

Florida Parishes Human Services Authority Administrative Office
Minutes of the Online Governing Board Meeting
April 23, 2021

** In Light of the spread of COVID-19, Governor John Bel Edwards issued Proclamation Number JBE 2020-30 on March 16, 2020 that provided for all state agencies, boards, and commissions, and local political subdivisions of the state to allow attendance at essential governmental meetings via teleconference or video conference during the pendency of this emergency. **
(Source: <https://www.ag.state.la.us/Files/Article/9743/Documents/AmendedOpenMeetingsGuidance.pdf>)

Dr. Genesa Garofalo Metcalf, Board Chair, called the meeting of the Florida Parishes Human Services Authority (FPHSA) Online Governing Board to order at 9:34 a.m.

Rebecca Soley conducted a roll call. A quorum was established.

Attendees

Governing Board: David Cressy; Liz Gary; Timothy Lentz; Genesa Garofalo Metcalf, M.D; Mona Pellichino; Gary Porter; and Carol Stafford

Absent: Danielle Keys

FPHSA Staff/ Guest: Richard Kramer, Executive Director; Rachelle Sibley, Chief Operating Officer; Rebecca Soley, FPHSA/Executive Administration

Prayer was offered by Rev. Porter.

Agenda/Consent Agenda

Dr. Metcalf extended an offer for additional agenda items or revisions to the agenda.

Mr. Lentz made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented; seconded by Ms. Stafford.

The motion passed unanimously.

Excused Absences

There were no requests presented for an excused absence.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Stafford made a motion adopting the March 26, 2021 minutes as written; seconded by Rev. Porter.

The motion passed unanimously.

Public Input

Dr. Metcalf welcomed all in attendance and extended an opportunity for public input.

Executive Director Report

Mr. Kramer presented the Executive Director's Report for April to members of the governing board. He outlined the following:

1. COVID Update: We are beginning to phase back into in person services as Covid rates improve in our area. The intent is to gradually step up in person programs with the goal of being able to provide all normal services again by July 1. We will continue to monitor the infection rates in our area as well as any impacts our own plans have and make any adjustments as necessary.
2. Budget Update: As you are probably aware, the legislature is in full swing for the session. I attended the House Appropriations Meeting last week where the LDH budget, including, the LGEs was presented. There did not appear to be much concern with those parts of the budget this year and we are hoping for an uneventful session this year. It appears that there is much improved relationship between LDH and the legislature under Secretary Phillips' leadership and that might translate into less contentious interactions when discussing budget and other plans than we have experienced in recent years.
3. COVID Grant Funding Update: Last month we talked about some new grant money that was going to be available due to Covid response and the plans for that money (zoom licenses, wall mounted thermometers, case management, and EAP services). We received confirmation earlier this week that this grant will be funded. Since that meeting we have been made aware of other grant opportunities for a significant amount of funds. We currently have grant proposals in that would include creating an access team, hiring additional nursing help to work with the medically assisted treatment program and the purchase of a mobile unit which would allow us to restart or outreaches and bring them wherever they were needed in the future. We have not received any word on approval for these teams yet but there is optimism that it will be approved at the Department of Health.
4. Service Manual Revision: LDH has been having meeting with the LGEs for the past several months to develop a service manual revision that would make peer support services a billable service under Medicaid. The plans call for utilizing peers in a much different way to how it is currently done. We are making internal plans to determine how we can best fit the peers in under that model while considering which peer services make sense to remain under other methods of reimbursement that will not have to meet the service definition from Medicaid.
5. OBH Forum Feedback/Crisis Services: The Office of Behavioral Health held a forum earlier this month to discuss their plans for a crisis continuum of services in response to a Department of Justice investigation that started with complaints of adults with mental illness issues being warehoused in nursing homes. It was determined that one of the biggest gaps in coverage across Louisiana was the lack of crisis services. Their plan involves contracting for mobile crisis teams as well as crisis stabilization centers across all regions. There will be new Medicaid rates for these services and they intend to start rolling them out in January. It is not yet known how the LGEs will fit into this new plan.

6. ACT 421 Implementation Update: The implementation of Act 421, which was to have started by now, has been delayed pending approval of some of the specifics from CMS. There is no projected date at this time.
7. Electronic Health Record Transition Update: Staff have been making progress on the new electronic health record transition with meetings going on every week to build out the new system.
8. Crisis Counseling Program Extended: The Crisis Counseling program funds have been extended by FEMA for six more months through November. We will also be adding to more staff members with the grant funding now that Covid has improved to the extent that they are able to do more in the community.
9. Accountability Plan Update: We received our final report from LDH for the annual Accountability Plan that now includes only a review of compliance with the Office of Developmental Disabilities requirements and received an overall score of 89%. This score represents areas of improvement in 3 out of 28 performance indicators. However, one of those indicators is misleading as it measures total amount expended in Individual Support Funds but, since we are not yet finished with the year, we have not spent all of the funds yet. The second indicator is percentage of people employed in community based employment which has been a struggle statewide but has been exacerbated further by Covid. The target is 20% with an actual result of 5.91%. This is something that is recognized as an issue across the state and one we hope to be able to make improvements on as Covid rates improve. The third indicator is percentage of children who receive EarlySteps services by 36 months of age. The target for this area is 100% with our actual result being 97.7%.
10. Office of Risk Management Compliance Review: We recently completed an Office of Risk Management compliance review with an overall score of 99.1%
11. HR Audit: We recently had a Human Resources audit by the Department of Civil Service with 99.2% of the items reviewed being found compliant.
12. Developmental Disabilities Services Data Information – Mr. Kramer provided some developmental disabilities services data for January 2021, February 2021, and March 2021 on the following information: Systems Entry; Referrals for Crisis Placement; PASRR; Residential Placement Searches; IFS Information including referrals, new referrals, individuals/families receiving IFS, the number on the waiting List, and denials; FFF information including those receiving FFF; the number on the waiting list; denials; and Waiver Information including those receiving Waiver Services, pending waiver services, waiver recipients admitted to institutions; and the number of SUN referrals submitted to State Office.
13. Behavioral Health Services Information – Mr. Kramer provided the number of persons served and services provided for the following: Bogalusa Behavioral Health Clinic; Denham Springs Behavioral Health Clinic; Mandeville Behavioral Health Clinic; Rosenblum Behavioral Health Clinic; Slidell Behavioral Health Clinic; Outreach Services in Franklinton, Greensburg, and Kentwood; and Home and Community Based Services, as well as the number serviced through Residential Treatment Services for January 2021, February 2021, and March 2021.

Ms. Gary made a motion to accept the Executive Director's report as presented; seconded by Ms. Pellichino.

The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report- April 2021:

Ms. Sibley presented the Financial Report for April 2021 as follows:

Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021)

FPHSA's current FY 2021 budget analysis, as of March 31st reflects a projected deficit; however, we are projecting collecting over the self-generated budget to be transferred to escrow at the close of the fiscal year. An analysis of FPHSA's operating and escrow budget was presented to the board. The Fiscal Department will continue to monitor revenues and expenditures closely.

Ms. Sibley shared that FPHSA is hiring a temporary position to assist with collections, as well as considering the possibility of contracting out credentialing.

Mr. Cressy made a motion to accept the financial report as presented; seconded by Ms. Pellichino.

The motion passed unanimously.

Board Business

Officer Terms: St. Tammany Parish Appointment and Livingston Parish Vacancy

Dr. Metcalf announced to the board that Ms. Liz Gary was appointed to serve a new consecutive term on the FPHSA Governing Board representing St. Tammany Parish. She also announced the resignation of Livingston Parish Governing Board Member, Cheryl Smith. FPHSA will be working with the parish government to fill this vacancy.

Financial Disclosure Statements Due May 15th

The board was reminded that the personal financial disclosure statements are due on May 15th.

Confirmation of the next meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the FPHSA Governing Board is scheduled on Friday, May, 28, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. FPHSA will closely monitor the COVID-19 situation and determine whether the meeting can safely be held in person or via teleconference. Details will be emailed and posted in a timely manner as more information is made available.


Adjournment

Mr. Lentz made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Stafford.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



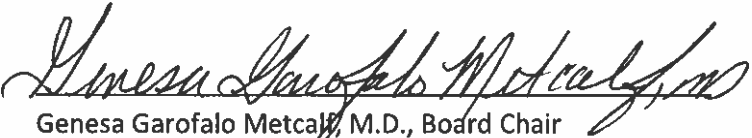
Rebecca Soley, Secretary

5/21/21
Date



Richard J. Kramer, Executive Director

5-25-21
Date



Genesa Garofalo Metcalfe, M.D., Board Chair

5/25/21
Date