



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 8, 2026
7711 Goodwood Blvd, Room 102
12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

MINUTES

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Patrick Seiter. Board members participating were Dr. Jan Laughhouse, Sharon Robinson, Aishala Burgess, Treva Parolli-Barnes, Greg Dicharry, Fredrick Thomas, Charles Abboud, Chris Landry, Denise Amoroso, Sharon Douglas, Cynthia Munn, Hillar Moore, Donna Collins-Lewis, Randal Johnson, and Dennis Grimes. A quorum was determined.

Also participating were Charlotte Claiborne of the Bridge Center for Hope, Emily Grey of Breazeale Sachse and Wilson, Lysha Best, Joy Brunson-Nsubuga, Shawne Langston-Emery, Valeriya Sattler, and Stephen Ward of Recovery Innovations (RI).

II. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Seiter asked if any members of the public wished to comment, after hearing none, proceeded with the agenda as written.

III. MINUTES

A. For Action: Approval of Minutes of the Annual Board of Directors meeting held November 14, 2025

Mr. Seiter reviewed the minutes from the November 14, 2025, Annual Board meeting, and on a motion by Cynthia Munn and a second by Aishala Burgess, the minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. FINANCE COMMITTEE

A. For Discussion: Financial Overview

Mr. Seiter deferred to Ms. Robinson. Ms. Robinson presented the financial report, highlighting total revenue of \$8.1 million and expenses of \$6.3 million, leaving a net revenue of \$1.8 million. The discussion included outstanding invoices that will still need to be reconciled, reducing the overall ending net revenue.

B. For Action: Approval of Investment Funds

Mr. Seiter deferred to Ms. Claiborne. Ms. Claiborne requested Board approval to transfer all but \$1 million of the current tax allocation from the Chase Operating Account to the Gulf Coast Investment Account. This action would allow the organization to maximize investment earnings while retaining sufficient operating liquidity. After due discussion and on a motion by Donna Collins Lewis and a second by Aishala Burgess, the Board approved Ms. Claiborne's request to transfer funds from the Chase Operating account to the Gulf Coast Investment Account.

V. BRIDGE CENTER ORDERS

A. For Action: Discussion and Approval of the Service Agreement

Mr. Seiter updated the Board on the status of the service agreement with RI. He reminded members that at the November annual meeting, he was authorized to sign the contract after circulating it to the board for a five-day review period. During that time, Mr. Abboud raised concerns regarding financial transparency and requested additional details about RI's costs and what the organization would be paying for. As a result, the agreement was not signed. The executive committee met in December and approved a 30-day extension of the current contract, which RI has agreed to, to allow time to review the requested financial information and determine next steps.

RI representatives clarified the previously submitted financial information. They explained that the differences between reports result from comparing the full financial statement (Statement of Activities), which includes all expense accounts, with the extracted expense data that shows only accounts with year-over-year increases. RI stated that questions about these variances and bad debt calculations have been addressed and reaffirmed their willingness to provide further clarification, including an explanation of how administrative overhead allocations are calculated.

The Board discussed next steps for the RI service agreement, noting that the current contract has been extended through January 31, with plans for a new agreement to be effective retroactively to January 1. Several options were presented: proceed with an immediate vote to approve the contract, delay approval until additional financial information is received within a set timeframe, or request another short-term extension of the current agreement if more time is needed.

Mr. Seiter requested a motion to proceed with an up-or-down vote on the contract. Ms. Munn made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Collins Lewis, to hold the up-or-down vote. If approved by majority vote, the contract will proceed with an effective date of January 1. Subsequently, the Finance Committee will address any outstanding financial concerns, conduct further due diligence, and present its findings at the next meeting. Following a thorough discussion, the Board conducted a straightforward vote on the contract, with all Directors voting in favor except one, who preferred the third option. In support of this decision, the Finance Committee was instructed to follow up on the remaining financial questions, conduct additional due diligence, and report their findings to the Board at the upcoming meeting.

VI. RECOVERY INNOVATIONS

A. For Discussion: Mobile Crisis Response

Mr. Seiter deferred to Ms. Claiborne for the Mobile Crisis Response update. Ms. Claiborne reported that the Mobile Crisis program began operations on November 1 and has been in operation for approximately 60 days, using a gradual implementation approach. Services began ramping up in early January, and a 60-day review with EMS and the Baton Rouge Police Department is planned to evaluate progress. Currently, the program operates one unit with two staff members from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. within the city limits, with plans to expand to additional jurisdictions and eventually add a second unit to increase hours and days of service.

Ms. Langston-Emery and Mr. Landry Program reported that the collaboration between RI and EMS has been working well, with 31 calls responded to so far. It was also noted that there may be a need for additional education for community facilities about how the mobile crisis system works and how it can be used as an alternative response rather than defaulting to ambulance transport to a hospital.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Seiter asked if there was any unfinished business that required discussion, after hearing none, proceeded with the agenda as written.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Seiter asked if there was any new business needing discussion. Ms. Claiborne reported that the Bridge Center for Hope received a donation from Price LeBlanc Toyota. She explained that the funds will be used to assist with transportation costs for indigent individuals who are involuntarily committed and require transfer to a higher level of care when the Bridge Center cannot transport them directly. In situations where patients lack insurance, and EMS cannot provide transport, the Center must hire private transportation services, which can be costly. The donation will help offset some of these transportation expenses in 2026.

IX. ADJOURN

With no further business to conduct, on a motion by Randal Johnson and a second by Chris Landry, the Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 1:03 PM.