



# SANDHILLS CENTER

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes May 14, 2019

### **Members Present:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ross Streater                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priscilla Little  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kay Cashion, Vice-Chairperson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gart Evans        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carlos Townsend                          |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joe Miller                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Larrison                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harry Southerland             | <input type="checkbox"/> Shirley Hart                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kirk Smith                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Walter Ferguson              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dottie Robinson               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carol Whitaker    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Otis Ritter                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matthew Rothbeind |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Allen                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mazie Fleetwood   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leann Henkel                             |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thad Ussery, Chairperson      | <input type="checkbox"/> Michele Weatherly, Secretary |
| <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"/> Leonard Covington | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patrick Sloan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelly Patterson   |   |

**Guest:** Lisa Jackson, DMH, LME Technical Assistance Liaison

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

The Sandhills Center Board of Directors met on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at the Administrative Office at 1120 Seven Lakes Drive, West End, NC. Chairperson Thad Ussery called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and gave the invocation.

### **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.

### **Certification of Quorum**

Chairperson Ussery certified a quorum.

### **Approval of Agenda**

*A motion was made by Gart Evans and seconded by Commissioner Kay Cashion to "approve the agenda as presented." The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Absent Board Members Justifications**

Carlos Townsend – Family emergency – excused. *A motion was made by Commissioner Kay Cashion and seconded by Mazie Fleetwood to "excuse the absence." The motion passed unanimously.*

Commissioner Joe Miller – Out of town on business – excused. *A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk Smith and seconded by Carol Whitaker to "excuse the absence." The motion passed unanimously.*

Bill Larrison – Working out of town – excused. *A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk Smith and seconded by Carol Whitaker to "excuse the absence." The motion passed unanimously.*

Shirley Hart – Out of town – excused. *A motion was made by Commissioner Harry Southerland and seconded by Gart Evans to "excuse the absence." The motion passed unanimously.*

Walter Ferguson – Death in family – excused. A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk Smith and seconded by Commissioner Kay Cashion to “excuse the absence.” The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Otis Ritter – Medical appointment with family member – excused. A motion was made by Commissioner Kay Cashion and seconded by Commissioner David Allen to “excuse the absence.” The motion passed unanimously.

Leann Henkel – Vacation – excused. A motion was made by Mazie Fleetwood and seconded by Commissioner Kirk Smith to “excuse the absence.” The motion passed unanimously.

Michele Weatherly – Medical appointment – excused. A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk Smith and seconded by Gart Evans to “excuse the absence.” The motion passed unanimously.

### **Public Comments**

George Reynolds reported that a discussion was held at the Client Rights Committee Meeting this afternoon and the question came up “what is the future of CFAC and Client Rights in the new world that is coming upon us?” Specifically, with the implementation of the Standard and Tailored Plans, will there be two separate Clients Rights groups or will there be one; will there be two separate CFAC groups or will there be one? Other questions – What is the future role of the Commissioners in the new world? Are they going to have any input into the public and private sides? Will Boards, as such as Sandhills Center, still exist as it exist now? Will the private entities have Boards? Will the Boards have community representation?

Mrs. Whitt addressed Mr. Reynolds’s questions, stating that the questions may need to be put in writing, either on behalf of Client Rights, CFAC, and/or the Sandhills Center Board and submitted. Mrs. Whitt explained that Client Rights and CFAC are part of G.S. 122C, which is in the process of being rewritten. G.S. 122C will address the Tailored Plans, not the Standard Plans. G.S. 122C rewrites allows Client Rights and CFAC to continue; with the only difference being the broadening of membership to include representatives from the physical health side. She noted that there is no mention in the rewrite that addresses the Board but she does feel that the Board membership will also be expanded to include representatives from the physical health side.



Mrs. Whitt commented that she has not heard any discussion regarding Client Rights and CFAC as related to the Standard Plans. She commented that the County Commissioners are beginning to have questions regarding what their county communities input will be to the Standard Plans.

Mrs. Whitt feels that the questions regarding Client Rights and CFAC should be presented through Anne Kimball, Community Relations and Communications Director. Mrs. Whitt and Mr. Ward will work with Ms. Kimball to craft the questions. Mrs. Whitt feels that any other questions regarding what will the role of the Board be with the Standard Plans, should be addressed through the County Commissioners Association.

Mr. Reynolds reported that at the Client Rights meeting, someone commented that people have been receiving letters from the State about the Standard and Tailored Plans, and that they are throwing them away rather than reading them. Mr. Reynolds feels that the letters should come from Sandhills Center rather than from the State, the private insurance companies, or the enrollment brokers. Mrs. Whitt commented that she has not seen the letter and would like to see it if Mr. Reynolds can get a copy. Also, it is her understanding that the DSSs will be the ones that issues the letters in June, pending any delay that may result in potential lawsuits.

### **Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Commissioner Ross Streater and seconded by Commissioner Harry Southerland to “approve the consent agenda.” The motion passed unanimously. The following were approved:

-  April 9, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
-  Policy Revisions

### **New Business**

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

#### **A. FY 18 – 19 County Commissioners Presentation Schedule**

Mrs. Whitt commented that the presentations to the County Commissioners have been completed noting that they have gone well. These presentations include the county funding budget request, the opportunity to update the County Commissioners on the Sandhills program initiatives and a PowerPoint presentation on the Medicaid Transformation Tailored Plan Regions.

**B. NC Association of County Commissioners Tailored Plan Regions Committee**

Mrs. Whitt provided an update on the NC Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) Tailored Plan Regions Committee, which Commissioner Allen is the Sandhills representative and Commissioner Cashion serves as a NCACC representative. Mrs. Whitt reported that all Sandhills County Commissions have provided a resolution or position statement showing their support of the position. The nine support letters have been forwarded to the NCACC Committee. Chairperson Ussery and Mrs. Whitt participated in an interview with the Co-Chairs of the NCACC Committee.

During Board discussions, Commissioner Allen reported that a draft will be presented to the Secretary from the Committee regarding the regions. Several items of concern that will also be presented to the Secretary: the stability of the public system, maintaining county involvement in the system, collaboration of the LME/MCOs, and a big of concern of the Committee is that when the Tailored Plans are opened up to the private organizations, that that the public system be able to compete. Commissioner Cashion shared the sincere comments she received from the Co-Chairs regarding the presentation Mrs. Whitt and Chairperson Ussery shared with them. They felt that Mrs. Whitt provided in-depth information. Commissioner Cashion commented that a draft is being put together of what was covered and additional questions.

Mrs. Whitt thanked both Commissioners Allen and Cashion for serving on the Committee.

**C. Comprehensive/Facility Based Crisis (FBC) Centers Update**

✦ **Randolph County Update (Comprehensive Care Center)** – Mrs. Whitt reported that during the elevator inspection, a circuit board was found not working correctly. A new circuit board has been ordered and once it is installed, the elevator inspectors will re-inspect the elevator. A temporary Certificate of Occupancy will be issued which will allow the state construction inspection to be obtained. Following the state construction inspection, DHSR will conduct their inspection.

Mrs. Whitt commented that there are plans to have an open house before the opening of the facility.

There are a few issues related to the contractor that will be addressed once the project is complete.

✦ **Richmond County Update (Comprehensive Care Center)** – Mrs. Whitt reported that construction started on February 4<sup>th</sup> with a scheduled completion date of December 31<sup>st</sup>. The project is on schedule despite the recent rainy weather. The water tap has been installed and the concrete slab is in the process of being finished. Monthly meetings are being held with the contractors. Chairperson Ussery provided an update.

✦ **Guilford County Update (Child Facility Based Crisis Center)** – Mrs. Whitt reported that the soil borings have been completed and a preliminary report has been received. Guilford County has requested additional testing. If the property is deemed suitable and the Guilford County purchase moves forward, Sandhills Center will enter into discussions with Guilford County to purchase a parcel of the property for the location of the Child Facility Based Crisis Center.

Discussions continue with the Architects. The interior floor plan has been finalized and currently reviewing exterior building concepts among several options presented.

Mrs. Whitt reported that she is awaiting the results of the soil boring testing and the suitability of the land before a contract/agreement will be presented to the Board for review. Commissioner Cashion acknowledged that additional testing is being conducted and it is expected that the property will be suitable for construction of the two (2) FBC facilities.

**D. NC DHHS/General Assembly Updates**

✦ **NC House Budget** – Mrs. Whitt reported that the House passed its version of the 2019-2021 state fiscal budget on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The budget does not include Medicaid expansion. The Senate will begin drafting its version of the budget in the next couple of weeks. The Governor's and House's budget does include some relief from the previous four (4) years of cuts to the behavioral health community services funding, in that only the recurring portions of the cuts from last year are continuing into the next biennium. However, it is expected that the Senate's budget will continue both the recurring reductions as well as additional non-recurring reductions.

- ✦ **NC Office of State Auditor Medicaid Audits** – Mrs. Whitt discussed the recent two (2) performance audits, *Statewide Federal Compliance Audit Procedures* and *Medicaid LME/MCO Contract Monitoring*, by NC State Auditor Beth Wood.

**E. Employee Performance-Based Evaluation and Compensation System Update**

Mrs. Whitt reported that the Employee Performance-Based Evaluation and Compensation System is in the process of being implemented. The updated policy was presented and approved in tonight's Consent Agenda. Supervisory and non-supervisory staff training has been scheduled. Mrs. Whitt asked Chief Human Resources Officer Leonard Covington to give a report on the next steps.

Mr. Covington reported there is an aggressive schedule to train supervisors and non-supervisory staff. He and Human Resources (HR) Training and Staff Development Consultant, Thelma King, will be conducting the training.

- ✦ Supervisor training is scheduled for two (2) days.
- ✦ Non-supervisory staff training is scheduled for two (2) days, with two (2) sessions occurring on each day.
- ✦ A makeup session has been scheduled for May 28<sup>th</sup>.
- ✦ Supervisors will conduct performance evaluations from Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> thru Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Evaluations are due to HR by Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, with Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> being the absolute last day to submit evaluations. Mr. Covington commented that with the implementation of the new employee performance-based evaluation, annual performance evaluations will be conducted during the last quarter of each fiscal year, and not on the staff's anniversary date as in the past.
- ✦ Mr. Covington will take the consolidated ratings for merit increase consideration for staff to Mrs. Whitt and Mr. Ward by Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup>.
- ✦ Effective date of any merit increases will be July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Covington has copies of the training documents available for any Board member to review.

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

Mr. Ward presented and reviewed the following:

- ✦ Medicaid Waiver Operations Report – April 2019, noting that all benchmarks continue to be met. Mr. Ward discussed the process the State will use in assigning individuals to the Standard or Tailored Plans as Medicaid Transformation moves forward.
- ✦ Medicaid Waiver Financial Operations Report – April 2019, noting the financial measures that Sandhills is required to meet.
- ✦ Quarterly Report, April 2019 – highlighted in the report are results of the provider satisfaction survey, noting that Sandhills Center scored the highest among its peers for the third straight year; the partnership with Guilford County to bring new crisis centers to the area; and the important role that CFAC plays in the community surveys.

**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. Chairperson Evans presented and reviewed the Finance Agenda with the Board of Directors. A summary of the Consolidated Balance Sheet and Income Statement was reviewed and reflects services through March 31, 2019.

*On behalf of the Finance Committee, a motion was made by Finance Committee Chairperson Gart Evans and seconded by Commissioner David Allen to "approve the Finance Agenda as presented." The motion passed unanimously.*

- **Client Rights Committee Report** – Client Rights Committee Chairperson Carol Whitaker gave the report.
- **Human Resources Committee Report** – Human Resources Committee Chairperson, Mazie Fleetwood, reported that the Committee did not have a quorum tonight, therefore, the Committee did not meet. All agenda items will be carried over to the June meeting.
- **Corporate Compliance & Internal Audit Committee** – Did not meet.
- **Consumer and Family Advisory Committee Quarterly Report (CFAC)** – The report was included in the Board packet.

### Old Business

Mrs. Whitt reported that at the May Board meeting, Commissioner Kirk Smith asked that the Harnett County Veterans Treatment Court be put on the agenda. The Veterans Treatment Court has been very successful. The Treatment Court gives the Veterans the opportunity to receive treatment instead of jail time. Mrs. Whitt stated that the Veterans Court has been operating for three years, with this being the last year the grant will be available and funding assistance is being requested.

Mrs. Whitt commented that she, representatives from Lee and Harnett Counties, and Senator Jim Burgin will be meeting May 31<sup>st</sup> to review what the needs to continue the program are. While the program is currently serving individuals from Harnett County, it is her understanding that with the future of additional funding from other sources, the program could be opened up to other Veterans in the Sandhills Center area. Mrs. Whitt noted that the program is a very valuable service and feels it would be good to support.

Plans are to report back at the June meeting.

### Comments

None

### Board Materials

- 📎 i2i Spring Policy Forum 2019: Pathways 2 Progress
- 📎 Quality Management Executive Summary
- 📎 DMA Monthly Financial Report – March 2019
- 📎 Personnel Report
- 📎 Newspaper Articles

### Adjournment

Chairperson Ussery thanked Commissioner David Allen and Commissioner Kay Cashion for their work with the NCACC. He also thanks Mrs. Whitt for her work with the County Commissioners.

Gart Evans reminded everyone of National Law Enforcement Memorial week.

*A motion was made by Gart Evans and seconded by Commissioner David Allen to "adjourn the meeting." The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:28p.m.*

  
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Thad Ussery  
Chairperson, Board of Directors

6-11-19  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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, Clerk to the Board of Directors/Executive Assistant to CEO