

**Minutes
Mental Health Partners
Board of Directors
Thursday, November 20, 2008
7:00 P.M.**

The Mental Health Partners Board of Directors met on this date in the conference room at Life Skills in Hickory.

Members of the Board present included: Joseph Beaman, Jr., Kitty Barnes, Todd Carswell, John Dayberry, Lori Faulkner, Dr. Anthony Frasca, Danny Graves, Cynthia Houser, Ronald Kendrick, and Maynard Taylor. Excused and/or absent for other equivalent circumstances were Ray Von Beatty and Michele Hamby. Mental Health Partners staff included John Hardy and Janice Cornett.

A quorum was present.

The meeting agenda was mailed to the media and Board members on November 14, 2008. There were no representatives of the media.

Handouts

One additional action item, "MOU with Mountain State University" was distributed prior to the opening of the meeting. Also distributed were copies of the *Closed Session Minutes* from the October 25, 2008 Board of Directors' Meeting.

Tour of Life Skills/Overview of Catawba Valley Behavioral Healthcare

Prior to the opening of the meeting, Board members were given a tour of the Life Skills Facility by Program Director, Kandi Dubuque. Life Skills is operated by Catawba Valley Behavioral Healthcare (CVBH) and moved to this new state-of-the-art facility in April 2005. The facility provides a day treatment program designed to assist individuals with developmental disabilities to develop basic work, social, and daily living skills.

Immediately following the tour, John Waters, CEO of CVBH, presented a brief overview of CVBH – a comprehensive service provider working to meet the needs of citizens in both Burke and Catawba County. Mr. Waters thanked the Board and Director John Hardy for their support of CVBH as the provider has expanded its programs in an effort to better serve the citizens of both counties. He noted a high increase in the need for outpatient counseling and psychiatric services, probably due to the stresses of the current economic conditions. The largest expansion of services has probably been in emergency services, crisis services, and mobile crisis services. CVBH, through a partnership with a pharmaceutical company, now has an in-house pharmacy which has been in operation for approximately one month. The pharmacy will be able to assist consumers being discharged from hospitals with the medications they need as they make the transition to outpatient services, gain the financial assistance to purchase medications, etc.

CVBH recently completed the on-site survey for accreditation through CARF and Director Waters feels confident that the agency will receive full accreditation.

Call to Order

Chair Joe Beaman, Jr. called the meeting to order at 8:05 P.M. and expressed appreciation for the tour of Life Skills and the overview of CVBH, both giving the Board members an insight into the services provided by CVBH.

Invocation

Maynard Taylor led the invocation.

It was noted that this will be Mr. Taylor's last meeting as the Burke Commissioner to the Mental Health Partners (MHP) Board. His service and hard work during the transition to MHP is very much appreciated and he will be missed.

Closed Session

Danny Graves made a motion to go into **Closed Session** for review and possible discussion of the Closed Session minutes of the October 25, 2008 Board of Directors' meeting which pertain to a personnel matter under NC GS143-318.109. Todd Carswell seconded the motion.

By unanimous vote the Board voted to go into **Closed Session** at 8:11 P.M.

The Board returned to **Open Session** at 8:16 P.M.

Minutes

Upon return to Open Session, Tony Frasca made a motion to accept the Closed Session minutes of October 25, 2008 as presented. Cynthia Houser seconded the motion.

There was no discussion, and it was unanimously voted to accept the Closed Session minutes of October 25, 2008 as presented.

Next, the minutes of the following meetings were presented: (1) October 24-25, 2008 Board Retreat; (2) regular MHP Board of Directors' meeting of October 25, 2008; and (3) November 12, 2008 meeting of the Budget/Finance and Executive Committees.

Todd Carswell made a motion that the minutes of all three meetings be accepted as presented. John Dayberry seconded the motion.

There was no discussion, and it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the three meetings as presented.

Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

Commissioner Comments

Catawba County Commissioner Kitty Barnes referred to the copies of the *Catawba County Commissioners' Synopsis* that were included in the Board packets for an update of the issues discussed at the October 20 and November 3 meetings. She noted that the Board of Commissioners dealt with a lot of animal control issues at its most recent meeting this past Monday. The Commissioners are also beginning to work on the budget and goals for next year.

Maynard Taylor, Burke County Commissioner, stated that there were 12 consent items on the November 18, 2008 agenda. All were approved, including the Settlement Agreement between Burke County, Catawba County, and MHP. The Commissioners also approved a three-year lease for the former mental health building. As a result of the recent election, three members of the Board of Commissioners will be leaving the Board at the end of November. Thus, the Commissioners tried to use this meeting to "tie up loose ends".

Director's Report

1. Director Hardy gave a presentation on the mental health system to the Legislative Oversight Committee earlier today. He distributed a summary of the notes he used for that presentation as an overview of the discussion.
2. The director attended a dinner at Flynn Home in Morganton last week. This is a halfway house for individuals struggling with substance abuse issues. Flynn Home is interested in reviving their efforts and will probably be requesting some assistance from MHP.
3. Natalie McBride of MHP's Provider Relations Unit was present at the exit interview with CVBH and the CARF reviewers. The interview was positive.
4. MHP has been reviewing its contracts. We are looking at utilization and making projections for the remainder of the fiscal year. We will strive to respond and fill in shortages where possible.
5. CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) training with law enforcement officers is presenting positive results. We have had some interesting incidents in recent history with positive responses by officers as relating to the CIT training.
6. Two families (one in Burke County and one in Catawba County) have been identified as needing some assistance during the holidays. The employees of MHP have "adopted" these families and will try to provide for some of their needs through personal donations.
7. MHP is engaging in a contract conversation with Catawba Valley Medical Center (CVMC) and the State. The three-way contract would provide \$1.7 million a year for the next three years for indigent care. CVMC currently has 22 psychiatric beds. This contract would expand the number of beds, possibly to 38 beds over the three-year period.

Consideration Items

There were no consideration items.

Action Items

State Reductions and Budget Revision

As noted in the minutes of the November 12, 2008 meeting of the Budget/Finance and Executive Committees, MHP has received budget reductions totaling \$507,474. The reductions are in three categories:

▪ LME Administration	\$162,884
▪ Service Dollars	\$329,521
▪ CASP (Cross Area Service Programs)	\$ 15,069

Director Hardy referred to the proposed budget revision included in the Board packet. He noted that MHP has looked at where monies are expended, made projections for dollars needed through the end of this fiscal year, and looked at uncommitted dollars – all to determine where budget cuts could be made with the least impact to our consumers. The budget revision incorporates these budget reductions, and we do not believe there will be a negative impact to consumers. However, if we find that an area is being negatively affected, we will pull from our uncommitted dollars.

MHP has also received additional dollars from two sources: (1) \$21,000 in additional ABC funds from Catawba County; and (2) \$4,850 in State United Way Grant dollars for a housing initiative to assist the homeless population.

These additions result in a net decrease of \$481,624 to the current budget of \$21,294,891, bringing the revised budget to \$20,813,267.

The proposed revision includes a request to internally realign some dollars to establish one new position that would dually serve guardianship (the number of wards continues to increase) and provide care coordination for consumers with developmental disabilities. The position would work 2/3 in guardianship and 1/3 in care coordination for development disabilities.

On a positive note, we learned on November 19 that an additional \$10 million slated for reductions by the State is not going to happen – at least not at this time.

The Budget/Finance Committee recommends approval of the proposed budget revision as presented.

Kitty Barnes made a motion to approve the budget revision as presented. Danny Graves seconded the motion.

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

Settlement Agreement and Draft Letter

There have been many discussions with the counties in regard to financial settlements with MHP for FY07/08. County management of both counties are in agreement with the settlement presented to the MHP Board and the numbers are fully agreed upon by all parties. The Settlement Agreement was approved by the Burke County Board of Commissioners on November 18. The agreement has not yet gone to the Catawba County Board of Commissioners for approval.

The agreement addresses the settlement of fund balance generated by Mental Health Services of Catawba County in FY07/08, while serving both Burke and Catawba Counties. The settlement represents unexpended LME administrative funds, unexpended Medicaid and State service dollars, and miscellaneous earnings. Of the total settlement figure, \$282,276 is attributed proportionately from Burke County and \$354,497 from Catawba County. The \$354,497 currently held by Catawba County will be transferred to MHP no later than December 1, 2008. Burke County authorizes Catawba County to make payment of Burke's portion of \$282,276 directly to MHP, no later than December 1, 2008.

Remaining county dollars will revert back to the respective counties. Of the total unexpended county funds of \$41,191.00, \$115 belongs to Burke County and the remaining \$41,076 belongs to Catawba County.

In paragraph 4 on page 3 of the agreement; all parties agree that signing the agreement acknowledges that beyond the contributions outlined in the agreement, Burke County and Catawba County have no more historical financial obligation to MHP.

Director Hardy stated that a request of \$159,500 is currently before the Burke County Commissioners for the support of non-reimbursable expenses for consumers in Burke County. This agreement would not prevent MHP for making similar requests to the counties as needs materialize. We also need to settle for FY07/08 and use some of those funds to satisfy the current year's obligations.

Secondly, we need to look at the draft letter to the counties that was presented at the October Board Meeting. It was agreed that the Board would review the finalized letter at its November meeting. The letter was written regarding the amount of fund balance the counties transferred to MHP. If the Board is in favor of the settlement agreement, the sending of the letter would be cancelled and there would be no further discussion of fund balance since the agreement negates any further historical financial obligation of the counties to MHP.

The Budget/Finance Committee recommends approval of the Settlement Agreement with the counties.

Danny Graves made a motion to approve the signing of the Settlement Agreement with the counties. John Dayberry seconded the motion.

The floor was opened for discussion. There was a discussion regarding the pros and cons of signing the agreement. Some felt it was best to close the subject of fund balance and move forward. Others had a desire to pursue the issue. It was noted that once a decision is made, all Board members need to support the decision whether they are in agreement with it or not.

At the conclusion of the discussion, a vote was taken on the signing of the Settlement Agreement and cancelling the letter to the counties to further pursue the subject of fund balance. The vote was 4-3 in favor of signing the Settlement Agreement, and the motion passed. The Board Chair did not vote.

MOU with Mountain State University

Mountain State University (MSU) offers graduate level education through the Hickory Metro Education Center. We currently have two employees enrolled in a MSU graduate program. MSU is offering tuition discounts of 20% to large employers in exchange for those employers promoting their program among employees. MHP is eligible for the discount if we continue program promotion to employees and

employees of our providers. Therefore, MHP is asking for Board approval to join into this agreement with MSU.

Todd Carswell made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with MSU. Dr. Tony Frasca seconded the motion.

There was no discussion, and it was unanimously voted to approve the MOU with MSU.

Information Items

Chair Joe Beaman, Jr. reviewed the information items with the Board members.

The next Board meeting will be held at Connections in Newton on December 18, 2008.

With no other business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice D. Cornett
Administrative Assistant II/Clerk to the Board