

Board Meeting Notes – April 12th 2021

Members Present

Barbara Barrett, Chair
John Kronstain
Nora Demleitner
Peggy Whitehead, Secretary
Tom Woroz
Dr. Barry Blumenthal
Edna Harris
James Murphy
David Szwedo

Members Absent

Ms. D Pryor
Stephen Wunsch
Helayna Banks

Others Present

Lisa Beitz, Executive Director
Emerald Pickett, acting for Jessica Phipps, Executive Assistant
Kathy Williams, Senior Director

Barbara Barrett called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM. There were not comments from the public and no public present.

Ms. Barrett shared that the next VACSB conference, *Service Agility*, will be held virtually on May 5th- 6th. Board members should contact Jessica to be registered. Sessions will be recorded and available later on the VACSB website. The VACSB hopes to hold the October conference in person in Roanoke, VA.

Ms. Barrett reminded the Board that organizational queries by individuals or the media should be directed to herself or to Lisa Beitz.

Lisa Beitz gave her remarks:

DBHDS expects 100% face-to-face (in-person) sessions for Liaisons, PACT & Housing. The Leadership Team is actively working on a plan to increase in-person F-T-F services across some programs; DOJ & DD Case Management requires 100% in-person F-T-F starting May 1st; Mental Health & Substance Case management will follow.

Leadership Team also actively working on a hybrid model for in-office work, targeting this summer to have the structure in place. Anticipate on April 13th nailing down a time frame for implementation. It's unlikely that administration will return to the pre-COVID model of 100% on-site.

Consumer care will move to/remain on a hybrid model. Plan will differ from team to team and between buildings; locations will have different plans according to situation & need. Group work at Preston will stay virtual through telehealth longer. Will be using group rooms for clinical services, converting most public rooms to socially-distanced, clinical use. We will not be opening up our meeting spaces outside of Region Ten use for the foreseeable future.

The Board had no questions about the preceding items.

Leadership Team working towards consistent logo & branding across the agency, including terms and language use. Over the next several months will standardize across social media, website, brochures, letterhead etc. Everything relates to “We are Region Ten,” with goal to strengthen employee identification as part of Region Ten instead of primarily identifying with their particular program. Ms. Beitz emphasized coming back to a central vision and central mission of the agency. She stated that the branding was important for reinforcing that all of us are on the same team, that we have to be organized in our language and our outward facing appearance and conversation; if we’re not, it only causes confusion in the community about who we are and what we do.

Regional Crisis Call Centers: proposal will be submitted to the state this week. Based on the results for similar models across the country, when the call center is fully up and running, up to 80% of incidents of hospitalizations could be diverted. Based on the Georgia model, we have a 20-year trajectory to fulfill this goal. Linked to the Marcus Alert system in the belief that, over time, it could also decrease incarcerations and use of force. Will stand up an Adult Mobile Crisis Response in 3-6 months. In general, though, the project is in its early stages.

A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Ms. Barrett:

Creation of nominating committee put in place for Chair and Vice Chair of the Board. Stephen Wunsch & Nora Demleitner are working on this. Process is to nominate in May, vote in June, and new terms to begin in July.

Evaluation of Executive Director: Anonymous questionnaire sent to the Board to assess Ms. Beitz’s performance. At the end of April, Mr. Kronstain & Ms. Barrett will meet with senior leadership for their assessment of the E.D. On May 3rd (tentative date) there will be a meeting (closed session) of the Personnel Committee for evaluation. From there, the committee will update the Board & make recommendations on continuing the relationship with Ms. Beitz. Then the full Board will have a closed meeting to vote on whether or not to continue Ms. Beitz’ employment, notify her, and begin contract negotiations.

Resuming in-person Board meetings: Motion to resume in-person meetings in May with an option for Board members to attend via Zoom; seconded by Mr. Kronstain; passed unanimously. Possible time/day change for meeting broached. This sparked discussion of using a hybrid model, with Board members having the option of attending via Zoom, and how to ensure virtual attendees could best participate (e.g. be heard). Dr. Blumenthal stated that he could make a virtual meeting at four but because of the commute would arrive for an in-person meeting at 4:15. Ms. Barrett reiterated her preference and support for in-person meetings. Use of Zoom would necessitate use of Training room instead of Conference Center; agreement that public participation should continue via Zoom due to social distancing concerns.

Announcements/Additional Concerns:

Mr. Kronstain discussed the idea of the Board reaching out to/visiting the Rural areas of the agency and exploring inviting rural program managers to attend Board meetings. He feels there is a disconnect with what is happening in the rural programs. Ms. Beitz & Ms. Barrett supported the idea of having rural managers participate in Board meetings on a rotating basis to share the status of their respective programs and the impact of COVID-19 on their services.

Other Business:

Ms. Beitz announced that the committee overseeing the agency budget will be meeting over the next month and discuss it with the Board at the May meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:59.