

BETTY HARDWICK CENTER
MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING
March 1, 2022
2616 SOUTH CLACK, ABILENE, TEXAS



Dedicated to People | Committed to Care

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Trustees Present:

Michael Whitehorn
Terri Plumlee
Dee Moore
Vicky Hicks
Tyler Cagle
Rosendo Contreras
Ed Miller
Judy Patterson
Elijah Anderson
Priscilla Rayford
Andre Moore

Staff Present:

Jenny Goode
Jennifer Farrar
Dena Heaton
Kristi Terbush
Judy McDowell
Chandler Boatright

Michael Jones
Chris Mabry
Theron Cole (Teams)
Donna Parker
Teresa McBride
Amy DeLosSantos
Deborah Kilpatrick

Trustees Absent:

Executive Staff Absent:

Guests Present:

Family members of staff
receiving awards

22.07.01. Invocation/Quorum/Recognition of Guests

Dr. Whitehorn called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. He stated that a quorum of eleven (11) Board members was present. Ms. Moore then delivered the invocation.

22.07.02. Citizens Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

22.07.03. Employee Awards and Recognition 2nd Quarter

The following employees were recognized for their years of service.

Lindsey Stawarczik	5 years	ECI Occupational Therapist
Donna Parker	5	Clinic Team Coordinator
Judy McDowell	10	Admissions & Continuity of Care Team Lead

22.07.04. Training Info/Presentation -- Jail In Reach

Mrs. Terbush presented information on the Jail In Reach Program. The Center provides a number of services to our local County Jails. Our contracts with HHSC require us to provide Crisis Intervention Services. Our counties have asked us to provide the Psychiatric Clinic Services to them, which we do under an MOU. We do not charge a fee for those services at the present time. Our Jails

participate in paying the cost of our Jail Navigator staff positions, along with the Center and the City of Abilene/APD.

People with mental illness commit crimes. When possible, we work with law enforcement to divert people to treatment in the community or hospital. When diversion is not possible, we support people in jail. Jail Clinic provides a link to outpatient services. Some are found incompetent to stand trial and must wait in county jails to be transferred to a state hospital or a state supported living center for competency restoration. Some may be found not guilty by reason of insanity.

Jail In Reach was borne out of:

Jails having limited access to psychiatric services; Number of persons in jail with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) increasing; Numbers of persons with SMI awaiting SH admission under forensic commitment increasing; Significant stress to jail staff who can often benefit from expert assistance from State Hospital staff with respect to medication treatment and consultation; Need for collaboration towards the improvement of mental health care available to county jails.

In Texas, there are 9 State Hospitals and 1 Adolescent Residential Treatment Center (RTC). Forensic beds are for persons who are not guilty by reason of insanity or incompetent to stand trial. Adult forensic services take place at State Mental Hospital Facilities. Maximum Security Units are limited. The waiting list for MSU is over 646 days and Non MSU over 158 days.

Services offered to Jails include: 24/7 Mobile Crisis Outreach; 2 Full Time Jail Navigators who do pre-booking diversion; crisis assessments and coordinate Jail Clinic and outpatient referrals at release; Psychiatric Jail Clinic and Jail In Reach Consultation.

We are working to shorten the wait for forensic beds by increasing the pursuit of court ordered medications and reassessments for inmates who have been receiving treatment in jail with a goal of being able to move them through their court proceedings when possible.

22.07.05. Minutes of January 4, 2022 Board Meeting

On a motion by Vicky Hicks, seconded by Terri Plumlee, the Board approved the minutes from the Board meeting on January 4, 2022.

10 For 0 Against 1 Abstained

The Board Chair abstains from voting.

22.07.06. Financial Reports, January, 2022

Mr. Mabry summarized the financial reports for January, 2022.

The Center had a loss of \$117,794 for the month and a deficit of \$476,294 for the year. Removing construction expense, we would have a profit of \$150,813 for the month and a \$246.324 surplus for the year.

On a motion by Terri Plumlee, seconded by, Priscilla Rayford, the Board accepted the financial report as presented.

10 For 0 Against 1 Abstained

22.07.07. Consideration of Benchmark Agreement

On a motion by Tyler Cagle, seconded by Elijah Anderson, the Board approved the Center entering into contract with Benchmark for copy machines, with a term of 63 months for a total estimated cost of \$230,563 over the duration of the agreement.

10 For 0 Against 1 Abstained

22.07.08. Review/Discuss Employee Survey

The Board reviewed and discussed the annual staff survey. The survey reflected common themes related to staffing shortages, the COVID 19 pandemic, and caseload sizes, all contributing to staff feeling additional stress and overworked. Although our turnover in the past year has not been significantly different, we have experienced longer lapses in the time it is taking to replace employees who separate. The Board expressed their appreciation to staff for an outstanding job especially during difficult times.

22.07.09. Information Items

- Texas Council Annual Conference to be held in Fort Worth, June 21-23
- What Every Board Member Should Be Talking About – This publication covered the following items: 1115 Waiver Extension Status-Directed Payment Program and Charity Care Pool Approved; Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Update; 988 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline; Supreme Court Rulings on Vaccine Mandates; Telehealth Implementation and Mental Health First Aid
- Hoops, Dreams and Goals Basketball Tournament to be held March 25th, at Howard College in Big Spring, Texas
- CAC Remodel Update – The remodel is complete and staff began moving in today, Tuesday, March 1.

Community and/or Staff Meetings for the CEO – Mrs. Goode provided a review of the meetings that she and executive staff attended for the month including: Mr. Cole and Mrs. Farrar met with the HHSC All Texas Access team virtually to discuss the status of the rural crisis diversion project; Mrs. Goode and Mrs. Farrar participated in the Texas Council work group to finalize recommendations to move forward on changing the credentialing requirements for QMHP staff and possibly IDD SC; Several staff attended the UW Annual Meeting where Andra Cobb was recognized for her service as a Loaned Executive in the campaign, which has closed with a record total; Mrs. Terbush and Mr. Cole participated with

some of our medical staff and representatives from Taylor County on our Forensic Committee, tasked with performing Jail In Reach activities.

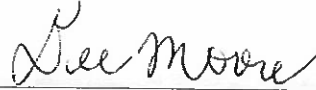
22.07.10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m. with all business being completed. The next meeting was set for April 5, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.

APPROVED:



Chair, Board of Trustees



Vice-Chair, Board of Trustees