

**Board Meeting Minutes
June 27, 2024
10am to 12 Noon CST**

Attendees: Gerald Waters, , Mike Watkins, Bruce Foster, Arthur Cullen, Reggie Johns, Rendy Lovelady, Pauline Patrick, Liz Holifield, Bambi Smith, Mark Stravos, Michael Beedie, Teresa Roberts, Keith Dean, Rae Kerr, Denise Meyers, Shawna Peterson, Lyn Masslieno, Kelly Faircloth, Christa Pate, Michael Lee, Christy Bertera, Marcia Mathis, Brandi Griffiss, Kristi Lock.

I. Welcome and Chair's Remarks Gerald Waters

Meeting was called to order at 10:15 and guests were welcomed. It was noted that there was a quorum of the Board.

II. Consent Agenda Gerald Waters

A. Review and Approval of Minutes

1. Board of Directors
2. Executive Committee
3. Finance Committee

Acceptance of the consent agenda was motioned and seconded. All were in favor and motion passed.

- B. Review Performance Child Welfare/Behavioral Health
- C. Media Coverage
- D. Policy Review

III. Review and Approval of Finance Committee Report Rae Kerr

A. 23-24 FY

AJ500 (C1 West): Pg. 39:

NWFHN has a \$1.1 million surplus Fiscal year to date through April 30, 2024. NWFHN continues to monitor FSFN expenditures including OHC and Independent Living costs as these are trending with a deficit. Both categories are statewide issues, but specifically to IL, DCF is working on future resolution of this issue. NWFHN is anticipating an approximate \$6 million dollar surplus in AJ 500 at the end of the fiscal year. NWFHN has made a request of DCF to allow BJ102 remaining deficit to be covered by C1 surplus.

BJ102: (C2/14 East): Pg. 41:

NWFHN has a \$570k surplus fiscal year to date through April 30, 2024, but anticipates a deficit by the end of the fiscal year primarily generated because of OHC costs and Independent Living expenditures. NWFHN currently is projecting a \$904,000 deficit at the end of the fiscal year. This is a better position than NWFHN was previously in mid-year. OHC costs and Independent Living costs are a statewide issue, not just being

experienced in C1 and C2/C14. DCF is aware of these issues. DCF did allow us to retain excess Level 1 funding as core dollars to be used toward the deficit. If the Department does not allow NWFHN to cover with C1 funding, there will be a deficit at the end of the fiscal year that will be carried forward into the next fiscal year.

A risk issue was explained by CEO Watkins. There are a number of stakeholders in C1 who are concerned that NWFHN has formally requested C1 contract funds to cover C2/14 deficit. The \$900,000 deficit is 1.5% of operating expenditures over \$286 million dollars across the three contracts. It was explained that if the funds are used from C1, it will not take anything from children's needs in C1. Further discussion ensued regarding actions that NWFHN has taken to reduce the deficit. CEO Watkins is available to answer any questions from the board about this matter. NWFHN will continue to work on the budget issues during the next fiscal year.. All state models show that NWFHN was 5 to 6 million dollars underfunded from the state compared to other circuits. NWFHN has 400 more kids than Miami who was funded 40 million dollars more than NWFHN.

ME working budget to actual pg. 43:

There is currently a \$14.6 million surplus fiscal year to date through April 30, 2024. NWFHN is working with providers as the year-end approaches to ensure all data is in Behavix to maximize spending. Only 8% can be carried forward. There is also a barrier to how NWFHN can spend the money. Circuit Administrators works with providers to spend money where it can be and where it would be most beneficial.

No questions about the ME contract.

There were recent negotiations with DCF for the ITN on HME contract. NWFHN feels good about the negotiations. Typically, a 5-year contract is awarded. NWFHN anticipates hearing back on Aug. 12. The new contract will take effect. Sept. 1. NWFHN was the only bidder for our area except for Madison and Taylor Counties. NWFHN pushed to have those counties stay with us.

No questions about ITN negotiations.

Sunshine Health contract: NWFHN currently has a surplus of \$96,673 fiscal year to date through April 30, 2024 in this program. The program is expected to break even or have a slight surplus at the end of the fiscal year.

Fatherhood Grant :

NWFHN currently has a surplus of \$385,000 fiscal year to date through April 30, 2024 in this program. This is a cost reimbursement grant and any excess funds at

the end of the fiscal year will revert to the department as carryforward. This is a three-year grant. The NWFHN team is working to get this program moving forward as there was a late start to the grant.

Balance Sheet:

NWFHN Balance Sheet: Sufficient cash flow to meet the needs of the agency. Nothing unusual noted.

Independence Village: No significant changes from the prior period.

CEO shared that he wants to work with Chair Waters marking the accomplishment when the ME contract is awarded. He would like to recognize staff and board members on their hard work.

Rock the Kids Event: The Event occurred in all 3 circuits. NWFHN made a profit of approximately \$50,000 as a first-year fund raiser. The profit was not what NWFHN had hoped, but awareness and relationships were built within the communities served. NWFHN will be doing an after-event action meeting to discuss. Thank you to all board members and staff members who helped with everything involved, made donations, worked event etc.

B. Facility Updates

Facility updates: no issues with owned properties. Trying to locate other facilities for C1 counties, but NWFHN did renew the Escambia lease for 12 months through 6/30/2025.

Chair asked for a motion for approval of finance committee report: Motion was made and all approved. The motion to accept was approved.

IV. Letter (note change from “Line” on Agenda) of Credit for ANI Professional Liability Insurance **Rae Kerr**

Risk issues: It is now a requirement to have a \$300,000 letter of credit in order to fund the deductibles for the insurance plan. This is a requirement for all CBCs across the state with ANI. NWFHN is working with Servis First to see if this letter can be secured, and it is anticipated the letter will be available. Michael Lee said a resolution or action is not needed from the Board.

V. Performance Bond for CBC Lead Agency Contracts **Rae Kerr**

DCF is requiring all CBCs to have performance bonds to meet statutory requirements. Michael Lee is working to see if this bond is available on the market.

Michael shared that he is also working with another CBC's as well to see if a better rate can be obtained if multiple bonds are purchased together. He is hopeful for a resolution in the next week if the bond is available in the marketplace. If it's not, it will have to be presented back to the Legislature to remove from statute. It's been in statute for 25 years but has never been enforced. The Secretary of DCF is giving grace for first quarter of the year. This requirement will increase our insurance budget. Funds will pass through to the contract budget.

CFO requested a board motion to carry forward a continuation budget for the 24/25 budget until the 24/25 schedule of funds is received from DCF to allow finalization of the budget.

A motion was made to accept and seconded. Continuation of Budget was approved.

VI. Strategic Discussions

Mike Watkins

A. Annual Priorities

1. C1 Update

Christa Pate

Updates: After becoming the lead agency, NWFHN was required to procure key services within 24 months. NWFHN has been working with our CMO, FFN to reduce caseloads. The majority are under 25 cases now. There are a few who still have over 25 cases and they are working to make sure all case managers are under 25 cases and not just an average of caseworkers under the 25 cases. The ideal goal is for each case manager to have 15 cases each.

Adoptions – NWFHN, in partnership with FFN has been working on increasing the number of adoptions which will also help reduce caseloads. NWFHN has had high number of adoptions this year, exceeding national numbers. C1 Circuit Administrator has a meeting tomorrow with Lifeview about contractual and financial issues concerning adoptions and formalizing NWFHN processes.

IL contract – NWFHN anticipates the negotiation for IL to go smoothly and contract to be issued by August 1, 2024

Foster home development – historically there were several providers that help with this program. NWFHN has continued to work with these providers and made awards to One More Child and Embrace Florida Kids for traditional foster care, NYAP for enhanced foster care, and Children in Crisis for campus-based sibling foster care. There are negotiations still underway with all four providers.

Children's Home Society was chosen for the Evidence Base Practice – Functional Family Therapy. They are in the credentialing phase for a new team. This is first opportunity that NWFHN has directly funded to bridge the gap between community

kids and children in the dependency system to try and divert them from deeper end care. This is a clinical service targeting youth with severe behaviors including delinquency and substance use. NWFHN has the ability leverage services like these across the entire spectrum of care and to be able to keep families together is exciting.

Exits and Entries: NWFHN is at a historically low number of children being served overall and those in out of home care. There are 150 fewer kids in care now than last fall. Lower numbers in out of home care allow us to redirect funds to the front end to help prevent kids from coming into care.

Reunifications have increased as well. NWFHN is doing a better job engaging families and celebrating families who reunify.

BHME: There continues to be a lot of work on CORE and the Opioid contracts across the circuit. Escambia County has had an operational CORE program for a couple of years while Okaloosa CORE is new. To stand up their CORE program, Okaloosa County is partnering with Bridgeway Center. There are bi-weekly meetings with those teams.

A big event in C1 recently was the opening of the Lakeview Centralized Receiving Facility (CRF). They opened April 22nd. The CRF transitioned from Baptist to Lakeview. NWFHN continues to have one on one behavioral health meetings with providers to create communication and identify critical areas that need attention early on. There has been positive feedback.

Christa and her team were recolonized by CEO for their hard work in getting numbers down and working through the transition as lead agency in C1 for the last 21 months.

2. BHME Update & Opioid Settlement

Christa Pate

NWFHN holds bi-weekly meetings with the counties on how they are managing the funds, and ensure county needs are met. NWFHN is working to support the counties as the lead agency. Yearly funds change for year 2 of the contract with a significant decrease. Changes in funding over the life of the contract occur and NWFHN has no say in the dollar amounts given to the counties.

3. Faith Liaison

Marcia Mathis

The program continues to grow and is resulting in great support for the children and families served. Churches and faith-based organizations continue to support the FFS team for events for families. Examples given were: A C1 event for foster families and recruitment. In C2 kids in care were offered a free

sports camp. A Super Saturday training event in C1 - Pensacola went well. Five churches sponsored QPT classes. A church does a monthly feeding program for families in C1.

NWFHN continues to work with and support the Governor's Faith Based Initiative Program. NWFHN is assisting with the expansion of Care Portal. NWFHN issued over \$250,000 in faith grants. Churches that were contracted with want to continue to participate and churches that did not participate have asked to get involved.

The FCC BOD instituted a faith and community subcommittee. There are 20 other CBCs and providers participating which allows more services to be provided to the families served.

4. Criminal Justice

Christy Bertera

Outreach Coordinators have been working with Fatherhood Initiative to get into the jails to support fathers who are in jail. They had a Father's Day Event recently.

NWFHN has continued meetings with the Sheriff's Offices about MRT Services. They have finished in C2 and are now working in C14, and met with Life Management Center recently.

Deflection – NWFHN has successfully engaged 16 of 18 counties served by NWFHN in the Law Enforcement Certification for Peer Support. NWFHN began work in the outlying counties first and will now move into Leon County. There was a huge response in Peer Support interest from Law Enforcement. Some are working on finishing up certification and should be first in the state and nation to have Certified Peer Support Specialists. NWFHN is partnering with Board Member Keith Dean on how to utilize these Peer Support Specialists.

5. Fatherhood Initiative

Lyn Masslieno

No update.

VII. Review Risk Management

Mike Watkins

A. Executive/Legislative

B. Legal

Ralph Haben

Michael Lee and Ralph will be switching positions starting July 1. There are no new risk issues since the last meeting. NWFHN has been able to reduce to one

risk matter that is being worked on at this time. There is a pending motion to dismiss the case.

Michael Lee added to conversation about Insurance issues that Rae discussed earlier. He discussed rising insurance premiums. Michael Lee asked the Board if they had any risk items that needed attention. None were noted.

C. Other

VIII. Review Governance

Gerald Waters

A. Status of Directors

1. **Reappointment of Member(s):** Teresa Roberts and Mark Stavros are up for reappointment before the next Board meeting. Teresa stated she would like to stay on. Mark Stavros said yes as well.

A motioned was made to reappoint Teresa and Mark. It was seconded. All approved Reappointment for Teresa Roberts and Mark Stavros.

2. **Proposed Member(s) :** none

IX. Next Meeting: September 5, 2024, Orlando, Fl.

FCC Conference, July 21-23, Marriott Sawgrass Resort & Spa, Ponte Vedra Beach
Florida Children & Families Summit, September 4-6, JW Marriott Orlando

X. Adjourn

Gerald Waters

Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was made and seconded. It was so moved and the meeting adjourned at 11:55.