

GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

Utah State Developmental Center

February 1, 2024

10:00 am-12:00 pm



Governing Board Members:

Angella Pinna, DSPD Director

Dr. Scott L. Smith, Public Appointee

Tonya Hales, DHHS Assistant Deputy Director

Patrick Horrigan, Consumer Advocate

Tim Mathews, USDC Superintendent

Jennifer May, Family Advocate

Paul Smith, Public Appointee

Scott Pingree, Family Advocate

Public / Presenters Present:

Tracy Gruber, DHHS Executive Director

Lauren Gutierrez, Quality Assurance Director

Heather McGinley, Assistant Attorney General

Brittany Tregaskis, Switchboard Supervisor

Cynthia Church, Administrative Assistant

Shauna Bradley, Records

Bill Exeter, Project Manager

Mark Forbes, USDC Administrative Director

BUSINESS:

Electronic Meeting:

This meeting will be held in-person and electronically in accordance with Utah Code Ann. 52-4-202, House Bill 5002, Open and Public Meetings Act pursuant to a written determination by the Chairperson, finding that conducting the meeting with an anchor location presents a substantial risk to the health and safety of those who may be present. Due to the infectious and potentially dangerous nature of the COVID-19 virus, all agencies, institutions, and the general public may attend via a conference line. To attend, please call (US) +1 318-467-6495, listen to the prompts, and enter the (PIN: 518 391 506#). Opinions and comments by the public may be presented as the meeting progresses or at the closing, as requested by the USDC Governing Board Chairperson.

Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. from a fixed site at USDC, with members also participating virtually. This special meeting is being held to discuss one of the items that didn't get finalized in the last meeting. Tracy Gruber, the Executive Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, was introduced and thanked the board members for their service. Further introductions were conducted, beginning with Scott Pingree, a member of the board since 2018. Jennifer May serves as a family representative and has a son who has been a resident of USDC since the age of sixteen. Paul Smith has served on the board for

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several years and previously held a position similar to Angie's for about four years. Shauna Bradley records the meeting and publishes it on the public notice website. Mark Forbes serves as the Administrative Director for USDC, while Cynthia Church is the Administrative Assistant responsible for taking minutes and posting them on the public notice website. Patrick Horrigan came to USDC in 2021 and is currently working on coping skills with a discharge goal set for 2025. Bill Exeter serves as a Project Manager, and Lauren Gutierrez is the Quality Assurance Director responsible for policy management. Dr. Scott Smith has been part of the Highland City Council for 11 years, serving his eighth year on the governing board. He is a doctor with a local practice that provides care for numerous disabled patients. Brittany Tregaskis is the switchboard supervisor and manages communication at USDC. Tonya Hales represents the DHHS Executive Director's Office as an Assistant Deputy Director.

Meeting Minutes Approval

The board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting held on January 4, 2024. There were discussions about postponing approval to clarify feedback attributed to specific individuals. Jennifer May moved to postpone approving the January 4, 2024 minutes to the next meeting. Dr. Smith seconded the motion.

Motion to Postpone the Approval of the Minutes:

Yea- Tim Mathews, USDC Superintendent

Yea- Dr. Scott L. Smith, Public Appointee

Yea- Jennifer May, Family Advocate

Yea- Tonya Hales, DHHS Assistant Deputy Director

Yea- Angella Pinna, DSPD Director

Yea-Paul Smith, Public Appointee

The minutes for the January 4, 2024 Governing Board meeting were postponed for the next meeting on March 7th, 2024.

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USDC Procedure and Policy:

The following updates have been made to policy 50.03.01 regarding Visitors for Individuals/General Public:

A definition for "next of kin" was added to the policy, with clarification provided by Clover Meadows.

All visitors are required to report to the switchboard upon arrival, sign in, and obtain a visitor badge. Visitors must prominently display the badge while in the building and return it to the switchboard upon departure.

During annual person-centered plan (PCP) meetings, parents and guardians may be issued a badge for use throughout the year. While signing in at the switchboard remains mandatory, those with a parent/guardian badge do not need to pick up or return a visitor badge.

In case of loss or theft of a parent/guardian visitor badge, USDC must be notified immediately. Replacement badges are issued by the switchboard.

Weekly youth volunteer groups are exempt from switchboard check-in. They are supervised by the volunteer coordinator and recreational staff, trained, and monitored during their activities. They may assist with transportation but are not permitted in private areas unaccompanied.

Upon signing in, the switchboard notifies the appropriate area or department of the visitor's presence. Visitors requiring assistance may request an escort to their destination.

Failure to adhere to policy guidelines may result in adjustments to visit availability and location as determined by the treatment team. Any accommodations or exceptions to this policy must be discussed and approved by the treatment teams and parents/guardians, outlined in the individual's PCP.

Because of the changes that are being implemented, this policy will be effective around the beginning of March 2024.

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After thorough discussion, Dr. Smith moved that the USDC Governing Board approve the Visitors for Individual/General Public policy 50.03.01. Jennifer May seconded the motion.

Visitors for Individual/General Public Policy 50.03.01 Approval:

Yea- Tim Mathews, USDC Superintendent

Yea- Dr. Scott L. Smith, Public Appointee

Yea- Jennifer May, Family Advocate

Yea- Tonya Hales, DHHS Assistant Deputy Director

Yea- Angella Pinna, DSPD Director

Yea- Paul Smith, Public Appointee

Yea-Scott Pingree, Family Advocate

Yea, Patrick Horrigan, Consumer Advocate

Approval to pass the Visitors for Individual/General Public Policy 50.03.01 was unanimously approved.

SB 113 Discussion

The discussion focused on Senate Bill 113, a critical legislative issue for the governing board. Scott Pingree reached out to gather information about the bill. The proposed bill eliminates the governing board's role in land sale and water rights. The bill grants the state legislature authority to make decisions regarding land valued over \$500,000. Members of the board have been collaborating with the legislative liaison and Senator Buxton, the bill's sponsor, and previous director of DFCM, seeking a compromise in the bill's language. Proposed changes include providing a 30-day notice to the board, consideration of the master plan, and addressing additional needs. Concern was expressed about the sponsor's attempt to limit the time for board decision-making.

Dr. Smith emphasized the importance of aligning legislation with the master plan to avoid misunderstandings about land availability. Additionally, Dr. Smith mentioned long-term possibilities for the land, such as developing housing for individuals with autism and providing respite services due to increasing population demands.

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Scott Pingree stressed the board's responsibility to collaborate with the administration for the well-being of those served. Concerns were raised about SB 113 potentially diminishing the board's role in land and water rights decisions. The discussion emphasized the importance of considering the impact on the well-being of individuals served by USDC.

Scott Pingree asked to clarify what the sentiments are within the group regarding SB 113. The board aims to avoid advocating or operating in an uninformed manner. Tonya expressed deep concern over the potential elimination of the board's role in land and water rights sales. Our focus is on how the board's involvement affects the well-being of those we serve. Scott Pingree emphasized the importance of understanding the context and advocating for our constituents. Paul Smith noted that the constitution of the state isn't immutable, and efforts can be made to improve the legislation's language. Tracy underscored the board's independence from the department and its authority over legislative matters. Dr. Smith emphasized the importance of not exacerbating the situation.

Dr. Smith proposed adjourning the meeting. Tim Mathews seconded the motion.

Motion to Adjourn:

Yea- Tim Mathews, USDC Superintendent

Yea- Dr. Scott L. Smith, Public Appointee

Yea- Jennifer May, Family Advocate

Yea- Tonya Hales, DHHS Assistant Deputy Director

Yea- Angella Pinna, DSPD Director

Yea- Paul Smith, Public Appointee

Yea- Scott Pingree, Family Advocate

Yea, Patrick Horrigan, Consumer Advocate