

CENTRAL FLORIDA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NETWORK  
Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes  
April 24, 2020 Meeting

**Members:** Clara Reynolds, Chair  
Brena Slater, Secretary  
Craig Latimer, Treasurer  
Guy Blanchette  
Josh Dillinger  
Joshua T. Barnett  
Deputy Stephanie Krager  
Dr. Ayesha Johnson  
Dr. Jerome Jordan  
J. Scott Eller  
Nancy Hamilton  
Nathan L. Scott  
Ray Fischer  
Robert C. Rihn  
Tracey Kaly  
Teri Saunders  
Victoria Scanlon

**Members Absent:** Alvin Wolfe  
Kathleen Peters  
Kevin Lewis  
Ray Gadd  
Patrick Heidemann  
Thomas Stormanns

**Board of Directors' Attorney:** John Bakas

**CFBHN Staff:** Linda McKinnon, President and CEO  
Larry Allen  
Julie Patel  
Laura Gross  
Mary Wynhoff

**CFBHN Guests:** April Lott, Directions  
Barbara Daire, Suncoast  
Melissa Leslie, DCF  
Patricia Simpson, DCF

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**1. TOPIC: Call to Order/Introductions/Announcements**

- The meeting was called to order at 10:00a.m.
- Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC) Presentation was provided by Carol Eloian, CFBHN Consumer & Family Affairs Director. ROSC overview, framework, guiding principles, values & vision was outlined in the presentation. The board was provided information related to evaluating an agencies ROSC. Providers were educated on self-assessment / planning tool implementation, action steps & building blocks. Finally, outcomes and overall benefits via a person center approach and utilization of peer services were reviewed. Carol Eloian is available for the entire network for additional information and or training.

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**2. TOPIC: Consent Items (Routine Business/Committee Recommendations)**

**Discussion & Decisions:**

- The Board approved:
- The February 28, 2020 Minutes
  - December 2019 & January 2020 Financials
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**3. TOPIC: Action Items (Items Requiring Presentation, Public Comment & Discussion Prior to Action)**

**Discussion**

**& Decisions:**

Covid-19:

The Chair has asked what has gone well and what concerns are there in the future for the network. Remote work has been surprisingly well. The Crisis Center has been able to move to telatherapy. Will telatherapy be allowed to continue is a concern for her team.

Tri County Human Services – Bob said there were some limitations, numbers throughout entire system of care are difficult to verify remotely. Residential has maintained essentially without much impact. Homeless population and their needs are not being met sufficiently and that's a concern. The limitation in a substance abuse agency is verifying a urine sample remotely. There are concerns regarding the 30-day requirement. Staff training for the use of remote services is occasionally an issue until training is complete.

The FAME Final Weekly Digest: 2020 Legislative Session

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**4. TOPIC: Information Items:**

**Discussion**

**& Decisions:**

Chair asked providers how working remotely was working for them.

TCHS – Bob said there were some limitations, numbers throughout entire SOC are difficult to verify remotely. Residential has maintained essentially without much impact. Homeless population and their needs are not being met sufficiently and that's a concern.

Directions for Living – It wasn't too difficult to go completely telehealth as they were already doing much telehealth already. However, there is a large population such as the homeless, mental health unit & street outreach and field based care that don't have the technology to use the telehealth services so that has been challenging. Directions has begun an "all call" for old cell phones to increase access to care for these affected populations. Medicaid billing has shown a slight decrease. Currently 3 staff members have tested positive but all have recovered. There were 5 or 6 clients that have tested positive but the agency did not do the testing, they were notified.

Drug Free Collier – They're working on building a video library but it's believed that the E-learning isn't getting through to the juvenile population as well as it was hoped. The ability to validate participation is not available and there is a concern that the message is not reaching as many of the kids as they could. Prevention messaging needs a bigger voice. Trying to get food banks and deliveries out at a better rate and improve the notification of available services among COVID.

FL Dept. of Health – They're working on setting up drive through sites and are targeting high-risk population and transportation issues. The drive-thru testing site in Manatee will be reopened with new test kits from the State. Appointments are required and a referral from the patient's doctor are required. Currently, 5% of the population has been tested. Manatee sits at #4 with rate of deaths likely due to their large elderly population.

Renaissance Manor – Gratitude was expressed to Centerstone and Charlotte Behavioral as they were able to roll out telehealth quickly resulting in no drop-offs with services. Arbor Village – 3/31 was anticipated open date but was slowed down due to COVID, however Arbor Village remains full as of today. 80 units are full with 50 of them having been chronically homeless and mentally disabled. The viability of telehealth has shown many benefits.

Heartland for Children – The local providers did well in shifting to telehealth and they're working thru all challenges via virtual visits but all are doing a great job. High risk cases requiring a face to face meeting are conducted when an emergency and proper PPE protocol is being followed. One foster care worker has tested positive but was able to self-isolate and has now recovered. The group homes are doing well and there has not been a loss of capacity.

BayCare – They've been very busy and have shifted all ambulatory programs to virtual video and phones. The new volume for pediatric patients seems to be lower at this time, the adult population remains the same. Baycare is researching anti-body testing, have drive-thru sites, always discussing PPE to be sure they're in compliance. Acute Care & MRT's have been impacted by a continuing increase. The agency is looking at how & when they can reopen.

Charlotte Behavioral Healthcare, Vicki Scanlon. – CFBHN was thanked for all the accommodations that have been made for the agency. They want to move more towards telehealth services. Evaluation of the younger children has been challenging. They'd like to get more telehealth services up and running and get staff back to work and maintain the reduction of exposure for staff and clients alike.

The CEO has spoken with the Surgeon General and Chief Health Inspector on Thursday, 4/23, and telehealth is currently approved until May 8<sup>th</sup> per the executive order and is slated to be continued. The Secretary and Assistant Secretary, also on call, and are seeking to relax rules for payments, up to 6 months, as a behavioral health surge will happen once doors reopen. Forecasting needs is being done with the providers. State agencies are being advised to project a 20% reduction to their budgets which is a concern to many. Gail Ryder/Baycare is recommending to bring their lobbyist to create a uniformed message. At this time the hospitals are in alignment with the one message regarding behavioral health.

All programs are up and running. PPE equipment is being made available across the network. The hospitals and communities have been hosting patient flow calls to be prepared in the event of a COVID positive on their units. DCF is recommending a Memorandum of Agreement be set up as we move through the process to be able to deploy what is working when necessary.

Joshua Barnett - Manatee County is tracking numbers affected and has an increased risk of mortality due to the larger elderly population. In the Acute Care meeting there was a discussion indicating a possible issue with discharge of homeless inpatient persons. Coordination of care via E-Resources has yet to demonstrate improvement as there remains disconnect between exchange of treatment records and/or recommendations. Engaging primary substance use issues with those who do not have permanent housing has made engagement difficult.

In a call with Attorney General Moody they discussed whether or not telehealth is effectively treating Substance Abuse as it is Behavioral Health, especially within the homeless population. This population does not have access to technology to actively participate in telehealth and there is an increase in substance usage. Manatee County is engaging the elderly and homebound population as the local police department has noted an increase in the suicide rate. Manatee County is also reaching out to the Reopen Florida Taskforce concerning the lack of medical persons participating.

Craig Latimer – applauded the telehealth providers/services from personal usage and reminded the attendees to make use of their supervisor of elections websites to obtain your vote by mail ballot.

Bob Rihn – commented on the Reopen Florida Taskforce and what our responsibility is to keep the governor informed of the impact that is expected. Those individuals without leverage substance abuse requirements are not coming and those with leveraged requirements are coming.

The CEO notified the board of the increased PSA's being provided regarding the system and services are open and available. The State hospital has ceased admissions up until to mid-end of May 2020. There is an impact to the CSUs as clients are waiting longer. The networks is requesting flexibility of the voucher funding for housing and a response has not yet been received. The Chair commended the network for their work in these conditions and thanked everyone for their collective support.

Melissa Leslie thanked the Network and all providers for their adaptive abilities. The Director Quality of Management office update regarding the quarterly consumer satisfaction surveys will not be required to meet the remainder FY19-20. Any outstanding surveys should be submitted. DCF plans to resume the collection of the surveys in quarter one of FY 2020-2021. The quarter one data will be due to DCF by October 2020.

DCF is aware of the impact on CSU's due to the suspension of State Hospital admissions. The potential resumption of admission is mid-May; more information and guidance will be forthcoming.

The SAMH region headquarters received 6 additional clarifying questions related to different aspects of service array, guidance & FASAMS. All ME's statewide are requested to discuss bed capacity and outside resources in the event alternative beds are needed due to COVID. DCF is still accessing PPE supplies for distribution and more shipments will be arriving.

### CEO Report

The Accountability Bill passed. The language indicates the ME's will work with the department to develop a grading system. The network's contract will be renewed for 3 years taking it thru 2023. The 4DX initiative meetings have been suspended until further notice.

As of 5/1/2020 the Chair will send an electronic tool to conduct the evaluation of the President & CEO. The tool is to be returned by 5/15/2020.

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## **5. TOPIC: Committee Reports**

### Executive Committee:

No report.

### Governance Committee:

No report.

### Finance Committee:

No report.

### Quality Improvement:

The last QI Board and Sub-committee meetings were cancelled due to the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Consumer Satisfaction Surveys and the submission of the demographic record within 5- days have been removed from the Scorecard and regional reports.

Data is being collected from the acute care service utilization to track the census daily. This report still needs to be updated daily. A summary of all services report is being collected and pushed up to the legislation via Constant Contact.

Additionally a level II screening has been reduced to a level I and taken into consideration when QI conducts reviews. The next Board QI Committee Meeting will be 5/21/20.

### IS Strategic Committee:

They met on 4/22/2020 focusing on FASAMS and COVID. The pamphlet was released however implementation is delayed until Oct. 2020

### Legislative Committee:

No report.

### Diversity Committee:

Externally reviewing videos and training materials. Internally lunch and learns are being held for staff.

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## **6. TOPIC: Regional Council Reports**

### Circuit 6 Pasco:

No regional council meeting held. Twice a week calls for Acute Care facilities are being held. Consortium meeting held and updated on Pasco Sheriff Behavioral Health Team and the Mobile Crisis Teams progress.

### Circuit 6 Pinellas:

No meeting but a meeting is scheduled in May. Frequent meetings with the network and many providers are taking place. Pinellas County has really come together and the network has been really supportive. PPE availability has picked up and people are getting what's needed. Mobile Crisis has increased the age to allow for services to available for an older group. They're anticipating a surge.

### Circuit 10:

No report

### Circuit 12:

Updates provided by both Josh and Nathan in their earlier comments. Working with Centerstone, admitting some clients to ALF due to the suspension of State hospital admissions. 480 COVID test kits received. Their

doors are open and they've been COVID-free so far. Talked with FSOS/Coastal acquisition should be completed by 7/1/2020.

Circuit 13:

No meeting but having many other meetings.

Circuit 20:

No report. The next meeting is in 2 weeks.

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**7. TOPIC: Open Agenda**

The Board has commended CFBHN & the team for their flexibility and continued support of the network. The board offered to aid in resonating the benefit of telehealth to Tallahassee. Scott Eller inquired about potentially providing a PSA regarding the MEs and the Network stepping up during the COVID pandemic and not letting services falter. FAME is disseminating information through a PR firm.

April Lott – voiced concern requiring the need to advocate for testing, especially for population in shelters. Most of their homeless shelters have a large population; Safe Harbor has over 400. Congregate testing is being done in locations with 200+ people and any provider with issues can reach out to the DOH who will be ready to help in just a few days. A list was also sent out to identify areas that need testing done.

Joshua Barnett – Manatee County was able to get a few test kits from DOH & they were given directly to a clinic that primarily treats the homeless population. In the absence of testing, preserving the health of work staff can be done by asking various questions, washing hands regularly, and always wearing a mask. He will share the list of questions with everyone.

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**8. TOPIC: Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30a.m.

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**Approval**

The minutes of this meeting were approved at the Board of Directors' meeting. A signed copy of the minutes may be requested in writing to:

Brena Slater, Secretary - CFBHN Board of Directors via email to [lgross@cfbhn.org](mailto:lgross@cfbhn.org), via fax to 813-740-4821 or via written request.

Brena Slater, Secretary  
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Respectfully submitted by \_\_\_\_\_ - Brena Slater, Secretary