



PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

The Bridge Center for Hope Board of Directors will hold a Board of Directors meeting as shown below:

DATE: September 20, 2022

TIME: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

LOCATION: **Hybrid Option**

7711 Goodwood Blvd (Main Library)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86536821246?pwd=RDlwSGFRWEpoN1dobGNLaFpPTWVOUT09>

Meeting ID: 865 3682 1246

Passcode: 613348

Phone: 346-248-7799

AGENDA: Attached

The public is invited to attend.

Notice has been made of this meeting, through publication and via internet, to comply with the “Louisiana Open Meetings Law”.

Charlotte Claiborne, Bridge Center for Hope
Executive Director



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

September 20, 2022

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Hybrid Option

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AGENDA

- | | | |
|-------|--|-----------------------|
| I. | CALL MEETING TO ORDER | Patrick Seiter |
| II. | PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS | Patrick Seiter |
| III. | MINUTES | Patrick Seiter |
| | A. For Action: Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held July 19, 2022 | |
| | B. For Action: Approval of Minutes of the Special Board of Directors meeting held September 13, 2022 | |
| IV. | FINANCE COMMITTEE | Sharon Robinson |
| | A. For Discussion: 2022 Budget Review | |
| V. | NOMINATING COMMITTEE | Murphy Paul |
| | A. For Discussion: Board of Directors Terms | |
| VI. | ACCOUNTABILITY AND QUALITY COMMITTEE | Dr. Jan Laughinghouse |
| | A. For Information: Provider Monthly Outcome Performance Report | |
| VII. | SUBCOMMITTEE | Patrick Seiter |
| | A. For Discussion: Renewal of Year Three Gap Payments | |
| | B. For Approval: Resolution for Renewal of Year Three Gap Payments | |
| VIII. | RI INTERNATIONAL | Joy Brunson-Nsubuga |
| IX. | UNFINISHED BUSINESS | Patrick Seiter |
| X. | NEW BUSINESS | Patrick Seiter |
| XI. | ADJOURN | Patrick Seiter |



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

July 19, 2022

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Hybrid Option

7711 Goodwood Blvd (Main Library)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87076761449?pwd=R2hLZVdqOTNDSVp5YTBncDRCcVRWZz09>

Meeting ID: 870 7676 1449

Passcode: 871729

Phone: 346-248-7799

MINUTES

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 12:04 PM. Board members in attendance were Chair Patrick Seiter, Sharon Robinson, Kathy Kliebert, Murphy Paul, Lauren Crump, Charles Abboud, Dennis Amoroso, Dr. William Clark, Greg Dicharry, Dennis Grimes, Carolina Jones, Dr. Jan Laughinghouse, Lewis Blanche, Tiffany Simpson, Michael Mitchell, and Donna Collins-Lewis. A quorum was determined.

Also attending were Charlotte Claiborne with the Bridge Center for Hope, Mike Singletary with Postlewaite and Netterville, Jim Fairchild with Daigrepoint and Brian and Shawne Langston-Emery with RI International.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Seiter asked if any members of the public wished to comment. After hearing no comments, Mr. Seiter continued with the written agenda.

III. MINUTES

A. For Action: Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held May 17, 2022

Mr. Seiter reviewed the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on May 17, on a motion by Donna Collins-Lewis, and a second by Murphy Paul, the Board of Directors meeting held on May 17, 2022, was approved.

IV. FINANCE COMMITTEE

A. For Discussion: 2022 Budget Review

Mr. Seiter deferred to Sharon Robinson to review the 2022 budget. Ms. Robinson provided the 2022 budget review update.

B. For Discussion: Approval of 990 Tax Form

Ms. Robinson called on Jim Fairchild with Daigrepoint and Brian to review the 2021 990-tax form. Mr. Fairchild reviewed the 990-tax form and said there was nothing exceptional about this year's file, and everything was comparable to the previous year's. Mr. Seiter called upon

a motion to approve the 2021 990-tax form, and on a motion by Denise Amoroso and a second by Murphy Paul, the 2021 990- tax form was approved.

C. For Discussion: 2023 City-Parish Budget Request

Ms. Robinson reviewed the City-Parish budget request and called Ms. Claiborne to discuss it. Ms. Claiborne reported that a copy has been submitted to the Finance Committee for review and stated that an additional \$92,000 was requested to increase the marketing budget for 2023. After consideration and discussion, the Board agreed to increase the marketing budget. Ms. Claiborne reported that the 2023 City-Parish Budget would be submitted by the end of the week.

D. For Discussion: Surplus Revenue (CD Rates)

Ms. Robinson requested Ms. Claiborne to discuss the revenue surplus. Ms. Claiborne said that about \$673,010.00 is available for investing in a CD with JPMorgan Chase for the years 2020 and 2021. Ms. Claiborne reviewed Chase's three-, six-, and twelve-month interest rates. Mr. Abboud suggested securing additional rates from three other financial institutions, possibly using a rolling strategy, or investing the beginning of the year's allocation in a CD, while retaining six months of working capital. Mr. Seiter suggested requesting Postlewaite and Netterville to create a monthly spending budget to gauge the Bridge Center's expenditures.

V. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A. For Discussion: Board of Directors Terms

Mr. Seiter deferred to Mr. Paul, who noted that the tenure of several board members will expire this year and that the nominating committee will issue a vacancy notice for individuals who do not wish to continue serving. Mr. Paul noted that the Nominating Committee prefers to receive a diversified pool of applicants, including a variety of health care professionals, local authorities, and community advocates, etc. Ms. Claiborne reported that she would email those whose terms expire on December 31, 2022, asking if they want to be reconsidered. Ms. Claiborne added that a vacancy notice would be posted on the website on October 1, 2022, and further discussion would occur at the Board of Directors meeting on September 20, 2022.

VI. COMMUNITY RELATIONS

A. For Information: Community Relations Update

Mr. Seiter deferred to Donna Collins-Lewis to give the Community relations update. Ms. Lewis deferred to Charlotte to provide the update. Ms. Claiborne reported that the Louisiana Department of Health had a call to announce the LA CRS awareness campaign that would be launched in August. This campaign would feature a community toolkit, patient-facing brochures, a digital media campaign, a radio media campaign, transit advertising, social media outreach, and media outreach designed to promote crisis services within the State.

Ms. Claiborne also informed that the marketing firm For Good Content is now developing a strategic marketing plan for the remainder of 2022 to assess the current and potential reach and ongoing activities. Lastly, Ms. Claiborne mentioned the prospect of hosting a behavioral health collaboration meeting.

VII. ACCOUNTABILITY AND QUALITY COMMITTEE

A. For Information: Provider Monthly Outcome Performance Report

Mr. Seiter called upon Dr. Laughinghouse to provide the Accountability and Quality Committee update. Dr. Laughinghouse reported in July 2022, there were:

282 presentations

269 admitted

226 unduplicated

50 readmissions within 30 days

64 escorted by first responders and 205 direct entries

221 were East Baton Rouge Parish residents, and 48 out-of-parish residents

80% were Medicaid, 18 % were Bridge Center, and 2% were Medicare or commercial payers

B. For Discussion: Patient Performance Outcome Report

Ms. Claiborne indicated that inquiries had been made about patient outcomes, and the Accountability and Quality Committee is examining the possibility of developing a report. The Board has decided to postpone this discussion to conduct an additional study.

VIII. SUBCOMMITTEE

A. For Discussion: Advocacy Letter and next steps

Mr. Seiter noted that the response from the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health to the advocacy letter written by the Board of Directors of the Bridge Center for Hope was that the rates for the services would remain unchanged. However, it has been determined that the State's rates are too low for the level of services offered at the facility; thus, the next steps would be to seek legislative assistance and evaluate the rates of other states that provide comparable services. Ms. Claiborne stated that she requested that RI send rate information for other states in which they provide services.

IX. RI INTERNATIONAL

Mr. Seiter deferred to Mr. Langston-Emery to give the RI update. Ms. Emery reported that the Department is requesting providers to do additional marketing. Therefore, RI will host an open house in August to allow other providers and the community to view the facility and learn about the services. Ms. Emery also reported that all Managed Care contracts had been executed.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Seiter asked if any unfinished business needed to be discussed. Ms. Claiborne reminded everyone to complete their annual training and their conflict-of-interest forms.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Seiter asked if any new business needed to be discussed. After hearing no comment, he proceeded with the agenda as written.

XII. ADJOURN

With no further business to discuss, and on a motion by Dennis Amoroso and a second by Charles Abboud, the board of Directors meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM.



SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

September 13, 2022

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82651562484?pwd=ZURqMTFWdnVuRXFwankyb2gyOEhHZz09>

Meeting ID: 826 5156 2484

Passcode: 956213

Phone: 346-248-7799

MINUTES

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Special Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 12:03 PM. Board participants were Chair Patrick Seiter, Charlie Abboud, Hillar Moore, Lauren Crump, Kathy Kliebert, Sharon Robinson, Dennis Amoroso, Christine Nichols, Carolina Jones, Kathleen Crapanzano, Murphy Paul, Michael Denicola and Donna Collins-Lewis. A quorum was determined.

Also, in attendance were Charlotte Claiborne with the Bridge Center for Hope, Emily Grey with Breazeale Sachse and Wilson, Tonja Myles, Chris Nakamoto with WBRZ, Paul Galdys, Joy Brunson-Nsubuga, Shawne Langston-Emery and Lysha Best with RI International, Beau Collins, K. Collins, Alvin Claiborne, and Michael Cavell.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Seiter asked if any members of the public wished to comment on the agenda items as presented. After hearing no request for comment, Mr. Seiter proceeded with the agenda as written.

III. BRIDGE CENTER FOR HOPE

A. For Discussion: Facility Restructuring

Mr. Seiter began by explaining that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the recent consolidation of two units to right size the overall program based on availability of funding and sustainability. Mr. Seiter explained the services that the Bridge Center provides are essential and critical to our community. The millage was passed because of the recognition of the East Baton Rouge Parish citizens for the need for crisis receiving services and the urgency of those needs. The Center was established with the understanding and the expectation that a large segment of the population served at the center would be Medicaid and also potentially other third-party payer insurers. The millage was intended to cover the uninsured citizen of East Baton Rouge Parish. Mr. Seiter reminded Board members that for the last couple of years, the process of obtaining Medicaid reimbursement for those clients has been difficult and there has been numerous barriers throughout the process. Mr. Seiter reiterated that RI International, the Bridge Center service provider, has been absorbing the cost of these services while trying to work with Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) and Medicaid on reimbursement. As a result, RI has

encountered a funding shortfall for the cost of community services. Mr. Seiter added that RI had presented the plan for right-sizing before the Subcommittee and Executive Committee and inquired if there were any questions or comments from Board members.

Mr. Moore asked what steps the Bridge Center and RI have done to get reimbursement and requested to know what our efforts have been thus far.

Ms. Kliebert noted that each time we believed we were near to a resolution, we were met with a new obstacle. Ms. Kliebert remarked that the system that LDH implemented is drastically different from what they originally planned, as are the reimbursement level and requirements. She noted that RI and the Bridge Center were very patient with the state, was not until May 2022, when the Board drafted the Advocacy letter to the state, that things became urgent and all efforts that had been ongoing for years were intensified. Ms. Kliebert stated that RI has not curtailed services, but due to the lack of Medicaid reimbursement, they must operate within the tax funding to continue providing the promised services to the public until reimbursement is secured.

Ms. Brunson-Nsubuga explained that there were three critical factors that has led to this point for RI 1) Crisis services were not covered until the spring of 2022, and an in-lieu-of-services document had to be used until they were; however, this process was halted; and 2) the provider type for the Bridge Center's license is not recognized through the Medicaid Provider portal, impeding the ability to determine Medicaid eligible recipients in real time. This delay threatened reimbursement efforts for getting preauthorization and notifications, and 3) the rate implemented by LDH is less than the cost of providing care.

Mr. Moore determined, based on these statements, that since the Bridge Center is the first in the state to offer crisis services it will consequently face unique obstacles.

Ms. Claiborne offered a summary of the three-year-long efforts to obtain Medicaid reimbursement on behalf of the Bridge Center and RI.

Chief Paul sought confirmation that no first responders in the parish would be affected by the new adjustment. Ms. Claiborne stated that no one in East Baton Rouge Parish is affected by the change and reaffirmed that the facility will continue to offer the same services.

After due discussion, the Board was updated on the present state of the Bridge Center facility and advised that a series of meetings with the LDH are set over the following week in an attempt to reach a resolution.

IV. COMMUNICATION POLICY

A. For Review: Bridge Center for Hope Communication Policy

Mr. Seiter reminded the Board that the media policy was adopted in May 2020 and that its objective was not to stifle anyone, but rather to speak with a unified voice and ensure that the public is receiving accurate information.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Seiter asked if there was any unfinished business, and Ms. Claiborne reminded everyone to complete their annual training.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

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

VII. ADJOURN

With no further business to discuss, and on a motion by Murphy Paul and a second by Denise Amoroso, the Special Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 12:57 PM.