

CENTRAL FLORIDA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NETWORK  
Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes  
April 23, 2021 Meeting

**Members:** Clara Reynolds, Chair  
Brena Slater, Vice-Chair  
Dr. Ayesha Johnson, Secretary  
Dr. Jerome Jordan  
Craig Latimer, Treasurer  
Deputy Stephanie Krager  
Guy Blanchette  
J. Scott Eller  
Josh Dillinger  
Nancy Hamilton  
Nathan L. Scott  
Pastor Douglas Walker  
Ray Fischer  
Ray Gadd, Past Chair  
Robert C. Rihn  
Terri Cassidy  
Tracey Kaly  
Thomas Stormanns

**Members Absent:** Kathleen Peters  
Stacey Cook Hawk  
Victoria Scanlon

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

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

**CFBHN Guests:** April Lott, Directions, RC C6  
Barbara Daire, Suncoast  
Joshua Barnett, Community  
Melissa Leslie, DCF  
Patricia Overway, DCF

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- 1. TOPIC: Call to Order/Introductions/Announcements**
- The meeting was called to order at 10:01a.m.
  - FAME Legislative Week in Review
  - Daystar Life Center Letter
  - BayCare Letter
  - Terry Cassidy was welcomed to the Board

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

**Discussion**

- & Decisions:** The Board approved:
- The February 26, 2021 Minutes
  - The December 2020 – January 2021 Financials
  - DE&I Resolution Language
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**3. TOPIC: Action Items (Items Requiring Presentation, Public Comment & Discussion Prior to Action)**

**Discussion**

**& Decisions:** Sanctions and Penalties Enactment Policy

The Executive Committee presented the policy to the board for review and ratification. The policy was reviewed and approved. The CFO expressed there are funds available as a result of implementing the policy and it has been recorded in a separate line item. Should a provider have federal funds only they will be contracted out to ensure there is not a payback if possible. Federal funds that cannot be utilized will be returned. Should the funds be State funds CFBHN will hold onto these funds and essentially come to the board with a plan to utilize the funds based on the need within the system of care.

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**4. TOPIC: Information Items:**

**Discussion**

**& Decisions:** CEO Report

The CEO discussed Board Ethics and potential changes to the board procedures as a result of the current legislative session updates. Procedures are specific to anyone who has a contract with CFBHN will require the contracts are brought to the board for review and approval. This is currently not the standard practice. The projection is by December a provider would have to declare any conflicts of interest. This current review by the legislature will be reviewed by the board attorney to develop process and ensure compliance should this change be passed.

The posting of the CEO salaries and executive staff salaries to the DMS website will pass for the MEs; however the recommendation that no CEO can make over 150% of the DCF secretaries salary language has been removed.

Additional bills are in review concerning anyone having of \$750K in contract with State funds would also have to post salaries on the DMS website as well as their own website. The dollars for Care Coordination are believed to be returning to the CFBHN contract.

The staff and providers have been working on contract amendments, incorporating the CARES Act funding. The lapse funding report is a cause for concern. There is currently a considerable amount, close to \$6M, pending lapse. The staff will be working to get these potential lapse funds moved into areas where they can be utilized. During this process the CFO is requesting notification if there are dollars that will be lapsed. The network is working with the legislature to ensure we do not take cuts therefore spending the funds is a priority where possible. Spending the lapse funds by June 30<sup>th</sup> is the goal. Scott Eller advises there are agencies that have high staffing vacancies that could be causing some of the lapse in funding. The CFO is in agreement that staff vacancies is part of the cause of the lapse. The concern brought up by Bob Rihn is the lapse could continue into next year and have a significant impact on providers who are unable to spend down these funds. The question raised is, has the employment issue across the network to determine what can be done across the network as opposed to the individual provider simply lapsing dollars? The President & CEO will request from providers their vacancy rates and review the frequency in which funds have come down. The impact of the minimum wage (\$15.00 p/h) has yet to be seen but will further impact providers ability to fill vacancies.

The Board Chair expressed a discussion needs to occur around the \$15 wage to meet and accommodate the salary compression issues that will occur. Not only brining the lowest paid staff brought up to minimum wage but the steps required to work that through the entire staff. The Chair will include this for the June meeting and potentially require a subcommittee. Scott Eller requested each provider submit their projected impact as a result of the \$15hr minimum wage to allow for budgetary planning. Salary compression will be reviewed. This will be referred to the finance committee to build a structure to how this will work and presented to the board regarding appeals to legislature and ahca regarding rates and the ability to increase revenue to offset the increase minimum wage impact. Scott recommended the finance committee reach out to contracted agencies to present to the board during the June meeting. The Finance Chair agreed to take on this request from the board. The CFO reminds the board that this past year, the pandemic, the rates were raised where they could be without documentation to the providers; the challenge is going to be the fiscal reconciliation at the end of the year to the state. The example given, if 10 staff salaries were to be increased but were not actually implemented and there is an increase in rate, the numbers served still have to be met and if there are no expenses the provider is responsible for returning those funds to CFBHN who will have to return these funds to the State. This is part of the new reconciliation the State has implemented. The higher the rates, the less clients served and the target of numbers served has not changed, based on OCA, population etc. need to be considered. The Board Chair expressed we understand the concern but will at some point still have to face the constitutional amendment raising the minimum wage and the only place the funds can come from for many is

from the rates. A significant change based on audits and the projected cost was asked to be considered. Bob Rihn offered to be part of the review committee once established.

A large amount of the lapse funding is coming from the SOR funding, TANF is another area where lapse funds are occurring. TANF lapse is related to the removal of outreach from the allowable spending. MSCDS substance abuse general funds are also lapsing. MH GR funding is lapsing. FIT/CAT are additional lapsing dollars. The CFO will send out a sheet showing the lapse areas. The subcontractor status report is a resource utilized for spending as well as working with the providers individually and across the network to spend down the funds.

The President & CEO has asked the board to participate in the #MindYourMentalHealthFL campaign supporting all of the 2-1-1s. The Board will be sent the information and to please return a photo to [dnardelli@cfbhn.org](mailto:dnardelli@cfbhn.org) or [lmckinnon@cfbhn.org](mailto:lmckinnon@cfbhn.org)

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## 5. TOPIC: Committee Reports

### Executive Committee:

The committee reviewed and approved the President & CEO evaluation. The goals have been developed for next year's evaluation. The request to include more operational information to the board as an education piece. The President & CEO expressed gratitude for the evaluation and 100% participation by the board. The committee reviewed and approved the Sanctions and Penalties Enactment Policy.

### Governance Committee:

Sanctions and Penalties Enactment Policy was reviewed, approved and provided to Executive.

### Finance Committee:

Presented in consent items

### Diversity Committee:

Presented in action items

### Quality Improvement:

Presented in Department Directors Report

### IS Strategic Committee:

The majority of the discussion was meeting the milestones for FASAMS. The staff met with providers to determine where they stand with being able to meet the deadlines. The majority of providers feel positive about meeting the required timelines. The goal by June 2021 is to be able to work on the strategic framework for IS.

### Legislative Committee:

Pastor Walker has volunteered to be Chair the committee due to a vacancy. The board approved the motion. The legislative aides are beginning to reach out to the MEs to meet and discuss educational opportunities for the legislature. Zoom meetings have increased the ability to meet with legislatures and will continue to do so as the sessions move forward. Additional legislative updates were provided via the FAME newsletter.

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## 6. TOPIC: Regional Council Reports

### Circuit 6 Pasco:

The council discussed the PCSO expansion of the alternatives to incarceration program through USF funding. The Pasco Schools shared Baker Act & Mobile Crisis data, discovering the Baker Act in schools has gone down. TransCare for transport of Baker Act kids going really well. The Sheriffs Behavioral Health Prevention Team, a co-responder model continues to gather trends which indicate the Fatal & non-fatal overdose are still high. The contributors to overdosing continue to be Fentanyl & Heroin even in opioids. The increases are being seen but there is no wait list, while the need is there is a struggle to get the clients into residential care. Contributors are backups within the drug courts as a result of Covid-19. The increase usage of telehealth has been helpful and as they move to getting the clients back into the offices they are seeing more of a hybrid means of care requested. Some telehealth invoices are starting to be declined by insurance companies and organizations are beginning to stop the telephonic services. 84% of client population in the Pasco residential facility has been vaccinated.

Circuit 6 Pinellas:

The council is continuing to advance goals & mission of Wellness Connection. Barbara Daire & Linda McKinnon provided a presentation to local faith group. Sub-committees are meeting to review and develop bylaws. The system of care is fully engaged and collecting data that was historically fragmented and can be used to improve the understanding of how someone comes into or accesses care. The Chair requested a presentation on the system of care in Pinellas to the full board in June by April Lott / Barbara Daire.

Circuit 10:

The council is reviewing a Bill supported by Rep Soto to enhance CIT programs in the county. Trying to assure support for rural and semi-rural residents have transportation. All CARF accreditation reviews have moved to desk digital reviews. The council suggested network advice providers what to expect during the review. The council is working to establish a mom's & babies program and considering a possible location which was the former ACTS location, 13,000 square foot bldg. that needs improvements done has been secured. The council is seeking recommendations for the purchase, renovation and use of this location.

Circuit 12:

First Step of Sarasota will be onboarding a new Executive Director soon. Certified Community Behavioral Health Treatment are moving forward and well received in the schools. The CTC program is reducing incarceration below 15% with Centerstone. The concern regarding AHCA taking over the FACT teams and there is no clarity for the when and how they will roll out FACT. AOT (Assisted Outpatient Treatment) Program in Ft Meyers. CASL – Harbor Village is already 1 year, with 92% of the persons renewing their lease. Sarasota & Lee counties are seeing reduced recidivism due to the successful housing programs. CASL Blue Sky awarded another tax credit deal to develop 84 units to put into place totaling 180 units over the next 2 years in Miami Dade.

Circuit 13:

The council will report at the next board meeting.

Circuit 20:

Coastal Behavioral Health Center had to shut down for 10-days due to mass spreader on the unit. They were recommended to shut down by the department of health and are in the process of reopening. The lack of staffing is due to illness.

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7. TOPIC: **Open Agenda**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2021.

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8. TOPIC: **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.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: Dr. Ayesha Johnson, 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.

Dr. Ayesha Johnson, Secretary  
CFBHN Board of Directors  
719 US Highway 301 South  
Tampa, FL 33619

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Respectfully submitted by \_\_\_\_\_ - Dr. Ayesha Johnson, Secretary