

CENTRAL FLORIDA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NETWORK  
Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes  
August 28, 2020 Meeting

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

**Members Absent:** Alvin Wolfe  
Kevin Lewis  
Patrick Heidemann  
Ray Fischer  
Ray Gadd, Past Chair

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

**CFBHN Staff:** Linda McKinnon, President and CEO  
Larry Allen  
Julie Patel  
Alan Davidson  
Carrie Hartes  
Laura Gross  
Mary Wynhoff  
Stephanie Johns  
Tonicia Freeman-Foster

**CFBHN Guests:** April Lott, Directions  
Barbara Daire, Suncoast,  
Joe Rutherford, Gracepoint  
Melissa Leslie, DCF  
Patricia Simpson, DCF  
Stacy Cook,

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

- The meeting was called to order at 10:01a.m.

The Chair extended gratitude and heartfelt thanks to CFBHN & staff, all the Regional Councils, Executive & Board members & affiliates for their collective efforts in having to make difficult decisions relating to the budget exercises while ensuring the delivery of services to the vulnerable populations we serve in our communities.

- Board Diversity Training Series – Inclusion – presented by Tonicia Freeman-Foster

A powerful video titled Inclusion was shown that displayed messages of the various emotions that people in the workplace may experience (i.e. anxiety, awkwardness, unworthiness, fearful, traumatized, insulted) due to feelings of discrimination, inequities, and/or exclusion. The goal of the video is to encourage the practice of self-reflection and awareness of exhibiting certain patterns of thinking or behaviors that may contribute to unfairness or bias, particularly in the workplace. It's so important to try to find and acknowledge the root of why we might make bias judgments and assessments and search for a more productive way to react to a situation. The presentation encouraged the practice of embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion in our organizations by putting actions behind it.

The Board Diversity Committee conducted a survey among the provider staff relating to their diversity, equity, and inclusion needs. The results of the survey were shared and based on the results trauma and race were the top resource/training that providers felt would be most beneficial to them.

CFBHN will continue to work on this internally and also help providers find effective solutions and empower staff with the tools needed to provide these services to the individuals we serve.

Tonica Freeman-Foster thanked all the diversity committee members for their participation and meaningful contributions. Some members expressed gratitude not only for the presentation but also for Tonicia's leadership on the diversity committee.

The CEO advised that Tonicia's last day with CFBHN is 9/4/20 and thanked her for all she's done to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion and ensured her that all the great work that's been done will continue. Tonicia will be taking on a national role to work on diversity & equity education with children & adolescents across the nation.

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

**Discussion**

**& Decisions:**

The Board approved:

- The June 26, 2020 Minutes
- April 2020 – May 2020 Financials

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**3. TOPIC: Action Items (Items Requiring Presentation, Public Comment & Discussion Prior to Action)**

**Discussion**

**& Decisions:**

None

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**4. TOPIC: Information Items:**

**Discussion**

**& Decisions:**

CEO Report

The last several weeks have been very busy for the network, providers, and the Regional Council's (RC's) putting together both 3% and 6 % budget reduction plans for this year and next year. The plans were submitted, reviewed, & approved by the Executive Committee.

A recent meeting with the Secretary offered some good news. The Governor plans to mitigate cuts to behavioral health services and the budget reduction for the entire state looks to be less than anticipated, possibly in the 2-3% range.

Florida received \$23M in block grant funds last year that is unspent & intended for special projects this year. The Dept. plans to ask the legislative budget commission for the funds be used to replenish funds that may be taken due to the budget reduction. If the Governor's office reduces liability to behavioral health reductions, new funds could become available. Members are encouraged to advocate for these funds by reaching out to Senators Simpson, Benacquisto, and/or Brandes as they are in our area and sit on the legislative budget commission.

The Legislative Committee created a one page document, by circuit, reflecting the impact of a 6% budget cut that results in approximately 7,000 less individuals that would be served. The document will be sent out to everyone after the meeting.

The Secretary advised to wait a few more weeks for a better indication of cuts that may occur prior to reducing provider contracts,

Linda McKinnon, Barbara Daire and Clara Reynolds all sit on the Board of Directors for Tampa Bay Thrives, a Coalition created by BayCare, Tampa General, HCA, and Advent Health Systems. They're working on an Urgent Care model to help navigate services in Polk, Pasco, Hillsborough, and Pinellas counties. McKenzie & Associates, a consulting firm for the project, has provided a sophisticated analysis and model. This would be primarily virtual services and for everyone in the community, not just those that are funded. A pilot in either Pinellas or Hillsborough County is expected to be up and running around November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

MacKenzie & Associates interviewed over 400 individuals receiving mental health and/or substance abuse services, both public & private, and based on the collected information, it appears it would be more difficult for those with insurance to access these services than those whom the network providers typically serve.

Barbara Daire thanked the CEO for her presentation of the project and added that regardless which county is selected for the pilot, replication of the model with lessons learned is planned for all the other counties for consistency.

The Chair also thanked the CEO & Barbara Daire for their hard work on this project and was very excited about McKenzie & Associates being involved as they have the funds and a wide range of resources to collect the data needed and she looks forward to being able to use the data they have collected.

The State Hospital is not accepting admissions for the next few weeks due to extensive virus outbreaks & 10 deaths. The network & providers are trying to divert people to other facilities.

The Network continues to receive PPE's to be distributed to the network service providers (NSPs) Requests are tracked and deliveries made as much as possible. The network will be receiving approximately 500 quick tests to deliver to our provider networks, especially for those being discharged from CSU's to residential, ALF's, or housing, etc.

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

### Executive Committee:

Met to discuss the budget reduction exercises and the Regional Council recommendations were utilized to make some final decisions. The Chair expressed many thanks to the Regional Council chairs and asked that the appreciation please be expressed to the councils for all of their hard work.

### Governance Committee:

No report

### Finance Committee:

Presented in consent items.

### Quality Improvement:

Met on 8/20, much discussion on response to COVID; Risk Management & QI information was reviewed; budget reduction exercises discussions led to scorecard & equity discussions. A subcommittee has been formed & should be meeting very soon to discuss equity. FASAMS was discussed with July 1, 2021 as the go live" date. Discussions continue on trying to determine how to measure performance & quality standards due to changes. Expected during the next 18 months.

### IS Strategic Committee:

Presented in Department Directors Report. Larry Allen added that there's still much discussion relating to a 'go live' date; decisions will need to be made relating to data in the provider's system matching the data that's been submitted to CFBHN, seated with some changes, & then submitted to the state.

There were discussions on the 4DX measures & diversions from state hospitals as well.

### Legislative Committee:

Met specifically for budget reductions & created 1 page educational document related to impact of potential reductions.

### Diversity Committee:

Thomas Stormans expressed much gratitude to Tonicia Freeman-Foster for all her hard work.

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**6. TOPIC: Regional Council Reports**

Circuit 6 Pasco:

RC met several times to discuss the budget reductions. Virtual telehealth visits continue to work well & there's been much advocacy to continue the virtual visits post 2020. There's concern that audio/telephone only visits may not be allowable post 2020 as they're not as efficient as video visits. Baycare's no-show rates have decreased with virtual telehealth, especially with psychiatric outpatient visits.

Chair asked if there were any updates relating to the emergency executive order thru 9/7 allowing the virtual visits. CEO said DCF was in favor of allowing the continuance but it's a federal decision & also a major National Council initiative. It was suggested to speak with Congressman Bilirakis who is advocating continuing telehealth both virtual and audio. There was still some uncertainty about the executive order that's expected to expire 9/7/20. CEO said the federal government relaxed the requirements through the end of 2020.

Circuit 6 Pinellas:

April expressed much thanks to the network, especially Julie & Carrie, for working with her regional counsel on completing the budget reductions. A lot of work is being done with the Pinellas Wellness Connection. Barbara & her team and Maxine created a powerful PowerPoint presentation that was presented at the last Pinellas System of Care meeting. There are 4 active committees and the website: Pinellaswellnessconnection.com is now live but still needs work.

Chair suggested that April & Barbara do a presentation of the Pinellas Wellness Connection for the board. It was agreed this would be a great idea and will be coordinated for an upcoming board meeting.

Circuit 10:

They met on 8/2 & are working on an updated MOU. Discussed the impact of COVID & reopening strategies. Virtual visits have been very successful with TCHS, Peace River, and BayCare. Suicide Prevention billboards up as part of available specialty funds. Lakeland Regional Hospital is taking on a more active role in substance abuse and behavioral health. They've opened a separate wing strictly for behavioral health. Advent Health has converted their CSU beds to COVID beds. Care Coordination utilization continues to be positive for Winter Haven Hospital, Peace River, and TCHS.

Circuit 12:

Everyone worked well together on the budget reduction exercises. They discussed ways to mitigate; what are challenges to the current model, the amount of reported budget dollars to the MEs. Telemedicine has been very beneficial and possibly keeping the numbers of CSU's and detox down. As COVID starts to wane, an increase in the request for services is expected. The First Step/Coast apposition is done with some minor differences to work through. An additional 95 apartments will become available in both Charlotte & Lee counties in April.

Circuit 13:

The budget reduction exercise was the main focus. Chair thanked Joe R. with Gracepoint & Gail R. with BayCare for coming together & trying very hard to reduce the cuts in Hillsborough County. There was also a special appropriation that didn't come at 100% and thanks were given for the sacrifices made by Joe & Gail, resulting in other providers not having to take a cut in mental health services. The Chair asked if Tracey would please extend her gratitude to Gail as she wasn't present at the board meeting.

Circuit 20:

Thanked network for all the requested data relating to the budget reduction exercise. They looked specifically at MRT utilization and 2 youth Substance Abuse facilities in their area. C20 expressed concerns regarding the impact on equity. A drop-in center in Collier will be opening soon & they'll be hearing of the challenges & successes.

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**7. TOPIC: Open Agenda**

Vickie Scanlon asked if the timing of the SOR funding was known. No exact date as of yet but funding that was received was put in the contacts through the end of September and waiting for amendment to come through. The state did apply for a carryover for approximately \$17M.

CEO mentioned that not all board members are up for re-election and an email was sent out earlier in the week relating to that. She requested that members reach out to both herself and Laura regarding their intentions to either remain on the board or leave if their 3 year term is up. There is a different process for the RC Chairs and currently there are two, Tracey and Scott, whose terms are ending. They'll need to have a RC call in September to either be reelected or have a new RC Chair for the slate coming up in October. She reminded members of the quota of providers for board membership so not all RC chairs can serve as board members but rather in an advisory capacity. The decision will be made by the executive committee regarding which RC Chair might have to sit out this year. There's not process in place yet for choosing but the executive committee will be discussing it and determining a clear process. Board members and guests were thanked for all of their participation and commitment.

Melissa Leslie with DCF thanked everyone for their continued dedication & flexibility in serving the individuals in need. She provided an update to HB945: DCF, Healthcare, and ACHA are conducting a survey for Crisis Stabilization providers serving children. ACHA will be sending the survey out soon. The purpose of the survey is to gather information that will help assess the quality of care to children & adolescents receiving crisis stabilization services for a report. The survey shouldn't take more than 10 minutes and once submitted, the turn-around time for the providers is about a week. She's unsure when it will be sent out but the report is due to the governor by November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

The survey will be going out to both public and private providers.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 23, 2020. Everyone is encouraged to be present as it the annual meeting.

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**8. TOPIC: Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25a.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  
CFBHN Board of Directors  
719 US Highway 301 South  
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Respectfully submitted by \_\_\_\_\_ - Brena Slater, Secretary