



SANDHILLS CENTER

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes February 8, 2022 Via WebEx

Members Present:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Mims | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priscilla Little, Secretary |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karen Watford | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Billy Louya |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trish Baker | <input type="checkbox"/> Gart Evans |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alan Perdue | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Alvin Keyes |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Walter Salinger | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tonya Gray |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matt Nicol | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jackie McLean |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harry Southerland, Vice-Chairperson | <input type="checkbox"/> Walter Ferguson |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kirk Smith | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carol Whitaker |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mary Hassell | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matthew Rothbeind |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Catherine Graham | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ann Shaw |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Allen | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Tommy Jarrell |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Ayers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keith Duncan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thad Ussery, Chairperson | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark Richardson | |
| <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:

The Sandhills Center Board of Directors convened for a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 8, 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. Billy Louya gave the invocation.

Introduction of New Board Members

Chairperson Ussery took the opportunity to introduce and welcome new Board member, Commissioner Karen Watford from Davidson County.

Certification of Quorum

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

Due to Chairperson Ussery having technical difficulties, Vice-Chairperson Commissioner Harry Southerland chaired the meeting.

Conflict of Interest

Vice-Chairperson Southerland 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. Because of a contract conflict, it was noted that Trish Baker would need to recuse herself from voting on the Finance Agenda.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner David Allen and seconded by Mike Ayers to "approve the Agenda." The Agenda was approved by general consent and without objection.

Absent Board Members Justifications

Justifications for Board member absences:

- 🐦 Gart Evans – family medical issue
- 🐦 Walter Ferguson – conflict with another meeting
A motion was made by Priscilla Little and seconded by Jackie McLean to “excuse the Justifications for Absences as presented”. The Absent Board Members Justifications were approved by general consent and without objection.
- 🐦 Not in attendance – unexcused – Commissioner Matt Nicol

**Commissioner Mark Richardson’s reason for not attending the February Board meeting was not received until after the Board meeting. His excuse will be taken to the Board in March for consideration.

Approval of Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mike Ayers and seconded by Commissioner David Allen to “approve the Consent Agenda”. The Consent Agenda was approved by general consent and without objection. The following was approved:

- 🐦 January 11, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Public Comments

None

New Business

- **Chief Executive Officer’s Report – Victoria Whitt, Chief Executive Officer**
Mrs. Whitt welcomed everyone and provided the following:

A. Construction/Building Projects Updates

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

- 🐦 **Future Seven Lakes/West End Corporate Office Building – 1100 Seven Lakes Drive, West End, NC**
– Construction documents were produced by TFF Architects and the single prime bid was issued on December 20, 2021. A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference was held on January 6, 2022 at the site and the bid submission/opening was held January 27, 2022. Nine (9) general contractors submitted bids.

The submitted bids were reviewed by the Architect, a team of Sandhills Center Board of Directors, and Executive staff members, and are recommending for Board approval, the contract be awarded to the low bidder, Central Builders Inc. of Mebane, NC, with a bid of \$2,339,000. Mrs. Whitt noted that Central Builders recently successfully completed the renovation of the Porcher Way office property in Greensboro. The tentative start date is March 1, 2022, with a nine (9) month projected completion date.

A motion was made by Keith Duncan and seconded by Commissioner Robert Mims to “approve the recommendation of awarding the contract to the low bidder, Central Builders Inc. of Mebane, NC, with a bid of \$2,339,000”. Voting yes – Commissioner Robert Mims, Priscilla Little, Commissioner Karen Watford, Billy Louya, Trish Baker, Commissioner Alan Perdue, Dr. Walter Salinger, Dr. Alvin Keyes, Tonya Gray, Commissioner Harry Southerland, Jackie McLean, Commissioner Kirk Smith, Commissioner Mary Hassell, Carol Whitaker, Commissioner Catherine Graham, Matthew Rothbeind, Commissioner David Allen, Ann Shaw, Mike Ayers, Thad Ussery, Dr. Tommy Jarrell, and Keith Duncan. The motion passed unanimously.

- 🐦 **Future Asheboro Office Building** – 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 be held in Asheboro. Meetings have occurred with TFF Architects to discuss the design needs.

Mrs. Whitt presented the following recommendations for Board approval:

- The proposed schematic design included in the packet; and
- Permission to proceed with bidding out the project to contractors, tentatively scheduled for April 1st, with bid opening on April 27th, with a recommendation being presented to the Board at the May 10th meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk Smith and seconded by Commissioner David Allen to “approve the recommendation of the proposed schematic design and to proceed with bidding out the project to contractors as noted”. Voting yes – Commissioner Robert Mims, Priscilla Little, Commissioner Karen Watford, Billy Louya, Trish Baker, Commissioner Alan Perdue, Dr. Walter Salinger, Dr. Alvin Keyes, Tonya

Gray, Commissioner Harry Southerland, Jackie McLean, Commissioner Kirk Smith, Commissioner Mary Hassell, Carol Whitaker, Commissioner Catherine Graham, Matthew Rothbeind, Commissioner David Allen, Ann Shaw, Mike Ayers, Thad Ussery, Dr. Tommy Jarrell, and Keith Duncan. The motion passed unanimously.

- **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.
- **Greensboro Child Facility Based Crisis Center Courtyard/Playground** – The courtyard/playground is complete. A final walk through is being conducted this week with the Architect. NC DHHS will do a final review and approval. Guilford County will be covering the cost of this project.

B. Davidson and Rockingham Counties Realignment Updates

Mrs. Whitt reported that things continue to go well with the realignment. The State continues to distribute the Cardinal funding to Sandhills for Davidson and Rockingham Counties, which are included on tonight's Finance Agenda. Mrs. Whitt stated that work continues with Davidson and Rockingham Counties around their community projects, CFAC, CIT, and other community activities.

Keith Duncan commented that he has had conversations with several Rockingham County representatives, and they have expressed high marks on how the transition has gone; very well pleased. He commented that he feels Rockingham County becoming a part of Sandhills was a great fit for the people served.

Trish Baker stated that she has been very pleased with the responsiveness and knowledge she has received from the Sandhills staff.

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

- **Richmond County Facility Based Crisis Center Update** – Mrs. Whitt reported that Daymark has completed the licensure application process. The application has been received by the State and the review/approval should occur over the next 6 to 8 weeks. There are currently enough staff to open at least 12 of the 16 beds.

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.

E. NCDHHS Launches New Plan to Advance Employment for Individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

Mrs. Whitt reported on a new initiative launched by the State, Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE), and provided the following:

- In January 2022, pursuant to a formal agreement with Disability Rights of North Carolina (DRNC) and the Center for Public Representation (CPR), the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) to move forward to promote and expand Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) services to maximize employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD).
- CIE is defined as working in the community, earning minimum wage or above. It also reflects access to the same employment benefits offered to others in the same workplace such as healthcare, vacation time, sick leave and retirement savings.
- The goal is to explore, seek, obtain and maintain CIE, for all individuals, **particularly those receiving services in segregated employment settings**. These new steps will include implementation of the new Plan to promote and expand CIE for Individuals with I/DD (CIE I/DD Plan) adopted by the Department on January 20, 2022.
- The CIE I/DD Plan's implementation is contingent upon additional funding from the General Assembly, allowing the Department to update and expand available pathways to CIE for individuals with I/DD.
- Key components of the CIE I/DD Plan, **which is subject to available funding**, include:
 - No new admissions to ADVP (Adult Developmental Vocational Program) Services and Day Components of ICF-IID In Lieu of Services Provided in ADVP Setting after June 30, 2022.

- By July 1, 2023, conduct employment assessments and develop career development plans for individuals who have received ADVP since January 1, 2020.
- Facilitate the provision of the information, reasonable accommodations, and opportunities sufficient to allow individuals receiving ADVP to make an informed choice to seek CIE and/or other meaningful day options.
- Make guidance and technical assistance available to ADVP providers, through nationally recognized experts, to assist them with transforming their program and business models to become providers or, or to increase capacity within their existing, Integrated Employment Services resulting in CIE.
- End funding for ADVP by July 1, 2026.
- **NC DHHS:**
 - Created web pages and online resources that went live in January 2022.
 - Will create stakeholder advisory groups for individuals, families and providers for education, stakeholder feedback and input, and sharing of perspectives as the CIE I/DD Plan is implemented.
 - Beginning in January 2022, hosted stakeholder webinars, trainings, and town halls to launch the initiative and inform stakeholders about what happens next.
 - Will host virtual trainings for service providers on CIE, Career Development Planning and Assessments, Supported Employment, Customized Employment and other topics beginning February 2022.
 - Will host monthly technical assistance calls for LME/MCO and Future Tailored Plan care managers beginning February 2022.

Mrs. Whitt noted that Sandhills Center contracts with approximately 10 providers delivering ADVP services to approximately 200 individuals.

➤ **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 include the months of November and December. December 1st is the official date of the realignment of Davidson and Rockingham Counties. The report shows the changes that occurred when those counties joined the catchment area.

- Medicaid Waiver Operations Report – January 2022, noting that all benchmarks continue to be met.
- Medicaid Waiver Financial Operations Report – January 2022, noting the financial measures that Sandhills is required to meet.
- Community Report January 2022 – highlights included the addition of Davidson and Rockingham Counties; the opening of the Child/Adolescent Facility Based Crisis center in Guilford County; and rate enhancements extended.
- Annual Community Report 2021 – highlights included the temporary funding enhancements continued by Sandhills; the launch of the provider support portal and Alpha+; the 2021 CIT training; the opening of the Child/Adolescent Facility Based Crisis center in Guilford County; Sandhills being awarded a Tailored Plan contract; and the region expansion to include Davidson and Rockingham Counties.

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

Mrs. Whitt stated that three (3) new Board members have volunteered to join the Board sub-committees:

- Commissioner Mark Richardson volunteered to join the Compliance/Regulatory Committee
- Keith Duncan volunteered to join the Human Resources Committee
- Jackie McLean volunteered to join the Client Rights Committee

Vice-Chairperson Southerland took the opportunity to appoint the three (3) new Board members to the Committees.

Committee Reports

- **Finance Committee Report** – In the absence of Committee Chairperson Gart Evans, Commissioner David Allen gave the report. He reported that the Finance Committee met remotely prior to tonight's Board of Directors Meeting and reviewed the Finance Report. Commissioner Allen 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
- Annual Independent Financial/Compliance Audit – Cherry Bekaert was recommended
- Medicaid Contracts
- B3 Services Medicaid Contracts List

- A summary of the Consolidated Balance Sheet and Income Statement, which reflects services through December 31, 2021
- Quarterly Fiscal Monitoring Report – December 31, 2021
- Federal Income Tax 990

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

- **Client Rights Committee Report** – The report was included in the packet.
- **Consumer and Family Advisory Committee** – Committee representative Mike Ayers gave the report.
- **Compliance/Regulatory Committee** – Chairperson Matthew Rothbeind gave the report. Mrs. Whitt commented that the Committee only met this morning and that the packet of material and minutes will be included in next month's Board packet. She also noted that the announcement of the Tailored Plan award was shared with the Board at the August 2021 meeting.
- **Human Resources Committee Report** – Did not meet.

Old Business

None

Comments

Commissioner Kirk Smith took the opportunity to thank Mrs. Whitt and Evelyn Quick, Sandhills Center Chief Legal Officer, on their extensive research on Hospice and the disposal of opioids after death of a patient.

Board Materials

- Quality Management Committee Executive Summary (October – December 2021)
- Community Agencies Breakfast Meetings Agenda
- DMA Monthly Financial Report – December 2021
- Human Resources Report
- Newspaper Articles

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mike Ayers and seconded by Commissioner David Allen to "Adjourn the meeting". The meeting adjourned by general consent and without objection at 8:21 p.m.



Thad Ussery
Chairperson, Board of Directors

3-8-2022
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