

CENTRAL FLORIDA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NETWORK
Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2022 Meeting

Members: Nancy Hamilton, Chair
Brena Slater
Craig Latimer, Treasurer
Bennie Allred
Captain Toni Roach
Dr. Joe Bohn
Jeannie Sutton
Josh Dillinger
Nathan L. Scott
Pastor Douglas Walker
Victor Avila

Members Absent: Captain Samuel Rojka
Dr. Ayesha Johnson, Vice-Chair
Dr. Jerome Jordan
Guy Blanchette
Master Deputy Stephanie Krager
Ray Fischer
Ray Gadd, Secretary/Governance Chair
Terry Cassidy

Board of Directors'

Attorney: John Bakas

CFBHN Staff: Linda McKinnon
Julie Patel
Alan Davidson
LaTasha Cohen
Luis Rivas
Stephanie Johns
Laura Gross
Mary Wynnhoff

CFBHN Guests: Candace Barnes
Heather Kaufman, RC Rep.
Melissa Leslie, DCF
Patricia Overway, DCF

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:03a.m.

Crisis Center – 988 Funding Article

Provided as informational for members to review at their leisure.

CFBHN ROC (Recovery Operation Center) – Status Progression PowerPoint

The ROC was set up onsite at CFBHN on 9/25 to prepare for Hurricane Ian & quickly became very busy after Ian passed through. The ROC operated seven days a week for a couple weeks holding calls twice a day with providers in the Sun-coast Region to determine how to get the acute care services fully operational ASAP. Calls were then tiered down to 2 times a week for a couple weeks and now calls are on an as needed basis.

Collaborations with legislators, including Senator Rouson, and Natalie Kelly from FAME made a real impact. Crisis counselors got out to some of the shelters in the affected areas and within 10 days, all providers were up and running except Salus-Care who suffered major damage to its CSU and they still aren't operational.

Items/supplies were donated to our area and to the affected areas by two other ME's, CFCHS (Central Florida Cares Health System) and BBHC (Broward Behavioral Health Coalition) and a U-Haul truck full of supplies from some Polk County churches was also delivered to the network's ROC. Efforts are ongoing to get those items down to the affected areas.

Jeannie Sutton provided an overview of continued work being done in Lee County to get agencies & programs operational. Gratitude was expressed to CFBHN for prompt communications with providers. The Florida Crisis Response team came onsite to provide disaster crisis counseling to both their staff, staff at the town of Fort Myers Beach and many law enforcement entities. Counseling services continue to be offered to nearly 5,000 individuals daily at the DRC (Disaster Recover Center).

Lee County continues to work with Centerstone and The Center for Progress and Excellence (CPE) to ensure they're still operational & able to provide services. The Empowerment Center suffered some damage but they're up and running now which is great news.

Currently, two mass shelters are open; one housing about 518 households and the other housing about 100 medically needy individuals. Centerstone, the Red Cross, and other crisis counseling teams have all been at the shelter providing services.

Daily contact is being made with SalusCare to try to get them up and running including getting their staff out in the community to assist which keeps them functional and employed. Insurance adjustors were recently doing inspections at Salus-Care which is progress from the previous week. An application for FEMA public assistance was submitted and Lee County will continue to provide assistance and consultation as well.

The Chair thanked Jeannie, the network and all who have made such great efforts in working together to help at times like this.

Project Hope is in phase 1 & 2 with support efforts. About 13 or 14 DRC's (Disaster Recovery Centers) have been established and are being staffed by network & provider staff. There's never been a disaster in Florida that was declared for so many counties so this is just the beginning of a long recovery process. A Project Hope grant application has been submitted and included in this budget is hiring a manager as the support efforts will continue for another year or two.

SalusCare working with Lee Memorial hospital to open a unit to provide CSU services while SalusCare is trying to get repaired. The network has requested that DCF intercede with ACHA regarding any needed licensure.

CEO expressed appreciation for its provider partners and other ME's. Both Lutheran Services Florida and Broward (BBHC) provided much support including Broward staffing things for a couple of weeks while no one could get into Lee County except from the east.

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

Discussion

& Decisions: The Board approved:

- August 26, 2022 BOD Minutes
 - June / July 2022 Financials
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3. TOPIC: Action Items (Items Requiring Presentation, Public Comment & Discussion Prior to Action)

Discussion

& Decisions: N/A

4. TOPIC: Information Items:

Discussion

& Decisions: CFBHN Strategic Plan 2022 – 2024

Input from stakeholders, board members, network staff, and others was received in creating the plan which was reduced from a 5-year plan to a 2-year plan allowing for more specific focus and due to the dept. planning to put all the ME's out to bid in 2 years.

The Department and much of recovery has moved towards a Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC) and the dept. wants assurance that the MEs have the elements required for this care and that the providers are fully engaged in these concepts as well.

Overview of the Strategic plan:

Goal 1, an external part of the plan, focuses largely on the dept.'s requirements and is to coordinate, manage and develop services to address the needs of individuals, families and the organizations that provide their care.

Plans are to create or expand RCO's (Recovery Community Organizations) that focus on providing peer support outreach and wrap around services, advocate for recurring funding & provide technical assistance to help in sustaining their operations & achieve accreditation. This will be challenging and require ongoing support to implement due to RCO's not being treatment providers and having no concept of how to deal with a DCF contract and its requirements.

The network will also work with NSPs to identify the strengths and opportunities for improvement related to their recovery orientation which involves completing annual assessments/reviews and providing that information to the Dept. This will largely fall on the network's Consumer & Family Affairs department with the support of

NDCS.

Another main focus is addressing the Network's workforce challenges by reviewing and addressing the NSPs increased operational costs on an annual basis and advocating for recurring base funding to support NSP operations. Increased rates for 22-23 have been negotiated.

Increasing the number of peer services and trainings throughout the network will also be focused on. The network's C&FA's staff (Carol and Beth) have done a great job in training over 500 people that are now active peers but legislation now requires the ME's to provide all the training necessary that will be more involved. The network has contracted with NAMI Pinellas who has developed a web-based training and will be training individuals from provider agencies to promote fee and low-cost workforce opportunities across the Suncoast region.

Goal 2 covers internal operations and seeks to maintain the operational integrity and sustainability of CFBHN. One of the three major focuses is to identify and hire a new CFBHN President/CEO due to Linda retiring at the end of June 2023. Discussions have been taking place and a formal search and hiring plan should be completed by the end of Dec. 2022 with a new CEO being identified and contract negotiated by May 2023.

Another focus is meeting the established performance standards to ensure renewal of the ME's contract with DCF by executing the various DCF initiatives. Meeting data system transition requirements established by Carisk and DCF is and will be ongoing but has gone pretty well so far. Carisk is now collecting and managing the provider's data and submitting it to the dept. with some reporting capabilities still being developed. The network still operates its IT functions and using Lightwave Management Resources to help CFBHN's remaining systems administrator with internal networking issues.

The third focus is to develop and enhance the Board member's knowledge about the work of CFBHN by conducting in-person Board orientation trainings, having one-on-one meetings between Board members and CFBHN Leadership staff to promote relationship building and encouraging Board members to participate in standing committee meetings to learn more about the work of CFBHN.

Alan will provide Dr. Bohn information about a RCO in Pinellas County.

Motion made & second to approve the CFBHN 2022-2024 Strategic Plan. Motion carried.

CEO Report

Included in the packet.

5. **TOPIC: Committee Reports**

Executive Committee:

Met this morning and discussed the need for concrete action to be taken soon for the transition of Linda's retirement next June.

Governance Committee:

No update.

Finance Committee:

Presented in Consent Items.

Diversity Committee:

Discussions have taken place with John Bakas, Board Attorney, the Board Diversity Committee and the internal CFBHN Diversity Committee relating to the new law. The strategic plan for diversity was changed as it initially stated that 100% of staff would participate in diversity training and to be compliant with the law, it now states that it will be offered as a voluntary opportunity for anyone who wishes to participate and not be required.

John drafted a statement and it was sent to the network staff. The network will continue to move forward with DEI efforts.

Quality Improvement:

Presented in the Department Directors Report.

IS Strategic Committee:

No report, on hold.

Legislative Committee:

They haven't met but currently waiting for FAME's statements to be used for statewide issues. Once that information is received, Linda will contact Pastor Walker about scheduling meetings with key legislators this Fall. The legislative committee will schedule a meeting to be sure that the agenda that will be presented is being supported by the board. Some network staff are actively signing up to present at all of the delegations as well.

6. TOPIC: Regional Council Reports

Circuit 6 Pasco:

No report.

Circuit 6 Pinellas:

Suicide prevention initiatives – efforts in terms of outreach are being made. Good cooperation with JWB in leading a community wide effort for youth suicide prevention. Two youth Town Halls are scheduled; the first is for the Hispanic community on the morning of Sat., 10/29 at the St. Pete College, Clearwater Campus and the other will be for the whole community at the same location on November 10th.

Veteran's coffee socials continue to be successful & have led to other efforts with a community based approach and they're bringing in community partners. This has gone around the county and each month except for Sept. has seen 30 to 60 people in attendance. As a result, veterans needing help have gotten connected to the help they need and community partners who previously didn't work together are now actively working together.

The VA has started some of their own veterans only coffee socials and some of the community partners are taking off their "community partner" hat and going strictly as a veteran to participate and the meetings are becoming very productive in talking about issues needing to be addressed.

Wellness Connection is thriving and was just awarded a CCBHC grant to help finance IT related things to provide the connectivity between the providers.

Circuit 10:

There's been a lot of development. TCHS and Peace River received notice that they were awarded CCBHC grants in the past month.

The child welfare electronic system to track & send referrals to behavioral health is going well with 165 referrals in Sept. going to 9 different BH providers.

The Center for BH Baycare in Winter Haven is expanding with another building called the Annex that will house their community based and peer services.

Peace River is launching a children's resilience campus in Polk County in November. The campus will offer a whole continuum of care for kids, young adults and adults that includes parenting support services, CAT teams, case management, support groups and therapy. There will be a dedicated clinic for PCIT services and will serve as a hub for children's community based services.

InnerAct Alliance – October is red ribbon month with social media awareness and activities all month long leading up to the annual Red Ribbon Run on Saturday, October 29th.

Circuit 12:

Peer support introduced into child welfare system. Through the Parents for Parents program and via NAMI affiliate for Sarasota/Manatee, they hired two parents in recovery who've had their kids removed but through case management have now had them returned, to provide peer support to other parents entering that situation.

These programs have been very successful resulting in quicker reunifications, less return to care and more engagement in visitations & case plans. They received seed money from foundation as it's not publicly funded yet but it's hoped that once more data is available, they can expand to Manatee and DeSoto counties. Nathan S. will send info on this program to Laura to share.

Fatherhood initiative funds from DCF were received and they hope to engage more dads and add a male to the group.

Tax referendum funds will be used to support some new programs that are peer oriented including for LGBTQ youth services which aren't traditionally funded through the county or network's contracts.

Circuit 13:

No report.

Circuit 20:

SalusCare status: They're starting to launch into long term recovery and deploying long term recovery groups in the community. Having weekly service connection calls to assess BH needs & find resources for individuals.

The homeless coordinated entry line that was shut down during the hurricane will be restarted and serve as an access point for long term recovery including for individuals that may not have been engaged at the mass shelters still in need of services. A few Behavioral Health screening questions have been incorporated to better determine the services needed to request for long term behavioral concerns in the county.

7. TOPIC: **Open Agenda / Public Comment**

Auditors will be at the December meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2022.

8. TOPIC: **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50a.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.

Ray Gadd, Secretary
CFBHN Board of Directors
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Respectfully submitted by: _____ - Ray Gadd, Secretary