**Board Meeting Minutes**

**April 28, 2022**

**10am to 12 Noon CST**

**Meeting Participants:** Gerald Waters, Kathy Milton, Bambi Smith, Reggie Johns, Charlie Strickland, Keith Dean, Michael Beedie, Mike Watkins, Courtney Stanford, Lori Gulledge, Rae Kerr, Marcia Mathis, David Daniels, Walter Sachs, Shannon Brunson, Charlton Bradley, Shawna Peterson, Ralph Haben, Connie Lyda, Allison Hill, Amy Cliburn, Angie Nichols, Darci Lolley, Felicsa Sims

1. **Welcome and Chair’s Remarks** **Gerald Waters**

We have a quorum of 7. Chair Ronald Pickett is traveling and Gerald Waters is acting in his stead. Special guest, Allison Hill, CEO of Lakeview.

1. **Consent Agenda Gerald Waters**
   1. Review and Approval of Minutes
      1. Board
      2. Executive Committee
      3. Finance Committee
   2. Review Performance Child Welfare/Behavioral Health pages 32-45
   3. Media Coverage pages 46-61
   4. Policy Review pages 62-135

There were no questions. Motion to accept the consent agenda by Reggie Johns. Seconded by Kathy Milton. All were in favor and the consent agenda was approved.

1. **Review and Approval of Finance Committee Report Lori Gulledge**
   1. **21-22 FY**

CBC budget to actual indicates a current deficit of $1.7 million before Risk Pool and DCF Back-of-Bill.  This should be covered once funding is distributed but we are still awaiting this. Rate changes for Residential Group care was sent back to CBC’s by DCF. Rate changes are driven by Federal Law. Initially we expected a 3 million budget hole because we expected higher rates for the beds. However, the state tasked CBCs with setting their own rate.

We asked for Risk Pool budget of 1.3 million which would be effective October 1, 2022. The impact of this is around $475k but is still good. Received Senate Bill 80/96 for specific activities around Kinship. We anticipate 100% of the funding and this will have a positive impact to our bottom line. We are still awaiting the Risk Pool recommendation from the state and have been waiting for around 6 months. Once we receive this it should help us get even at the end of the year. The Risk Pool is 1.7 million.

ME budget to actual indicates a current $168k surplus in administrative expenditures and an overall surplus of $9 million.  The Subcontractor network has significant resources available. There have been meetings 2-3 times per week with the Contracts Department to get those dollars out.

Balance Sheet for NWFHN shows a significant cash flow. 16 million to the department positive invoices each month.

Independent Village, LLC asset on Harrison Ave. Still waiting to settle this with the city.

Managing Entity: Most are subcontracted. NWFHN Operations, 3.3 million budgeted. The macro view of 130 million show how we are spending and funding on this view.

Chair asked for a motion. Reggie Johns made a motion to accept the Finance Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Bambi Smith with all in favor.

* 1. **22-23 Budget & Spending Priorities**

There is 137 million appropriation next year for Managing Entity and Behavioral Health. NWF is competing against others for 20 million in requests. 137 million shows the rate increases –providers can pay the labor costs and attract the work force. 1st priority beyond rate increase is to ask for CAT teams, and neonatal abstinence for exposed newborns. We don’t expect all 20 million that was asked for but we expect 10% which would be around 13 million.

Reggie Johns asked for the status of targeting Veterans for the workforce. Mike Watkins explained that the campaign is called “Continue the Mission”. Flyers were mailed out in C2 and C14 to Veterans regarding the campaign.

Allison Hill discussed the challenge during pandemic and that many Child Welfare and Behavioral Health employees continued working when others did not have to. There’s a great need for positions to be filled but it is difficult when department stores are paying more than the Behavior Health Providers earn. The goal is to remedy this problem.

There are 1.5 million veterans in Florida so this is an untapped force.

With the increases in BH there are also increases in CW (over 7 million for C2 and C14 from the state). Prioritized for the 7million:

* + - 1. Workforce, CM staff increases, FTEs, and the base salary
      2. Prevention to safely allow children to remain in homes.
      3. Increases FFPSA group rate increases and enhanced rates for Foster Families who are with higher risk children.
      4. Cover the deficit

C1 is also expecting about 15 million funding. (Workforce is a focus, deficit, support systems, and support services to enhance the system of care).

Chair Waters agreed that Veterans are a great resource and most have special clearance already. A suggestion was made to visit Veterans Administration offices to recruit.

No other comments.

* 1. **Facility Updates**

MLK had carpeting replaced, repairs to the foundation, painting, tile is in process, lighting has been updated, and new desks are in place. The Crawfordville facility has had the paint and carpet updated. All buildings are increasing security.

* 1. Banking summary – Ameris Administrative team is transitioning to ServisFirst Bank. They have offered to refinance Quincy and our loan for MLK and Wakulla. Harrison offices are also being considered for refinance. ServisFirst is offering below our current rates which would recoup closing costs. Line of Credit will be given a preferable rate.

Executive Committee and Finance Committee discussed this topic and asked Lori Gulledge and Rae Kerr to complete due diligence on the bank which they researched.

Chair asked for motion to accept. Reggie Johns made a made to accept and Kathy seconded.

Angie Nichols will send out a disclosure of conflict of interest regarding the resolution to Board members. The conflict of interest will determine that each member has no relationship with ServisFirst Bank.

1. **Strategic Discussions Mike Watkins**
2. **Annual Priorities**
   1. ITN C1 **Courtney Stanford**

NWFHN submitted a bid for the ITN C1. Long term provider in C1 is Lakeview CEO Allison Hill. Her team has been providing services for over 20 years. Lakeview did not submit a bid and have been in discussions with NWFHN. NWFHN was the only agency to submit a bid.

DCF has removed the negotiation phase. Plan to release the contract on June 10 with start of contract being January 1, 2023.

The Department has the final decision.

There are four phases in the process if we are awarded the bid. Discussion with C1 Providers and team have been had and will continue on a more enhanced basis. The goal is to make impacts at the community level. The phases are engagement, evaluation, development, and an implementation phase of execution and rolling out. Everyone is appreciative of the partnership between NWFHN and Lakeview.

Allison Hill stated that the collaboration with NWF has been going well. There have been meetings with key stakeholders regarding best practices and workforces. Looking forward to the new phase.

No other comments from the Board

* 1. **COA Reaccreditation Courtney Stanford**

Darci Lolley and Amanda Geiger have been working to prepare for the onsite visit on May 16-17 for reaccreditation.

* 1. **ME Update David Daniels**

Page 136

Tess app offers suggestions on coping to help kids. Tested on Middle School age kids. If Tess reads that the kid is in trouble it immediately notifies the mobile response team to go help the child. The “bot” will continue to check on the person each week. “How are you, did you get enough sleep?”. Trigger words go straight to mobile response team.

General Appropriation Act for the $126million.

Would like to see the department expand with a focus on prevention treatment and recovery services. Access to care, provider workforce stabilization. Admin costs will not exceed 2.5%.

SMART: Stopping Meth Among Our Teams. Collaborated with rural county Sheriffs to change the cycle. Website: has a form to fill out and DISC will contact them. Phone # routes to 211 for help. Series of videos are also there from Meth users who have been incarcerated, parents, teachers, etc. Gives options to caregivers. 3rd component is curriculum development that ties to FL teaching objectives that teachers can use in the classroom as a preventative to meth use.

LEO are often the first responders to Mental Health needs. MH and Substance abuse is often the biggest problem per Sheriffs. 7 sheriffs met. MH first-aid is important for LEO.

Charlie Strickland: Served 25 years as a LEO and is a retired deputy. One of the biggest concern as a LEO was not having resources. The key is providing resources and when the deputies have it they can help. He offered to help NWF appear and promote this project.

Active participant in the CIT for LEO to help them understand Behavior or MH issue and how to handle. They give resources during that training.

Allison Hill shared that CIT has been in C1 for many years, The Sheriff’s office requires deputies to attend training every quarter. This training has been extended to other first responders. Escambia Sheriff’s Office and PD. MRT resources are shared with school and others to increase safety. The model is to hire MH professional and they will ride with the officers. Always have a unit on who will respond first if they are the closest. If not then they will be there for backup.

Legislature has funded: 1 Continuation of kill the virgin project. 2. LMC team to work for teens who have been arrested. 3 LMC family functioning therapy program. 4. Special appropriation share to Apalachee for residential beds 1.3 million.

* 1. **Community Engagement page 141 Marcia Mathis**

Highlights: All Staff in Marianna was a success

Appropriations funding year was the best for CP, CW, MH, BH that it has had.

March Social Work month with Social Workers being spotlighted on Social Media.

Easter basket drive from all12 counties donated over 450 baskets for the kids.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month: pinwheels displayed for awareness, blue, treats for the staff

ME functions have worked to help David. Fires in Bay, Calhoun, Gulf. Worked with them on Tess and Smart.

Conference coming up on how it impacts children June 7-8 and will be working with ME on this.

There were no questions from the Board.

* 1. **Conferences Mike Watkins**

There are 2 big conferences coming up: DCF conference August, Contact Angie Nichols to register.

7/11-7/13 FL Coalition for Children, Lead Agency and Providers

8/31-9/2 Orlando JW Marriott Conference: DCF Conference - Board is encouraged to attend. All Circuits will be there, judges, etc.

Date for new Board Meeting in August will be sent out by Angie. Chair agreed.

1. **Review Risk Management Mike Watkins**
   1. **Executive/Legislative**

Change in organization of DCF

Walter Sachs: No significant changes, it’s a realignment not reorganization. Program Directors are being realigned to the Assistant Secretary. No change in relationship with NWF.

* 1. **Legal Ralph Haben**

One current lawsuit.

5/1 – Michael Lee has been at DCF for many years but will begin with NWF as Deputy General Counsel.

From accreditation standpoint there were no other risk issues that needed to be discussed

* 1. Other

1. **Review Governance Gerald Waters**
   1. Status of Directors
      1. Reappointment of Member(s)
      2. Proposed Member(s)

Currently at 11 members and would like 15.

Reggie recommendation: Rep Michelle Salzman, Pensacola (C1). She has expressed interest in joining the board.

Motion made by Reggie, Bambi seconded the motion, none opposed.

1. **Next Meeting: June 23rd in Pensacola at 10am CST**
2. **Adjourn Gerald Waters**

Meeting adjourned by Gerald Waters.