

Florida Parishes Human Services Authority
Governing Board Meeting
April 25, 2014
835 Pride Drive, Suite B
Hammond, LA 70401
9:30 A.M.

Mary Pirosko, Chair, called the meeting of the Florida Parishes Human Services Authority (FPHSA) Governing Board to order at 9:33 a.m.

Varetta Spears conducted a roll call. A quorum was established.

In attendance:

Board Members: David Cressy; Linda Deamer-Hart; Rubby Douglas; Cheryl Klein; Mary Pirosko; Edward Ratcliff; Jan Robert; Ligia Soileau; Thomas Zachary, Jr.

FPHSA Staff / Guests: Melanie Watkins, Executive Director; Trent Myers, Administrative Director; Tina B. Linder, HR Director; Dr. Schoener LaPrairie, MHS; Dr. Tra Ladner, MHS; Sue Hutti, ADS; Rachelle Sibley, FPHSA Administration; Rebecca Soley, FPHSA Administration; Varetta Spears, FPHSA Administration; Sara Wells, MHS

Prayer was offered by Ms. Deamer-Hart.

Excused Absences:

None

Review/Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Douglas made a motion to accept the Financial Report submitted by Ms. Sibley at the governing board meeting held at the previous meeting; seconded by Ms. Deamer-Hart.

Voting Yes: Mr. Cressy; Ms. Pirosko; Ms. Robert; Mr. Zachary; Abstained: Ms. Klein; Ms. Soileau; Not Present for the vote: Mr. Ratcliff; motion carried.

Mr. Zachary made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting; seconded by Ms. Deamer-Hart.

Voting Yes: Mr. Cressy; Ms. Douglas; Ms. Pirosko; Ms. Robert; Abstained: Ms. Klein; Ms. Soileau;
Not Present for the vote: Mr. Ratcliff; motion carried.

Questions and Comments from the audience:

Ms. Pirosko welcomed all in attendance and extended an opportunity for public input.

Executive Director's Report:

Melanie Watkins submitted a copy of the Executive Director's Report for April to members of the governing board. She outlined the content which included:

- ❖ Update on the Legislative Audit. Ms. Watkins reported that as of the morning of April 25, 2014 the Legislative Auditor's request for information may be finished. She reiterated that as mentioned, over the course of the past several months, although it was time for the agency's routine 2-year audit, this audit process has evolved. She explained that the extensive audit is primarily focused on the implementation of the Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership (LBHP) and Magellan as the managed care entity. Ms. Watkins said that she hopes the final report will be completed in the near future, with recommendations, if any.
- ❖ Update on the legislative session. Ms. Watkins reported that with the recent opening of the legislative session, she and key staff have been to the House Appropriations Committee (HAC) hearings, as well as the Senate Finance Committee hearings. She reported that the issues of a funding formula for the districts/authorities were discussed at both of the committee meetings. Ms. Watkins reported that members of the legislative delegates from the HAC and The Senate Finance, along with other committee members raised issues, as well. As a result, DHH is in the process of trying to develop a funding formula for a more equitable funding distribution to present to the legislature. Their goal date is to have a proposed formula for this legislative session. She added that DHH plans to recommend that there be no shift in the current funding levels, but as new funding would become available, then the districts/authorities determined to be under-funded would receive funding first, in an effort to backfill the budget until such time as the funding is more equitable, based on the new funding formula. Ms. Watkins explained that there are many factors to be considered, one of which is the funding for those programs that serve individuals on a state-wide basis such as Alcohol & Drug Unit (ADU)/ Fontainebleau Treatment Center (FTC), as well as other similar programs across the state. She reported that DHH has involved the districts/authorities in the development of the funding formula to some extent; however, the final recommendations are unknown at this time. Ms. Watkins reported that in addition to the legislative activities, she and key staff have met with Senator Ben Nevers on several occasions recently regarding FPHSA. She said that a

brief overview of the services the agency provides, as well as funding issues and the challenge the agency is currently facing was explained to Senator Nevers. Ms. Watkins reported that the most recent meeting with Senator Nevers was on Thursday, April 24, 2014 at the Capitol. She explained that he convened a meeting with staff from FPHSA, DHH, and Magellan to discuss billing and revenue issues. Ms. Watkins explained that the meeting was due to Senator Nevers' concern that there may be a potential budget shortfall this current fiscal year, which may impact services. Ms. Watkins commended Senator Nevers for his recent active involvement with regards to FPHSA, as he is eager to support and advocate for services for those most in need.

- ❖ Update on the Coordinated System of Care (CSoC). Ms. Watkins reported since the last governing board meeting, the Wraparound agency (WAA) for this area has been selected and the WAA application packet was submitted to DHH/ Office of Behavioral Health (OBH)/CSoC for consideration and processing. Louisiana Choices was the agency selected to serve as the WAA. She explained that they are part of a national organization that has also been serving as the WAA in the Shreveport area with CSoC. Ms. Watkins said that they are in the process of establishing an office in this area, with the intent and goal of CSoC implementation in the FPHSA service area by June or July, 2014.
- ❖ Update on St. Tammany Parish needs assessment process. Ms. Watkins reported that on April 9, 2014, members of FPHSA staff participated in the St. Tammany Parish Behavioral Health Taskforce meeting, at which time the "Needs Assessment" report regarding behavioral health services for the parish was presented. Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI) has been coordinating the assessment process with consultants from the National Council for Behavioral Health Care. She said that there were some excellent proposed recommendations; as a result, a "visioning and planning" day has been scheduled for May 14, 2014 to further develop the ideas presented. She said in addition, as a result of the process, consultants with the National Council offered to provide training and consultation to FPHSA, as well as other community partners. Ms. Watkins was excited to report that the training is scheduled for May 12, 13, and 15, 2014, which will assist the agency in future planning efforts. She reported that even though the information and training is primarily focused on St. Tammany parish, the agency intends to incorporate any changes made and implemented across the service delivery area, and not just in St. Tammany Parish. Ms. Watkins added that there will be enhanced benefits from the entire process and training. Ms. Watkins formally acknowledged Jan Robert, who has served as the facilitator for the entire process, including efforts to obtain grant funding for the project, making this endeavor possible.

Mr. Cressy made a motion to accept the Executive Director's Report; seconded by Ms. Robert.

Roll call vote unanimous; motion carried.

Ms. Robert elaborated on the St. Tammany Behavioral Health Plan. She gave a brief update on the status of the plan and explained the funding sources from Baptist Community Ministries and The Northshore Foundation. Ms. Robert explained that the purpose of the funding is to transform St. Tammany parish behavioral health system; however, it is anticipated that FPHSA can benefit from the integrated training provided by the National Council for Behavioral Health Care, as well as enable the surrounding parishes served by the agency to utilize the practices and strategies implemented, as a result of the plan. She explained the future goals of the St. Tammany Behavioral Health Plan and gave a brief overview of the upcoming trainings and events planned.

Committee Reports

Financial Report:

Ms. Pirosko deferred to Ms. Sibley for the Financial Report for April. Ms. Sibley submitted the following reports: Monthly Budget Report for month ending March 31, 2014 and Magellan Monthly Target versus Projected Target. She explained the details of data contained in each report. She gave a brief update on the agency's billing and collection status. Ms. Sibley reiterated that the agency will not be able to collect outstanding debt from Medicare due to the timely filing limits.

Mr. Ratcliff made a motion to accept the Financial Report for the month of April; seconded by Ms. Klein.

Roll call vote unanimous; motion carried.

Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee:

The following members of the board served on the Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee: Ms. Deamer-Hart; Ms. Douglas; Ms. Klein. Ms. Douglas submitted preliminary changes to the current Bylaws regarding a continuity of operations plan during state of declared emergencies, as well as the possibility of conducting business via conference calling, Skype or other means of technology. It was concluded that Mr. Cressy will make the changes to the bylaws as recommended by the committee and present final changes at the next meeting for the board's consideration.

Old Business:

Policy 041- “Board- Executive Director Linkage”:

Policy 041 – “Board Executive Director Linkage was submitted to the board for annual review. It was suggested that changes be made to the policy as recommended by the board. The recommended changes will be submitted at the next meeting for consideration by the board.

New Business:

Ethics Financial Disclosure Statement:

The annual Ethics Financial Disclosure Statement was submitted to the board as a reminder to submit to the Board of Ethics by the required deadline May 15, 2014.

Board Resolution for FPHSA Signage:

Ms. Watkins submitted a copy of the Board Resolution for FPHSA Signage to the board for consideration. She explained that The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development required that the agency provide a “unanimously” passed resolution by the governing board in order to place guide signs on state right of way, which would provide directions to the Pride Drive facility in Hammond, Louisiana.

Ms. Douglas made a motion that Board Resolution for FPHSA Signage to have a sign erected and/or posted on Highway US 190 to serve as an official highway sign providing directions to the Pride Drive facility located in Hammond, Louisiana, in order to enhance public access to the agency’s services and supports; seconded by Mr. Cressy.

Roll call vote unanimous; motion carried.

Executive Session:

The Governing board convened in Executive Session to discuss future plans.

Confirmation of the next meeting

The next meeting was confirmed to be May 23, 20143.

Ms. Klein made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Cressy

Roll call vote unanimous; meeting adjourned.