



REGULAR BOARD MINUTES

October 26, 2023

METROCARE
Board Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Metrocare convened on Thursday, October 26, 2023. The meeting was held at 1345 River Bend Dr., Dallas, TX 75247 (Mustangs Rm.)

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Bernstein, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:43 pm and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

Trustees Present:

Kenneth Bernstein, Anthony Farmer, Dave Hogan, Noel Santini, M.D., Stacy G. Cantu, Vickie Rice, Dr. Sam Yang and Sonnia R. Ortega.

Absent:

Jaime Walkowiak, excused absence.

Public Comment:

No public comment was received.

Staff present:

John W. Burruss, M.D., Kelli Laos, Lucas Wilson, Judith Hunter, M.D., Ikenna Mogbo, Jennifer Wadsworth, and Tate Ringer.

Guest and staff present:

Joel Geary, Linda Secrest, Brooks Love, Elva Rodriguez-Curl, Tameka Cass, and other staff and guests.

Board Chair Announcements:

Board Attendance: Mr. Bernstein said that now that the March and June board meetings have been cut this will only give us the opportunity to meet (8) eight times during the fiscal year which only allows for three (3) absences and emphasize the importance of meeting the attendance requirements from the County. If trustees cannot make the meeting physically there are exceptions that allow for them to meet virtually, but we are still required to have a quorum (5) physically present and lead time to set up the technology for a virtual meeting. All the board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday with the exception of the following meetings:

- 1) December 7th (1st Thursday)
- 2) May 16th (3rd Thursday)
- 3) Board retreat - Saturday, August 17th (3rd Saturday).

Welcome new board member:

Mr. Bernstein welcomed new board member, Sonnia Ortega. Ms. Ortega provided a short bio saying that after retiring from American Airlines, she went to work for Grand Prairie ISD in the Disciplinary Alternative Education Program. Ms. Ortega has a Minor in Criminal Justice and loves working with at-risk kids. She now holds the position of Homeless Liaison for the district. She predominately sees single parent families with only the mom to provide for the children. Many have mental health issues and cannot hold down a job. She refers many clients to Metrocare.

Acknowledgement to Judge Lowy: A plaque acknowledging Judge Lowy's service was sent on behalf of the Board and Staff at Metrocare. Judge Lowy thanked everyone via email.

Update on the Meetings with County Commissioners: Dr. Burruss and several board members have met with our County Officials over the last 4 or 5 weeks to focus on the County's obligation under the HHSC Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authority (LIDDA) Performance Contract. For the last twelve (12) years, the County has been providing \$352,000 annually while the match was supposed to have been in the \$858,000 range. Mr. Bernstein encouraged all the trustees to meet with their commissioners individually to discuss fulfilling this obligation.

Next board meeting: There will be no meeting during the month of November so our next meeting will be on Thursday, December 7th at this same site.

Dr. Burruss echoed Mr. Bernstein's report on the County match and provided the following information:

Texas Health and Safety Code Section 534.014

Budget/ Request for Funds

"(a) Each community center shall annually provide to each local agency that appoints members to the board of trustees a copy of the center's:

- 1) approved fiscal year operating budget*
- 2) most recent annual financial audit*
- 3) staff salaries by position for each employee*

(b) The board of trustees shall annually submit to each local agency that appoints the members a request for funds or in-kind assistance to support the center."

Dr. Burruss explained that the sponsoring entity by law can be a city, a school district, a hospital district and/or (as in our case) a county. We do not have another sponsoring entity and we have complied with all the requirements mentioned on items 1, 2 and 3. This same Health and Safety Code requires – "shall" is the legal language – Metrocare to request support annually. Unfortunately, this is perceived negatively as "Metrocare is always coming down here with their hand out." Despite it being a statutory requirement, the narrative becomes "Metrocare is always here begging for money." In our contract with HHSC, much as with the North Texas Behavioral Health Authority (NTBHA), there is a required local match which Metrocare has never received in full. It is not begging; it is alerting the County to something that is by all rights Metrocare's due.

Mr. Hogan referred to the visit with Dr. Daniel and said that she was under the impression that NTBHA was supposed to take care of LIDDA financially. He also found out from another Commissioner that there was a misunderstanding about what we are asking for. They think we are coming down with our hat in our hands just saying, "give us money." What we are asking for is a specific amount according to the State for LIDDA. LIDDA is a totally different thing from mental health, and Mr. Hogan believes this is the confusion that the commissioners are having.

Charity Ball Special Representative:

Dr. Burruss introduced Ms. Linda Secrest, Special Representative from the Crystal Charity Ball.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM(s): September 2023 Reports

All consent agenda items are considered to be routine by the Board and will be enacted with one motion.

1. Acceptance of the September 28, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
2. Acceptance of the Facilities Division Report
3. Acceptance of the Clinical Services Division Report
4. Acceptance of the Mental Health Division Report
5. Acceptance of the Housing Division Report
6. Acceptance of the Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authority Report
7. Acceptance of the Strategic Initiatives Report

Mr. Bernstein requested to move item 5, the Housing Division Report, to the Action agenda.

Motion: Ms. Rice moved to Accept the Consent agenda for September 2023 as amended and Dr. Santini second. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION AGENDA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT:

Acceptance of the Chief Executive Officer Report for the FY24 Key Performance Indicator Progress through September 2023:

After a success story from the Center for Children with Autism Unit, Dr. Burruss discussed the importance of community engagement by Metrocare staff. He then reported on \$100 million potentially available statewide for permanent supported housing (among other projects) as well as Metrocare's withdrawal from the offer on the Elam Rd. clinical site and subsequent renewal of negotiations.

Motion: Mr. Farmer moved Acceptance of the September 2023 CEO's Report and Ms. Cantu Seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Acceptance of the Center's Financial Statements for the period ending September 2023 (unaudited):

Mr. Wilson discussed the performance for the month of September 2023. Revenues & expenses were both lower than budget for a favorable bottom line compared to budget. Salary & benefit expenses were less than expected.

Mr. Wilson also discussed the DPP Year 2 reconciliation that has not been reported in the financials but will be favorable to Metrocare in an amount that exceeds \$4 million dollars. He also notes that Metrocare delivered more than 14% of DPP eligible services for the entire state.

Motion: Ms. Cantú moved to Accept the Financial Statements for September 2023 and Mr. Farmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Acceptance of the Human Resources Report for September 2023:

Ms. Laos reviewed the Human Resources Metrics with focus on the continued success of the Turnover Key Performance Indicator. She discussed that Human Resources had created turnover data per major division and would be working with the division leaders to reduce turnover by 2% per division. Lastly, Ms. Laos recognized the very successful Job Fair hosted by Human Resources in September with over 175 attendees and 21 on-the-spot job offers!

Motion: Dr. Santini moved to Accept the Human Resources Report for September 2023 and Mr. Hogan seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PROVIDER SERVICES REPORTS

Acceptance of the Housing Division Report for September 2023:

Chief Housing Officer, Mr. Mogbo fielded questions from Mr. Bernstein, Chair replying that the Federally approved indirect cost rate prior to our renewal request was at 9 percent. The new award of 11.6 percent had been approved retroactive to 2019. Based on this, we may be able to garner some additional funds from older grants. When told that “they did not believe so” by regional HUD officials, he went a step further and reached out to Washington D.C. to make sure he had the correct information.

In reply to Mr. Bernstein’s question about the status of the Land Bank lot acquisitions for the three IDD group homes, Mr. Mogbo said he met with Ms. Cynthia Rogers-Ellickson, interim Dallas Director of Housing, and was assured that the use of the lots that Metrocare proposed was allowed. The City of Dallas attorneys will be reviewing the question of property tax exemption and providing guidance.

QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND COMPLIANCE SERVICES REPORTS

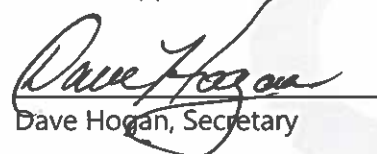
Acceptance of the Quality Management and Compliance Services Reports for September 2023:

Ms. Laos reviewed the Quality Management and Compliance Metrics. Ms. Laos also alerted the Board to October’s Ethics and Compliance Week hosted by the Compliance Department.

Motion: Mr. Hogan moved Acceptance of the Quality Management and Compliance Services Report for September 2023 and Dr. Santini seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Bernstein adjourned the meeting at 2:46 p.m.

Minutes approved by:


Dave Hogan, Secretary

