

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
HELD
JULY 19, 2010

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mary D. Burns, M.D.
Donald E. Cole
Deirdre O'Brien
Justin Neal
Susan Radovich
Sandra Morris
William McDonald, M.D.
Frank E. Shelp, M.D., Commissioner

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:

Terry E. Langley

Mary Burns, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:10 P.M.

SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Carolyn Fraser, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities lead attorney swore in new board member, W. Gregory Haynes. Mr. Hayes is a senior Vice President of Industrial Properties for CB Richard Ellis, Inc. He is also a member of CB Ellis Special Properties Group and the State Bar of Georgia.

MINUTES OF MEETING

A Motion was made by Susan Radovich and seconded by Donald Cole to approve the minutes of May 17, 2010. The minutes were unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF FINANCE AND AUDIT CHARTER

Justin Neal presented the Finance and Audit Charter for the Board's approval. The Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities has formed a standing committee called the Finance and Audit Committee which shall be given the following mandate:

- Create a systematic and structured interface between the Board and the financial team of the Department.
- Provide the Board with awareness and education as to the state of financial practices and projects of the Department.
- Work in conjunction with the Department to develop a best practice audit function.
- Provide a forum for dialogue with an input from the Board to the financial team of the Department.

A Motion was made by Donald Cole and seconded by Susan Radovich to approve the Charter. The Charter was unanimously approved by the Board.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Commissioner Frank Shelp introduced *J. Bryce McLaulin, M.D.*, as the new Executive Director for Mental Health. Dr. McLaulin is presently the Chief Medical Officer for Community Behavioral Health in Philadelphia. He will begin his work with the Department on September 27, 2010.

PRESENTATION OF TELEMEDICINE/VIDEO CONFERENCING DEMO

The Department's seven (7) Regional Hospitals via teleconference introduced themselves to the Board:

- Northwest Georgia Regional Hospital – Karl Schwarzkopf, M.D. and Charles Fetner
- Atlanta Regional Hospital – Susan Trueblood and Earnestine Pittman
- East Central Regional Hospital – Nan Lewis & Carla Brown
- Georgia Regional Hospital – Charles Li, M.D.
- Southwestern State Hospital – Hilary Hoo-you & Ken Brandon
- West Central Georgia Regional Hospital – John Robertson
- Central State Hospital – Larry Latham & Charles Ringling (guest)

Commissioner Shelp noted the capabilities and benefit of the videoconferencing to the Department. He said that the system can connect all seven of the hospitals at once, thus saving time and travel expense for meetings. He is currently working with legislators and stakeholders; especially the Medical College of Georgia, Mercer, Memorial and a MOU with Morehouse. Commissioner Shelp said that the values of the Department are rooted in respect, inclusiveness and transparency.

UPDATES:

New Region 6

Charles Ringling, Regional Coordinator, Georgia Regional Hospital gave the update. He noted that work is underway to roll-out Region 6 by October 1. All staff will be relocated and offices ready. HR will reassign personnel at West Central. Many agreements are in place for the move and some agreements were completed in a two week period. Some efficiencies have been found with staffing needs and costs is anticipated to be lower than expected.

Physician Credentialing Committee

Dr. Mary Burns reported that the Physician Credentialing Committee met and nine (9) physician applications were reviewed. Seven were approved, one was approved with provisions and one was deferred.

DD Waivers and Services Advisory Group

Donald Cole met with the DD Advisory group and reported that the group discussed some issues regarding SIS. There are issues with the number of times the procedure is required in order to approve a patient. They are researching to see if the number can be reduced. Also the Advisory group discussed the process of issuance of Prior Authorizations (PAs). The conflict

identified with the current method of issuance of PAs is related to the variations between the old and still current requirements of fiscal year issuance versus the need for the PAs to coincide with the annual budget which is in effect for the calendar year and as determined by the birthday of the individual being served.

Mr. Cole recommended that the Commissioner (DBHDD) continue to monitor the existing billing vendor with DCH and keep the Advisory group informed.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Shelp noted that July is the one year anniversary of the Department. Since the last meeting he has taken steps to regain public interest and engage constituents and stakeholders. Commissioner Shelp has made visits in the past month to Albany and Americus, Georgia. In Albany he visited Girls, Inc., a program geared toward reducing teen pregnancy, increasing high school graduation rates, reducing drug involvement and developing better interaction with law enforcement. He met in Americus with Senator George Hooks and Representative Winifred Dukes in Americus. In Americus, he also attended an open meeting with Rosalyn Carter on rural health initiatives.

Commissioner Shelp reported that the Department entered into negotiations in good faith with the Department of Justice and after four months of negotiations both parties reached an impasse at the end of June. The matter now is before Judge Pannell and he is considering a status hearing.

The expansion of partnerships with hospitals so individuals are served closer to home is expected. The Department expects to pursue a robust legislative agenda for 2011. One issue of great concern is competency hearings. At the present time competency hearings must first go before a judge and jury. This procedure is rather burdensome to the judicial system. The Department has begun to engage legislators, judges and prosecutors to work on legislation beneficial to all.

The Office of Planning and Budget has advised the Department that the FY 2011 budget will not be presented to the Governor until October instead of September. With this change there is no need to have a board meeting in August.

Chair Dr. Burns commended Commissioner Shelp on the remarkable job he is doing with the Department.

Justin Neal requested that he receive the proposed budget in adequate time before the next scheduled board meeting so he can properly review it.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Dr. Burns had no report for the Board.

AMENDED COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Shelp amended his report to the Board by reporting that healthcare reform has potentially made the 1915i an entitlement more than a waiver. Flexibility in implementing the 1915i has been taken out. SAMSHA & CMS are looking at possibilities like grandfathering waiver requests already submitted and possibly to modify the healthcare reform bill. The Department's application was submitted early and we are hopeful.

The Department is also working on other initiatives such as housing and supplemental employment. Some contracts are in progress.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A representative from Atlanta Legal Aid had several questions to Board concerning mental health waivers. Dr. Burns asked that written questions be submitted to Commissioner Shelp for a response.

Motion was made by Donald Cole to adjourn and seconded by Susan Radovich. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities is scheduled for September 20, 2010.


Deirdre O'Brien, Secretary


Mary D. Burns, Chair