southerland to “excuse the Justifications for Absences as presented”. The Absent Board Members Justifications were approved by general consent and without objection.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Commissioner Catherine Graham questioned the absence of Commissioner Harry Southerland at the November 9, 2021 Board Meeting, as noted in the minutes. The noted absence will be researched and a correction will be made, if needed. A motion was made by Commissioner Catherine Graham and seconded by Commissioner David Allen to “approve the Consent Agenda, including the November 9, 2021 Board of Directors meeting minutes, pending any necessary corrections”. The Consent Agenda was approved by general consent and without objection. Note: The attendance roster has been confirmed to be correct. The following were approved:

- November 9, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
- Policy Revisions

Public Comments

None

New Business

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

Mrs. Whitt welcomed everyone. She thanked the Board members for their patience and understanding regarding the late notice of tonight’s virtual meeting. Mrs. Whitt stated that her report tonight did not include any actions. She provided the following:

A. Construction/Building Projects Updates

Mrs. Whitt gave an update on several construction/building projects:

- **Current Seven Lakes/West End Corporate Office Buildings** The NC Department of Transportation (DOT) has notified Sandhills Center that they are resuming right of way acquisition on NC 211 from south of NC 73 in West End to north of SR 1241 (Holly Grove School Road). This will affect two (2) Sandhills Center properties in West End. Sandhills Center is awaiting an updated appraisal from DOT, at which time the Sandhills Center attorneys will re-start negotiations.
- **Future Seven Lakes/West End Corporate Office Building – 1100 Seven Lakes Drive, West End, NC** – Construction documents are being prepared by TFF Architects. Construction bids have been produced and the advertisement for single prime bid was issued on December 20, 2021. A Mandatory Pre-Bid

Conference was held on January 6, 2022 at the site. Bid submission date is January 27, 2022. TFF Architects and a team of Sandhills Center Board Members and Executive Staff will review all bids and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors at the February 8, 2022 Sandhills Center Board Meeting.

- **Future Asheboro Office Building** – A month-to-month lease agreement has been negotiated with the owner of the 624 South Fayetteville Street property leased by Sandhills Center. With the addition of Davidson and Rockingham Counties, Randolph County becomes a geographical central location for the Sandhills region. A new facility in Asheboro would accommodate space for Center wide activities for the members, providers, Board of Directors, committees and advisory councils, and the community. Mrs. Whitt explained that the expectation is for future Board meetings to occur in Asheboro to be more convenient. With the purchase of property, meetings have occurred with TFF Architects to discuss the design needs. Expectation is to bring a proposed schematic design to the Board of Directors at the February 2022 Meeting, with expectations to bid out to contractors in March 2022, with final recommendation going to the Board in April 2022.
- **Greensboro Child Facility Based Crisis Center Courtyard/Playground** – The courtyard/playground is complete. The Fire Marshall has approved and currently awaiting final approval from the City of Greensboro and NC DHSR. Once approval is received, a final walk through by the Architect/Owner will be conducted. Guilford County will be covering the cost of this project.

B. Cardinal Innovations (CI) Dissolution and Counties' Realignment Updates

Mrs. Whitt gave an update on the Cardinal Innovations dissolution and the Davidson and Rockingham Counties' realignment. She stated that eleven (11) of the original twenty (20) CI counties have successfully realigned with other LME/MCOs, including Davidson and Rockingham Counties officially joining Sandhills Center on December 1, 2021. Nine (9) counties elected to remain with CI. Originally scheduled to consolidate no later than April 1, 2022, Cardinal Innovations and Vaya Health agreed that the consolidation would occur on January 1, 2022, to ensure stability.

Financial/Funding Status – Mrs. Whitt reported that Sandhills Center has received funding for Medicaid and the State Single Stream to cover consumers in Davidson and Rockingham Counties. Continue to work on the transition of the Federal Block Grant funds. Sandhills Center has received approximately \$9.6 million from CI of the Medicaid Risk Reserve. Still awaiting on the Fund Balance distribution, which will be determined once the State is confident that all of CI liabilities have been identified and accounted for through mandated audits.

C. Richmond County Child Facility Based Crisis Center (FBC) Update

- **Richmond County Facility Based Crisis Center Update** – Mrs. Whitt reported that the Behavioral Health Urgent Care unit is up and running. Daymark has successfully recruited enough staff to allow for a partial opening of the FBC unit. The staff are currently receiving training. Daymark feels they have hired enough staff to open 12 of the 16 beds. They have been working with the State on this effort and Sandhills submitted a Letter of Support to NC DHSR to request to open 12 of the 16 beds. Daymark has hired a consultant to work with bringing the FBC service on line. Daymark continues to recruit staff to open the remaining beds. Jerry Earnhardt reported that they are currently waiting on approval from the State, which could take 60 – 90 days.

Chairperson Ussery asked Mr. Earnhardt the number of consumers that have been served. Mr. Earnhardt will provide the information.

D. 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, continue to follow guidelines from the Governor and CDC.
- **Employee COVID-19 Testing** – Mrs. Whitt shared the current statistics of employees COVID-19 testing and the process that Sandhills has in place.
- **COVID-19 Provider Rate Enhancements** – In late December, it was announced the continuation of COVID-19 Medicaid reimbursement rate enhancements would be extended through March 31, 2022. These rate enhancements were first announced in the Spring of 2020 and have continued since.

The services with a 15% reimbursement rate increase include:

- Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities
- Behavioral Health Long-Term Residential

- Innovations Residential Services (Residential Supports 1-4, Supported Living 1-3 and Supported Living Periodic)
- Assertive Community Treatment Team
- Community Support Team
- Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services
- Community-Based Intermediate Care Facilities

All other Medicaid services received a 5% enhancement continuation. Also announced was a continuation of the \$50.02 per-person/per-day reimbursement rate to community-based Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities that was earlier announced and provided by the North Carolina General Assembly.

The temporary Medicaid reimbursement rate enhancements are made possible through additional funding from the federal and state levels.

E. NCDHHS Announces Updated Launch for Behavioral Health IDD Tailored Plans

Mrs. Whitt gave an update regarding the launch of the Tailored Plans. She stated that the NCDHHS announced that the Tailored Plans would launch December 1, 2022, instead of July 1, 2022. Several issues contributed to the date change: the Tailored Plans contracts awarded later than originally planned; the COVID pandemic; and the Cardinal Innovations dissolution.

F. Board of Directors Annual Declaration – Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality

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 stated that Sherry will mail the forms to each Board member and asked that they review and complete the forms, and return to Sherry.

G. Employee Longevity Awards

Mrs. Whitt presented the employee longevity awards list. There are a total of 39 staff receiving the recognition, for a total of 350 years.

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

Mr. Ward took the opportunity to review the Medicaid Waiver Operations and Financial Operations Reports. He stated that these reports do not include the growth of Davidson and Rockingham Counties, which will be seen in next month's report.

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

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

Chairperson Ussery took the opportunity to appoint members to the Sandhills Center Board of Directors Standing Committee. He added to contact him if interested in serving on a Committee.

➤ **Human Resources Committee –**

- Dr. Tommy Jarrell
- Commissioner Kirk Smith
- Walter Ferguson

➤ **Finance Committee –**

- Gart Evans
- Dr. Alvin Keyes
- Thad Ussery
- Commissioner David Allen
- Commissioner Harry Southerland
- Caroline Xiong – Moore County Finance Officer
- George Reynolds – Public Representative

➤ **Board of Directors Compliance/Regulatory Committee –**

- Matthew Rothbeind
- Priscilla Little
- Commissioner Catherine Graham

- Commissioner Alan Perdue
- **Client Rights Committee –**
 - Walter Ferguson
 - Carol Whitaker
 - Dr. Walter Salinger
 - Hannah Carroll – Public Representative
 - George Reynolds – Public Representative
 - Lori Richardson – Public Representative

Committee Reports

- **Finance Committee Report** – Committee Chairperson Gart Evans reported the Finance Committee met remotely prior to tonight's Board of Directors Meeting and reviewed the Finance Report. Chairperson Evans asked Anthony Ward, Deputy Director/Chief Operating Officer, to review the Finance Agenda with the Board of Directors. Mr. Ward reviewed the report in detail.

The following were reviewed:

- The State/IPRS Contracts
- Rent Contracts for the Asheboro Office (Fayetteville Street)
- Medicaid Contracts
- B3 Services Medicaid Contracts List
- A summary of the Consolidated Balance Sheet and Income Statement, which reflects services through November 30, 2021

On behalf of the Finance Committee, a motion was made by Committee Chairperson Gart Evans and seconded by Commissioner Harry Southerland to "approve the Finance Agenda as presented". Voting yes – Commissioner Robert Mims, Priscilla Little, Billy Louya, Trish Baker, Commissioner Alan Perdue, Gart Evans, Dr. Walter Salinger, Dr. Alvin Keyes, Tonya Gray, Commissioner Harry Southerland, Jackie McLean, Commissioner Kirk Smith, Walter Ferguson, Commissioner Mary Hassell, Carol Whitaker, Commissioner Catherine Graham, Matthew Rothbeind, Commissioner David Allen, Ann Shaw, Mike Ayers, Thad Ussery, Dr. Tommy Jarrell, Commissioner Mark Richardson, and Keith Duncan. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Human Resources Committee Report** – Did not meet.
- **Client Rights Committee Report** – Did not meet.
- **Compliance/Regulatory Committee** – Did not meet.

Old Business

None

Comments

Gart Evans took the opportunity to thank Mrs. Whitt and staff for the Christmas gathering.

Commissioner Kirk Smith stated that he and the Lee County Manager attended the Veteran Treatment Court. He stated that if any Board member is interested in attending, to contact him.

Keith Duncan commented that he is excited to be a part of the Sandhills Center Board of Directors and is looking forward to serving.

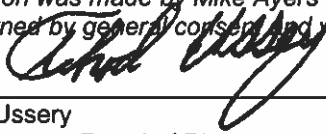
Chairperson Ussery took the opportunity to thank all for their commitment to serving on the Sandhills Center Board of Directors. He wished everyone a healthy and safe new year.

Board Materials

- Board of Directors Attendance Roster 2021
- Community Agencies Breakfast Meetings Agenda
- DMA Monthly Financial Report – November 2021
- Human Resources Report
- Newspaper Articles

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mike Ayers and seconded by Commissioner Kirk Smith to "Adjourn the meeting". The meeting adjourned by general consent and without objection at 8:24 p.m.



Thad Ussery
Chairperson, Board of Directors

2-8-2022
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