the bridge center for hope

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

May 14, 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 at 12:06 PM. Board members in attendance were Chair Patrick Seiter, Sharon Robinson, Cynthia Munn, Donna Collins Lewis, Dr. Jan Laughinghouse, Denise Amoroso, Dennis Grimes, Charles Abboud, Aishala Burgess, Greg Dicharry, Sharon Douglas, Randal Johnson, Hillar Moore, and Dr. Tiffany Simpson.

Also attending were Charlotte Claiborne from the Bridge Center for Hope, Shawne Langston-Emery from Recovery Innovations, Beverly Haydel from Frontline Strategies, Jim Fairchild from Daigrepont and Brian, Katie Benoit from Eisner Amper, and Emily Gray from Breazeale, Sachse and Wilson.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Seiter asked if any member 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 Board of Directors meeting held March 12, 2026

Mr. Seiter reviewed the minutes from the March 12, 2026 Board of Directors meeting. On a motion by Cynthia Munn, seconded by Charles Abboud, the minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. FINANCE COMMITTEE

A. For Discussion: Financial Overview

Mr. Seiter deferred to Ms. Robinson to provide the financial overview. Ms. Robinson reported on year-to-date financials, noting approximately $8 million in total revenue from millage, donations, and interest. She reported that expenses through mid-May were just under $2 million, including about $1.7 million paid for services, resulting in a net balance of roughly $6 million and approximately $2 million in cash on hand. She also reminded the board that anticipated expenditures over the remaining months of the fiscal year are expected to reduce these reserves.

B. For Action: Approval of the 2025 Annual Audit

Mr. Seiter reported that the Finance Committee convened on May 5, 2026, and reviewed and approved the 2025 Annual Audit. Mr. Seiter then deferred to Mr. Fairchild to provide the overview to the Board. Mr. Fairchild reported that the annual audit resulted in a clean opinion with no findings and noted that he reviewed the financial statements, assessed the organization's cash position, evaluated consistency in revenues and expenses, examined expenditures related to the new mobile team, and reviewed all relevant footnotes.

Upon review and discussion, and on a motion by Cynthia Munn, seconded by Tiffany Simpson, the 2025 Annual Audit was unanimously approved.

C. For Action: Approval of the 2025 990 Tax Form

Mr. Seiter reported that the Finance Committee convened on May 5, 2026, and reviewed and approved the 2025 Form 990. Mr. Seiter then deferred to Mr. Fairchild, who reported that the organization's Form 990 is consistent with the audited financial statement and will be electronically filed upon approval.

Upon review and discussion, and on a motion by Donna Collins Lewis, seconded by Aishla Burgess, the 2025 Form 990 was unanimously approved.

V. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A. For Discussion: Board Vacancies

Mr. Seiter deferred to Ms. Munn and Ms. Claiborne. Ms. Claiborne reported that ongoing board recruitment efforts are still underway and that there are three open seats. The Board discussed the desired areas of expertise, including mental health/psychiatry, community advocacy, fundraising, and finance.

VI. BRIDGE CENTER ORDERS

A. For Discussion: Legislative Update

Mr. Seiter deferred to Ms. Haydel, who reported that concurrent resolutions were developed in collaboration with Ms. Claiborne to urge LDH to revisit Medicaid reimbursement rates for level three crisis receiving centers, particularly for the first 23 hours of care. Ms. Haydel noted that the resolutions were filed in both chambers, with Senator Barrow's resolution advancing out of the Senate Health Committee and expected to proceed to a full Senate floor vote, followed by a House committee hearing. She also highlighted timing considerations within the legislative session and noted that concurrent resolutions are nonbinding.

VII. RECOVERY INNOVATIONS

A. For Discussion: MCO Update

Mr. Seiter deferred to Recovery Innovations for an update. Ms. Langston-Emery reported that the MCOs have been tasked with reviewing the crisis rates and sustainability and have reached out to providers for feedback. She also reported that she deferred them to Ms. Claiborne for the HMA report. Ms. Claiborne reported that the HMA rate analysis has been shared with the MCOs for review and to support their findings.

B. For Discussion: Mobile Crisis Response Update

Mr. Seiter deferred to Ms. Claiborne, who reported that the mobile crisis response team received 157 callouts from January through April, with monthly increases following the resolution of EMS routing issues. Ms. Langston-Emery highlighted improved coordination with EMS and an increase in EMS referrals. The current operating hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, with the stated goal of stabilizing individuals in the community whenever possible.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. For Discussion: Strategic Planning Committee

Mr. Seiter deferred to Ms. Claiborne, who reported that a Strategy Planning Committee had been formed, with Mr. Johnson serving as chair. Ms. Claiborne reported that the purpose of this committee was to prepare for the upcoming millage renewal. The committee will focus on long-term planning, community engagement, funding sustainability, and strategies that clearly communicate the Bridge Center's value and impact.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Seiter deferred to Ms. Claiborne, who reported that the 6th Annual Bridging the Gap Community Resource Fair was slated for May 29, 2026, followed by Bridging the Gap to GEAUX in June and July, encouraging board members' participation.

Ms. Claiborne then deferred to Dr. Laughinghouse, who reported that Capital Area Human Services, in partnership with the Bridge Center for Hope, mobilized a coalition to stand up low-barrier mental health pop-up clinics at libraries, community centers, and the mall. The clinics were staffed by licensed clinicians, peers, and mental health first-aid-trained personnel, serving 175 people, with 45% receiving referrals.

X. ADJOURN

With no further business to discuss, on a motion by Denise Amoroso, seconded by Dr. Jan Laughinghouse, the Bridge Center Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 1:06 PM.