

CENTRAL FLORIDA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NETWORK
Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2020 Meeting

Members: Clara Reynolds, Chair
Brena Slater, Vice-Chair
Dr. Ayesha Johnson, Secretary
Craig Latimer, Treasurer
Deputy Stephanie Krager
Dr. Jerome Jordan
Guy Blanchette
J. Scott Eller
Josh Dillinger
Joshua T. Barnett
Nancy Hamilton
Nathan L. Scott
Pastor Douglas Walker
Robert C. Rihn
Stacey Cook Hawk
Tracey Kaly
Thomas Stormanns
Victoria Scanlon

Members Absent: Kathleen Peters
Ray Fischer
Ray Gadd, Past Chair

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

CFBHN Staff: Linda McKinnon, President and CEO
Carrie Hartes
Julie Patel
LaTasha Cohen
Laura Gross
Mary Wynhoff
Stephanie Johns

CFBHN Guests: Barbara Daire, Suncoast
Craig Gilman, CBIZ
Melissa Leslie, DCF
Patricia Simpson, DCF
Rob Gilbride, CBIZ

1. TOPIC: Call to Order/Introductions/Announcements

- The meeting was called to order at 10:00a.m.

Audit Presentation – Craig Gilman

The year-end audit results for CFBHN were presented. The audit was unmodified (clean audit with no instances of non-compliance, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies, fraud, or illegal acts identified)

Julie and her team were thanked for all their assistance and cooperation.

Craig Gilman and his team were thanked for their partnership and efforts in assuring that minimal funds have to be returned to DCF.

If anyone has any concerns, please email Clara directly at: creynolds@crisiscenter.com and she will arrange a Teams meeting with both Craig Gilman and Craig Latimer

Due to the office working primarily in a remote environment, it was emphasized that management should continue to ensure timely updates to all technology and software surrounding information security.

Diversity & Inclusion Education Board Presentation

A short and powerful video on building diverse teams was shown. Highlighted in the presentation was the need for continued education to the board and composition of the board to be reflective of the organization and community that they serve. Also, the importance of the CEO's commitment in actively participating on their agency or board diversity committee to encourage staff participation and inclusion.

Members are encouraged to take this information back to their boards to incite deep thoughts and start conversations.

Upcoming plans are to go to Regional Counsel and ask providers if they have a diversity plan in place and, if so, find out how they're implementing their plan. Providers that do not have a plan in place will be asked to begin developing one.

Pastor Walker Introduction

The Pastor introduced himself and thanked the board for his acceptance. He is currently the pastor of Tyer Temple United Methodist Church in Tampa and previously, the National coordinator for Criminal Justice Reform for the Church & Society United Methodist Church.

Pastor Walker is currently a PhD student studying public policy, criminal justice, and theology. His current dissertation focuses on the use of Wraparound as a tool and applying those principles to those with mental illness and who are involved in the criminal justice system.

The Pastor asked LaTasha what the activity of the CEO and the board engaging in diversity might look like. Evidence of engagement would be the board continuing to learn about and promote diversity education and a CEO, such as the network's CEO, who is actively involved in the diversity committee illustrates the importance of the work being done by the committee and encourages staff participation. HR seeing leadership engaged in diversity and inclusion demonstrates commitment and is reflective in the culture of the organization.

CEO's that currently have a diversity committee in their organization are encouraged to get involved by reviewing the policies and goals and having a voice.

By recommendation from the network's Diversity committee, CFBHN leadership team participated in and completed a 2-day Courageous Conversations course through A Healthy St. Pete Foundation and the Diversity Committee will be taking the course as well.

Pastor Walker was invited to join the board level diversity committee and if he wishes to do so at any time, to let either Linda or Thomas Stormanns know that he is interested.

CARES Act Funds

The \$23M CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act funds are one-time statewide funds through Oct 2021 that are classified as general revenue & can be held over if not used. There are no current allocations to each region and funding is slated to be used to access and/or increase behavioral health services in 10 specific categories, some of which are FIT, CAT, FACT, CC, and SRT.

Providers were asked to let the ME know by no later than by COB Mon., 12/21, how much they could use based on the specific categories. It's recommended that providers look at using the funds to support positions they'll have next year due to the allowable carry over. Once the department has the information from all of the regions, they'll determine the allocations to each region.

Unfortunately, this funding cannot be used to provide relief towards the 3% budget reduction. The network offered its carry forward funding to offset the 3% budget reduction for the current fiscal year, so that no providers would have any impact this fiscal year. . The network is currently waiting on approval on the plan.

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

Discussion

& Decisions:

The Board approved:

- The October 23, 2020 Minutes
 - The August 2020 – September 2020 Financials
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3. TOPIC: Action Items (Items Requiring Presentation, Public Comment & Discussion Prior to Action)

Discussion

& Decisions:

4. TOPIC: Information Items:

Discussion

& Decisions:

CEO Report

PICA (Pinellas Integrated Care Alliance) funding through the Healthy St. Pete Foundation will be ending in March 2021. The team has produced great results including reduced arrests & readmissions and fortunately, Pinellas Sheriff Guiltier has agreed to pick up the costs so the team can continue the great work that's being done. The network will no longer be funding the evaluation process.

The network has been attending all the delegations and requesting no more further cuts and to continue care coordination funding. Providers are encouraged to share their LBR's (legislative budget request) with the network so combined support can be provided.

5. TOPIC: Committee Reports

Executive Committee:

Met prior to the board meeting. Staff discussed with Executive how one of the smaller network service provider who is struggling to meet the requirements of the employment verification tool and has been issued their 5th corrective action. Appreciation was extended to Stephanie Johns and her team for all their efforts in working with the provider.

The network applied for and received a \$1M payroll protection plan loan to utilize by 12/31/2020. There after the staff will apply for the forgiveness of the loan.

Also discussed was the \$23M CARES Act funding.

Governance Committee:

None

Finance Committee:

Presented in consent items.

Quality Improvement:

Equity subcommittee has been working hard to revise the policy that will be applicable not just now but in the future as well.

Vickie Scanlon suggested that equity conversations be ongoing at the Regional Council level to stay informed on policy changes and how equity is measured.

Linda advised that a summary could be pulled together when all committee members agree with the revisions being made. It's recommended to simplify the policy by removing only proviso funding and combining the acute care and non-acute care funding to better assess the resources in each area. The committee wants to determine more clear actions for staff to avoid circumstances that may not be covered in the policy.

Members were concerned that the committee may be recommending moving contracted dollars from one district to another and the possible impact on the local system of care. The committee is not recommending that funds be shifted due to equity but continues to focus on the use of the policy for permanent increases or reductions to the funding.

After one more Equity committee meeting, something should be ready to present to the Board of Directors and then Regional Councils.

IS Strategic Committee:

Guy Blanchette is still getting up to speed as the new chair and hopes to have a report by the next meeting.

Legislative Committee:

The committee met on 11/12/20 & had a presentation by FAME's Natalie Kelly. She talked about engaging legislators on the impact of cuts made to services. A new LBR process in the House requiring a House sponsor & filing documentation of truths with the public integrity and ethics committee, providers needing to be equipped with funding not taken from service provisions funding; securing funding for Care Coordination asking for \$3.5M, and legislative delegation meetings taking place.

The committee goals include to more fully engage legislators & county commissioners in looking at opportunities for funding to be mindfully leveraged in supporting agencies to expand or increase results, working with stakeholders & the Chambers of Commerce, and using 'CFBHN Ambassadors' when speaking on behalf of the network relating to the services that funding is provided for.

Joshua Barnett met recently with CFBHN's Luis Rivas, Director of Supportive Housing and Community Development & Karen Barfield, Community Manager for C6 & C13 to discuss having an All County Meeting. This would be a virtual opportunity to bring people together to discuss services, the impact and importance of providers, learning how the ME works, and understanding the importance of the funding and partnerships with the ME. Clara Reynolds added that she's excited about the county meeting & believes it will be a great opportunity for the ME to reinforce the benefits of its partnerships.

Cut Exercise One Page Updated Version – wants to be sure this form is placed in the hands of those having direct communications with state decision makers in an effort to avoid any further cuts.

Diversity Committee:

Education Presentation Provided

6. TOPIC: Regional Council Reports

Circuit 6 Pasco:

Met on 12/3 – Pasco Sheriff Office operates an intervention team that's been expanded to a co-responding model linked to the mobile crisis team. This service is for both pediatrics & adults and just started this month. So far it's going really well.

Funding was secured to contract with TransCare for transporting kids who are Baker Acted from school. This service will begin in January.

School funding – about 31 kids, half & half male & female and mostly high school students, have received services so far this year.

Circuit 6 Pinellas:

Last met on 11/9 – talked about COVID related matters. Wellness Connection & Zero Suicide Initiative remain the main focuses.

Foundation for a Healthy St. Pete has provided resources that helped to accomplish the following:

- Crisis Units and Zero Suicide numbers selected as the Behavioral Health helpline for Pinellas County. People can now call one number (**727-791-3131**) to access CFBHN funded and other services and people can still call the individual agencies as well.
- Developing a huge media campaign that has been in the works for several years. The "You Good?" Campaign is being broadcast and featured on social media, agency websites, and as many places as possible. There is also a website: <https://yougoodpinellas.org/>. BayCare funded the hiring of a project manager to oversee this project and Barbara will be supervising the manager.

Pinellas Sheriff has hired their own team who tries to identify individuals needing services and they are then referred to the PIC Team for services.

Circuit 10:

Polk County is actively working with their RC and providers of mental health and substance abuse services on LBR's to identify gaps in services.

It's suggested that providers and the network find ways to come together to encourage the county schools to enlist the help & partnership of the providers and network to serve their population for the needed behavioral health and substance services rather than the schools creating another silo.

Linda and Ray Gadd met with Commissioner Corcoran last year and presented the models being used by the schools contracting with the network. Ray will be meeting soon with the commissioner to discuss the language in the school policies. Ray, being well connected with the commissioner and his superintendent being the chair of the Superintendent's Association makes him a practical ally for getting this moved forward.

Clara was praised for her informational radio spot.

RCO (Recovery Community Organization) developments are underway and Oxford House has been engaged with a new facility opening in Winter Haven.

Regular involvement with the CBC's and Heartland for Children confirms that over 500 children were removed from their home since July 2020 which emphasizes the need for more children and family services. There are also currently 2,174 open child welfare cases in Polk County.

Circuit 12:

Met on 10/26 – discussed cuts and still focusing on creating a new model.

Spoke with Senator Wilton Simpson regarding funding & right now \$300M above what was anticipated – need to continue to advocate with the delegations

Circuit 13:

Met on 12/8 – discussed school related items such as juvenile Baker Acts, talked about the law enforcement and behavioral health programs both with the Sheriff's office and local Tampa police departments.

Elaine Churton, Associate Director of Northside announced her retirement and her last day is 12/31/2020.

Circuit 20:

Met on 12/11 – discussed effects of COVID on providers and feel confident that with inpatient, all are working together as patient exposures occur.

C20 very concerned with equity.

They've been monitoring numbers for MRT, managed by CPE (The Center for Progress and Excellence), and numbers are increasing. Executive Director for CPE resigning in January to take another position and strong coordination is needed moving forward.

Looking forward to welcoming the new CEO of First Step, Tom Knight, who will be starting on 2/01/2021.

Breaking ground in Charlotte County in February or March and hope to have 90-92 units in a couple of years.

7. TOPIC: **Open Agenda**

Alan advised of the school telehealth funding that will come through the managing entities. The pot of money has about \$4M for State & about \$1M for the Suncoast Region & C10. Funds to be divided among the schools. The focus for this money will be on four things: Hardware, Software, Training, and or services. Services will have to be for DCF eligible persons, which unfortunately will exclude many of the kids. Met with all 14 counties and plans are to get the funds out to the schools by 2/01/2021. Only currently contracted NSP's can utilize these funds for services.

Melissa Leslie announced that Shivana Gentry will be transitioning to Acting SAMH Assistant Secretary effective January 1, 2021 and Rodney Moore will transition on 12/31/2020.

Scott Eller shared an example of how well the combined provider and law enforcement system can work with the appropriate support & services in place. His example reflects a net savings for the state and reduced recidivism.

Scott Eller & Joshua Barnett are planning to present to the Sarasota County Commission to provide awareness of the budget cuts.

Thomas Stormanns asked if Scott Eller has ever computed the figures relating to the savings to the county and /or state. Scott hasn't worked the figures himself but said there is a lot of data out there. A study in 2007 by Lee County relating to homelessness. The results of the study reflected the average costs of acute care and forensic housing for one person was \$87,000 vs \$5,000 for an individual living in CASL housing. There are other studies with very similar findings.

Pastor Walker asked if Community Assisted and Supported Living (CASL) could help this population with informal support as well. Scott said that care must be taken to avoid too much structure that would give the appearance of a treatment or assisted living facility. They do link individuals with other groups like club-houses but their role is to work with each individual and their specific needs which is unique to each person.

One of the state's initiatives is to bring national supports into our systems to make those connections but it's still in the infancy stages.

Joshua Barnett added that County Commissions are responsible for covering jail costs including jail medical and mental health needs/costs. He also stated that as more services are reduced resulting from budget cuts, more individuals with dementia and other mental health disorders are being baker acted for assault and combative behavior and taken to jail. 9-1-1 is being called instead of the crisis lines and more mental health patients are being taken to jail as opposed to receiving the appropriate services that are needed for their specific disorder.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2021.

8. TOPIC: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49a.m.

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:

Dr. Ayesha Johnson, Secretary - CFBHN Board of Directors via email to lgross@cfbhn.org, via fax to 813-740-4821 or via written request.

Dr. Ayesha Johnson, Secretary
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Respectfully submitted by _____ - Brena Slater, Secretary