

Minutes
Mental Health Services of Catawba County
Board of Directors
Thursday, June 19, 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: Susan Anderson, Kitty Barnes, David Boone, John Dayberry, Lori Faulkner, Danny Graves, David Isenhower, Ronald Kendrick, Dr. Tom McKean, Charles Phillips, Harold Setzer, Maynard Taylor, and Dr. Robert Yapundich. Excused and/or absent for other equivalent circumstances were Joe Beaman, Jr., Ray Von Beatty, and Crystal Leathers. Mental Health staff present included John Hardy and Janice Cornett.

A quorum was present.

The meeting agenda was mailed to the Board and media on approximately June 13, 2008.

Handouts

Handouts distributed prior to the opening of the meeting included the following: (1) Minutes of the June 11, 2008 meeting of the Integration Committee; (2) North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Legislative Bulletin #08-06; and (3) North Carolina Council of Community Programs Legislative Alert dated June 19, 2008. In addition, Director John Hardy passed around a copy of the North Carolina Council's positions on the House and Senate Budget Bill and Special Provisions 2008 and a copy of a press release announcing that inspectors have found Broughton Hospital to now be in compliance and will be recommending the hospital's certification for receiving Medicare and Medicaid funds. Commissioner Maynard Taylor distributed copies of the Burke County Board of Commissioners Summary of Meeting on June 17, 2008.

Prior to the opening of the meeting, the Board enjoyed cake and a brief social time to celebrate the farewell to Mental Health Services of Catawba County and welcome to Mental Health Partners.

Chair Dr. Tom McKean called the meeting to order at 7:14 P.M. and welcomed all in attendance.

Invocation

Danny Graves led the invocation.

Minutes

The minutes of the May 15, 2008 meeting of the Board of Directors and the minutes of the June 11, 2008 meeting of the Integration Committee were presented.

David Boone made a motion to accept both the minutes of the May 15, 2008 Board of Directors meeting and the minutes of the June 11, 2008 meeting of the Integration Committee as presented. Kitty Barnes seconded the motion.

There was no discussion, and it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the May 15, 2008 Board of Directors meeting and the minutes of the June 11, 2008 meeting of the Integration Committee as presented.

Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

Commissioner Comments

Catawba County Commissioner Kitty Barnes referred to the May 19, 2008 and June 2, 2008 editions of the Commissioners' Synopsis that were included in the Board packet for information on what the Catawba County Commissioners have been working on. She noted that the commissioners had accepted bids at the June 2nd meeting for a waste water treatment pipeline in the southeastern part of Catawba County.

Commissioner Barnes, Commissioner Lynn Lail, and Assistant County Manager Lee Worsley attended "Senate Day" in Raleigh last week. This day provides an opportunity for lobbying on important issues. The group met with several members of the legislature. They were also able to talk with Senator Martin Nesbitt, Jr., Co-Chair of the Legislative Oversight Committee. Senator Nesbitt expressed his satisfaction with the proposed budget and issues with crisis care.

Burke County Commissioner Maynard Taylor referred to the summary he had distributed of the June 17, 2008 Commissioners meeting. He noted that only 3 of the 5 commissioners were able to attend the meeting due to other obligations. The commissioners approved several economic development agreements which will bring hundreds of jobs to Burke County. They are also working on the budget and hope to have that finalized by next week.

Commissioner Taylor noted that he, along with other representatives of Burke County, had also attended "Senate Day" in Raleigh. The group spent a large portion of their time speaking with legislators about the planned Foothills Allied Health and Science Education Center.

Director's Report

1. Director John Hardy referred to the handouts distributed prior to the opening of the meeting. The North Carolina Council of Community Programs Legislative Alert highlights several items related to the Senate version of the House's budget plan. The North Carolina Council's position is also shown, with counter recommendations highlighted in yellow. We anticipate new ideas and new dollars coming with the approved budget.
2. The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Legislative Bulletin #08-06 looks at a wide range of issues. Noted on page 2 of this handout is that the Senate budget includes an additional \$63 million in mental health funding, most directed at improving local crisis services.
3. The entire staff of the LME has just completed a four hour class in customer service. The training provided a better understanding of the variety of customers we serve on a daily basis and how we can do a better job of working with people.

4. The first Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) concludes with a graduation ceremony tomorrow. This training helps law enforcement officers gain a better understanding of mental illness and how to deal with mentally ill consumers in their roles as law enforcement officers. The 40 hour training consists of presentations, role plays, tours, etc. The training was attended by officers from the Hickory, Longview, and Conover Police Departments, as well as from the Catawba and Burke Sheriff's Departments. This is the first of two planned trainings.
5. Merger continues to move forward and the LME is working with Catawba County to solve the many details of merger in regard to finance, human resources, IT, etc. We expect some glitches and will work through those as they occur. Overall, the process has gone well and Catawba County staff members have worked very well with LME staff to assist with our needs. We appreciate their efforts and the exceptional and cooperative attitudes displayed by all.
6. A provider forum was held this morning at Catawba Valley Community College for both Catawba and Burke providers. The purpose of the forum was to give providers an update on changes. We will probably host a provider form quarterly.
7. John and several staff members attended the North Carolina Council's Spring Policy Forum in New Bern June 9-10. Attendance was not as high as in previous years, but it was interesting to hear some of the comments on the political climate of North Carolina.
8. The LME continues to work on Child Substance Abuse. The Council on Alcoholism in Burke County has committed to providing treatment as well as prevention. Clay Wilson has also agreed to provide treatment for Child Substance Abuse.
9. CFAC (Consumer and Family Advisory Committee) has now been a committee formed of representatives of both Catawba and Burke Counties for eleven months. They will be hosting their first consumer forum on Saturday (June 21). Dubbed "Super Saturday", the event will be held at the Community House in Morganton and will feature educational presentations from several mental health professionals. A continental breakfast and buffet lunch will be provided.
10. Signage for the LME will be changed at First Plaza next week to reflect our new name of Mental Health Partners. The change has already been made at the Morganton office.
11. The new website for Mental Health Partners will be up and operational by June 30. The link will be mentalhealthpartners.org.

Consideration Items

There were no consideration items.

Action Items

Resolution on Leadership Continuance

As the current Board for Mental Health Services of Catawba County transitions into the new Board for Mental Health Partners seven existing Board members will be leaving and five new voting members will be appointed. To maintain Board stability, the current Board discussed at the May 15, 2008 meeting that some of the existing leadership might continue until the new Board is fully in place and can select its own leadership. As a result of that discussion, Resolution #01-2008 was presented at tonight's meeting. The resolution extends the leadership terms of the current Vice Chair and Secretary to function as Chair and Vice Chair respectively until the new Board of Mental Health Partners is able to elect officers, or up to six months, whichever comes first.

David Isenhower made a motion that Resolution #01-2008 be approved as presented. Ronald Kendrick seconded the motion.

There was no discussion, and it was unanimously voted to approve Resolution #01-2008 as presented.

Approval of Policy Package

A package of policies needed to launch Mental Health Partners has been put together. The package consists of basic policies for Governance, Finance, and Human Resources. The Integration Committee reviewed all of the policies at its June 11, 2008 meeting. The committee made recommendations for modifications to wording and/or content. The copies were then revised and mailed to the full Board for review in the Board packets. The Integration Committee recommended that the policies be approved as presented.

Kitty Barnes made a motion that the policies presented be approved as presented. Susan Anderson seconded the motion.

There was a brief discussion. Ronald Kendrick asked if the Mental Health Partners Board would evaluate the Director. Director Hardy answered in the affirmative and noted that this is included in the Board by-laws. The question was also asked as to whether the policies would be presented to both the Burke and Catawba Boards of Commissioners and who would present them. It was decided that the LME would send the policies to both county managers so they could take them to the commissioners. The policies would be an informational item for the commissioners as there is no need for them to approve the policies. If requested, Director Hardy would attend the Commissioners' meetings and present the policies.

With no further discussion, it was unanimously voted to approve the package of policies as presented.

Information Items

Chair Tom McKean reviewed the information items with the group.

Ronald Kendrick thanked the Board members leaving the Board for their service and expressed appreciation for their hard work over the years. At this point, Commissioner Barnes came forth and

presented plaques to the exiting Board members. Members recognized, along with their length of service to the Mental Health Services of Catawba County Board, were as follows:

Harold D. Setzer – August 2, 1999 – June 30, 2008 (9 years)

Susan Anderson – February 3, 1997 – June 30, 2008 (11 years)

Dr. Robert Yapundich – February 4, 2002 – June 30, 2008 (6 years)

David Boone – January 18, 2000 – June 30, 2008 (8 years)

David Isenhower – July 1, 1999 – June 30, 2008 (9 years)

Charles Phillips – March 17, 2003 – June 30, 2008 (5 years)

Dr. Tom McKean – July 1, 2000 – June 30, 2008 (8 years)

Board member Crystal Leathers will also be leaving, but was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Crystal has served on the Board for 5 years (March 17, 2003 – June 30, 2008).

All of these Board members have served Catawba and Burke Counties well and will be missed.

The first meeting of the Mental Health Partners Board is scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, July 24, 2008 in the first floor conference room at First Plaza.

With no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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