

Minutes of the OPC Area Board Meeting
Thursday, March 8, 2007
Administrative Office - Europa Center

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Moses Carey, Commissioner Jimmy Clayton, Commissioner Tom Vanderbeck, Amanda Blanks, George Greger-Holt, Kathleen Herr, Sandra Herring, Henry Pleasant, Richard Edwards, John Stewart, Sue Schwartz

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Lori Ireland, Jim Leis

STAFF PRESENT:

Dave Jenny, Lynne Hamlet, Donna Prather, Debra Farrington, Judy Truitt, Ivy Williams, Cim Brailer, Tom Velivil, Vanessa Neustrom, Janine Reda

GUESTS PRESENT:

Mabel McGlothlen, DMH Representative
Gwen Harvey, Assistant Orange County Manager
Leann Brown, OPC Attorney
Virginia Hill, Chair of CFAC
Vanessa Alston, Potential Board member from Chatham
Roland Siverson, Potential Board Member from Chatham

CALL TO ORDER:

OPC Chair George Greger-Holt called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Greger-Holt opened the floor for public comment. There was none.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

John Stewart motioned to approve the February 8, 2007 Minutes of the OPC Area Board meeting as written. Commissioner Carey seconded the motion. The motion carried with eleven board members voting in favor and none opposing.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON:

Mr. Greger-Holt had nothing to report, he did want to express his thanks to his fellow Board Members regarding his recent appointment as Chair and noted the recent news articles regarding mental health in North Carolina. Mr. Greger-Holt described the tone of the articles as appropriate, including the article that covered Judy Truitt's presentation to the Orange County Board of Commissioners Meeting.

Commissioner Vanderbeck motioned to amend the agenda to include the swearing in of Richard Edwards to the OPC Board. John Stewart seconded the motion. The motion carried with eleven board members voting in favor and none opposing. Mr. Greger-Holt then asked Mr. Edwards to swear to support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States and the state of North Carolina. Mr. Edwards swore to faithfully discharge the duties as an OPC Board member and the Constitution and laws of the United States and the state of North Carolina.

Before moving forward with the meeting, Commissioner Vanderbeck introduced two potential Board candidates from Chatham County, Roland Siverson and Vanessa Alston.

AREA DIRECTORS REPORT:

Judy Truitt began the Area Director's report with an update of information submitted to the Division of Mental Health (further denoted DMH).

1. OPC submitted an application for the Mental Health Trust Fund in initiatives A, B, C, and D.

- a. Initiative A allocates funds to increase community capacity for Child Mental Health and Substance Abuse: these funds would be used as start-up funds needed to provide increased support of community based and in-home services for children and adolescents with mental health and substance abuse problems.
- b. Initiative B funds increasing Mental Health Community Capacity: described as funding to address community capacity service expansion in order to continue downsizing of the four state psychiatric hospitals.
- c. Initiative C works to increase Substance Abuse Community Capacity: described as funds for start-up needs to include non-hospital medical detox capacity, transitional housing for substance abusers, halfway house services, intensive outpatient treatment programs, and other services to effectively serve clients in local communities.
- d. For Initiative D, OPC requested Mental Health Trust Funds for Private Not-for-Profit or Private For-Profit Organization(s) for Identifiable One-Time Non-Reimbursed Costs Related to MH/DD/SAS Service System Transition & Transformation.

Within each initiative, OPC has unique programs it plans to invest in if awarded monies from the Mental Health Trust Fund. For further details see page eight of the March 2007 OPC Board Packet. Cim Brailer assured the Board that OPC considered the stability of the programs when submitting the application for the Mental Health Trust Fund. Ms. Brailer also wanted to clarify that OPC is targeting funds that reach-out to potential consumers whose needs have not been met.

2. Local Business Plan

Ms. Truitt presented OPC's Local Business Plan (further mentioned as LBP) for its final review by the OPC Board before calling for approval by the three Boards of County Commissioners. Ms. Truitt expressed how pleased Management Team was with the plan. She described the plan as aggressive and hopeful, while taking into consideration the past, present, and future. DMH encouraged OPC to pay particular attention to financial issues in the LBP, including future financial plans and current financial issues. Management Team believes OPC succeeded in bringing all components together. Ms. Truitt then called for Board Members suggestions or concerns regarding the LBP. Board members indicated that they felt the plan was well written and consistent with the long-term plan for our system.

Ms. Truitt indicated that OPC staff is still working on the plan and will take comments or suggestions until the LBP is submitted to DMH. OPC staff will add to the current plan, but at this time do not plan to remove any sections. The LBP can be found on page 14 of the March 2007 OPC Board Packet. Ivy Williams added that the LBP is available online through the OPC Area Program website. Commissioner Carey motioned to approve the LBP. Sue Schwartz seconded the motion. The motion carried with eleven board members voting in favor and none opposing.

3. Homeless Mental Health Housing Initiative - Application Status Report

Ms. Truitt introduced Vanessa Neustrom who is currently leading the work in preparing the Homeless Mental Health Housing Initiative application for submission to DMH. Ms. Neustrom explained how DMH is requesting applications from LME's for a new pilot program. The program will fund a Housing Support Team in three communities. The maximum award available per LME is \$644, 280 for an estimated 26-month project period. Three major goals of the initiative are to use Housing Support Teams to provide housing support coordination services to targeted homeless individuals and families; increase organizational housing support coordination capacity and knowledge; and document the cost benefit of housing support coordination services to public systems. The target population would be homeless individuals or heads of household with behavioral health disorders who cycle through public systems such as prisons, jails, emergency rooms, psychiatric hospitals, or treatment facilities (cycling through systems is defined as at least four admissions in three years or at least 12 consecutive months).

DMH is using the three communities as pilots that may identify successful programs for the state as a whole. Ms. Neustrom identified the responsibilities and the expenses that would fall to OPC Area Program. OPC staff would need to spend time participating in quarterly meetings and monthly phone conferences; submitting reports on the Initiative's Performance Measures (five reports during 26-month project); assist the Evaluation Contractor to obtain information on services provided to

consumers before and after program participation; and arrange for data on consumers to be tracked. The costs that OPC would be responsible for are travel costs for employees to Learning Collaborative meetings and training costs recommended by the initiative.

The Board members were supportive of OPC submitting this application. Commissioner Carey agreed that the initiative works well with the 10-year plan to end homelessness and he strongly supports the evaluation process the initiative requires. Kathleen Herr referenced the safe housing program Asheville, NC employs that focuses on consumers sustaining safe housing as a good model for OPC to emulate. Mr. Edwards encouraged a dual disorder treatment program for mental health and substance abuse; other Board members agreed dual disorder programs are critical for the homeless population.

Mr. Edwards motioned to proceed with the Homeless Mental Health Housing Initiative. Commissioner Carey seconded the motion. The motion carried with eleven board members voting in favor and none opposing.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Greger-Holt announced that the Board needed to enter into a closed session for legal matters. Ms. Schwartz motioned to close session for legal matter following committee announcements. Ms. Herr seconded the motion. The motion carried with eleven board members voting in favor and none opposing.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Dave Jenny, Chief Finance Officer presented the current Financial Activity Report. OPC has not yet received a final decision from the regional accountant on the outcome of the 2003 TSR for non-UCR funds. Mr. Jenny also explained that Jack Parsons, DMH's financial consultant, is scheduled to visit OPC during March for a financial review.

Mr. Jenny distributed February's financial statements and a reimbursement report. During the February 2007 Board meeting, the Board requested that the Finance Department prepare a reimbursement report. The Finance Department included in this report the \$11.9M providers have billed OPC for services; OPC's billing of \$11.5M to Medicaid and IPRS, receipts from Medicaid and IPRS equal \$6.7M, and \$5.8M in payments to providers.

In February's financial statements, there was a negative fund balance. OPC expected LME funds to arrive at the end of January, but this money has not arrived at this time. Mr. Jenny was notified today that the funds were now expected to arrive before the close of the month. UNC Horizons Alternative Treatment Program for Women with Substance Abuse issues have not turned in billing for \$800K. The billing needs to be submitted before the funds can be drawn down.

OPC CAPITAL ASSETS POLICY

Mr. Jenny proposed a revision to OPC's Capital Assets Policy. The OPC auditors recommended raising the capitalized limit from \$1k to \$5k. This limit is in

accordance with GASB 34 and meets state guidelines. The Finance Committee approved the revision prior to the Board Meeting and Mr. Jenny requested Board approval. Commissioner Jimmy Clayton motioned to approve the proposed revision to OPC's Capital Assets policy. Mr. Stewart seconded the motion. The motion carried with eleven board members voting in favor and none opposing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee:

The committee had no further information beyond Mr. Jenny's report above. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on April 12, 2007 at 6 p.m.

DD Committee:

The DD Committee did not meet tonight. The next DD Committee meeting will be held on April 12, 2007 at 6 p.m.

Adult Mental Health/Substance Abuse Committee:

Amanda Blanks reported for the Adult Mental Health/Substance Abuse. Billie Guthrie, Director, The Community Backyard, a program of Orange County Mental Health Association attended the committee meeting to address major gaps and unmet needs in the County as a part of the 2007 Community Health Assessment. One of the members felt that there is no intense substance abuse treatment program (30 day) available in the community. Members also felt that community needed to expand detox days and crisis stabilization services. One member expressed a need for expanding and educating the consumers the benefits of community based support groups.

The next Adult Mental Health/Substance Abuse Committee meeting will be held on April 12, 2007 at 6 p.m.

Human Resources Committee:

The HR committee had nothing new to report. The next HR committee meeting is to be announced.

Client Rights Committee:

The Client Rights Committee sent out a survey and members have reviewed a preliminary report of the results of the survey. To date, 21 of 52 surveys have been returned. Reminders were emailed on March 5, 2007 to all providers who have not yet returned their surveys. The web version of the survey will be edited before further data is entered.

The Committee also reviewed two allegations of neglect, four incidents of suspension/expulsion, and four incidents of physical restraint. The Committee requested a follow-up report regarding the two neglect allegations. A discussion ensued as to the rationale behind the incident review process and the responsibilities of this Committee to make recommendations based on incident trends. A request was made to include diagnostic information in the reports, as well as information on any questions raised/recommendations made by the Incident Review Committee.

The next regular meeting of the OPC Client Rights Committee will be Tuesday, April 3rd at 5:00 PM in the AO Conference Room at the Europa Center.

Child & Family Committee:

There were no present for the Child and Family committee. Mr. Greger-Holt reminded the Board that it is important that the Board evaluate the roles of the various subcommittees. The next Child and Family Committee meeting will be held on April 12, 2007 at 6 p.m.

Consumer & Family Advisory Committee:

Virginia Hill, Chair of CFAC, requested the Board to contemplate the possibility of adding a CFAC seat to the OPC Board. Ms. Hill also reported that CFAC is working with Andy Saks, Dispute Settlement Center, to create the new relational agreement between OPC and CFAC. Board members agreed to discuss appointment of CFAC representative to Area Board at the April meeting.

Closed Session

Mr. Stewart motioned for the Board to enter a closed session for legal matters. Henry Pleasant seconded the motion. The motion carried with all board members voting in favor and no one opposing. The OPC Board entered into a closed session all staff and guests were asked to leave.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Board Meeting:

The next Board Meeting is on April 12, 2007 at the Europa Center Suite 490. The Committee meetings will begin at 6:00pm and the Board Meeting will begin at 7:00pm.

Adjournment:

Mr. Stewart made the motion to adjourn the OPC Board meeting and Mr. Pleasant seconded. The motion carried with all board members voting in favor and no one opposing. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Herr
Secretary