

**Minutes**  
**Mental Health Services of Catawba County**  
**Board of Directors**  
**Thursday, May 15, 2008**  
**7:00 P.M.**

The Mental Health Services of Catawba County Board of Directors met on this date in the first floor conference room at First Plaza.

Members of the Board present included: Kitty Barnes, Joe Beaman, Jr., David Boone, John Dayberry, Lori Faulkner, Danny Graves, Ronald Kendrick, Crystal Leathers, Charles Phillips, Harold Setzer, and Maynard Taylor. Excused and/or absent for other equivalent circumstances were Susan Anderson, Ray Von Beatty, David Isenhower, Dr. Tom McKean, and Dr. Robert Yapundich. Mental Health staff present included John Hardy and Janice Cornett.

A quorum was present.

**Handouts**

Handouts distributed prior to the opening of the meeting included the following: (1) Minutes of the May 7, 2008 meeting of the Budget/Finance and Executive Committees; (2) Logo for Mental Health Partners; (3) NC Association of County Commissioners Bulletin #08-01; (4) Summary of Recommended Adjustments to the 2008/2009 NC State Budget for Mental Health; (5) NC Council Positions on the LOC Draft Legislative Recommendations; (6) Mercer Report for Mental Health Services of Catawba County; and (7) Budget Revision of FY 2007/2008.

**Invocation**

Joe Beaman, Jr. led the invocation.

In the absence of Chair Tom McKean, Acting Chair Joe Beaman Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. and welcomed all in attendance.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the April 17, 2008 meeting of the Board of Directors were presented.

Kitty Barnes made a motion that the minutes of the April 17, 2008 Board of Directors meeting be accepted as presented. David Boone seconded the motion.

There was no discussion, and it was voted to accept the minutes of the April 17, 2008 Board of Directors meeting as presented.

The minutes of the May 7, 2008 meeting of the Budget/Finance and Executive Committees were presented.

Kitty Barnes made a motion that the minutes of the May 7, 2008 meeting of the Budget/Finance and Executive Committees be accepted as presented. David Boone seconded the motion.

There was no discussion, and it was voted to accept the minutes of the May 7, 2008 meeting of the Budget/Finance and Executive Committees as presented.

### **Citizen Comments**

There were no citizen comments.

### **Commissioner Comments**

Catawba County Commissioner Kitty Barnes noted that she had attended a meeting in Raleigh on May 14<sup>th</sup> regarding Mental Health. She then referred to the April 21 and May 5 editions of the Commissioners' Synopsis that were included in the Board packet for information on what the Catawba County Commissioners have been working on.

Maynard Taylor, Burke County Commissioner, apologized for missing the April meeting of the Board of Directors. He noted that the Burke County Board of Commissioners has been working on the budget and necessary cuts in some areas. In addition to approving a housing grant application, the commissioners are also working on water issues, jail issues, and repairs and improvements to the court.

### **Director's Report**

1. Catawba Valley Behavioral Healthcare (CVBH) has moved into their new space in Burke County on the campus of Grace Hospital. This location is much better and consumers are responding well.
2. The General Assembly is requiring LMEs to attend a multi session training through the Mental Health Leadership Academy on the campus of the Kenan-Flagler School of Business in Chapel Hill. MHSCC has chosen to do a project on Customer Service as part of this training. Therefore, we are doing an in-house project to look at who our customers are and how we can better respond to them.
3. Mental Health Partners (MHP) continues to move forward. John then referred to the handout showing the new logo for MHP and how it will look on stationary, business cards, newsletters, etc. We are also in the process of redoing our current website. It was suggested that "Serving Burke and Catawba Counties" be added to the logo.
4. We are still working on space issues on the fifth floor of First Plaza. We hope to settle these within the next couple of months.
5. MHSCC continues to recruit to fill vacant positions. We have hired a Human Resource Director from McDowell County. A position in Finance and one in Access have also been filled.
6. John attended the last meeting of the Family to Family classes. He referred to Crystal Leathers for an update on NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness). Crystal noted that Hickory will finally have an affiliate chapter of NAMI and everyone is very excited about this. NAMI helps families with support and information about mental illness and how to deal with it. Paul

Mulqueen will serve as President of NAMI Greater Hickory , and his wife, Marie, will serve as Vice President.

7. There will be some additional slots available for the Community Alternative Program (CAP) waiver. This is a waiver from traditional Medicaid rules to allow other services to be provided. The available slots are distributed on a per capita basis. There are about 290 slots between Catawba and Burke Counties. The ratio is about a 60/40 split, with 174 slots for Catawba and 116 for Burke. There are concerns as to how we best manage the CAP wait list – need based or first come? Catawba County currently manages the wait list on a rating system based on the severity of needs, while Burke managed CAP on a first come, first served basis. A new CAP coordinator was hired about 4 months ago, and she has been charged with going through the wait list and restructuring it based on need. We anticipate receiving 15 additional slots for both counties and the wait list will be integrated. There is very little turnover in the slots (usually 5-10 percent). Turnover is usually due to relocation or death. Changes are usually in dollars (tiers) based on need changes.
8. John referred to the legislative bulletin from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and a second handout which addresses issues set forth in the Governor's budget in the area of mental health. It shows budget recommendations broken into several categories, as well as other recommendations from the Legislative Oversight Committee (LOC). John then referred to a three page handout showing a detailed look at some of the recommendations of the LOC and how it attempts to deal with some of the mental health issues. This handout also notes the NC Council position on each recommendation of the LOC.
9. The Mercer report for MHSCC was distributed prior to the opening of the meeting. This reports shows the ratings for MHSCC in specific areas. The agency was rated #3 in the State, with Crossroads rated #1 and Smoky Mountains rated #2.
10. We need to do a detailed review of some of our policies and create some new policies for Mental Health Partners. The policies will be presented at the June Board meeting. The Integration Committee will meet on June 11<sup>th</sup> to review the policies and make recommendations.

## **Consideration Items**

### **Board of Directors for Mental Health Partners**

We need a new Board of Directors and new officers for July 1, 2008 (Mental Health Partners). Do our current officers continue to serve for the first few months to allow the new Board time to congeal, or does this group decide on officers for 2008/2009?

After a brief discussion, it was decided that the new Board should decide on their own officers. The Board will make a resolution at its June meeting to retain Joe Beaman, Jr. and Ray Von Beatty as officers until the new Board appoints its own officers. Director John Hardy will meet with the county commissioners on the Board to discuss possible Board nominees.

## **Action Items**

### **Budget Revision**

Director John Hardy referred to the handout of the proposed budget revision for FY 2007/2008. An allocation of \$20,000 has been received on a recurring basis for a newly funded Housing Specialist position. This amount will be annualized to \$60,000 for FY 2008/2009.

MHSCC will be returning \$380,590 that will not be used to the State. The dollars came from an allocation from the State for Burke County and will be reallocated next year.

These revisions result in a net difference of \$360,590 reduction in the current budget, bringing it to \$23,975,537.42. The Budget/Finance and Executive Committees have reviewed the proposed revision and recommend its approval.

David Boone made a motion to approve the proposed revision to the 2007/2008 budget as presented. Harold Setzer seconded the motion.

There was no discussion, and it was unanimously voted to approve the revision to the 2007/2008 budget as presented.

### **Information Items**

Joe Beaman, Jr. reviewed the information items with the group. Any Board member interested in attending the trainings in either Asheville or New Bern should contact Janice Cornett.

With no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice D. Cornett  
Administrative Assistant II  
Clerk to the Mental Health Board