**Board Meeting Minutes**

**April 27, 2023**

**10am to 12 Noon CST**

**Meeting Participants:** Gerald Waters, Reggie Johns, Charlie Strickland, Keith Dean, Teresa Roberts, Bambi Smith, Pauline Patrick, Mike Watkins, Courtney Stanford, Rae Kerr, Marcia Mathis, Ralph Haben, Michael Lee, Amy Cliburn, Christa Pate, Kelly Faircloth, Maureen Castano, Jeremy Scanlon, Kristi Lock, Angie Nichols, Michael Beedie, Corey Chafin- DCF, Katie Zimmer

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

Meeting was called to order and guests were welcomed. It was noted that we have a quorum of the Board.

Courtney shared the recognition for Walter Sachs, DCF in his retirement.

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
   3. Media Coverage
   4. Policy Review

Bambi Smith made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Pauline Patrick seconded the motion and all were in favor. Motion carried.

1. **Review and Approval of Finance Committee Report Rae Kerr**
2. **22-23 FY**

**Pg. 21: Working Budget Summary -** CBC projected to break even in C2/14 and a projected surplus in C1 of approximately $142,000. ME projected Provider surplus of approximately $5.6 million and projected Operating surplus of approximately $415,000. CBCIH projected surplus of approximately $34,000. Capta projected surplus of approximately $6,000. The HHS Grant ended in October 2022 and has been closed. The surplus was returned.

**Pg. 22 CBC budget to actual CBC C1** indicates an Operational FYTD surplus of approximately $1 million and a projected estimated surplus of $1.4 million dollars at June 30, assuming the same rate of spend as is currently reflected. This is assuming only the transition contract and the current AJ500 schedule of funds. We are unaware of the final FFN reconciliation amounts and any potential surplus from that has not been rolled into our schedule of funds.

There were no questions regarding the C1 CBC Budget Summary.

**Pg. 23** **CBC budget to actual CBC C2/14** indicates Operational fiscal year to date surplus of $1.1 million dollars and a projected estimated surplus of approximately $400k through June 30, 2023, assuming the same rate of spend as is currently reflected; however, fluctuations in Out of Home Care could impact this estimate. As this fluctuates the surplus can also fluctuate.

There were no questions regarding the C2/C14 CBC Budget Summary.

**Pg. 24 ME Working Budget** fiscal year to date has an anticipated $16 million dollar surplus based on Provider Expenditures. Operating budget to actual has an anticipated expenditure of $200k in ME. There is a $6.1 million surplus in ME Revenue to Budget.

There were no questions regarding the ME Budget.

**Pg. 25 CBCIH Budget** funding is received for children enrolled in the Medicaid insurance plan. There is a slight surplus through the end of the year which is anticipated to be approximately $39k.

There were no questions regarding the CBCIH budget.

**Pg. 26 CAPTA Grant** has an anticipated $6k surplus. The Capta grant is new and was given during the C1 transition.

**Pg. 27 The HHS Thrive Grant** contract ended on October 2022 and surplus funds were returned to HHS.

**NWFHN Balance Sheets** indicates sufficient cash to meet our cash flow needs. There are enough receivables to generate cash flow.

**Independence Village Balance Sheet**: There are no changes.

There were no questions regarding the Working Budget Summary.

1. **Facility Updates**:

All renovations have been completed. Apalachicola is up and running with the first staff member in place. Several offices are ready as staff need a meeting area.

Space in Crestview is needed, so we are actively working to acquire this space.

Chair asked what the plan was for C1 regarding the lease space. The bank has recommended to continue leasing until Jan 2024 due to market changes.

There were no questions

Reggie Johns made a motion to accept the Finance Report as presented. Motion was seconded by Teresa Roberts. All were in favor and none opposed. Motion passed.

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

Workforce: successful with onboarding and hiring. Seven and a half months have passed since the transition. Providers in C1, FFN team members, and NWFHN Staff are working well together. Our performance has sustained and been enhanced due to the hard work of all involved. Case Load reductions with Case Managers. Previously, Case Managers had 50+ cases and some were up to 71 cases. Those have been reduced. Current expectations are 35 kids on case load with a gradual reduction of caseload. Zero children in unlicensed placements at this time. Constant effort to do this.

The Kinship Team have worked to reach the statewide goal of 40% of Relative/Non-Relative licensed caregivers. They have now exceeded the statewide goal and are at 43%. There has been a reduction in Group Care which is good for the budget.

Janice Thomas: The Independent Living Team in C1 has a relationship with DCF and are working to get vouchers for the youth as they age out. There is a need for more support from the community for the C1 IL students. NWF will continue to work to bring those resources to the youth.

Continuing to focus on children achieving permanency and assisting Anchorage with this goal. Kristy Walters will be the new leadership in Anchorage.

Christa Pate stated that a possible risk issue is the previous policy that Lifeview had regarding remote work. Areas to review for remote determination is the job function, if the individual can handle the responsibility, etc. Supervisor discretion will help with decision making. There are currently two policies: one for C1 and one for C2/C14.

* 1. **ME Update Mike Watkins**

Circuit Admins taking on ME role. David Daniels will be leaving in May. Focusing time on the financial side of ME with the increase of funding for ME and managing growth to get programs in place. Special thanks to Rae Kerr, Maureen Castano, and Amy Cliburn in getting the dollars out. Legal and Procurement have also helped to get the money in the system in a short period of time. There is an investment to market Telehealth and the Chatbot. There are 1.5 million people in our service area and these resources allow people access to a counselor 24 hours per day. Advertising will help get this resource to the community.

The Opiod settlement expects about $15 million in funds. Resources will help but not solve the issue. This will be a multi-year settlement.

* 1. **Faith Liaison Marcia Mathis**

In January 2023, Marcia Mathis was appointed to the position which serves as support to the Governor’s Faith and Community Based initiative. The position also supports our faith based communities across the 18 counties. We currently have 105 Faith Based organizations across the counties. Three of those are Contract Providers, we have a formal contract with six organizations, and 96 are informal; meaning they assist our families with various needs.

New initiatives are on the rise. C14 Jr League modeled the IL Youth room. We are looking for someone in C2 to do this as well. Safe Families is a faith based but preventative service. 28 churches work with Safe Families. The Director is designing a plan for the IL suite in Tallahassee. Churches have donated furniture for the young adults’ room. Another initiative that is in the works is a Faith Organization that can provide Behavioral Health Services and one has been identified. Strategy: 1st Use the current dollars in the ME fund before FYE to provide Behavioral Health Services. 2nd is to put the verbage out in the community to see what might be provided and then fund those services if possible.

* 1. **Medicaid ITN: Mike Watkins**

A letter of intent has been signed with AmeriHealth. ACHA is putting out the largest procurement in Medicaid history. The state is divided into 6 areas. Our 18 counties are in Medicaid A area. Formal arrangement with Community Based Health. Upon removal child is eligible for Medicaid. We have to see what is available in our area for children with services. Will know more regarding this in January 2024.

* 1. **Resiliency:**

NWFHN continues to embrace the Fatherhood Initiative. Jack Brewer was a football player and financial guru who is committed to fatherhood issues. There is a lasting problem when fathers are not involved. Resiliency model: Universal, Selective, Indicated. We have the opportunity to use dollars for fatherhood initiatives. We want to discuss this in a positive way and to help all children to have resiliency. To do this we need Resiliency Coaches and Mentors. Universal: includes all kids with all needs. Selective: would include children in a similar group such as Foster Care. Indicated: smallest group of children who are known by name and by their specific need. All kids need to be trained with resiliency techniques. We are actively trying to develop strategies in the Universal section of the model. This includes continuing to provide services such as Chat Bots and Telehealth in the Selective group and MRT services, etc. in the Indicted. We need to focus on the Universal tools to bring to school districts by the start of the new school year.

Board Member, Teresa Roberts shared that Angela Duckworth, author of GRIT emphasized this need.

* 1. **Criminal Justice: Christina Bertera**

Christina Bertera is the Criminal Justice Specialist working on the Outreach Coordination program in the 13 rural counties. She has been working on the MRT business agreements to utilize the Mobile Response Team and to have an Outreach Coordinator within each Sheriff’s office. Working on gaining buy- in with Sheriffs offices. There are two positions in Franklin County that work with inmates (Care Coordination). Identifying ways that we can help inmates upon release and transition. There is an Outreach person to work with the community.

Funding services in the county jail that we traditionally weren’t able to do. Training Outreach Coordinators in the Cape 5 Assessments. Working on how to utilize funding. All counties are signing on or already have a Coordinator on board.

All of these employees are employees of the Sheriff’s Office. We are giving them a new tool in their tool belt.

Mike Watkins wants this to be a standing agenda item. Christina Bertera was asked to design a playbook for our community with information on Baker Acts, etc. The School Resource Officers are a bridge for a good handoff so that needed medical assistance will be received.

1. **Review Risk Management Mike Watkins**
   1. Executive/Legislative –. This is Day 51 in Session. No significant policy issues in Legislative that would be a risk. We anticipate $30 million on the MH side. We have a good relationship with the Executive side.
   2. Legal- one active case that is not a big concern. **Ralph Haben**
   3. Other: FL Tax Watch issued a study on the Social Service side. They identified 5 key strategies and barriers that need to be addressed: Workforce Stability, Leadership Transition, Litigation Cost, Administrative Burdens, and Funding

Mike Watkins asked if there were any risk issues on behalf of the Board that staff need to examine. Chair stated there were none.

We are in the 2nd phase of the Forensic Audit. We were selected by DCF and are audited annually by an independent auditor. Desk reviews are done twice a year by DCF. Every 18 months the Auditor General audits DCF which flows to us. COU monitoring monitors our contract unit. The Forensic Audit is occurring now. Every 2 years we have a bi-annual audit on site which will be May 22nd. This means that there are audits overlapping each other. This creates a burden on having extra staff to handle this. This also affects our Program Staff because they must look for Case Notes etc.; which is takes time away from normal day to day issues. Mike Watkins wanted the Board to be aware of the Forensic Audit.

1. **Review Governance Gerald Waters**
   1. Status of Directors
      1. Reappointment of Member(s): Request for a motion to reappoint Chair Waters and Michael Beedie for another two year term. Bambi Smith made motion to reappoint both Board members and Teresa Roberts seconded the motion. All approved.
      2. Proposed Member(s): Rendy Lovelady, is the Promotor of the Gulf Coast Jam and actively involved in the community. Reggie Johns and Rendy Lovelady have discussed fundraising for unrestricted dollars.

Reggie Johns made a motion to appoint Rendy Lovelady to the Board. Bambi Smith seconded and unanimously approved.

NWF Partnership Agreement will be sent out for completion to the Board Members. NWFHN Board Members will turn in their evaluation to Angie Nichols who will submit to Michael Lee, Deputy General Counsel.

1. **Next Meeting: June 22nd, 10am CST**

Pensacola

1. **Adjourn Gerald Waters**

Reggie Johns made a motion to adjourn. Teresa Roberts seconded and motion carried. Meeting adjourned.