

CENTRAL FLORIDA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NETWORK

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2020 Meeting

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

**Members Absent:** Kathleen Peters  
Kevin Lewis  
Patrick Heidemann  
Ray Fischer

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

**CFBHN Staff:** Linda McKinnon, President and CEO  
Larry Allen, COO  
Julie Patel, CFO  
Alan Davidson, CCO  
Carrie Hartes  
Stephanie Johns  
LaTasha Cohen  
Laura Gross  
Mary Wynhoff

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

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

- The meeting was called to order at 9:59a.m.
- Executive Order 20-2011 – An extension to continue the current telehealth flexibility in place was approved through November 2020. DCF supports telehealth as it's been very successful in terms of therapy.

The question regarding extending the order concerning virtual 'meetings' was posed. The Secretary was unaware it was an issue, however he will look into it.

Telehealth data is being collected that confirms successful outcomes such as no-show rates decreasing and access to care increasing. There are however, some clients wanting to start going back in person likely due to work and school schedules in some cases. Ideally, both in-person and telehealth services will continue to be options.

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

**Discussion**

**& Decisions:**

The Board approved:

- The August 28, 2020 Minutes
  - June 2020 – July 2020 Financials
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**3. TOPIC: Action Items (Items Requiring Presentation, Public Comment & Discussion Prior to Action)**

**Discussion**

**& Decisions:**

Board Membership Applicant – Pastor Douglas Walker

Pastor Walker, who is very involved with wraparound and the Florida Children’s System of Care that the Consumer and Family Affairs department works with, was introduced by Carol Eloian, Director of Consumer and Family Affairs. The CEO and Chair had a virtual meeting with him and both were impressed with him.

His faith-based dissertation focuses on the intersections between criminal justice and mental health and the use of wraparound principles with that population. He understands what the network does, the ROSC (Recovery Oriented System of Care) principles, and is very interested in Diversity and how it impacts the services we provide.

Pastor Walker is being highly recommended. The Board hasn’t had a faith-based member in a while and he would be a great addition who can bring a really great and diversified perspective to the board.

A motion was made and second to approve of Pastor Walker’s application for board membership and the motion carried.

Executive / Board Slate FY 20-21

The Executive / Board FY 20-21 Slate was approved with the recommended updates.

Corporate Compliance Plan FY 20-21

The Corporate Compliance FY 20-21 Plan was reviewed & approved.

CQI Plan FY 20-21

The CQI Plan FY 20-21 was reviewed & approved. Scott E. requested a brief write-up on changes made and Larry will get that to him.

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**4. TOPIC: Information Items:**

**Discussion**

**& Decisions:**

CEO Report

Reduction exercises for both the network & the providers have been submitted. The network is waiting on clarifications relating to returning one-time dollars for SRT to Hillsborough County. A letter is being prepared to be sent to the Secretary to confirm that the community is in agreement with this.

The network has implemented internal reductions. The Richard Brown Conference Center was closed and laid off two full-time employees. A few grant-funded staff have left or will be leaving as well.

The Department is working on a 10% reduction exercise, if any, for next year.

Changes made to licensing requirements for the Coalitions resulted in some challenges. Applications did get submitted but some were problematic, especially for the small offices. Waivers were submitted in lieu of the licenses for some of the coalitions and they’re starting to get approved. The waivers allow these providers to use another form of payment for referrals and outreach services for prevention so that the network can continue to pay them. This flexibility is good through December 31, 2020. Linda thanked Guy Blanchet for his help in identifying many of the issues and working with the network and the coalitions to overcome some of the barriers and find a good resolve.

The network’s partnership with Directions under the Florida Children’s System of Care grant will be wrapping up at the end of December. Two of the staff were funded under this grant; one of whom has already left the network.

Issues with Peer Support services were identified due to not being able to provide the 40-hour in-person training that's required and virtual training have not been approved. Any advocacy to change that rule is encouraged to help the network in continuing the progress already made.

DCF has moved to have plans pay directly ACHA for FACT services in an effort to maximize revenue. Paula Carter, Program Manager for FACT/State Hospitals, manages the admissions and discharges from the FACT teams in diverting individuals from the state hospital and/or bringing them back from the state hospital. This is a major priority for the department but there's concerns on how this will change the process with the plans as well as impact the 4DX goals.

Tracey Kaly advised of a call specifically related to this at 4pm this afternoon. Linda can't be on the call but Tracey will forward the information and hopefully someone else can get on the call in Linda's place.

There was further discussion on the Coalition licensing changes. The primary feeling is that some of the coalitions are more of a provider and go beyond universal prevention efforts and while the waivers can be used for coalitions that do not go beyond universal prevention efforts, it's still costly for them due to fees associated with the waivers.

Melissa Leslie explained that when Rule 65D-30 rule was updated, the impact of universal and direct licensure wasn't initially known but headquarters is looking into it and it may be reversed to reduce the burden.

It was asked if the Secretary has provided a time frame for whether or not a 10% exercise could be expected. It likely will not be known until early spring but everyone should plan on the 6% exercise that was done.

It was asked when the FACT teams would transition from the Network to ACHA Medicaid. Melissa stated that she doesn't have those details yet but she should get some information as discussions increase.

Additional clarification relating to the 3%, 6%, and possible 10% reductions for next year was discussed. The 3% reduction for the current fiscal year has already been put in place. Projections for a 6% reduction next year had to be completed and that's already been submitted. The Secretary 'informally' said that the estimated reductions will probably not be as much as projected but the providers should plan for it just in case.

The legislative committee prepared an info graph: Proposed Catastrophic CUTS to the Safety Net of Care. It was sent out to the board members for their review and thoughts. This would be a good tool for the providers to use in discussions with legislators. A vote isn't required to get this out but a general consensus from the board is needed to be sure everyone agrees with getting the flyer circulated. A motion was made and second to circulate the flyer and the motion carried.

#### Department Directors Report

Behavioral Health Fee – The staff has recommended not to collect the fee due to the reductions that have already been made. The fee is primarily used to award high performing providers at the 5-Star luncheon awards event. Motion made to accept the recommendation to not collect the fee this year. The motion carried.

Bob Rihn commented that with the anticipation of a minimum wage increase, the board may want to explore how this would impact providers with the current reductions that have already occurred and possible additional reductions next year. Linda suggested that if the minimum wage increase passes, another info graph could be made to illustrate the possible impacts.

There was further discussion relating to the reductions and the importance of advertising what is happening so both the communities and legislators are aware of the full impact that results in either less or no services and program closures.

Julie advised the board that DCF recently provided the network's schedule of funds and an amendment reflecting \$375K has been moved out of base funding and into a specific OCA for supportive employment. This was supposed to happen prior to the contract being received but it somehow was overlooked. Unfortunately, this means additional cuts for providers with MH00 funding. The funds will go to 5 providers included in this special proviso line item: Pinellas & Pasco-C6, Hope Clubhouse-C20, Peace River-C10, and the Academy of Glengarry in C12. HB? had \$250K in it & it now has \$625K. There's no way out of this as the other ME's have incurred similar patterns.

There's no information to confirm that this shift in funding will result in closures but it's likely some services may be lost or reduced.

April was concerned because their 3% reduction included one of the programs that will now get some of the funds from the amendment. Linda assured her that the 3% could still be taken as planned.

It was requested that Julie provide something showing the cuts to the providers and she'll get something out but it could be a couple weeks or so.

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**5. TOPIC: Committee Reports**

Executive Committee:

The committee presented the FY 20-21 Executive / Board Slate for approval.

Governance Committee:

No report

Finance Committee:

Presented in consent items

Financials were approved. The reconciliation with DCF was done and the Network had to pay back \$5.6M in federal funding. As certain buckets of funding become more restrictive, it's more difficult for some providers to utilize the funding. The network will work internally and with providers to better spend the monies so money doesn't have to be returned.

Some of the buckets of funding that are difficult to spend are: HIV related services and some programs took long to implement such as child welfare SOR (Statewide Opioid Response), hospital bridge SOR, prevention SOR.

Quality Improvement:

Discussed the CQI and Corporate Compliance plans, as well as equity & the new equity subcommittee. Data is being pulled, reviewed, and presented to the committee. It's hoped to have a final process and plan completed by the December meeting. The next meeting is 12/16. Reach out to Larry with any questions or if you want to participate on the committee.

IS Strategic Committee:

Presented in Department Directors Report

Nothing new to report; theoretically FASAMS should be completed by July 2021

Legislative Committee:

Reduction Exercise One Page Overview was presented earlier.

Joshua B. will be taking over as the chair for this committee.

Diversity Committee:

CEO introduced LaTasha Cohen as the new diversity coordinator due to Tonicia Freeman-Foster's departure. LaTasha introduced herself and is very excited about being in this new role & exploring and obtaining new goals.

3C's Exercise Follow-up – '*Catch*' your actions, identify your thoughts; '*Check*' how accurate and useful the thought is; '*Change*' the thought to be more accurate & helpful.

Though Charlotte Behavioral Health Care is a very non-diverse community being primarily Caucasian, they do have various levels of diversity in staffing except on their management team. The CEO has been speaking with her HR department about current open positions and they're hoping to fill positions with diversity in mind.

Manatee office is working with one of the county commissioners on a proclamation about broader representation in government structures from a public health perspective by looking at equity, housing, having access to nutritious foods, etc. They're hoping to have it in place by the November meeting. They're also working with the County Administrator, the first female county administrator in the county's history, to be sure that the proclamation is diverse in race, gender, culture, and religion.

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**6. TOPIC: Regional Council Reports**

Circuit 6 Pasco:

Met in September – Overdoses for adults are high & increasing. 129 overdoses in Sept. with 28 being fatal and heroine & fentanyl as the main causes. The local crisis response team calls have sky-rocketed. It's been difficult to find beds as the children's CSU's are full.

Circuit 6 Pinellas:

Continuing to meet regularly and advancing the wellness connection is still priority.

Circuit 10:

Met on 10/2 – discussed a recovery of care organization which has grown to a group of 50 people and participated in a Zoom meeting. They're working with the county to find a location for 'same'. He'll be meeting with a leader from Tallahassee on opening an Oxford house in the area. An Oxford house is a peer-run residence where individuals are self-governing and the only organization permitted to open as such. Gaining residence is by referral and for those in recovery treatment programs.

Joshua mentioned that he's very familiar with Oxford Houses as he participated in the opening of a number of them in the state of Delaware. The concept is similar to ROSC in that a primary component is choice. Individuals support each other in their recovery in a shared-living environment and help manage who lives there. He congratulated Bob on his efforts to open one and said they're very successful.

Scott E. shared that he knows an attorney, Steven Polin, who had gone through treatment and resided at an Oxford House. He suggested inviting Steven (or someone else if he's not available) to do a presentation for the board on the Oxford House model. Bob loved the idea and wants to work with Scott and trying to make that happen.

Telehealth services have been very successful and showing improved rates of no-shows.

Care Coordination (CC) reports are very vibrant and he hopes that funding will continue to keep the model working. Linda added that data shows that when individuals are admitted into care coordination & the network works with providers, and those getting extra incidentals are reducing readmission rates to fall to less than 5% when previously they were over 40%. She reminded everyone how important it is to continue advocating for CC funding.

Circuit 12:

No specific numbers on children/adult CSU or detox beds but they've been full or even over capacity. There is however, a lot of access to telehealth services and that's working well.

There's still much apprehension relating to the FACT Team what's going to happen with ACHA.

Circuit 13:

No report – will meet next week.

Circuit 20:

They do have a plan for the recent cuts which was mostly base funding, and that's been the main focus in recent meetings. She's unsure if any advocating can be done in advance of any additional cuts that may happen in the spring but moving forward, she encourages more conversations relating to what appropriate cuts could be made with the least amount of destruction to the system of care.

Joe R. offered advice on focusing on specific programs when discussing cuts.

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**7. TOPIC: Open Agenda**

Nancy mentioned that Purdue Pharma, the maker of OxyContin, plead guilty and pledged to pay \$8B towards treatment for its role in the opioid crisis. She believes as this progresses, we should keep an eye on this and maybe find a way to politicize it in an effort to obtain more flexibility relative to spending dollars so they won't have to be given back.

Centerstone in Bradenton is recruiting a new hospital administrator. If anyone knows of someone who may be interests, please encourage them to apply

The next meeting is scheduled for December 18, 2020.

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8. TOPIC: **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22a.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