

**Minutes
Mental Health Partners
Board of Directors
Thursday, July 16, 2009
7:00 P.M.**

The Mental Health Partners (MHP) Board of Directors met on this date in the first floor conference room of the First Plaza Building in Hickory.

Members of the Board present included: Kitty Barnes, Joseph Beaman, Jr., Lori Faulkner, Dr. Anthony Frasca, Danny Graves, Michele Hamby, and Cynthia Houser. Excused and/or absent for other equivalent circumstances were Ray Von Beatty, Todd Carswell, Bruce Hawkins, Sr., Ronald Kendrick, and Elizabeth Young. Mental Health Partners' staff present included John Hardy, Melanie Britt, and Janice Cornett. Gordon Cappelletty, Program Director of Family N.E.T. in Hickory, and 17 guests from Appalachian State University were also present at the meeting.

A quorum was present.

The meeting agenda was mailed to the media and Board members on July 10, 2009. There were no representatives of the media present.

Handouts

A synopsis of Family N.E.T. and the services provided through that agency was distributed prior to the opening of the meeting. Also distributed were three forms required by Board by-laws to be reviewed and signed by all Board members annually: (1) Assurance of Confidentiality; (2) Ethical Code of Conduct; and (3) Conflict of Interest Declaration.

Call to Order and Welcome of Guests

MHP Board Chair Joe Beaman, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. He welcomed all in attendance, especially the guests from Appalachian State University who were present with their instructor to observe the Board meeting as part of an assignment for their summer session. Chair Beaman asked the students' instructor, Reid Smithdeal, to tell the Board about the class. Mr. Smithdeal explained that these students are part of a MSW level class and this particular session of the summer session deals with learning how to manage a human services agency.

Chair Beaman noted that, in the interest of the students and their time constraints, we would manage the agenda a little differently and move the closed session to the end of the meeting.

Invocation

Dr. Anthony Frasca led the invocation.

Minutes

The minutes of the June 18, 2009 meeting of the Board of Directors were presented.

Kitty Barnes made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 18, 2009 meeting of the Board of Directors as presented. Cynthia Houser seconded the motion.

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

Chair Beaman then referred to the three forms distributed to all Board members prior to the opening of the meeting. Board members need to review, sign, and return these forms to Janice Cornett before leaving this evening. The forms are required under the MHP Board's by-laws.

Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments. Therefore, Director John Hardy used this time to present an overview of Mental Health Partners to the students in attendance.

Director Hardy explained that MHP is a Local Managing Entity (LME) organized as an area authority under GS 122C and governed by the Board. He explained the organization of the MHP Board and appointment process for members of the Board. MHP functions as a public entity and is governed by the rules for such. There are 24 Local Managing Entities (LMEs) across the State of North Carolina. Most are multi-county entities and are required by the state to serve a population of 200,000 or more.

Established July 1, 2008, MHP is an oversight and contracting organization with an annual budget of approximately \$25 million – mostly state and federal dollars. In addition to the dollars expended through the LME, there is probably another \$50-\$60 million that is expended through Medicaid and not managed through the LME. MHP serves as the "implementation arm" of the State and counties' interests. The goal of the organization is to assess and respond to the needs of the consumers in the community.

Commissioner Comments

Catawba County Commissioner Kitty Barnes noted that the county adopted its FY 2009-2010 budget on June 17. However, the budget is still to be predicated by a State budget. The big news in Catawba County is the announcement that Apple, Inc. is planning to build a data center in Maiden.

Burke County Commissioner Bruce Hawkins, Sr. was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to other meeting obligations.

Presentation on Family N.E.T.

Gordon Cappelletty, Program Director of Family N.E.T., gave an informative presentation about Family N.E.T. and the services that agency provides to the citizens of Catawba County. Family N.E.T. was created in 2004 as a result of Mental Health Reform legislation passed in 2001. The goal was to develop a comprehensive provider capable of providing multiple services, with a focus on early intervention with youth. Since many "high needs" children also have social services needs, mental health and social services integrated for the purpose of better serving these children and their families.

Dr. Cappelletty referred to the last page of the synopsis distributed prior to the opening of the meeting. This page provides an illustration of the services provided by Family N.E.T. Therapists are available in many of the schools in Catawba County and the goal is to have a therapist in every school within the

next 5-7 years. Family N.E.T. also provides therapeutic in-home services. Dr. Cappelletty noted that Family N.E.T. averages 418 return appointments scheduled each week. The “no show” rate for appointments is slightly above 10 percent.

Family N.E.T. has an operating budget of approximately \$4 million. The four largest sources of revenue are Medicaid, the LME (MHP), Catawba County, and Social Services.

Update on Broughton Hospital

Dr. Tony Frasca gave Board members an update on Broughton Hospital. He divided the update into two categories: (1) general operations and (2) the new hospital project.

General Operations

Budgetary concerns are still the largest issue and the budget is still unknown. Broughton has lost approximately 100 positions, currently by attrition as all vacant positions have been eliminated. At this time, there is no prospect of having these positions restored. This leaves Broughton Hospital with about 1100 employees right now. The purchase of equipment and supplies has been frozen. Broughton is busy managing a “delay list” of people waiting in emergency rooms at hospitals for available beds at Broughton. These people are mostly adult males. Broughton is working to reorganize their resources as best they can to meet the needs of the community.

New Hospital Project

Dr. Frasca was in Raleigh more than a month and a half ago by invitation of Representative Hugh Blackwell. Dr. Frasca met with Representative Blackwell and Representative Mitch Gillespie to express concerns about the State’s plan for a new Broughton hospital and to offer suggestions for the continued use of some of the existing buildings on the hospital’s campus. He also talked with a number of other people while in Raleigh. Dr. Frasca gave the Board an overview of his experience in Raleigh and noted that he had felt positive about it when he left. However, approximately 3-4 weeks ago, Representative Blackwell called and stated that there had been no effect on the State’s plan for the new hospital.

Dr. Frasca has been invited to meet with the mayor of Morganton tomorrow and to speak to the Burke County Board of Commissioners within the next few weeks. He noted that another building on the Broughton campus (apartments utilized by the doctors) has now been condemned because Broughton was not permitted to fix a leaky roof. Also, the construction staff contracted by the State to build the new hospital has already stated that they will not be able to build what is needed with the dollars available.

Director Hardy stated that he has a commitment from Secretary Cansler to come to Morganton to meet about Broughton Hospital once the General Assembly settles the budget issue and adjourns.

Director’s Report

1. Director Hardy and Melanie Britt, MHP’s Policy Analyst, were in Raleigh yesterday (July 15). It appears that the State’s budget will be delayed another two weeks or so. Legislators are still debating revenue/reduction issues. Preliminary information seems to indicate a \$30-\$70 million dollar cut in services, or 10-20 percent of what exists, plus a 4-5 percent reduction in LME

administrative dollars. All is still speculation and the details keep being adjusted regularly. The State briefing yesterday confirmed this information and the fluid aspect of the particulars. Other changes are a major reduction in group home services for children and the elimination of the Community Support Program. The reduction in group home services (Level III and IV) will affect 42 children from Burke and Catawba Counties. On the positive side, there is likely to be some funds for both three-way inpatient contracts with the hospitals, but the amounts have not yet been determined as we wait for the budget to be resolved.

2. MHP has been approved for Single Stream Funding effective July 1, 2009. There is a major internal effort to realign the methods of doing business to reflect that approach. In the short run it will take a bit to make the transition, but long term it is the preferred way of doing business. This will allow MHP to receive all dollars in one lump sum instead of receiving it in multiple "pots" designated for specific services.
3. Provider Forums were held in Catawba and Burke Counties the week of June 22nd with most providers attending. People seemed to appreciate the straight forward approach to doing business and the general plan for the first quarter of FY 2009-2010. It is difficult for providers to manage their business not knowing the details of available resources. The general plan has been to provide a quarter's worth of funding, based upon the June 30, 2009 ended contract minus 15 percent. Contracts were sent to all providers today.
4. There was a tragedy at Walden House, an adult care facility in Hickory, this past week. One resident killed another. The victim was 70 years old and the perpetrator was 43. Both were active consumers of services. The event illustrates the wide range of people in those facilities and that people with mental illness can be unpredictable. While violence is rare for most, it does happen. High risk people sometimes engage in high risk behaviors.
5. A series of articles on the mental health system is being run in a website media known as the "*Catawba Valley Citizen*". A major request for information has been received by MHP and is being responded to. The lead reporter is a former employee of Catawba Valley Behavioral Healthcare (CVBH).
6. Director Hardy was away the week of July 4th for a family vacation. He expressed appreciation to the staff of MHP for managing business in his absence.
7. Some key people in the organization have had some serious health related problems and that has challenged others to step up. One will require a period of recovery after a week in the hospital and the other is undergoing testing. The concept of succession planning has been applied in both circumstances as they are supervisory staff.
8. The next Board meeting will be at the First Plaza Building in Hickory on August 20, 2009 at 7:00 P.M.

Consideration Items

LME Performance Update

Melanie Britt, Policy Analyst for MHP, referred to the "*Critical Measures at a Glance: SFY 2009 3rd Quarter LME Performance*" document that was included in the Board packets. This document is published quarterly and provides an overview of LME performance across the state on critical measures that are included in the Performance Contract. It is basically a "report card".

MHP has remained strong in its strong areas. There was a slight decrease in the "emergent" area of timely access to care where MHP went from 100% to 99%. MHP does well in the "urgent" access to care area and continues to struggle with "routine" appointments. There is more difficulty in managing appointments for mental health issues as it is the largest disability area. Director Hardy noted that there has been a significant increase in the demand for mental health services due to the current economic conditions.

Action Items

Adoption of Board Calendar

A draft of the proposed MHP Board Calendar for FY 2009-2010 was included in the Board packet. The calendar remains consistent with Board meetings being held on the third Thursday of each month unless otherwise noted.

Dr. Anthony Frasca made a motion to approve the proposed Board Calendar for FY 2009-2010 as presented. Lori Faulkner seconded the motion.

There was no discussion, and it was unanimously voted to approve the Board Calendar for FY 2009-2010 as presented.

Board members then had a brief discussion of meeting locations for the upcoming year and offered several suggestions. Janice Cornett will work on confirming meeting locations by the August meeting.

Appointment of Finance Committee

The Board needs to appoint a Finance Committee for FY 2009-2010. As Treasurer of the Board, Todd Carswell will serve as Chair of the Finance Committee. Mr. Carswell was unable to attend tonight's meeting, but has recommended that Elizabeth Young and Lori Faulkner be appointed as members of the Finance Committee. He has spoken with both ladies and they have indicated a willingness to serve in that capacity.

Kitty Barnes made a motion that Lori Faulkner and Elizabeth Young be appointed as members of the Board's Finance Committee for FY 2009-2010. Dr. Anthony Frasca seconded the motion.

There was no discussion, and it was unanimously voted to appoint Lori Faulkner and Elizabeth Young as members of the Finance Committee.

Information Items

Community Needs Assessment, Quarterly Update

Melanie Britt gave a brief overview of the Community Needs Assessment Quarterly Update. MHP has prioritized three areas for attention in FY 2009-2010: (1) Continued focus on the crisis service array; (2) Modification of integrated service delivery models – shift in how services are delivered; and (3) Greater awareness and communication within the provider network.

Several activities have been accomplished in addressing these goals. Some of these activities are as follows:

- CIT (Crisis Intervention Training) for law enforcement officers
- Training with providers on the NC-START Model
- Working to get the 3-way contracts with the local hospitals re-initiated
- Updated training to providers on Mobile Crisis Services
- Regular meetings of the Community Crisis Advisory Board
- More peer support and wellness recovery management
- Development of a benefit plan for State funded services based on utilization and budget data
- Keeping providers informed and current with budget information

Chair Joe Beaman reviewed the remaining information items with the group. Director Hardy noted that MHP was able to save about \$17,000 on its business insurances for FY 2009-2010. Also, the financial summary included in the packet is not the traditional report as MHP is still trying to close the books on FY 2008-2009. Some state funds are still outstanding. We hope to be able to do a budget revision in August or September depending on when precise numbers from the State are known.

Commissioner Barnes stated that Catawba County is hosting the annual conference for the NCACC (North Carolina Association of County Commissioners) in August. Connections Clubhouse (CVBH) has been contracted to provide pieces of pottery as gifts for the attendees.

At this time, the regular meeting of the MHP Board of Directors concluded. Chair Beaman wished the visitors from Appalachian State University much success in their future endeavors and they exited the conference room.

Closed Session

Kitty Barnes made a motion to go into **Closed Session** for review and possible discussion of the Closed Session minutes of the June 18, 2009 Board of Directors' Meeting which pertain to a personnel matter under NC GS143-318.109. Lori Faulkner seconded the motion.

By unanimous vote the Board voted to go into **Closed Session** at 8:27 P.M.

The Board returned to **Open Session** at 8:30 P.M.

Minutes

Upon return to **Open Session**, Dr. Tony Frasca made a motion to accept the Closed Session minutes of the June 18, 2009 meeting as presented. Danny Graves seconded the motion.

There was no discussion, and it was unanimously voted to accept the Closed Session minutes of June 18, 2009 as presented.

Adjournment

With no other business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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