

DISTRICT 19 COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

MENTAL HEALTH, INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY and SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES

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Jennifer Tunstall, LCSW
Executive Director

Melissa DeVault, MS
Director of Operations

District 19 Community Services Board called a Special Board meeting of the Board of Directors on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

I. The Chairman, Brenda Ebron-Bonner, called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

II. Roll Call:

PRESENT:	Brenda Ebron-Bonner	W. Joe Green
	Natachia Randles	Col. Anthony Johnson
	Ray Spicer	Shamika Lewis
	Daphne Turner	Gary Talley
	Shel Bolyard-Douglas	Jean Grim
	Kenneth Robinson	William Hagy

ABSENT: Frances Randolph

III. **Executive Director's Statement:** On January 4, 2022, the City of Petersburg instated a local emergency due to the rise in COVID-19 cases. In an effort to maintain the health and safety of the general public during the health emergency, this meeting is being held virtually via Zoom.

IV. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: Mr. Green made the motion to approve the agenda.

Seconded by: Mr. Robinson

Motion carried

Roll Call

Brenda Ebron-Bonner - Yes	W. Joe Green – Yes
Natachia Randles – Yes	Col. Anthony Johnson – Yes
Ray Spicer – Yes	Shamika Lewis – Yes
Daphne Turner – Yes	Gary Talley – Yes
Shel Bolyard-Douglas – Yes	Jean Grim – Yes
Kenneth Robinson – Yes	William Hagy – Yes

- PARTICIPATING MEMBERS -

- IV. 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. – No Public Comments

Mrs. Tunstall welcomed Col. Anthony Johnson to the meeting. He is our new Board member representing Greenville County. Col. Johnson will have a more formal introduction at our next meeting.

V. New Business

Legal Services – The Board of Directors was made aware that Mrs. Tunstall would be seeking new legal counsel as our current counsel would be terminating their services on January 31, 2022. Approval was given to Mrs. Tunstall to move forward in putting out an RFQ to select a firm to represent District 19.

Mrs. Tunstall and the Director of Operations, Melissa DeVault, interviewed Attorney Lauren Fisher White, who will represent District 19 in connection with employment and other legal matters as they arise, on an as-needed basis if approved by the Board. We were very impressed with her responses and knowledge specific to employment law. She also represents other Community Services Boards, so she is familiar with how we operate. A packet from the law firm of Christian & Barton was presented to the Board for review. Each attorney was listed with their area of expertise.

The Board inquired about the cost of services for new legal counsel, if it is a higher rate than the current firm, and if the cost had been added to the budget. Mrs. Tunstall explained that the hourly rate was higher, but was comparable to 3.8 hours per month that we pay with the current firm. If we use their services over four hours per month it will be a higher cost than we currently pay. However, with the expertise this firm brings, it may save us money due to efficiencies where they have a lot of experience.

It is not necessary to sign a contract as the Letter of Agreement presented to the Board fully outlines the responsibilities of the firm. They will submit itemized billing to show what we are spending for their services. If we ever want to terminate and seek other representation, we simply need to provide them with notice.

Mrs. Tunstall is asking the Board for approval to move forward with signing the Letter of Agreement for Christian & Barton, LLP to serve as legal counsel for District 19 Community Services Board.

MOTION: Mrs. Ebron-Bonner made the motion to retain Attorney Lauren Fisher White with Christian & Barton Attorneys At Law as legal counsel January 12, 2022.

Seconded by: Mr. Green

Motion carried

Roll Call

Brenda Ebron-Bonner - Yes
Natachia Randles – Yes
Ray Spicer – Yes
Daphne Turner – Yes
Shel Bolyard-Douglas – Yes
Kenneth Robinson – Yes

W. Joe Green – Yes
Col. Anthony Johnson – Yes
Shamika Lewis – Yes
Gary Talley – Yes
Jean Grim – Yes
William Hagy – Yes

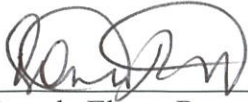
VI. Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Robinson made the motion to adjourn the meeting.

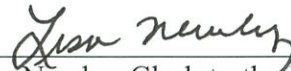
Seconded by: Mr. Talley

Motion carried

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.



Brenda Ebron-Bonner, Chair



Lisa Newby, Clerk to the Board