



# SANDHILLS CENTER

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes March 8, 2022

### 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bonita Porter   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patrick Sloan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bobby Cruthirds | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephen Smith |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard Owen    |   |

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

The Sandhills Center Board of Directors convened for a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. The meeting was held in person at the Randolph County Government Center, 725 McDowell Road, Asheboro, NC and remotely via WebEx.

### Call to Order and Invocation

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

Chairperson Ussery took the opportunity to thank Commissioner David Allen and Randolph County for allowing use of their conference rooms for our meetings.

Chairperson Ussery welcomed Rockingham County representative Keith Duncan to his first in-person meeting.

### Oath of Office for Elected Officers

Elected Officers for 2022 were administered the Oath of Office: Thad Ussery, Chairperson, Commissioner Harry Southerland, Vice-Chairperson and Priscilla Little, Secretary.

### 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. None was noted.

### Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk Smith and seconded by Gart Evans to "approve the Agenda". The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Absent Board Members Justifications**

Justifications for Board member absences:

- Commissioner Mark Richardson – asked to be excused for missing the February 8<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. He did not attend due to a family medical issue. *A motion was made by Keith Duncan and seconded by Gart Evans to “excuse the Absence as presented”. The motion was approved unanimously.*
- Matthew Rothbeind – meeting. *A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk Smith and seconded by Commissioner Harry Southerland to “excuse the Absence as presented”. The motion was approved unanimously.*
- Not in attendance – unexcused – Commissioner Matt Nicol

### **Approval of Consent Agenda**

*A motion was made by Commissioner David Allen and seconded by Keith Duncan to “approve the Consent Agenda”. The motion was approved unanimously. The following was approved:*

- February 8, 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 also took the opportunity to thank Commissioner David Allen and Randolph County for allowing Sandhills Center the use of their conference rooms for our meetings. She stated that the new building that Sandhills is building in Randolph County is just right around the corner.

Mrs. Whitt provided the following:

#### **A. FY 21 – 22 Operating Budget Amendments**

Mrs. Whitt reviewed in detail to the Board of Directors, for their review and approval, a set of budget amendments to the FY 21 – 22 Operating Budget. She called attention to the ‘Other Changes’, noting that some of the increase in funding is due to the realignment with Davidson and Rockingham counties.

*On behalf of the Finance Committee, a motion was made by Commissioner Kirk Smith and seconded by Walter Ferguson to “approve the FY 21 – 22 Operating Budget Amendments as presented”. The motion passed unanimously.*

#### **B. FY 22 – 23 County General Budget Request**

Mrs. Whitt reviewed the FY 22 – 23 County General Budget request. She stated that she is recommending that Sandhills not request any additional funding from the counties, noting this is the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 Gart Evans and seconded by Walter Ferguson to “approve Mrs. Whitt to move forward with the FY 22 – 23 County General budget request amounts and not ask the counties for additional funding”. The motion passed unanimously.*

#### **C. 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** – Central Builders was approved as the low bidder at the February 8<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, with a bid amount of \$2,339,000. A tentative start date was set for March 1, 2022, with a nine (9) month projected completion date. Demolition of the old building is expected to start this week. Monthly construction meetings are being scheduled.

- **Future Asheboro Office Building** – The bid announcement is tentatively scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup> with a bid opening on April 27<sup>th</sup>, and a recommendation coming to the Board at the May 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Mrs. Whitt commented that when the bid announcement is ready, Sherry would send it out to Board members who may share with any contractor they feel may be interested in submitting a bid.
- **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 has received an updated appraisal from DOT, of which is lower than what was originally offered. Sandhills Center attorneys are in the process of negotiating with DOT.
- **Greensboro Child Facility Based Crisis Center Courtyard/Playground** – The courtyard/playground is complete. A final walk through has been conducted with the Architect. Several minor issues were identified and have been addressed. NC DHHS will do a final review. Guilford County is covering the cost of this project.

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

- **Richmond County Facility Based Crisis Center Update** – Mrs. Whitt reported that Daymark has hired all staff! Once DHSR completes their final review and license is issued, the facility will be able to open.

**E. 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, and Sandhills continues 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.

➤ **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 include the months of December and January, which includes the changes that have occurred with Davidson and Rockingham counties joining the catchment area.

- **Medicaid Waiver Operations Report** – February 2022, noting that all benchmarks continue to be met.
- **Medicaid Waiver Financial Operations Report** – February 2022, noting the financial measures that Sandhills is required to meet.

**Committee Reports**

- **Finance Committee Report** – Committee Chairperson Gart Evans reported the Finance Committee met in person prior to tonight's Board of Directors Meeting and reviewed the Finance Report. Chairperson Evans reviewed the report in detail.

The following were reviewed:

- The State/IPRS Contracts
- Medicaid Contracts
- B3 Services Medicaid Contracts List
- A summary of the Consolidated Balance Sheet and Income Statement, which reflects services through January 31, 2022
- Capital Project Ordinance – West End Corporate Office Building

*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". The motion passed unanimously.*

- **Human Resources Committee Report** – Chairperson Dr. Tommy Jarrell reported that the HR Committee met prior to tonight's Board of Directors Meeting and he was re-elected as Chairperson of the HR Committee. Chairperson Jarrell commented that Keith Duncan was welcomed to the HR Committee.

Chairperson Jarrell 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, 2021 through March 31, 2022. The results will be compiled and presented to the Board of Directors and Mrs. Whitt at the April Board meeting during a closed session.

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

A copy of the evaluation was distributed to all in attendance. For Board members not in attendance, a hard copy will be sent via U.S. mail. In addition, the evaluation form will be emailed to all Board members to complete electronically, if that method is preferred. All forms are due back to Sherry by March 31, 2022.

📌 **Compliance/Regulatory Committee** – Draft meeting minutes were included in the packet.

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

### Old Business

None

### Comments

Mike Ayers took the opportunity to discuss Competitive Integrated Employment and what its impact means for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD). He shared his concern with what will happen to the individuals who are not able to work in public employment. Mr. Ayers encouraged Board members to talk with their representatives, send letters of concerns.

A few notes regarding Competitive Integrated Employment as reported by Mrs. Whitt at the February 8<sup>th</sup> Board meeting:

- 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) will 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 will:
  - Create web pages and online resources that will go live in January 2022.
  - 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.
  - Host stakeholder webinars, trainings, and town halls beginning in January 2022 to launch the initiative and inform stakeholders about what happens next.
  - Host virtual trainings for service providers on CIE, Career Development Planning and Assessments, Supported Employment, Customized Employment and other topics beginning February 2022.
  - Host monthly technical assistance calls for LME/MCO and Future Tailored Plan care managers beginning in February 2022.
- Mrs. Whitt will send information out to Board members outlining the number of providers within the Sandhills Center network and the number of individuals served by each provider affected by Competitive Integrated Employment.

Commissioner Kirk Smith spoke on an issue that was discussed at a Lee County Commissioners meeting regarding a judicial order to have someone committed, of which the individual was taken to the emergency department, and then released. An article was published in the Sanford Herald, raising concern about available emergency psychiatric

services. He emailed Mrs. Whitt his concerns, of which he received an immediate response. Commissioner Smith thanked Mrs. Whitt, Mr. Ward, and Jerry Earnhardt for their response. He stated that he would like to see a presentation on emergency psychiatric services presented at the community breakfasts.

Commissioner Smith commented that he would recommend to the Lee County Commissioners to pass a resolution on the Competitive Integrated Employment issue discussed by Mike Ayers.

Keith Duncan shared a family member's fight with addiction and stated that he is here to fight for those who need fighting for!

Chairperson Ussery commented that he has been on the Board for 28 years and staff have astonished him on their attitude of wanting to reach out and help the consumers. He stated that good leadership is what makes the program successful. He thanked Board members for their dedication to the consumers.

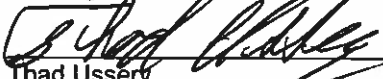
Vice-Chairperson Commissioner Harry Southerland asked Board members to be thinking of a date/time to have a new group picture taken.

#### **Board Materials**

- Community Agencies Breakfast Meetings Agenda
- DMA Monthly Financial Report – January 2022
- Human Resources Report
- Newspaper Articles

#### **Adjournment**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Alan Perdue and seconded by Commissioner Harry Southerland to "Adjourn the meeting". The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned 8:21 p.m.*

  
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Thad Ussery  
Chairperson, Board of Directors

4-12-2022  
Date