

DISTRICT 19 COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

MENTAL HEALTH, INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY and SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES

20 W. Bank Street - Suite 7 • Petersburg, Virginia 23803

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Jennifer Tunstall, LCSW
Executive Director

Melissa DeVault, MS
Director of Operations

District 19 Community Services Board held a regular meeting of the Board of Directors on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at 20 West Bank Street, Petersburg, Virginia 23803. This meeting was rescheduled from October 28, 2021, due to unexpected building issues preventing the Board to access the Board Room.

- I. The Chair, Brenda Ebron-Bonner, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

PRESENT:	Brenda Ebron-Bonner	W. Joe Green
	Natachia Randles	Shamika Lewis
	Gary Talley	Ray Spicer
	Kenneth Robinson	Frances Randolph
	Jean Grim	Danielle Powell, P.C.

ABSENT:	Shel Bolyard-Douglas	William Hagy
	Daphne Turner	

- II. **Approval of the Agenda**

MOTION: Mr. Robinson made the motion to accept the agenda as presented.

Seconded by: Mrs. Randles

Motion carried

Roll Call:

Brenda Ebron-Bonner - Yes	W. Joe Green - Yes
Natachia Randles - Yes	Shamika Lewis - Yes
Gary Talley – Yes	Ray Spicer – Yes
Jean Grim – Yes	Frances Randolph – Yes
Kenneth Robinson – yes	

- III. **Approval of the Minutes**

MOTION: Mr. Robinson made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2021 meeting as presented.

- PARTICIPATING MEMBERS -

Colonial Heights
(804) 520-7210

Dinwiddie
(804) 469-3746

Emporia/Greenville
(434) 348-8900

Hopewell/Prince George
(804) 541-8660

Petersburg
(804) 862-8002

Surry
(757) 294-0037

Sussex
(804) 834-2205

Seconded by: Mrs. Grim

Motion carried

Roll Call:

Brenda Ebron-Bonner - Yes	W. Joe Green - Yes
Natachia Randles - Yes	Shamika Lewis - Yes
Gary Talley – Yes	Ray Spicer – Yes
Jean Grim – Yes	Frances Randolph – Yes
Kenneth Robinson – Yes	

- IV. Recognition of Employees** – The Executive Director recognized Kristina Wright, Adult Services Case Manager from the Greenville/Emporia Clinic, as Employee of the Month for October. Kristina has been employed with District 19 for 17 years. She has been instrumental in enrolling consumers into mental health case management since transferring to the Emporia Clinic. She has also been willing to support consumers in crisis and often works over her normal hours to ensure that the needs of consumers are met. In addition to her hectic schedule, she maintains her paperwork and rarely requires prompting to complete a task. Her electronic records documentation and paper chart documentation is excellent. Staff have expressed that it has been a pleasure to have her on their team. Congratulations to Kristina Wright for being selected District 19’s Employee of the Month for October 2021. This award recognizes the exceptional and significant achievements of individual staff that exemplify District 19's excellence in public service.
- V. Public Comments** - All persons addressing the Board shall sign-in with name and address. Comments shall be limited to five minutes. No person shall be permitted to address the Board of Directors a second time until all others have been heard and no one may speak more than twice on any subject in any one meeting. All remarks shall be addressed to the Board as a body. Any person who makes personal, impertinent, abusive, or slanderous statements, or incites disorderly conduct will be asked to leave the meeting. – There were no public comments at this meeting.
- VI. Board Presentation – Another Chance Program Overview**
Sherri Ball, Director of Child and Adolescent Services, gave the Board an overview of Another Chance Program which is currently being provided in two school districts in our catchment area. The initial impetus behind Another Chance was to reduce long term suspension, increase on-time graduation rates and reduce the dropout rate at Dinwiddie County Public Schools. The program is a six-week psychoeducational group that is offered to local schools divisions by District 19 CSB. The groups are offered September through June of each school year. Groups are held in identified spaces in the locality. Groups are “open” meaning that students can be added to the

group at any point. It is an opportunity for students to attend intervention/prevention sessions focused on substance use education, coping skills and anger management. Parents attend two sessions with their students to learn positive parenting skills. Benefits of the program are a reduction in the time out of school for discipline and the ability to learn new coping skills.

The program began during the 2014-2015 school year in Dinwiddie County Public Schools. Petersburg City Public Schools began offering Another Chance to their students during the 2018-2019 school year (services started in March 2019). District 19 was recently awarded a grant from the Cameron Foundation to employ a full-time therapist to provide services for Another Chance. We will be looking at outcomes to target to report back to the Cameron Foundation. In the future, we hope to provide this program to all interested schools in our catchment area. We will be meeting with all school districts in our area as additional schools have expressed an interest in the program.

VII. New Business

A. MARCUS Alert – Mrs. Tunstall gave the Board an overview and update of the new mandates to be implemented for MARCUS Alert. MARCUS Alert is mental health awareness response and community understanding services alert system. It involves a series of protocols aimed to divert to the behavioral health system or respond with specialized law enforcement. This mandate will be implemented across the state. Richmond Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA) will be the first CSB/BHA in our region to go live. However, we have been meeting with our local officials to make sure this mandate stays at the forefront as it has many complexities and planning stages before it will have to be implemented.

The overall goals of MARCUS Alert and the build out of Crisis Services in Virginia are to implement a set of protocols, procedures, and response teams to ensure that Virginia provides a behavioral health response “no force first” response to a behavioral health crisis, supports the rights of all Virginians, regardless of area of residence and race/ethnicity to access behavioral health care safely, in a timely fashion, and in the least restrictive environment. Ensures that Virginians with disabilities receive appropriate accommodations to include safe, compassionate, trauma-informed response when law enforcement is involved during a behavioral health crisis. The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) will be providing a tool kit next month to assist, but we have not received it yet. The Board will continue to be updated as new information is received through the Department.

- B. **ARPA** – The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and its associated funding represent an opportunity to build critical infrastructure and capacity in our behavioral health and developmental disability services system. VACSB came together on behalf of Community Services Boards to put together a request for things we needed. The funds would support system enhancements in four major areas and include a carve-out for pilot programs: workforce development, state hospital diversion/discharge, physical infrastructure, and IT and administrative infrastructure. However, DBHDS did not advocate for CSBs to the General Assembly and asked for the support for the state facilities. Community Services Boards were not awarded ARPA funding for workforce or infrastructure needs. Therefore, Mrs. Tunstall sent out letters to localities to request support and a portion of the ARPA funding. The City of Petersburg was the only locality that required us to fill out an application. Letters were sent out to all other localities quickly in the event they would give us some of the funding. Board member, Mr. Spicer, inquired about what funding areas were addressed in the letters. Mrs. Tunstall stated that she addressed funding regarding staffing plans, sign on bonuses, increased 6% pay scale, one time bonuses, new electronic health records system, and phone system. We received confirmation from two localities that they received the letter. We received a response from once locality stating their funds were already committed to other areas. Thus far, we have not received a response from the other eight localities regarding their funds.
- C. **Temporary Rate Increase (DMAS)** - Virginia Medicaid approved a temporary 12% rate increase in July for select services. The rates will expire June 30, 2022. DMAS is currently working on adjusting past processed claims (July 1 - October 7). The Board will need to approve the new fee schedule effective 12/2/21. Board Chair, Mrs. Ebron-Bonner, asked for a motion to approve the new Fee Schedule reflecting the 12% Medicaid rate increase.

MOTION: Mr. Talley made the motion to approve the new Fee Schedule to reflect the 12% Medicaid rate increase.

Seconded by: Mr. Robinson

Motion carried

Roll Call:

Brenda Ebron-Bonner - Yes
Natachia Randles - Yes
Gary Talley – Yes
Jean Grim – Yes
Kenneth Robinson – Yes

W. Joe Green - Yes
Shamika Lewis - Yes
Ray Spicer – Yes
Frances Randolph – Yes

- D. **Nominating Committee** – Board Chair, Mrs. Ebron-Bonner, opened the floor for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee. This committee will meet to select Board officers for the 2022 calendar year. The committee will report their selections to the Board at the January 27, 2022 Board meeting. Board members Natachia Randles, Jean Grim and Kenneth Robinson volunteered to serve on the committee.
- E. **COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate** - The Biden-Harris Administration is requiring COVID-19 vaccination of eligible staff at health care facilities that participate in Medicare and Medicaid programs. The emergency regulation was issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on November 4, 2021. After discussions and further guidance, it was determined that CSBs will fall under this mandate as Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC). The Department has stated that CSBs are Community Mental Health Centers previously, which has allowed CSBs to apply for grants that are specific to CMHCs. Although we are not technically “certified” as a CMHC through CMS, we have a letter from DBHDS stating that we meet the definition of CMHC. In recent VACSB meeting, the Community Services Boards that were at the meeting stated that they plan to move forward under the CMS mandate as a CMHC as there is too much risk involved in paybacks if not compliant. The consensus at this time is that all CSBs will move forward as CMHCs and mandate the vaccine. Boosters are not required at this time. The first dose is required by December 5, 2021. The second dose is due by January 5, 2021. Both doses are required by January to be in compliance and to be able to work at a CMS facility. Staff were asked to electronically scan vaccination cards to Human Resources. At present, we are 66% fully vaccinated based on cards received.

There are some provisions for exemptions due to medical conditions or religious beliefs. We will have to go through accommodations if approved which will include weekly testing and wearing masks while on the premises. CMS does not allow for options to take weekly testing in order to opt out of the vaccine; there must be medical or religious exemptions. District 19 will not be paying for weekly testing. We still need guidance on contracted providers. We have to develop a policy which will be sent to staff with specifics on timelines. The Board will need to approve the implementation of the mandate under CMS guidelines and giving the Executive Director the authority to develop and implement a policy on the COVID-19 vaccine mandate.

MOTION: Mrs. Randles made the motion to give the Executive Director authority to develop and implement a policy for the COVID-19 vaccine mandate.

Seconded by: Mrs. Lewis

Motion carried

Roll Call:

Brenda Ebron-Bonner - Yes

Natachia Randles - Yes

Gary Talley – Yes

Jean Grim – Yes

Kenneth Robinson – Yes

W. Joe Green - Yes

Shamika Lewis – Abstained

Ray Spicer – Abstained

Frances Randolph – Yes

VIII. Informational Item

Financial Report – The Financial Report was provided for informational purposes. Adult Case Management Services and Developmental Disability Case Management Services numbers are increasing. Caseloads are high as there continue to be more people coming in through Same Day Access, but very few discharges from case management services. Intensive Outpatient groups and ACT numbers have decreased. Numbers are starting to get better in face to face services. The pandemic had an impact on the budget to a significant degree as revenues are down and Medicaid payments are down. This was largely due to not having Intensive Outpatient and reduced PACT services.

IX. Closed Session – No closed session at this meeting.

X. Adjournment

MOTION: Mrs. Lewis made the motion for the meeting to adjourn.

Seconded by: Mr. Robinson

Motion carried

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.



Brenda Ebron-Bonner, Board Chair



Lisa Newby, Clerk to the Board