Governance Board Meeting

4105 Kirkman Street

Lake Charles, Louisiana 70607

January 6, 2022

Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Betty Cunningham called the meeting to order at 12:01pm noting a quorum was present. The meeting was held via Zoom due to the federal declarations set in place for Southwest Louisiana and to comply with the Governor’s COVID plan.

II. ROLL CALL

1. Betty Cunningham, appointed by Governor Edwards
2. Melanie Sarro, appointed by Governor Edwards
3. Linda Storer, appointed by Beauregard Parish
4. Aaron LeBoeuf, appointed by Calcasieu Parish
5. Angela Jouett, appointed by Cameron Parish
6. Kristen Cassidy, appointed by Jefferson Davis Parish

Absent:

1. William Sommers, appointed by Governor Edwards

NOTE: Allen Parish seat is vacant.

EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

1. Tanya McGee, Executive Director
2. Jenny Mills, Deputy Director
3. Leslie Nolan, Behavioral Health Division Director
4. Kristen Arville, Executive Assistant

III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Taffany Jones, Case Manager in Allen/Beauregard Parish, ImCal’s Behavioral Health Division

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board members received December minutes prior to the meeting. Betty Cunningham

requested a motion to approve the December minutes. Linda Storer motioned and

Melanie Sarro seconded. December minutes unanimously approved.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Tanya McGee requested to add the following agenda items. Allen Parish Appointment under board monitoring. COVID Update and ACT 421 under executive directors’ report. Betty Cunningham requested a motion to approve the agenda with changes. Betty Cunningham motioned and Melanie Sarro seconded.

VI. BOARD MONITORING

A. Governor Appointee Appointment

Tanya McGee informed the board the current appointment for Betty Cunningham will expire in March. Ms. Betty will complete her sixth year serving on the ImCal board. Tanya reminded the board, due to a change in legislation a few years prior, the board was reorganized. Ms. Cunningham represented Beauregard parish during her first term and as Governor Appointee during her 2nd term. Tanya thanked Ms. Betty for her dedicated service to the board. Her last meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2022. ImCal is requesting from the governor's office that Ms. Cunningham be allowed to stay until an appropriate replacement is found. Tanya reminded the board they will have to select a new chair at the February meeting due to the expiration for Ms. Cunningham’s appointment. Tanya also reminded the board that Angela Jouett’s second appointment will be expiring in June, and she is currently the Vice Chair. Tanya plans to get with ImCal's local stakeholders to find an appropriate list of candidates for the board to review. Once selected an official recommendation will be made.

B. Allen Parish Appointment

Tanya McGee informed the board they’re still looking for an appropriate replacement for the Allen Parish appointment. Unlike the Governor appointee this representative must come from Allen parish. Tanya plans to present a list of candidates once fully vetted at the next meeting for the board to review and then an official recommendation will be made.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Opioid Settlement Funding from Attorney General to local Police Juries

Tanya McGee informed the board the state of Louisiana along with a few other states were involved in lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies in regard to the distribution and selling of opioids to pharmacies, doctors' offices etc. The lawsuit was sided in favor of the states and Louisiana was named in receiving retribution. The Louisiana Attorney General's office plans make funds available from the lawsuit throughout the state to help combat the opioid epidemic with prevention and treatment. The funds will be spread out over the course of ten years and be made available to cities, parishes and other local public officials who will need to apply to receive this funding. Tanya will be reaching out to the local police juries within the five-parish area to inform them of need of application. She is asked for the boards help to let all public officials in their respective parish know this funding is available to apply for. Betty Cunningham asked for the website information where the information for application can be found, Tanya replied it's the Attorney Generals website.

B. Expansion of Emergency Room Peer Navigator Program for overdose

Cases

The ER Peer Navigator program is doing well at LC Memorial Hospital. They currently have a 75% success rate in getting clients transitioned from ER to treatment. West Calcasieu Cameron Hospital in Sulphur will be the next program to implement the program. Contracts are to be finalized this week. Tanya stressed the importance of the program. National data shows that deaths due to overdose has surpassed deaths due to a motor vehicle accident or cardiovascular disease in adults 18-45, making overdose the number one killer in this demographic.

C. New EHR contract with Athena

Tanya McGee informed the board ImCal has entered into a new service agreement with Athena for a new electronic health record (EHR).  Tanya informed the board the BH Division currently uses ICANotes, however ImCal’s needs have surpassed what ICANotes can offer. ImCal is in need of an EHR that is more robust in billing and reporting. Recent audit finds can be attributed to this. Jenny Mills, Deputy Director lead a search for the new EHR system. The team consisted of ImCal staff from various divisions and units within the Administration and Behavioral Health Divisions. Eight vendors were fully vetted and reviewed in this process. Jenny explained most EHR's offer an a la carte type package meaning the customer can pick and choose what they need, and the price is based on what services are chosen. Athena, on the other hand is a total package with the billing component or without the billing component. The committee chose to add the billing component. Betty Cunningham asked about the cost based on transactions. Tanya explained the cost is based on the revenue generated for the current fiscal year instead of individual transactions. She explained having it this way actually incentivizes Athena to keep their program running efficiently in order to increase revenue. The more money ImCal makes, the more money Athena makes. The cost of the new system will be more than double the cost of the old system. With that said, there are currently services ImCal pays for separately, i.e. ZOOM, credit card machines, clearinghouse for billing, etc., which will now be included in the new system. While this new EHR cost does not surpass the amount which requires Board approval, Tanya wanted to make the board aware since it is a large purchase.

D. COVID Update

Tanya McGee informed the board she sits in on multiple calls with OPH concerning the surge of the Omicron variant. ImCal does currently have staff that are out due to positive tests or close contact. She assured ImCal has taken all precautions set forth by the office of the Governor and the Louisiana Department of Health. She will update if any changes become available.

E. Act 421

Legislation was passed in regards to ACT 421 formerly known as the TEFRA Act. Tanya explained there are certain requirements a person must meet to receive Developmental Disability (DD) services. ACT 421 expands the eligibility requirements for someone to receive services through Medicaid. ImCal is responsible for completing the assessments, and monitoring of the program. The program launched on January 1, 2022. ImCal’s DD staff are currently working through a list from the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities identifying families that potentially can qualify. Staff will contact the families to explain and help with application if they choose to apply. ImCal was given funding to hire a nurse to complete the medical assessment part of the application. Melanie Sarro informed she has had a few of her families call her for help with the application. ImCal is encouraging everyone to apply even if they think they won't qualify. Melanie requested a one-pager to explain Act 421 to families. Tanya will get with DD staff to get that created.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

IX. NEXT MEETING - **2/3/2022**

X. ADJOURNMENT

Betty Cunningham requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Angela Jouett motioned and Aaron LeBoeuf seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:05pm.