

**Minutes of the OPC Area Board**  
**Monday, December 14, 2009**  
**Administrative Office - Europa Center**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Commissioner Bernadette Pelissier, Commissioner Jimmy Clayton, Lynn Ikenberry, Amanda Blanks, Rachel Winstead, Sue Schwartz, Heather Nash, John Stewart

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Commissioner Tom Vanderbeck, Richard Edwards, Debbie Carson, George Greger-Holt, Sandra Herring

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Judy Truitt, Dave Jenny, Lynne Hamlet, Donna Prather, Ivy Williams, Debra Farrington, Tom Velivil, Jolene Meyer, Ken Jarvis, Cim Brailer, Michael Norton, Janine Reda

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Yvonne French, DMH/DD/SAs LME Liaison  
LeAnn Brown, OPC's Attorney  
Wayne Terry, LarsonAllen  
Cline Comer, LarsonAllen

**CALL TO ORDER**

OPC Board Vice-Chair Lynn Ikenberry, MD called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Ikenberry opened the floor for public comment. There were no comments.

**READING OF THE MINUTES**

Dr. Rachel Winstead motioned to approve the November 2009 minutes of the OPC Area Board meeting. Sue Schwartz seconded the motion. The motion carried with all board members voting in favor and none opposing.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

Dr. Ikenberry administered the oath for new Board member, Heather Nash. Dr. Ikenberry welcomed Ms. Nash to the Board and Board members and staff introduced themselves. Dr. Ikenberry then deferred the remainder of his time to Judy Truitt.

**AREA DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**1. Audit Report SFY 08-09**

- a. Wayne Terry and Cline Comer, OPC's auditors from LarsonAllen, presented the results of the SFY 2008-2009 OPC audit. Mr. Comer expressed his pleasure with the strong results found in the auditing process. OPC's fund balance has continued to increase and is now above the statutory requirement. No material weaknesses were found and the financial state of OPC is favorable. The liquidity of funds has significantly improved from previous years. Mr. Terry relayed his congratulations and thanks to the Finance staff.
- b. Commissioner Jimmy Clayton motioned to approve the 2008-2009 OPC audit report. John Stewart seconded. The motion carried with all board members voting in favor and none opposing.

- c. Ms. Schwartz wanted to issue thanks to all OPC staff for their diligence and their careful spending over the past few years. Without significant effort by staff it would have been much more difficult to turn OPC's financial situation around.

## **2. Comprehensive Service Provider/Critical Access Behavioral Health Agencies**

- a. Ms. Truitt and Cim Brailer recently attended a Legislative Oversight Committee meeting where small providers from across the state voiced their concerns about the new plans for Critical Access Behavioral Health Agencies (CABHAs). Ms. Truitt doesn't think this is the end of mixed comments re: CABHAs.

## **3. Medicaid Waivers**

- a. Ms. Truitt asked the Board to review the information on page eight of the December 2009 Board packet. Ms. Truitt also explained the basics of a waiver. A waiver in this instance has the state giving the individual Local Management Entity (LME) complete control of Medicaid dollars for its area. The LME would be expected to cover all individuals with Medicaid as needed in its catchment area. The goal of any waiver is to maximize the efficiency of the system, create savings where appropriate and return those savings to the service system.
- b. Five County LME and OPC are meeting December 15, 2009 with Piedmont Behavioral Health to discuss and learn more about the waiver process. Ms. Truitt hopes to share this with the Board during the January Board meeting.

## **4. Chatham County Services Workgroup**

- a. When Caring Family Network (CFN) withdrew from the OPC service area in the spring of 2008 Freedom House and Therapeutic Alternatives (TA) began providing services in the Chatham County area. OPC was uncertain at the time if the community could support two large providers, but did not want to repeat the situation that we faced with only having one provider. Unfortunately over the last year it has become clear that the resources can not support two large providers, so OPC has asked Freedom House and Therapeutic Alternatives to submit a plan for how they would each manage the entire county. TA and Freedom house both responded to the request at the end of November. OPC then asked several staff members to individually review the proposals and determine which proposal was most appropriate for the services needed in Chatham County. The final result of the staff reviews have not been compiled, but Management Team hopes to share the results with the Board in January.

## **5. Service System Recommendation**

- a. The Board has previously discussed the service benefit plans, especially relating to Adult Mental Health monies. A significant percentage of OPC's Adult Mental Health funds go to support residential treatment options. Many of OPC's highest cost consumers have been stabilized in these residential programs. These consumers, when unstable, utilize large amounts of money. In the past OPC has chosen to continue funding residential options to keep consumers stable and costs moderated. At this time when service dollars continue to be cut, Management Team requests that the Board reevaluate if this remains the best strategy.
- b. The Board discussed the residential group homes located in Orange, Person, and Chatham counties. Amanda Blanks suggested that OPC may want to evaluate the consumers at these residential placements to determine if that level of service is still the most appropriate. Many Board members agreed an evaluation of the consumers may help lower the rates of use for the service, but fundamentally agreed that to close residential options would only shift the cost for those consumers to crisis services or other equally intensive treatment options.

Commissioner Bernadette Pelissier motioned to continue funding the group homes in OPC's three counties at the same level. Dr. Winstead seconded the motion. The motion carried with all Board members voting in favor and no one opposing.

## **6. Needs Assessment**

Ms. Truitt advised the Board that DMH would likely waive the requirement for a full needs assessment to be completed in the spring of 2010. She has asked for confirmation of this and will notify the Board if this will be required.

## **FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Dave Jenny presented the Financial Activity Report for December:

- OPC has successfully moved the UniCare COBOL billing system and ProFiler from the UNIX server to a Windows server to increase system stability.
- The State is still not seeing revenues meet projections. Therefore our funding from the State is behind. As of November 30, 2009 four IPRS checkwrites are outstanding (\$456,634), as are the October and November LME funds (\$650,844).
- OPC is working with UniCare to recover IPRS checkwrite information that didn't post correctly on 11/27/09. Otherwise the billing system is working adequately at the present time.
- Mr. Jenny then presented the budget revision. Mr. Stewart motioned to approve the budget revision. Dr. Winstead seconded the motion. The motion carried with all Board members voting in favor and no one opposing.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Finance Committee:**

The Finance Committee reported that, during their meeting, they discussed the audit with more detail and they expressed their thanks and applause for how timely the audit was prepared for SFY 08-09. The next Finance meeting will be held on February 8, 2010 at 6 p.m.

### **Provider Community/Quality Management Committee:**

Ms. Blanks shared that the Provider Community/Quality Management committee discussed the provider survey and the role of the Board's subcommittees. Ms. Blanks proposed that the Board discuss the plan for the subcommittees during the retreat. Ms Truitt agreed the Retreat would be the best time for that discussion.

At the January Board Retreat, the Board will discuss when and if the subcommittees will meet again.

### **Service Management Capacity/Public Awareness and Advocacy Committee:**

The Service Management Capacity Committee also spoke about the subcommittee structure. The committee was supportive of meeting less often, perhaps on a quarterly schedule. The Committee also discussed CAP-MR - OPC received 10 Supports Waiver slots and three Comprehensive slots. Lastly, during the Pinehurst conference, several updates were made to requirements for CABHAs: the Medical Director's time has been modified and is now based on the number consumers served. A fulltime Medical Director is required if the agency has 750 consumers and a halftime is required if the agency has less than 750 consumers. Additionally, the agency must have a Medical Director, a Clinical Director and Quality Improvement Training in place for two months before a successful onsite review can be held.

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**Human Resources Committee:**

The HR Committee is currently meeting on an as-needed basis.

**Client Rights Committee (CRC):**

Ms. Blanks reported the events of the last Client Rights Committee meeting. The Committee reviewed one behavioral plan, the new Client Rights Committee rules, the Alamance-Caswell-OPC merger discussion, and incident reports. Their next meeting will take place Tuesday, January 5, 2010.

**Consumer & Family Advisory Committee (CFAC):**

New Board member and CFAC Representative Heather Nash spoke on behalf of CFAC. At the November CFAC meeting CFAC selected a new CFAC Board representative and they discussed Alamance-Caswell, CABHAs, the AQIC Quarterly Report and the NAMI Conference Report. CFAC will meet next meet on December 17, 2009 at 6 p.m.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2010 Board Officers**

Mr. Stewart agreed to convene the nominating committee and create a slate of officers for the 2010 OPC Area Board. The Nominating Committee will convene before the January 2010 Retreat.

**2010 Board Retreat**

The Board agreed to hold the Board Retreat during the scheduled January Board meeting. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on January 11, 2010 and there will be no subcommittees meeting that evening. The agenda will include the Mission Statement/Code of Ethics, Service System, and Subcommittee structure. Janine Reda will check with absent Board members to see if they are able to make the date before confirming via email with the whole Board.

**Board Meeting:**

The next OPC Board meeting is the 2010 Board Retreat and is scheduled for January 11, 2010. There will be no subcommittee meeting, including the Finance committee. The Board will convene at 6 p.m. an hour earlier than the standard.

**Adjournment:**

Mr. Stewart motioned to adjourn the OPC Board meeting and Ms. Schwartz seconded. The motion carried with all Board members voting in favor and no one opposing. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Blanks  
Secretary