

**Minutes of the OPC Area Board
Monday, October 12, 2009
Administrative Office - Europa Center**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Bernadette Pelissier, Commissioner Jimmy Clayton, Commissioner Tom Vanderbeck, Richard Edwards, Lynn Ikenberry, Rachel Winstead, Sue Schwartz, George Greger-Holt, John Stewart

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Amanda Blanks, Sandra Herring, Debbie Carson, Virginia Hill

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT

LeAnn Nease-Brown, OPC's Attorney
Yvonne French, LME Systems Performance at Division of MH/DD/SAs
Dan Hahn, Alamance-Caswell's Area Director
Linda Massey, Alamance County Commissioner
Mike Taylor, Alamance-Caswell's Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

OPC Board Chair Richard Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Edwards opened the floor for public comment. There were no comments.

READING OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Tom Vanderbeck motioned to approve the September 2009 minutes of the OPC Area Board meeting. John Stewart seconded the motion. The motion carried with nine board members voting in favor and none opposing.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Edwards deferred the remainder of his time to Judy Truitt.

AREA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Introductions

- a. Ms. Truitt welcomed the guests from Alamance-Caswell; Alamance County Commissioner Linda Massey, Dan Hahn, Alamance-Caswell's Area Director and Mike Taylor, Alamance-Caswell's Attorney. The OPC Board, OPC staff and the guests introduced themselves.

2. CFAC Membership

- a. Ms. Truitt informed the Board that CFAC member Virginia Hill plans to step down from the Board secondary to health concerns. The Board expressed concern for Ms. Hill's wellbeing.
- b. During CFAC's next meeting, they plan to discuss who will fill CFAC's Board seat. Michael Norton will work with CFAC and communicate changes to the OPC Board.

3. Pinehurst Conference

- a. Information packets for the Pinehurst Conference were available for review by Board members. Ms. Truitt asked that Board members speak with Janine Reda if they would like more information or to sign up.

4. Work Plans

- a. Management Team worked diligently to summarize accomplishments for the SFY 08-09 and create the SFY 09-10 work plan. Ms. Truitt asked that the Board review the work plan draft and share comments with Ms. Reda by the end of next week.

5. Performance Expectation in Admissions to State Hospitals

Ms. Truitt noted that OPC has received a letter from Luckey Welsh at DMH indicating that beginning July 1, 2009, the Division of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Substance Abuse services (DMH) implemented an updated utilization plan for the state psychiatric hospitals. All Local Management Entities (LMEs), in their respective State psychiatric hospital region have been given bed days based on the percentage of the population in that region by age group. LMEs that have over-utilized bed days in any area in FY2008-2009, and/or have exceeded the per capita statewide average for admissions in FY2008-2009, are expected to submit a corrective action plan to State Operated Healthcare Services no later than October 31, 2009. LMEs needing to submit corrective action plans are:

Alamance-Caswell: Over state average for admissions

Beacon Center: Over state average for admissions

CenterPoint: Over state average for admissions

Crossroads: Over bed day allocations for adult acute and geriatric categories

Durham Center: Over state average for admissions and over bed day allocations for adult acute and adolescent categories

Eastpointe: Over state average for admissions

Five County: Over state average for admissions

Guilford: Over state average for admissions

Mental Health Partners: Over bed day allocations for adult acute and geriatric categories

OPC: Over state average for admissions

Southeastern Center: Over state average for admissions

Smoky Mountain: Over bed day allocations for adult acute and geriatric categories

Western Highlands: Over state average for admissions and bed day allocations for adult acute and geriatric categories

Wake: Over state average for admissions

During the SFY 08-09, OPC had 231 hospital admissions; 116 fewer than the previous year. OPC's average exceeded the state average by 10 admissions. The 14 LMEs who have fallen below this expected requirement are planning to join together via the NC Council for Community Programs and write a letter opposing the submission of corrective action plans for criteria not included in the existing contract.

6. The Coalition

- a. Last week, Area Directors across the state received a message from Yvonne Copeland of the NC Council for Community Programs. Ms. Copeland had spoken with Jennifer Mahan, President of the Coalition, informing Ms. Copeland that the Coalition is preparing a press conference. The focus is on the poor implementation of the cuts to Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Substance Abuse services (MH/DD/SAs) and the imbalance of the cuts between MH/DD/SAs and other areas of the budget such as education where they have access to stimulus funding. The Coalition plans to hold a press conference Wednesday, October 14th at the Clarion Hotel in Raleigh, just prior to the Legislative Oversight Committee's (LOC) meeting. The Coalition will call for the following:
 - i. A special session of the General Assembly to address the emergency situation in MH/DD/SA.
 - ii. In lieu of a special session, they will ask that the Secretary be granted emergency powers to make changes that would ordinarily require legislative action. They suggest the Secretary do the following:
 1. Replace the \$40M service cut with an administrative cut – take the money from LMEs
 2. Waive the 8% minimum fund balance requirement for LMEs
 3. Require local counties to provide per capital funding for MH/DD/SA. Those funds would be placed in the Mental Health Trust Fund for provider stability.
 4. Direct bill to the State for IPRS Services
 5. Allocate \$30M to state funded services
 6. Exempt MH/DD/SA from the 5% Governor's cut
- b. Ms. Copeland noted that the NC Council and the LMEs are members of the Coalition and it disturbing that they have made the above proposals. Ms. Truitt wanted the Board to be informed if they heard related conversations in the community.

6. Budget Update

- a. OPC submitted a plan on October 5th to DMH describing how OPC intends to spread its allocation across the service array. DMH will review the plan, make any recommendations, and/or approve the budget plan.

- b. In the meantime, OPC providers are invited to a meeting hosted by Ms. Truitt to discuss the budget and changes in the service system. These meetings were rescheduled to October 22nd and 23rd.
- c. OPC's Provider Representatives are creating an online provider survey to determine the impact on the provider community due to the budget and changes in services.
- d. OPC created a Question and Answer document and posted it on OPC's webpage. The Q&A answers questions relating to how the changes in the budget will affect services and the LME and how OPC is handling these changes. The budget narrative OPC submitted with the budget plan to DMH is also available online. If additional questions arise please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Truitt, Dave Jenny, or any OPC staff member.

7. Alamance-Caswell Update

- a. OPC received a letter from Alamance-Caswell (AC) on Saturday evening, October 10, 2009. Ms. Truitt shared the letter with the OPC Board on Sunday, October 11, 2009.
- b. Ms. Truitt expressed her concern about the timeline remaining for OPC and AC to merge as many mergers occurring within the state have taken 12-18 months to complete. Attempting to complete a merger by June 30, 2010 would be difficult with the remaining time frame.
- c. Ms. Truitt then asked the Board if they had any comments. The OPC Board communicated their support of Ms. Truitt's thoughts relating to the timeline and thinks a consensus needs to be found soon. Ms. Truitt then turned the floor over to Commissioner Massey. Commissioner Massey acknowledged her understanding of Ms. Truitt's statement, but with her inexperience on the AC Board she asked Mr. Hahn to respond to Ms. Truitt's words. Mr. Hahn indicated that the letter writing is becoming an obstacle and is preventing the agencies from finding common ground. He then suggested that Executive Management meet sometime in the near future to try to negotiate the details.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Jenny presented the Financial Activity Report for October Board Meeting:

- OPC continues to work closely with UniCare to correct billing issues and ProFiler reporting problems with CDW information. Per Board agreement we have scaled back our resources on CDW issues and redirected our efforts to records clean-up for importation into Cardinal Innovations.
- OPC met with Alpha CM on September 17th to finalize decisions regarding design and implementation of Cardinal Innovations. Progress on implementation remains on schedule for a go-live date of February 1, 2010. The contract for Cardinal Innovations has been received from PBH and is being reviewed by LeAnn Nease-Brown.
- Mr. Jenny reviewed the Executive Summary of the actuarial study for OPC's Post Retirement Benefits Plan for GASB 45.

- LarsonAllen is preparing our audit report for SFY 2009. As soon as we receive word it is completed, we will schedule them to report to the Board.
- Management Team will bring its recommendations for the staff benefit plan to the next Board meeting.

The Board reviewed the September Income Statement and Balance Sheet. Mr. Stewart motioned to accept the Income Statement and Balance sheet. George Greger-Holt 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 November 9, 2009 at 6 p.m.

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

The committees met jointly and discussed the status of the provider community and plans for the Community Alternatives Program for Persons with Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities (CAP).

Ms. Truitt reminded the Board that Management Team will be looking to them for guidance relating to the service plan/benefit plan for next year. This decision may include a major change to the funding of residential services. These committees will next meet November 9, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

Human Resources:

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:

Mr. Norton reported to the Board for the Client Rights committee (CRC). As an update, CRC added a new member, a CFAC representative. During their meeting, CRC reviewed behavioral plans. Their next meeting will take place Tuesday, November 3, 2009.

Consumer & Family Advisory Committee (CFAC):

CFAC held a special meeting about budget cuts; the attendance was about half that of a typical meeting. CFAC's primary concern about the budget relates to consumers and family members not knowing how to successfully locate appropriate services. CFAC brainstormed solutions and recommendations. As consumers, they want to communicate their concerns with the legislators and political figures in the state. They also highly recommend Peer Support as an inexpensive solution. It was clear that OPC did not issue the cuts and CFAC thanked staff for their hard work in attempting to spread funds throughout the service areas.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Due to the many topics needing attention during the next few months the Board decided to forgo the shortened holiday schedule implemented in years past and will plan to meet both in November and in December.

OPC will be hosting a food drive beginning November 23, 2009 through December 11, 2009. Board members are more than welcome to contribute.

At the last staff meeting, Ms. Truitt requested all staff send in their ambitious goals for the next year. Ms. Truitt hopes to keep these in mind during the departmental budgeting process.

Board Meeting:

The next OPC Board meeting is scheduled for November 9, 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 Mr. Stewart seconded. The motion carried with all Board members voting in favor and no one opposing. The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Blanks
Secretary