

**Minutes of the OPC Area Board Retreat
Wednesday, March 25, 2009
Administrative Office - Europa Center**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Bernadette Pelissier, Commissioner Tom Vanderbeck, Commissioner Jimmy Clayton, Richard Edwards, Amanda Blanks, Lynn Ikenberry, Sue Schwartz, George Greger-Holt, Debbie Carson, Rachel Winstead

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

John Stewart, Sandra Herring, Virginia Hill

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT

Yvonne French, LME Systems Performance at Division of MH/DD/SAS

CALL TO ORDER

OPC Chair Richard Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Edwards opened the floor for public comment. There was none.

READING OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Tom Vanderbeck motioned to approve the February 2009 minutes of the OPC Area Board meeting as written. Dr. Rachel Winstead seconded the motion. The motion carried with 10 board members voting in favor and none opposing.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Edwards re-introduced OPC's Division of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Substance Abuse liaison, Yvonne French before deferring the remainder of his time to Judy R. Truitt.

AREA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. New Department of Health and Human Services Secretary's Appointees

- a. Secretary Lanier Cansler announced two appointees to manage the state's facilities. J. Luckey Welsh Jr., former president and CEO at Southeastern Regional Medical Center in Lumberton, will serve as director of the state's Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse facilities. Cecelia Karas, a former mental health consultant, will direct Health and Human Services Training and Quality Assurance Initiative. Ms. Karas is a former mental health trainer, director of nursing services and she also worked as a contract director of psychiatric services at Nash Healthcare in Rocky Mount.

2. North Carolina Council

- a. Ms. Truitt reported she learned at a recent Council meeting that legislation has been introduced which would require gubernatorial approval for the appointment of new Area Directors, as well as gubernatorial appointment of one-third of area board members. DHHS reportedly is supportive of the bill.
- b. The NC Council has indicated that they believe the purpose of this bill is to strengthen the connection between the state and the local authorities, but there would be concern about the decrease in local authority.
- c. Commissioner Vanderbeck requested the bill number, as well as the sponsoring individuals. Ms. Truitt will share the Board as soon as she receives it.

3. Alamance-Caswell Merger/Consolidation Update

- a. Ms. Truitt reviewed the initial activities with which OPC and Alamance – Caswell –Rockingham (ACR) staff have been involved. Ms. Truitt and Dan Hahn are working on the identification of a consultant to manage the process. Ms. Truitt reported that she has spoken with several area programs that have been through mergers and gathered a significant amount of information. Ms. Truitt will speak with Michael Watson, the Sandhills Area Director about the possibility of his speaking to the Board in the near future.
- b. Dan Hahn, the ACR Area Director, has asked that initial discussions include the possibility of creating a new model similar to that which is described in the Mercer report – regional management entity and core service agency. The regional manager would operate very similar to the current LME model, and the core service agency would act as a safety net for consumers. Ms. Truitt asked the Board if they had any additional questions at this time regarding the model.
- c. With the loss of Rockingham County, Alamance Caswell will fall below the statutory population size. ACR has applied for a twelve month waiver of the population requirement, which will enable them to explore options regarding consolidation. Mr. Hahn has a meeting with the new DHHS Secretary next week to discuss this matter.
- d. At the most recent meeting OPC and ACR's Management Teams discussed what information they would like to exchange to better understand the complexities of the other agency.
 - i. The list includes:
 1. O-charts
 2. Board Bylaws
 3. Provider Listing
 4. 2009 Community Needs Assessment
 5. Budget information; including the 07-08 Financial Audit
 6. Authorization reports; call center reports (time frame: July 08 through March 09)
 7. Quality Improvement reports to include customer service complaints, grievances, etc.
 8. Internal and External committees

- ii. Ms. Truitt asked the Board for additional information they would be interested in reviewing. The staff satisfaction survey was mentioned. Management Team agreed that would be a good resource. The Board asked about accreditation plans for ACR; Ms. Truitt explained that they are seeking accreditation through URAC (Utilization Review Accreditation Commission). They have submitted their application, but do not have their site scheduled yet.
- e. An issue of concern would be the fact that ACR is supporting 91 retirees in their system. Mr. Hahn has reported that their current policy states that they will pay for retirees' medical insurance until they reach age 65 and then ACR will continue to pay their Medicare subsidy. OPC has 11 retirees in its system and stops payment at age 65.
- f. Management Team members have been asked to create a PRO and CON list regarding the possible merger. Ms. Truitt asked the Board to create similar lists as they review the information shared between the agencies. OPC and ACR will exchange information on April 15, 2009 – packets will be mailed to Board members upon receipt.
- g. Board members asked as to causative factors in the failure of the Alamance Caswell and Rockingham merger. Ms. Truitt reported that she believed there had been on-going problems that had not been successfully resolved – example: former area program out-patient clinic continued to be primary provider but had difficulty sustaining in current market; Rockingham community did not feel they were equal partners in the new structure.

4. Chrysalis Transition Update

- a. Therapeutic Alternatives has officially taken over the Person and Chatham County club houses. A new director of Club Creative has been named and has initiated contact with the consumers.
- b. UNC-Horizons continue treating the transferred clients of Hope Meadows.
- c. In regard to the Chrysalis properties, an agreement has been reached with Empowerment to provide operational management. Discussions continue with CASA of Raleigh regarding the properties. OPC has received \$10K from DMH to assist with emergency repairs and maintenance on the properties pending their transfer to CASA or another agency. DMH also aided OPC by allowing OPC to move additional funds in order to successfully fund the transition.

5. Business System Update

- a. Piedmont Behavioral Health (PBH) met with OPC on Friday, March 20th. The meeting went very well. PBH staff have begun designing the OPC business system. The prospect of this system is exciting and OPC staff are encouraged and hopeful about a new system. The goal is to go-live in late fall 2009; closely following Five Counties go-live date.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Dave Jenny presented the Financial Report for February/March:

- We continue to work closely with UniCare to correct problems with billing issues and ProFiler reporting problems with CDW information. We are testing ProFiler's new reporting program and reporting bugs back to program development.
- OPC has notified PBH of our intention to acquire their business system, Cardinal Innovations. The first meeting went well and we look to a successful future.
- Club Creative was closed by Chrysalis on March 13th. Repairs are underway and will be completed by the week of March 23rd. Therapeutic Alternatives will reopen the program as soon as repairs are done.
- We believe that there will be yet another round of reductions to our state funding this year. Management Team has been discussing various options that could be taken dependent on the size and type of reductions.
- Mr. Jenny reviewed the balance sheet and income statement. The ending fund balance is virtually the same as last month. Commissioner Vanderbeck motioned to approve the Income Statement and Balance sheet. Sue Schwartz seconded. The motion carried with all Board members voting in favor and no one opposing.
- Commissioner Vanderbeck asked about the funding that CFAC returned to OPC to assist with the funding reductions. Ms. Truitt indicated that the \$5000 would be used to assist in funding the new program being set up to assure care coordination for consumers being discharged from in-patient facilities. Michael Norton indicated that CFAC was pleased to learn that the money would be spent on services.
- The Board reviewed the modifications to the Budget. Commissioner Jimmy Clayton motioned to approve the budget amendment. Ms. Schwartz seconded. The motion carried with all Board members voting in favor and no one opposing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee:

The Finance committee had no further information beyond Mr. Jenny's report. The next Finance meeting will be held on May 11, 2009 at 6 p.m.

Provider Community/ Quality Management, Service Management Capacity/Public Awareness and Advocacy, Human Resources Committee:

The committees held a combined meeting and Trish Hussey, Freedom House Executive Director presented information about crisis services. The next meeting will be held on May 11, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

Human Resources:

The Human Resources committee did not meet in the month of March.

Client Rights Committee:

The Client Rights committee did not meet in the month of March. They will next meet on April 7, 2009 at 4:15 p.m. in the Europa AO conference room.

Consumer & Family Advisory Committee (CFAC):

Michael Norton reported for the CFAC committee. At the March CFAC meeting Debbie Dihoff, Executive Director of NC NAMI, spoke with members about programs available through NAMI NC, including peer support activities in the state.

CFAC also worked on the accessibility survey during the March meeting. After reviewing the survey they discussed how people in the community still don't know/understand what OPC does, or even where OPC can be found in the community. They strongly believe additional public relations are needed to encourage visibility in the community.

CFAC meets regularly on the third Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. in the Training Room at the Europa Center.

OLD BUSINESS:**Area Board Meeting Schedule:**

The Board reviewed the current schedule for Board meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Many Board members have conflicts with the fourth Wednesday of the month and the membership agreed to consider another date. After consideration at the February and March meetings the Board confirmed the second Monday of the month as the new OPC Board meeting date. The Board will next meet May 11, 2009, as Monday, April 13, 2009 directly follows a holiday. If something were to come up the Board agreed to convene a special meeting.

Area Board By-Laws Revision – First Reading:

The Board completed the first reading of revisions to the OPC Board Bylaws related to Board composition. Commissioner Vanderbeck motioned to approve the first reading of the Bylaws. Dr. Winstead seconded. The motion carried with all Board members voting in favor and no one opposing.

OPC Property Update:

Amanda Blanks asked about the status of the White Oak property which was on the market for 11 months - March 2008 to January 2009. The Board recommended the property be taken off the market in January and rented out to a family. Currently there is no one living in the house. Ms. Truitt has asked OPC's attorney LeAnn Nease-Brown to prepare a lease for potential tenants and Vanessa Neustrom, Housing Coordinator, is seeking appropriate tenants.

Mayor's Task Force:

Lynn Ikenberry asked about the task force established by Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy. Ms. Truitt indicated that she and Cim Brailer are participating with the task force. Recently two "listening sessions" were held and attendance was very low. The task force is working on a couple of initiatives – the first is related to social work students and

supervision across provider agencies and the second is related to “mapping” of the system.

Orange County Commissioner Appointee to Area Board:

Ms. Truitt formally introduced Commissioner Bernadette Pelissier and welcomed her to the OPC Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

Area Board Training:

Commissioner Vanderbeck reminded Board members of the UNC School of Government Area Board Member Trainings that are now offered online. Commissioner Vanderbeck encouraged all Board members to review the trainings as he, Ms. Blanks, and Mr. Edwards found them worthwhile.

Area Director Performance Appraisal:

Mr. Edwards requested the Human Resources Committee complete an annual evaluation of Ms. Truitt. John Stewart, the chair of the HR committee, Ms. Schwartz and George Greger-Holt will prepare this evaluation and share it with the full Board.

Board Meeting:

The next OPC Board meeting is currently tentatively scheduled for May 11, 2009. The subcommittees will meet at 5:30 p.m. The Finance committee will meet at 6 p.m. and the Board will convene at 7 p.m.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Vanderbeck motioned to adjourn the OPC Board meeting and Ms. Blanks seconded. The motion carried with all Board members voting in favor and no one opposing. The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Blanks
Secretary