



Board Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2023
10am to 12 Noon EST

Meeting Participants: Gerald Waters, Reggie Johns, Teresa Roberts, Rep. Michelle Salzman, Rendy Lovelady, Dr. Liz Holifield, Pauline Patrick, Denise Myers, Bambi Smith, Keith Dean, Mike Watkins, Courtney Stanford, Rae Kerr, Angie Nichols, Kelly Faircloth, Jeremy Scanlon, Maureen Castano, Amy Cliburn, Marcia Mathis, Charles McDonald, Christina Bertera, Ralph Haben, Christa Pate, Felicsa Sims, Brandon Logan, Ryan Cox, Terrence Watts, Jillian Jamieson, Kervin Rene, JoAnn Trammell, Janice Thomas, April Hargrove, Shawna Peterson, Charles McDonald

Guest appearance: Brief visit and introduction of Amber Wookey, Department of Children and Families, Natalie Kelly, CEO of Florida Association of Managing Entities (FAME), Alan Davidson, CEO of Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, Maria Bledsoe, CEO of Central Florida Cares Healthy Systems, Silva Quintana, CEO of SE Florida Behavioral Health Network, Dr. John Newcomer, CEO of Thriving Mind South Florida, and Steve Zuckerman, CFO of Thriving Mind South Florida

I. **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.

II. **Consent Agenda** **Gerald Waters**
A. Review and Approval of Minutes
 1. Emergency Board
 2. Board
 3. Executive Committee
 4. Finance Committee
B. Review Performance Child Welfare/Behavioral Health
C. Media Coverage
D. Policy Review

Reggie Johns made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Teresa Roberts seconded the motion and all were in favor. Motion carried.

III. **Review and Approval of Finance Committee Report** **Rae Kerr**
A. **22-23 FY**
CBC budget to actual CBC C1 - Current year budgeted expenses vs. actual expenses through June 30, 2023 included a \$1.5 million surplus. Working budget anticipated a \$142k surplus, so actual expenses through June ended less than anticipated. In late May 2023, DCF awarded approximately \$2.5 million into the contract for carry forward from the first four months of the C1 contract. Upon final DCF closeout, the 23/24 roll forward is estimated to be approximately \$4.1 million. This is an estimate and final closeout will determine exact roll forward amount.

There were no questions regarding the CBC C1 Budget Summary.

CBC budget to actual CBC C2/14 - Current year budgeted expenses vs. actual expenses through June 30, 2023 included a \$1,017,554 surplus. Working budget anticipated this

contract to break even, so actual expenses through June ended less than anticipated. Upon final DCF closeout the 23/24 roll forward is estimated to be approximately \$635k. This is an estimate and final closeout will determine exact roll forward amount.

There were no questions regarding the CBC Budget Summary.

ME Working Budget - Current year budgeted expenses vs. actual expenses through June 30, 2023 included a \$151k operating surplus and an overall surplus of approximately \$4 million. The Provider Surplus is approximately \$3.8 million. We anticipate carrying forward \$275k of Administration dollars, \$211k Care Coordination dollars, with a total of approximately \$487k Operating dollars. There is a \$7.2 million, 7% surplus that we are carrying forward.

Working budget projections anticipated expenses of approximately \$114 million, however, total actual expenses were approximately \$110 million. Upon final DCF closeout the 23/24 roll forward is anticipated to be \$487k of Operating funds and \$7.2 million of Provider funds for a total of \$7.7 million. \$2.5 million in Federal Funds is estimated to be the required payback to DCF. This is an estimate and final closeout will determine exact roll forward amount.

There were no questions regarding the ME Budget.

CBCIH Budget -CBCIH budget shows a slight surplus of about \$5k to carry forward into next year.

There were no questions regarding the CBCIH budget.

CAPTA Grant - This was a new grant that was received in the C1 transition. We broke even on this cost reimbursement grant and it concluded in June.

HHS Grants - These contracts concluded in October 2022.

Amended Working Budget - This is where we started and where we ended. C2/14 anticipated to break even at \$16, C1 anticipated \$142k, and ME anticipated \$6.1 million dollars.

Independence Village Balance Sheet - We are still in negotiations with Florida Housing but there have been no new changes.

NWFHN Balance Sheets - indicates sufficient cash to meet our cash flow needs. Sufficient grants and receivables coming in from the Department. DCF is timely in paying our invoices.

Budget Summary of C1 and C2/14 of Contracts AJ500 (C1) and BJ102 (C2/C14). The summary shows what we anticipate that we will spend in 23/24 without the additional carryover funds included. This includes a Reserve of \$100,000 in C1 and \$50,000 in C2/C14.

Motion to accept the Finance report was made by Reggie Johns. Seconded by Bambi Smith with no objections.

- B. **Facility Updates:** NWFHN guarantees our properties which are held in loans under NWF Partnership. Our facility in Tallahassee which is located on Tharpe Street is currently being appraised for refinance because two of the 2nd mortgages are coming due. The variable interest rate is a little over 8% and came into effect in June 2023. This will be brought before the Board in October. The facility in Apalachicola is currently being occupied without a lease and there is an emerging issue on the property as a result. The property is being appraised for a potential purchase. In C1 we are leasing a facility from Lakeview. Our Banker has advised that the Commercial real estate is expected to decrease in the fall so we are waiting on a possible purchase until the following quarter of 2024.

There were no questions from the Board.

IV.

Strategic Discussions

Mike Watkins

A. Annual Priorities

1. C1 Update -

Christa Pate/Courtney Stanford

Our goals are to increase services in C1 and decrease the number of caseloads in Case Management. Redistributing caseloads to be more equitable is one strategy and hiring more Case Managers is another. Re-procurement for Post Adoption occurred this week. Currently in negotiations for Case Mgmt. but have not finalized anything. The Safety Mgmt. Services Re-Procurement will begin in two weeks, October will be the start of Foster Care negotiations.

2. ME Update

Courtney Stanford

This is our 11th year as an ME. ITN is impending and was delayed due to the hurricane. All 7 MEs are going to be in the ITN. Responding to the ITN requires significant effort and work.

The Opioid settlement was \$11.5 million spread across 17 counties and the MEs will receive the money to manage for the counties in which they serve. Escambia will not receive funds because the population is over 325k people which does not meet the qualifications.

Rep. Salzman discussed the Collaborate Care Model for Long Term Care. This is a vision with the end goal to be the model all across Florida. There will be a meeting on 9/13 to discuss this more. Need a sustainable funding model to ensure the longevity of the program. Board Members in the Escambia area are invited to attend.

Risk Issue: We were put on notice by Emerald Coast Care that they would like to pursue a Centralized Receiving Center (CRF). We are waiting on the CRF funding to be released from the Department.

3. Faith Liaison

Marcia Mathis

We now have close to 150 faith based organizations involved with helping the children and families in our care. Most of the involvement is informal such as providing clothing and food. NWF recently created a partnership with the Share Your Heart organization headed by Pastor Manny. Share Your Heart provides employment services, emotional and spiritual support; as well as basic needs such as food and clothing. The faith organizations are

providing for our Foster families and Kinship Care has seen an increase in the Care Portal which comes from the Hope Program. Safe Families Plus 1 is building a mentor program for our young adults in the Independent Living Program

NWF's recently announced the awarding of Faith Grants. These grants set aside dollars for faith organizations to receive funds for Behavioral Mental Health services and for Teen Meth prevention. We received a total of 12 applications for the grants. Another new initiative is the Faith Summit which is tentatively scheduled for October 19th and 25-50 faith organizations will be invited.

4. **Criminal Justice:**

Christina Bertera

Hurricane updates: Taylor and Jefferson Outreach workers have been working in the community. Franklin, Gadsden, and Jackson Outreach workers have been helping as well. Gulf County is ready to advertise for an Outreach position. Walton had staff changes so they will re-advertise for their position. Madison's hiring has been delayed by the hurricane. Nassau County is funding the Outreach position from their general fund which reveals that others are seeing our success and wanting to replicate. Plans are in the works to deflect first time offenders who have Behavioral Health issues. This could help first time offenders avoid having a criminal record and help them receive BH services. Mike Kemp and Christy Bertera attended the Florida School Resource Officers Conference. The conference was beneficial and created a great deal of interests with others desiring our program.

There has not been a disruption in MRT or CAT Teams in the areas that were affected by Hurricane Idalia. There are teams on the ground helping with crisis counseling. Charles McDonald shared that teams were helping at 9 locations and 6 schools in Taylor County at the request of the Taylor County school system. Disc Village and Apalachee Center have also had staff helping with relief efforts. We expect to be in more locations within the week. The Disaster Recovery Centers will be coming online and initially operating for 14 days in a row. They will then begin operating for 5 days at a time.

5. **Fatherhood Initiative:** NWFHN was the only CBC/ME to be awarded both Fatherhood grants. Lyn Masslieno, has hired the first 2 Fatherhood Specialists and the goal is to hire seven more for the 18 counties we serve. These positions are funded with the grant dollars that were awarded. The Fatherhood Specialists will work with dads in the jails and coordinate help with Behavioral Health. Our goal is to build the specialists then integrate them into the Provider network.

Chair Waters asked to keep Fatherhood Initiative on the agenda.

There were no questions from the Board.

V. **Review Risk Management**

Mike Watkins

- A. **Executive/Legislative** – Storm risks creating the need for crisis support with Mental Health as well as regular needs and the lack of the amendment on the Circuit 1 CRF dollars. We feel that we have a solid position aside from the DCF response to the Audit and have had a positive meeting with Secretary Harris.

B. **Legal-**

Ralph Haben

No current claim against NWFHN at this time.

- C. **Other:** Liability insurance premiums have increased along with health insurance premiums. There was about a 70% increase in property premiums. Professional Liability taking on C1 with ANI increased about 35% percent. With our Captive policy – covers our deductibles if we are in a law suit, \$79 to \$279k increase. Health insurance increased 5.9%. NWF is sharing the increase at a rate of 50%. Our single premium insurance is still offered with a 91% coverage by NWF. Family coverage is about 70% coverage provided by NWF. Historically we covered increases at 100% but we can no longer do this as our costs continue to rise.

The Board was asked if there are any risks issues that were not already identified and there were none.

VI. **Review Governance**

Gerald Waters

A. Status of Directors

1. Reappointment of Member(s): Ronald Pickett and Dr. Pauline Patrick
Pauline Patrick will no longer serve on the Finance Committee. Chair asked if there were volunteers who would like to serve on the Finance Committee. Reggie Johns nominated Teresa Roberts and her decision will be determined at the October meeting.

Motion made by Reggie Johns to keep Ronald Pickett and Dr. Pauline Patrick on the Board. Motion seconded by Representative Salzman. All were in favor.

2. Proposed Member(s): No one at this time, however, the goal is to have 50% of our members in C1 and 50% in C2/C14 due to the state statute.

VII. **Next Meeting: October 26th, 10am EST, Tallahassee – Champions Club FSU**

VIII. **Adjourn**

Gerald Waters