

Fairfield County ADAMH Board

Minutes of the April 27, 2010, Board meeting held at 6:30 p.m. at the Board office pursuant to notice mailed to all Board members.

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. with a quorum being present. Chairman Walker swore in John Hoag, Ph.D. as a board member and welcomed him to the Board.

ROLL CALL PRESENT

Tom Alexander, Jay Bahnsen, Cindy Bender, Sheila Heath, Phillip Prior, M.D., Eric Walker, Bill Weimer, Kevin West.

ABSENT

Gene Eusanio, Tom Feisel, John Peden.

STAFF

Orman Hall, Don Mohler, Rhonda Myers, Nadine Carroll.

GUESTS

Patricia Waits, Brad Hedges, Tony Motta.

Chairman Walker asked the audience to introduce themselves and if they had any questions or comments.

Chairman Walker asked if there were any additions or corrections to the March Board minutes.

RESOLUTION NO. 4-27-10-1

Be it resolved upon motion by S. Heath and second by J. Bahnsen that the March Board minutes be approved. Motion was unanimously approved.

Don Mohler presented the March financials. On the revenue summary page, the Board had a good month for receipts. The Board received the Medicaid FFP from ODMH and ODADAS (\$356,332.49), American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA – Federal Stimulus Money (\$50,634.74)), and the first of two levy amounts (\$1,050,876.07). On the expense summary page, the Board had a below average month for expenditures. One possible explanation for this phenomenon would be that the inclement weather in January prevented providers from delivering billable services which would normally have been paid in March. With a monthly beginning balance of \$100,768.17, receipts of \$1,525,413.80, expenses of \$581,950.48, leaves a month ending cash balance of \$1,044,231.49.

RESOLUTION NO. 4-27-10-2

Be it resolved upon motion by K. West and second by Dr. Prior to approve the March financials. Motion was unanimously approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Hall discussed the three most important strategic objectives for the next couple of fiscal years.

1. Reduce OOC Medicaid expenditures – we are lucky to have the stimulus funds right now but when those run out in 2012, we will have a tremendous match burden.
2. Cut back on our reliance on the state hospital
3. Find additional cost effective ways to address the heroin epidemic – we are doing a lot of awareness work on this issue but more work is needed on the treatment side. That includes securing funding for additional treatment.

Updates –

Director Hall explained that there are three different negotiations going on around the psychiatric hospital issue.

- 1) Board staff and New Horizons staff,
- 2) New Horizons, Board and Fairfield Medical Center,
- 3) ODMH. We have a meeting with Sandy Stephenson next Friday and we are asking for three things:

A. That they make us whole by covering our liability for the extra length of stay (LOS) at Athens. Our LOS at Twin Valley was on average 11 days, at Athens it is 20 days.

B. Opportunity to change the usage of the houses on E. Main Street from permanent to respite. Tony added that housing is a big issue behind the LOS also. When people have no housing or place to discharge from Twin Valley would release them to the homeless shelter, Athens will not. Transitional housing would help a lot.

C. Move Fairfield County back to Twin Valley – this would be a much better financial solution for us.

Director Hall stated we probably won't get all that we ask for but we should get some.

Tony stated that discussion has centered on ways to safely divert people from the state hospital, maybe an observation bed in the Emergency Room where they can be continually observed. We could refer 2/3 of our people to 6 North, it is a lot better to keep people local so we can work more closely with them and with their discharge unit. Mina Ubbing, CEO of the Fairfield Medical Center, is willing to talk to her staff about this. S. Heath wondered if Fairfield Medical Center could make enough accommodations to make it worth our while to do this.

Director Hall stated that with 69 admissions the length of stay (LOS) was 20 days per episode. As of right now the projection is 1494 days with an approximate payback of \$201,810. He noted that ODMH showed us data that LOS wouldn't increase by moving to Athens, but it has. Tony said that Athens has good people and good practices but they just keep people longer. Patricia noted that their populations are different so their perspective is different too. T. Alexander asked if we could admit to both hospitals based on the client's needs. Director Hall stated he wasn't sure if we could do that or even if pre-screeners would be able to decide between them. Tony indicated that 40 percent of admissions are first timers. Chairman Walker asked if other Boards split their patients

between different hospitals. Director Hall noted that admissions were often diverted to other hospitals. Brad stated that Mid-Ohio has had more readmits in the last three months than ever before and they are finding that more mental health clients have a criminal issue which increases the LOS. Director Hall added that they have someone in Athens that already has 200 days and our maximum is 945 days. C. Bender wondered if someone is in that long is it still based on the primary diagnosis? Director Hall said that he is not sure because the hospital's CEO determines if they are ready to go and each hospital thinks their treatment pattern is appropriate. Dr. Hoag asked if other boards have the same imbalance that we do. Director Hall said there are four or five other boards that have similar problems.

Director Hall said that they have been discussing moving the CCO position back to the board and he is recommending that we accept it back. This will give us some more control over the admissions process.

RESOLUTION NO. 4-27-10-3

Be it resolved upon motion by B. Weimer and second by T. Alexander to approve moving the CCO designation back to the Board. Motion was unanimously approved.

Director Hall updated the board on the Opiate Task Force. We are making progress on the awareness of the problem and we now have 20 trained volunteers that are willing to go out and show the video. J. Bahnsen has shown it 14 times. J. Bahnsen stated that at the last showing there was a general support and comments that people want to do something, the buzz is growing. At a middle school showing there was silence and then tears. The kids asked lots of questions and there was really good discussion. Jenny, who lost her son, was there and told the kids not to ever do anything like that to someone you love. She added that she has asked senior citizens what is in their medicine cabinets and then they realize this epidemic does affect them. J. Bahnsen added that we really need a kid's version of this video.

Director Hall said that we have a huge treatment liability in this county and we are going to have people dying. If we can engage the community and get a levy around opiate treatment then we could save lots of lives. J. Bahnsen said she has noticed a change in attitude at the hospital. Dr. Prior stated that the person from the state medical board pooh-pooed the idea of making OARS mandatory but the medical community is more aware that something is happening and even a little shift is helpful. This will have to be a grassroots effort. It is scary that kids are skipping other things and going directly to opiates. Dr. Prior said the heroin pipeline is wide open and the cost to the state isn't just treatment. He added that 95% of addicts die in these epidemics and the ideal place to put funds would be into treatment.

Tony told the board that there is a new resource in the community, Diley Ridge Emergency room – he gets called when someone needs a psychiatric evaluation. It is a great new resource. We are already seeing significant numbers of people in the new facility

K. West asked if there were any grants out there to help with consumer operated services and to help with respite. Tony stated that he wasn't aware of any but they are talking about consumers helping with respite services. K. West added that it seemed like the funds for that service just dried up. He said he misses Our Place, the peer support worked to some extent.

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION NO. 4-27-10-5

Be it resolved, upon motion by K. West and seconded by T. Alexander to adjourn the Board meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Board meeting adjourned @ 7:45 p.m.

Chair

Secretary