

**Highland Rivers Health  
Meeting Minutes**

**Governing Board of Directors  
04/25/2018 10:30 AM  
Bartow Recovery Center  
650 Joe Frank Harris Parkway, Cartersville,  
GA, 30120**

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**Attendees**

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**Voting Members**

Ms. Chantel Adams, Chair  
Mr. Bill Fann, Vice Chair  
Ms. Gale Buckner, Board Member  
Mr. Larry Maxey, Board Member  
Ms. Bonnie Moore, Board Member  
Ms. Jean Smilie, Board Member  
Ms. Shana Vinyard, Board Member

**Other Attendees**

Ms. Melanie Dallas, Chief Executive Officer  
Mr. James Catanzaro, Legal Counsel  
Mr. Rich Gonzalez, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Stephanie Collum, Chief Compliance Officer  
Mr. Mike Mullet, Community Relations Director  
Ms. Melissa Stone, Executive Secretary  
Ms. Dena Payne, Director of Intellectual Developmental Disabilities  
Ms. Debbie Strotz, Chief Operations Officer  
Ms. Laura Citron, Director of Business Development

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**I. Call to Order**

Chair Chantel Adams called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented on unanimous vote of motion by Vice Chair Bill Fann and second by Ms. Bonnie Moore.

**III. Approval of February 28, 2018, Minutes**

The minutes were approved as presented on unanimous vote of motion by Ms. Gale Buckner and second by Ms. Jean Smilie.

**IV. Executive Session**

On unanimous vote of motion by Vice Chair Bill Fann and second by Mr. Larry Maxey, the Governing Board convened into Executive Session to consult with Legal Counsel regarding pending or potential claims.

V. Reconvention of Regular Session

**Action:** No action required.

VI. Appointment of FY19 Officer Nomination Committee

Chair Chantel Adams informed the members that it was time to appoint a Fiscal Year 2019 Officer Nomination Committee. She asked for volunteers for the project. The volunteers for the project were Vice Chair Bill Fann, Ms. Bonnie Moore, and Ms. Adams. Ms. Adams stated that she would send out an email to the committee members concerning the nominations.

**Action:** Volunteers were taken for the committee.

VII. Meetings Discussion

Chair Chantel Adams informed the members that it was time to discuss the meeting dates and times for the next fiscal year. She reminded the members that the meetings were currently held on the fourth Wednesday of every other month. The only exception was the month of December where meetings were held on the second Wednesday. The committee meetings began at 9:30 a.m. and the full meetings began at 10:30 a.m. The meetings were held in Cartersville as it was a central location. The members discussed and decided that the meetings should be consistent and remain on the same day of the week at the same times. Ms. Adams asked Executive Secretary Melissa Stone to compose the new schedule for fiscal year 2019 for presentation and approval at the next scheduled meeting.

VIII. Ratification of FY18 Behavioral Health Contract #44100-261-0262018103 Amendment #02

**Action:** The FY18 Behavioral Health Contract #44100-261-0262018103 Amendment #02 was approved on unanimous vote of motion by Vice Chair Bill Fann and second by Ms. Bonnie Moore.

IX. Ratification of FY18 System of Care Enhancement & Expansion Contract #44100-026-0000108160

**Action:** The FY18 System of Care Enhancement & Expansion Contract #44100-026-0000108160 was approved on unanimous vote of motion by Vice Chair Bill Fann and second by Ms. Bonnie Moore.

X. Finance Committee Report

Chair Chantel Adams informed the members that there was not a quorum for the committee meeting. Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Rich Gonzalez presented the finance information to the members who were in attendance for the Compliance and Finance committees.

**Action:** No action required.

## XI. CEO Report

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Melanie Dallas presented the following highlights from the CEO report.

- Ms. Dallas stated that Town Hall meetings were beginning for the Spring/Summer sessions. A survey monkey had been sent out to staff members to find out what topics they would like to hear about in the meetings. The two most requested topics were financials (including raises) and the Healthcare Staffing conversion. The main objective of the Town Halls was to give the staff members a chance to ask questions and for the Executive Team to listen to the staff member's concerns. Ms. Bonnie Moore asked that she be sent a reminder of when the meetings would be held in Rome.
- The Outpatient funding study had been expanded to six Community Service Boards (CSBs). Five of the CSBs had responded and furnished their data concerning the funding issues. The issues were consistent with the ones experienced by Highland Rivers Health. The combined results would be taken to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) and the Georgia Association of Community Service Boards to use for advocacy on the next legislative agenda for better funding for the services. Funding had previously been given to DBHDD in the amount of \$285 million. However, the funding was used for the services covered under the Department of Justice settlement. It was not used for Core services.
- The clinical pathways project was underway. The project had stemmed from an analysis that was performed on the services that were enrolled in by the individuals served. It showed that the agency was providing a lot of individual therapy and that there was a need for better engagement. The clinical pathways would be solution focused tracks that would help the individual to get back into the community. It would be a package of services that did not consist of only individual therapy. The pathways would come from a recovery focused perspective and would look at the core customer.
- The Executive Team was working on a strategic plan for the next 3 to 5 years. The team would present the new plan to the Governing Board upon completion.
- Highland Rivers Health would be working with the community partners in Gordon County to host a free screening on the film entitled "Suicide-The Ripple Effect." There would be a walk before the showing and a Q&A session after the showing. The purpose was to help to reduce stigma and the awareness of community resources. Ms. Dallas and Mike Mullet, Community Relations Director, had met with Chairman John Meadows. He is the State Representative for Gordon County. In the meeting, Ms. Dallas asked the Chairman to help her get an audience with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Gordon Hospital. Ms. Dallas had received a call from Ms. Karen Steely from Murray Medical Center, a subsidiary of Gordon Hospital, after the meeting. Ms. Dallas met with Ms. Steely and explained about the initiative to help with the emergency rooms for assessments. Ms. Steely stated she would be meeting with Mr. Pete Weber, the CEO of Gordon Hospital, to discuss the assessment services. Ms. Dallas hoped to hear something soon about a possible meeting to discuss a proposal. Ms. Jean Smilie asked if there had been any change regarding the possibility of Highland Rivers Health to work with Piedmont in the emergency rooms.

Ms. Dallas stated that there had not been any change in the status. However, her team would continue to work to get a contract with the hospital system.

**Action:** No action required.

XII. Community Relations Report

Community Relations Director Mike Mullet directed the members to the report in the Board packet. He stated that he continued to ensure that bylines and other materials were placed in the county newspapers. He also continued to schedule events and radio interviews. Ms. Jean Smilie stated that she had seen the information in the Gilmer County newspaper. Ms. Bonnie Moore stated that it would be nice to see the information in the Floyd newspaper. Mr. Mullet stated that he was looking into the possibility of placing an ad in the Floyd newspaper. His hope was that this show of good will would convince the newspaper to run the Highland Rivers Health bylines, articles, and pictures.

Ms. Jean Smilie presented an article from a Gilmer County publication to the members. The article highlighted the community garden that was planted on the site of the Gilmer Recovery Center. It included pictures of staff and community members.

**Action:** No action required.

XIII. Compliance Committee Report

Chief Compliance Officer Stephanie Collum reported that there was not a quorum for the committee meeting. She had presented the information to the members who were present for the Compliance and Finance Committee meetings. There were no concerns voiced about the presented information.

**Action:** No action required.

XIV. Recognition of Visitors

There were no visitors.

XV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

XVI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on unanimous vote of motion by Ms. Jean Smilie and second by Mr. Larry Maxey.



Chairperson

06-27-2018

Date