SOUTHWEST BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER
AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 8th, 2025
Cedar City, Utah

PRESENT:

Commissioner Jerry Taylor
Commissioner Paul Cozzens
Commissioner Wade Hollingshead
Commissioner Celeste Meyeres
Commissioner Victor Iverson

STAFF MEMBERS:

Mike Deal, Executive Director
Crystal Stock, Executive Assistant
Michael Sherratt, Clinical Director

CALL TO ORDER/ INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Cozzens, Chairperson of the Authority Board, who welcomed all those in attendance and introduced new board member, Commissioner Iverson.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHAIRPERSON

Mike Deal reminded the Board that in the Center's Bylaws it states "At the new year's first monthly meeting of the Center Authority Board, the Chairperson of the Board shall be appointed, which office shall last for one year". In 2025 Commissioner Meyeres moves to Chairmanship and Commissioner Iverson becomes Vice-Chair.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MINUTES

Commissioner Meyeres asked for a motion to approve the December 2024 Authority Board minutes. Commissioner Cozzens moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF BI-MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT

Mike Deal noted the Bi-Monthly Operations Report had been sent out previously and reviewed Personnel Changes, Major Expenditures, Risk Management, Director's Travel and Public Use of Center Facilities for the time period November – December 2024. Mr. Deal started with the payment list stating there was nothing that stood out. Moving on to the Risk Management report, Mr. Deal highlighted slight property damage from an agitated client at the Receiving Center. This is the same client who submitted a grievance regarding how he felt disrespected by the staff and this is being handled through policy. There were two youth injuries in the Center's residential program. Injuries were minor, nothing serious, and not unusual. Only one client death in Garfield County and was due to natural causes. Commissioner Taylor moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Cozzens seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF BI-MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Mike Deal presented the Monthly Financial Status Report as of 11/30/2024 showing total Revenues at 50.50% and Expenses 35.96% which is slightly under budget. He reviewed the areas where there were special notes. Commissioner Cozzens moved to approve the Bi-Monthly Financial Status Report and Commissioner Hollingshead seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous for approval.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 AUDIT PRESENTATION/CERTIFICATION

Mike Deal remind the Commissioners of the audit Kevin Jones completed and presented at the December 2024 Authority Board Meeting. Mr. Deal states there is Certification of Audit review by County Form needing to be signed by all Commissioners. He goes on to say the form certifies everyone has received a copy of the audit. Mr. Deal ends with asking anyone who may have questions to reach out to him at any time. Commissioner Hollingshead moved to approve the signing of the form and Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

NEW POLICY APPROVAL - AI

Mr. Deal described the reason we are proposing an AI policy. He explains the main focus of AI at the Center is for the administrative side in assisting staff and with documenting electronic health records and other administrative tasks. The AI tool listens to the session and creates a session note for the therapist. All clients will have opportunity to deny or approve this AI tool.

Mike Deal goes on to highlight Commissioner Mayeres' concern addressed in a previous board meeting. Added language explains legalities and procedures for if the State office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, or other entities, get involved with mandating AI tools. Commissioner Meyeres and other commissioners had no further questions or need to discuss additional topics on the policy. Commissioner Iverson moved to approve the policy and Commissioner Cozzens seconded the motion. The policy was unanimously approved.

CLINICAL REPORT

Michael Sherratt provided an overview of the Stabilization and Mobile Response (SMR) Program. Mr. Sherratt explains the role of SMR is for a therapist to go in a home where the family's system is in a crisis and then create a plan for treatment within a range of 4-8 weeks. The overall goal of SMR is to stabilize the family system and assist them in finding continued care. Mr. Sherratt continues discussing the programs caseload, insurance coverage, client demographics, and roles of those within the program.

LEGISTLATIVE PRIORITIES

Mike Deal walked through the Center's legislative priorities. Topics Mr. Deal discussed ranged from adding behavior health to the consensus, supporting growth of the State Hospital, State falling behind on background checks, transportation to behavioral health hospitals, and the funding parity in RC and MCOT.

MEDICAID INPATIENT HOSPITALIZATION

From the State Association, Mike Deal shared Juergen E. Korbanka's (from Wasatch Behavioral Health) findings on the long-term impact of the capitated payment system on hospitalization rates. Mr. Deal summarized when the Center did not have Medicaid capitation, behavioral health services were optional and paid on a fee-for-services basis. Without care management, Behavioral Health Inpatient Hospitalization increased every year. Mr. Deal states this is when Local Authorities proposed a Capitated, Managed Care Program to better serve this population and the State can save money.

COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mike Deal created this discussion item for the Commissioners to share any issues, concerns, or data they are particularly interested in and want to see more of in future meetings. The Commissioners shared they would like to see more information dispersed in the community explaining resources and help the Center provides.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Deal asked the Commissioners regarding NACO and their upcoming schedule with other events. He moved on to discussing the closure letter from the Office of Civil Rights regarding the Center's data breach. The letter closed the case without noting any fine or penalty.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REVIEW – CLOSED MEETING

Commissioner Cozzens motioned to go into a closed meeting for personnel review and Commissioner Hollingshead seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor. Mike Sherratt, Mike Deal, and Crystal Stock left the room and they went into the closed meeting.

After the Commissioners came out of the closed meeting, Ms. Stock, Mr. Deal, and Mr. Sherratt returned to the room. The Commissioners proposed to provide Mike Deal a 5% increase and stated it is consistent with what other counties have done. Commissioner Cozzens moved to approve the pay increase and Commissioner Hollingshead seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Hollingshead seconded the motion. The voting was unanimously in favor of adjournment.

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Southwest Behavioral Health Center Authority Board Chairperson