

**Minutes of the OPC Area Board Meeting
Thursday, April 10, 2008
Administrative Office - Europa Center**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Tom Vanderbeck, Lori Ireland, Amanda Blanks, John Stewart, Lynn Ikenberry

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioner Kyle Puryear, Commissioner Moses Carey, George Greger-Holt, Virginia Hill, Sandra Herring, Richard Edwards, Sue Schwartz, Henry Pleasant, Tina Williams

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT

LeAnn Nease Brown, OPC Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

With the absence of Sue Schwartz, Board Chair, OPC Vice-Chair Lori Ireland called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Ireland opened the floor for public comment. There was none.

READING OF THE MINUTES

Board members acknowledged the lack of a quorum and requested that Janine Reda track all items requiring approval. The Board shall vote on those items during the May 2008 Board meeting. Commissioner Tom Vanderbeck motioned to approve the March 2008 minutes with the correction of removing the title "Commissioner" from Amanda Blank's name in the March Minutes. John Stewart seconded.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Ms. Ireland has no report this evening and deferred the rest of her time to Judy Truitt.

AREA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Caring Family Network Transition Update

- a. Ms. Truitt announced that the transition continues to go well. All consumers have been moved off of waiting lists and back into services. Ms. Truitt asked if Board members were aware of any concerns or issues in their communities and none were noted.
- b. Ms. Truitt reported that issues have developed regarding the space formerly occupied by Caring Family Network in Pittsboro. The landlord is apparently concerned about subleasing the space to other providers. OPC will provide assistance as appropriate to CFN and the new providers.

2. State of the State

- a. Ms. Truitt noted that included in the Board packet were the “talking points” released by the North Carolina Council. These should be helpful in summarizing the key issues facing public mental health.

3. Mercer Report

- a. Ms. Truitt provided a brief overview of the Mercer Report and indicated that it appears to be a fundamentally fair report. The issues identified as OPC’s strengths and weaknesses are consistent with our self-analysis. Given the programs that were identified as Tier Three it is unclear how the Mercer Report will be used by DHHS.
- b. The report outlined three options for consideration. The first is to continue the LME system as it is currently organized, with a reduction down to 20 programs. Mercer does not suggest this as viable financial model. The second option would be consolidation and regionalization, with up to three “super LMEs” in each of the three regions. In this option, OPC would be in the Central region, with Wake, Durham, Five County, Alamance/Caswell/Rockingham, CenterPoint, and Sandhills. In this option an LME could choose to merge with one of the super LMEs, or could choose to return to more of a service organization model. The third option was a statewide centralized management entity that would be awarded through an RFP process similar to what was done with Value Options for the Medicaid UR function. Ms. Truitt noted that there had been discussion about the possibility of LMEs taking back responsibility for diagnostic assessments, psychiatry, and “case management”, although it is unclear how this would be funded.
- c. Several weeks ago Ms. Truitt spoke to Representative Verla Insko, who indicated that she did not feel it would be appropriate to make any changes in the mental health system until the new Governor and DHHS Secretary are selected. However, it appears likely that Secretary Benton will request the legislature take action in the short session. OPC’s attorney, LeAnn Brown, indicated that local bills, in-house bills and budgetary bills are the general topics during the short session, and therefore, it is unlikely the speaker will allow this vast a topic to enter the forum.
- d. Ms. Truitt noted that the Mercer Report contains significant information about how managed care organizations should operate and OPC staff will be reviewing carefully to identify areas that could be used to improve our performance. Ms. Truitt also noted concerns that the publication of the Mercer Report, with all of the discussions regarding mergers and regionalization, could result in the loss of LME staff.

4. Person County Space

- a. Ms. Truitt reminded Board members that Steve Carpenter, Person County Manager, has made a recommendation about OPC managing a section of the Person County human services complex where mental health providers are located.
- b. Given the lack of a quorum and the absence of Commissioner Puryear, the Board tabled discussion until the May meeting.

5. Community Needs Assessment

- a. Cim Brailer presented OPC's March 2008 Community Needs Assessment. The requirement that the needs assessment be completed was included in the contract with DMH. The requirements include performing an assessment annually each March with quarterly updates to the Board. The purpose is to identify existing capacity as well as gaps and needs for MH/DD/SA services within OPC area, and to incorporate the findings into the ongoing planning, resource allocation, and LME functions.
- b. OPC has maintained a Service Gaps Document since 2005 which has been discussed with multiple stakeholders several times. This year's needs assessment incorporates an update of that document along with additional information about our existing provider capacity, census information, information about people served, etc.
- c. One thing that came to light was that OPC has already been doing a great deal of planning and capacity building efforts, particularly in the areas of housing, in our System of Care work with the Community Collaboratives in the child mental health arena, in the area of crisis services for the past two years in particular, and a variety of other initiatives – particularly when new dollars are available. Most recently, planning efforts have been around the CFN transition and allocation of this year's Mental Health Trust Funds.
- d. The assessment allowed OPC to determine the number of consumers served last year. OPC served approximately 5400 people. About 52% in Orange, 23% in Chatham and the same in Person County.
- e. The OPC provider community received three different surveys this past year to ascertain information about capacity and willingness to provide community support and psychiatry services; willingness and ability to serve state funded consumers; willingness and ability to expand services due to CFN transition; and the provider survey QI/PR issued in March. See Appendices B-D.
- f. Staff noticed overall themes while reviewing the data. OPC needs to improve, across each county, in the areas of transportation, services for the Spanish speaking population, and transition services. For a detailed description of the planning efforts, the progress that have taken place over the past year and areas of focus over the coming year, please see pages 24-33 of the OPC 2008 Community Needs Assessment.
- g. Care Management Staff will be meeting to review this assessment with OPC's DMH LME liaison on April 22, 2008. We will take that feedback, make adjustments as appropriate, and the Steering Committee will begin working. Ms. Brailer will report back to the Board next quarter.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Dave Jenny presented the Financial Activity Report for April Board Meeting:

- Meetings are being scheduled to determine what improvements can be made to OPC's contracting process for the upcoming fiscal year.
- A vacant position within the finance department was re-designated as a Billing & Reimbursement Manager position to strengthen our commitment to improving help to providers experiencing billing difficulties. Interviews were held and the position was filled effective March 31, 2008.

- The White Oak property in Orange has been on the market a month now, but there have been no bids to date. OPC's hopes that the advent of warmer weather and lower interest rates will combine to produce some interest in the property.
- The budgeting activities for the next fiscal year have begun. Preliminary work will be done based on the same funding being available next year. Adjustments will be made after our final allocation letter in the fall.
- Balance sheet changes were minimal. The ending fund balance has gone up by \$350k. On the Income Statement, in the middle of the page, the amount pulled down is a million dollars behind. Staff are working with providers to get them up to date and the money pulled down. Ms. Blanks motion to approve the March Balance Sheet and Income Statement. Mr. Steward seconded.
- Wayne Terry from LarsonAllen©, will be attendance for the Finance Committee meeting next month in compliance with State's audit requirements.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee:

The Finance Committee did not meet. Wayne Terry from LarsonAllen© will be attendance for the Finance Committee meeting next month. The next committee meeting will be held on May 8, 2008 at 6 p.m.

Provider Community/Quality Management Committee:

Ms. Blanks updated the Board that the Provider Community/Quality Management Committee convened for the first time. The next committee meeting will be held on May 8, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

Service Management Capacity Committee:

The Service Management Capacity Committee met and reviewed the Community Needs Assessment, the Mercer report, and OPC's contract with Five County for after-hours services. The next committee meeting will be held on May 8, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

Public Awareness and Advocacy Committee:

The Public Awareness and Advocacy Committee did not meet. The next committee meeting will be held on May 8, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

Human Resources Committee:

Mr. Stewart indicated that there was no report for the HR committee. The HR committee is currently meeting on an as-needed basis.

Client Rights Committee:

Ms. Amanda Blanks informed the Board that the Client Rights Committee met on April 1, 2008 and reviewed a plan and discussed incident reports. They will next meet on May 6, 2008 at 5:15 p.m. in the Europa AO conference room.

Consumer & Family Advisory Committee:

No representatives were available from the Consumer and Family Advisory Committee. They regularly meet on the third Thursday of the month and will next meet April 17, 2008 at 6 p.m. in the Training Room at the Europa Center.

Old Business:

Property Workgroup

Mr. Stewart presented an update from the OPC Property Workgroup. All of the property occupants have had an opportunity to meet with the workgroup. There are fairly significant legal issues that need to be addressed relating to the selling or long-term leasing possibilities. The workgroup will next meet at 5 p.m. on May 8th. The scheduled meetings will be posted on the OPC website.

Provider Satisfaction Survey/ Feedback Survey

A provider satisfaction survey was developed and distributed to OPC's provider community in February. 43 responses were received and the results included in the Board packet. Ms. Truitt and Lynne Hamlet reviewed how the agency has or will be responding to the feedback received.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Board Meeting:

The next Board meeting will be May 8, 2008 at the Europa Center, Suite 490. The OPC Property Workgroup will begin at 5 p.m., the subcommittee meetings will begin at 5:30 p.m., excluding the Finance committee, which will begin at 6 p.m. The Board Meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Vanderbeck motioned to adjourn the OPC Board meeting and Mr. Stewart seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Blanks
Secretary