



# SANDHILLS CENTER

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2016

### Members Present:

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

### Staff Present:

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

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

### Call to Order and Invocation

The Sandhills Center Board of Directors met on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at the Administrative Office in West End, NC. Commissioner Thad Ussery called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Kirk Smith gave the invocation.

### Board Member Conflict of Interest

Commissioner Ussery noted the Conflict of Interest statement on the agenda 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 or if any item on the agenda warrants further discussion concerning conflict of interest. None were stated.

### Certification of Quorum

Michele Weatherly, Secretary, certified a quorum.

### Absent Board Members Justifications

Gart Evans – Working the United Way campaign – excused. *A motion was made by Commissioner Kay Cashion and seconded by Commissioner Kirk Smith to “excuse the absence”. The motion passed unanimously.*

Commissioner Ross Streater – Not in attendance – excused. *A motion was made by Commissioner Harry Southerland and seconded by Shirley Hart to “excuse the absence”. The motion passed unanimously.*

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 9, 2016 Board of Directors meeting were reviewed for approval.

A motion was made by Mazie Fleetwood and seconded by Commissioner Kay Cashion to "approve the February 9, 2016 minutes as presented". The motion passed unanimously.

**Amendments to Agenda**

None

**Public Comments**

George Reynolds thanked Mrs. Whitt for her presentation at the NAMI meeting Monday night.

**Chief Executive Officer's Report**

Mrs. Whitt, Chief Executive Officer, welcomed everyone and provided the following information:

• **FY 16 – 17 County General Budget Request**

Mrs. Whitt stated that based on a review of the current fiscal situation that impacts the state and counties, she is recommending that Sandhills Center not request an increase in the County General Funding from any county, noting that there has been no increase requested for the past 11 years.

Mrs. Whitt also noted that all county funding that is received stays in the county from which it is received. The funding is directed to the support of the local County Behavioral Health Urgent Care Centers and other county designated services/programs.

She went on to explain that Sandhills Center has realized savings since beginning the management of Medicaid service dollars and that Sandhills Center is committed to reinvesting savings into expanding community services.

Mrs. Whitt highlighted the following two areas:

- One of the ways savings have been reinvested is through increases in the Medicaid rate for services provided. Sandhills Center has increased Medicaid rates for several services including Outpatient Services (by 10%) and Physician Evaluation and Management codes (by 13%).
- Along with the Medicaid service rate increases, the local behavioral health urgent care center providers have made operational changes to an "open access" scheduling model which allows people to be seen regardless if they have an appointment and reduces 'no shows'. This model has increased the number of people that they have been able to see. Additionally, they have continued their focus to identify consumers who are potentially eligible for Medicaid and have worked with those individuals to complete the Medicaid eligibility process to leverage Medicaid reimbursement when possible.

Mrs. Whitt reviewed the list of County Contributions for FY 15 – 16 which shows the county's general contributions and their in-kind contributions.

Mrs. Whitt recommended that she meet with each County Manager, and others as identified by the County Manager, to review their current General County allocations to see if they would like to have that funding reallocated to address high priority needs for their particular county and to identify behavioral health service areas that may be underserved and to determine how available funding, from the realized savings, could be used to impact those areas in the upcoming year.

In addition to the individual meetings with the County Managers, Mrs. Whitt will also be scheduling time to attend a County Commissioner's meeting to present the County General budget requests and a program update.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk Smith and seconded by Commissioner Anthony Copeland to "accept the proposed budget request, for Mrs. Whitt to meet with each County Manager to review their current General County allocations and determine how available funding could be used to impact identified behavioral health service areas for the upcoming year, and for Mrs. Whitt to schedule time to present the budget requests and program update to the County Commissioners". The motion passed unanimously.

- **Policy Revisions**

Mrs. Whitt explained that with the employment of General Counsel, Evelyn Savage, the maintenance of Policies and Procedures has been transferred to her and she will be working with staff on any revisions. Mrs. Whitt presented to the Board of Directors, for review and approval, revised and deleted policies. Board members discussed three policies – QM 35 Practitioner Office Site Quality Review, CS 7 Reporting of Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation of Members, and CS 9 Service Non-Discrimination. After discussions regarding the three policies, wording changes were noted for CS 7 Reporting of Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation of Members.

*A motion was made by Mazie Fleetwood and seconded by Commissioner Kay Cashion to “approve the revised and deleted policies as presented with the change that was noted for policy CS 7”. The motion passed, with Commissioner Kirk Smith voting against.*

- **New Office Building – Update and Recommendations**

- ✦ The purchase of the building on Seven Lakes Drive and the 3 adjacent lots on Grant Street was closed out on March 3, 2016.
- ✦ Staff continues to meet with the architect to review proposed floor plans and roof elevations for the new building.
- ✦ The contract for the new building renderings has been approved and will be presented at the April meeting. Mrs. Whitt anticipates bringing the architectural renderings to the April meeting.

- **NC DHHS Updates**

- ✦ **Medicaid Transformation** – Secretary Brajer presented his Medicaid Transformation Plan to the LOC (Legislative Oversight Committee) last Tuesday. Mrs. Whitt reviewed the following:
  - ❖ Gerry Cohen’s email which provides a link to some of the documents that were presented at the LOC.
  - ❖ The Executive Summary outlines the transformation and reorganization of Medicaid since becoming law on September 23, 2015.
  - ❖ The DHHS PowerPoint is a review of Medicaid reform and the 1115 waiver application process.
- ✦ **County Disengagement/Mergers – LME/MCOs** – The Secretary has published the rules to approve or deny a county request for disengagement. Mrs. Whitt noted that Secretary Brajer will be meeting with the LME/MCOs CEOs on March 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss his decision on county realignment and mergers.
- ✦ **Governor’s Task Force on Mental Health and Substance Use Reports/Recommendations** – Recommendation from the Task Force have been made to the Governor for: Adults; Children, Youth and Families; and Opioid Abuse and Heroin Resurgence.

- **Mrs. Whitt also reviewed the following:**

- ✦ Community Stakeholder’s Breakfast Meetings Agenda
- ✦ Personnel Report
- ✦ Newspaper Articles

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

- ✦ Medicaid Waiver Update for February 2016

**Clinical Services & Operations Report**

Anthony Ward, Deputy Director/Chief Operating Officer, noted that as part of the continuing effort to provide education on the overall operation of Sandhills Center, the focus for this month would be Utilization Management. Utilization Management is the process of which providers submit their authorization requests for consideration.

Mr. Ward introduced Sabrina Russell-Holloman, Utilization Management Director, who gave the following overview of Utilization Management, noting:

- ✦ Goals and Objectives – Outlines the necessary requirements to approve an authorization.
- ✦ Department Structure – Clinical oversight is provided by the Medical Director, Dr. Carraway, and licensed clinicians review the authorization request for appropriateness.

- Review Process – Reviewed the documents that are utilized to ensure eligible members have access to the most appropriate covered service.
- Examples of Eligibility Criteria for Services – Gave examples of eligible criteria that enrollees must meet to be approved for requested services.
- Review and Appeal Process – If clinicians are unable to approve an authorization, the review and appeal processes were discussed.

### **Finance Committee Report**

Finance Committee Vice-chair Commissioner David Allen reported the Finance Committee met prior to tonight's Board of Directors meeting and reviewed the Finance Report in detail.

Commissioner Allen 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 February 29, 2016.

*On behalf of the Finance Committee, a motion was made by Vice-chair Commissioner David Allen and seconded by Commissioner Kay Cashion to "approve the Finance Report as presented". The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Committee Reports**

- **Program Planning and Operations (PPO) Committee Report** – Chairperson Shirley Hart gave the report.
- **Client Rights Committee Report** – Did not meet.
- **Personnel Committee Report** – The following was noted:
  - Chairperson Mazie Fleetwood reported that General Counsel, Evelyn Savage, has been in contact with VOYA regarding terminating their plan. VOYA have asked that they be able to develop other options and present their recommendations.
  - Commissioner Kirk Smith encouraged Board members to submit their CEO evaluations, if it has not already been submitted. The results will be presented in April.

### **New Business**

None

### **Old Business**

None

### **Comments**

Several Board members took the opportunity to thank Mrs. Whitt and Mr. Ward on their recent involvement within their counties.

Commissioner Anthony Copeland noted that mental health is getting national attention and that we should do our best to keep it out front.

Commissioner Kay Cashion encouraged everyone to adopt the resolution that NACo (National Association of Counties) has regarding mental health issues.

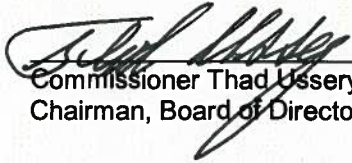
Commissioner Kay Cashion thanked Mrs. Whitt for the contribution made by Sandhills Center to the Guilford County jail programs.

Commissioner Kirk Smith noted that Lee County is in the process of compiling a book of fact sheets of skills, training, and requirements of Board members. Mrs. Whitt noted that she would provide Commissioner Smith with the requested information.

Commissioner Ussery urged the counties to get with Mrs. Whitt and see what Sandhills Center can do for their county to help off-set their budget.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Commissioner Kay Cashion and seconded by Michele Weatherly to "adjourn the meeting". The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Thad Ussery  
Chairman, Board of Directors

4-12-16  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Documents referred to in these minutes may be obtained by contacting Sherry Bynum at [sherryb@sandhillscenter.org](mailto:sherryb@sandhillscenter.org) or 910-673-9111.

Submitted by: Sherry Bynum