



# SANDHILLS CENTER

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes January 10, 2017

### Members Present:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ross Streater                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Priscilla Little             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kay Cashion, Vice-Chairperson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gart Evans        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dixie Branch                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Costella Donnell             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barbara McKoy                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tonya Gray        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harry Southerland                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shirley Hart      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walter Ferguson               | <input type="checkbox"/> Carol Whitaker               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anthony Copeland              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matthew Rothbeind |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Otis Ritter                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mazie Fleetwood   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Allen                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Michele Weatherly, Secretary |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leann Henkel                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Larrison     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thad Ussery, Chairperson      |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jan Herring                   |   |

### Staff Present:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Victoria Whitt | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sherry Bynum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Anthony Carraway      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anthony Ward |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evelyn Savage  | <input type="checkbox"/> Susan Campbell          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Martha Rogers             | <input type="checkbox"/> Leonard Covington       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robin McKenzie |  |

**Guest:** Dennis Williams, DMH, LME Technical Assistance Liaison

### Call to Order and Invocation

The Sandhills Center Board of Directors met on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, at the Administrative Office in West End, NC. Commissioner Thad Ussery, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and gave the invocation.

### Board Member 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.

### Oath of Office for Officers

Elected Officers for 2017 were administered the Oath of Office: Commissioner Thad Ussery, Chairperson, Commissioner Kay Cashion, Vice-chairperson, and Michele Weatherly, Secretary. They were asked to sign the Oath of Office and give to Sherry before leaving for the night.

### Certification of Quorum

Michele Weatherly, Secretary, certified a quorum.

### Absent Board Members Justifications

Priscilla Little – Dental appointment – excused. *A motion was made by Commissioner Anthony Copeland and seconded by Carol Whitaker to “excuse the absence”. The motion passed unanimously.*

Commissioner Harry Southerland – Out of state on business – excused. *A motion was made by Commissioner Anthony Copeland and seconded by Carol Whitaker to “excuse the absence”. The motion passed unanimously.*

Commissioner Otis Ritter – County Commissioner meeting – excused. *A motion was made by Commissioner Anthony Copeland and seconded by Carol Whitaker to “excuse the absence”.*

Costella Donnell – Not in attendance – unexcused.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the November 10, 2016 and the December 13, 2016 Board of Directors meeting were reviewed for approval.

*A motion was made by Commissioner David Allen and seconded by Commissioner Kay Cashion to “approve the November 10, 2016 and the December 13, 2016 minutes as presented”. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Amendments to Agenda**

None

### **Public Comments**

Chairperson Ussery read a thank you note from Frank Cleary expressing his sincere appreciation for the gift received from the Sandhills Center Board.

Chairperson Ussery asked Board members if they liked receiving all the information ahead of time. Receiving all the material ahead of time allows everyone to read the material before the meeting and will help shorten the meetings. He explained that there is discussion to start having a consent agenda which will help shorten the meetings more. Encouraged Board members to ask if there are any questions.

### **Chief Executive Officer’s Report**

Mrs. Whitt welcomed everyone and provided the following information:

- **Facility Based Crisis (FBC) Services Update**
  - **Closing/Purchase of Property** – At the closing processes, it was determined that on November 15, 1995, Randolph County entered into a Deed of Trust (DOT). The DOT was filed to secure a bond and the mental health center was a small piece of the security for the bond. Because of a “no call” provision in the bond, the balance could not be paid off early. The Sandhills Center attorney and the Randolph County attorney worked closely with the Randolph County Commissioners and developed an Indemnity Agreement so that the Investors Title Insurance Company will insure over the DOT. At the recommendation of the attorneys, the closing on the property was completed on December 30, 2016.
  - **Rental Lease with Randolph County** – Sandhills Center will enter into a lease with Randolph County for their staff to remain at the West Walker Avenue property until the County is able to relocate them, with an expected date at the end of February 2017.
  - **Relocation of Sandhills Center Staff** – Currently working with a realtor to identify suitable property for the relocation of staff within Randolph County.
  - **Architectural Services** – Mrs. Whitt stated that Stogner Architecture, PA was the only firm submitting a bid for the Architectural Services. *Finance Committee Chairperson Gart Evans stated that after discussion in the Finance Committee it is their recommendation to “approve Stogner Architecture, PA”. The recommendation was seconded by Commissioner David Allen. The motion passed unanimously.*
  - **Capital Project Budget Ordinance** – Estimating a \$2.5million capital outlay for the Facility Based Crisis project. This is inclusive of the \$1.5million to purchase the building; estimating \$1million for renovations. *On behalf of the Finance Committee, a motion was made by Finance Committee Chairperson Gart Evans and seconded by Michele Weatherly to “approve the capital outlay of \$2,500,000”. The motion passed unanimously.*
- **New Office Building – Update**

Mrs. Whitt gave the following update:

  - The structural steel installation is complete.
  - The concrete walk ways are in place on the parking lot across from the new office building.
  - The storm drainage grading for the building site has been completed.
  - The total project completion stands at 23%, with a completion date established for July 16, 2017.

- The decking has been installed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.
- **Policy Revisions**  
Mrs. Whitt presented to the Board of Directors, for review and approval, four new and five revised policies. *A motion was made by Commissioner Kay Cashion and seconded by Mazie Fleetwood to “approve the new and revised policies as presented”. The motion passed unanimously.*
- **Annual Declarations**  
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 asked the Board members to review and complete the forms.
- **Staff Longevity Awards**  
Mrs. Whitt presented the staff longevity awards list that will be recognized at the January staff meetings.
- **Council of Community Programs 2016 Program of Excellence Winners**  
Mrs. Whitt noted that Sandhills Center was recently recognized with an excellence award from NC Council of Community Programs. With the help of George Reynolds, nominations were submitted for Public Awareness and Advocacy in Moore County for The Sandhills Partners. Several partners accepted the award at the Council Conference in December.  
  
The three initiatives:
  - The Sandhills School Partnership – train social workers in bullying, suicide, and behavioral health services.
  - The Sandhills Special Events Partnership – public awareness events.
  - The Sandhills Public Safety – extension of the CIT program to train First Responders, EMS, Telecommunicators, and Fire Departments.
- **Council of Community Programs “Meeting the LME/MCO Governance Challenges in 2017”**  
Mark Botts, Associate Professor of Public Law and Government at the School of Government, gave a presentation of the challenges in 2017 for LME/MCOs at the December NC Council Conference.
- **21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act**  
President Obama signed into legislation the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act. Focus is on behavioral health, criminal justice, and addiction services. The National Association County Commissioners are concerned that even though this has been passed, funding has not been appropriated by Congress.
- **Governmental Relations Strategic Planning Meeting**  
Mrs. Whitt noted that on November 16, 2016, Dennis Wicker, Government Relations Advisor/Lobbyist to Sandhills Center met with several Board of Directors members, Sandhills Center staff, and Sandhills Center Consultant Michael Watson. Mrs. Whitt stated that the group may meet again to discuss strategic planning with Mr. Wicker once Governor Cooper identifies his cabinet.
- **Updates**
  - **DHHS Secretary Approves Nash County’s Disengagement from Eastpointe** – Before leaving office, Rick Brajer approved for Nash County to leave Eastpointe LME/MCO and join Trillium LME/MCO. Eastpointe plans to challenge the decision.
  - **State Officials Denounce \$1 Million Pay Package for Cardinal CEO** – There are concerns on how a public agency that is funded with public funds have executives receiving \$1million in compensation. There are also concerns that Cardinal Innovation plans to move their headquarters from Kannapolis to downtown Charlotte.
  - **Trump Names Rep. Tom Price as HHS Secretary and Seema Verma as Director of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid** – President-elect Trump has announced Tom Price as HHS Secretary and Seema Verma as the Director of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. Both are committed to repeal the Affordable Care Act. There is concern of the plan to block grant Medicaid to the State.

- **Cooper Begins Filling Cabinet Positions** – Governor Cooper has announced that Dempsey Benton will serve as interim DHHS Secretary.
- **Mrs. Whitt also reviewed the following:**
  - Community Stakeholder's Breakfast Meetings Agenda
  - Personnel Report
  - Newspaper Articles

#### **Clinical Services & Operations Report**

**Anthony Ward, Deputy Director/Chief Operating Officer reviewed the following:**

- The Medicaid Waiver Update for December 2016, noting all benchmarks continue to be met.

#### **Committee Reports**

- **Finance Committee Report** – Finance Committee Chairperson Gart Evans reported the Finance Committee met prior to tonight's Board of Directors meeting and reviewed the Finance Report in detail. Finance Committee Chairperson Gart Evans presented and reviewed the Finance Report with the Board of Directors. A summary of the Consolidated Balance Sheet and Income Statement was reviewed and reflects services through November 30, 2016. *On behalf of the Finance Committee, a motion was made by Finance Committee Chairperson Gart Evans and seconded by Commissioner Kay Cashion to "approve the Finance Report as presented". The motion passed unanimously.*
- **Program Planning and Operations Committee Report** – Program Planning and Operations Committee Chairperson Shirley Hart gave the report.
- **Client Rights Committee Report** – Did not meet.
- **Personnel Committee Report** – Did not meet.

#### **New Business**

None

#### **Old Business**

Mazie Fleetwood announced that the Personnel Committee is in need of two new members. Leann Henkel stated that she would like to join the Personnel Committee and be taken off the Client Rights Committee. Tonya Gray stated that she would like to join the Personnel Committee. Walter Ferguson stated that he would like to join the Client Rights Committee.

#### **Comments**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Gart Evans thanked Martha Rogers for all her help during her employment. Mrs. Whitt noted that Mrs. Rogers will be retiring at the end of the month. She has agreed to help out part-time to help train the next Finance Director. Tommy Scott will also be increasing his hours during the interim.


Commissioner Copeland asked Chairperson Ussery if he would draft a letter to staff to let them know that the Board of Directors appreciates all that they do for the consumers.

Chairperson Ussery expressed his appreciation for the service of Kirk Smith to the Sandhills Center Board. In Mr. Smith's absence, Walter Ferguson accepted the gift.

Mrs. Whitt asked the Board members to keep Leonard Covington, Human Resource Director, in their thoughts. Mr. Covington suffered a loss recently when his house burnt. Mrs. Whitt noted that staff are in the process of collecting items for him.

#### **Adjournment**

*A motion was made by Gart Evans and seconded by Michele Weatherly to "adjourn the meeting". The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.*

  
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Commissioner Thad Ussery  
Chairman, Board of Directors

2-14-17  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Submitted by: Sherry Bynum, Clerk to the Board of Directors/Administrative Assistant