



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

7711 Goodwood Blvd, Room 102

Virtual Option:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82010721841?pwd=c09WSXYzcyjRd21wa0VCRWR1c1dLUT09>

Meeting ID: 820 1072 1841

Passcode: 089653

Phone: 346-248-7799

MINUTES

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 PM. Board members in attendance were Chair Patrick Seiter, Donna Collins Lewis, Dennis Grimes, Michael Denicola, Sharon Robinson, Lauren Crump, Randal Johnson, Greg Dicharry, Kathy Kliebert, Cynthia Munn, Dr. Jan Laughinghouse, Charles Abboud, Hillar Moore, Gerri Hobdy, Tiffany Simpson, and Dr. Kathleen Crapanzano. A quorum was determined.

Also in attendance were Charlotte Claiborne of the Bridge Center for Hope, Emily Grey of Breazeale Sachse and Wilson, Shawne Langston-Emery, Joy Brunson Nsubuga and Lysha Best of RI International, and Treva Barnes of East Baton Rouge Parish Coroner Office.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Seiter opened the meeting and asked if any public member wished to comment. After hearing none, Mr. Seiter proceeded with the agenda as written.

III. MINUTES

A. For Action: Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held January 23, 2024

Mr. Seiter reviewed the minutes from the Board of Directors meeting held on January 23, 2024. On a motion by Cynthia Munn and a second by Lauren Crump, the minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. FINANCE COMMITTEE

A. For Discussion: 2024 Financial Overview

Mr. Seiter deferred to Ms. Robinson to provide the financial overview. Ms. Robinson provided a detailed summary of the current Bridge Center financials, reviewing the return on investments and citing additional monies that will be leveraged toward additional programming and services that better serve the community and ensure sustainability.

V. BRIDGE CENTER BYLAWS

A. For Discussion and Approval: Amendment to Bridge Center for Hope Bylaws  
(Sections 11 -13)

Mr. Seiter deferred to Ms. Claiborne to discuss the Bridge Center Bylaws. Ms. Claiborne reported that she consulted legal to ensure that Sections 11, 12, and 13 of the Bylaws are in compliance with the newly revised Open Meetings Law. Ms. Claiborne presented the recommendations made by counsel to the Board.

After due discussion, the Board agreed to delete Sections 11 and 12, revise Section 13, and create a new Section that would address appointment designees. The new and updated Bylaws will be presented for approval at the Board of Directors meeting scheduled for May 21, 2024.

VI. SERVICE AGREEMENT AND RESOLUTION

- A. For Discussion and Approval: Bridge Center Amendment to CEA
- B. For Discussion and Approval: Fifth Amendment to Service Agreement
- C. For Approval: Resolution – Fifth Amendment to Service Agreement

Mr. Seiter asked Ms. Grey to update the Board regarding the CEA and Service Agreement. Ms. Grey explained that the City-Parish attorneys had requested amending the CEA to include more specific language related to mobile response services. She also mentioned some concerns City-Parish attorneys had regarding insurance and responsibilities. Ms. Grey informed the Board that she communicated with the City-Parish attorneys to resolve this matter.

After due discussion, the board postponed approving the CEA Amendment pending the City-Parish response.

Ms. Grey reviewed the Fifth Amendment to the Service Agreement, which includes provisions to cover the Mobile Response Unit and the 1/12<sup>th</sup> payment option extension. After due discussion on a motion by Gerri Hobdy and a second by Lauren Crump, the Fifth Amendment and Resolution to the Service Agreement were unanimously approved.

VII. CONSULTATION CONTRACT

A. For Discussion and Approval: Consulting Contract with Sequitur Consulting LLC

Mr. Seiter explained the contract with Sequitur Consulting. The contract aims to establish a sustainable funding model for crisis services by creating strong relationships with the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), legislators, and MCOs on behalf of the Bridge Center.

After due discussion, on a motion by Lauren Crump and a second by Cynthia Munn, the contract with Sequitur Consulting was unanimously approved.

VIII. RI INTERNATIONAL

A. For Discussion: Update on MCO Reimbursement and Facility Update

Mr. Seiter deferred to RI to provide the facility update. Ms. Langston-Emery stated that RI continues to meet with the Managed Care Organizations on a monthly basis to resolve any issues that may arise, paying particular attention to reimbursement.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Behavioral Health Day on Steps of Capitol (May 2, 2024)

Mr. Seiter asked if any unfinished business needed to be addressed. Ms. Claiborne reminded Board volunteers of the upcoming Behavioral Health Day on the Capitol steps.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. For Discussion: 2024 Annual Training and Conflicts of Interest forms

Mr. Seiter asked if there was any new business that required attention. Ms. Claiborne reminded Board members to submit their Conflicts of Interest forms. Mr. Abboud requested the Board consider the possibility of drafting a new strategic plan with the aid of the new consultant in the upcoming months.

XI. ADJOURN

With no further business to conduct, the meeting of the Board of Directors was adjourned at 1:21 PM on a motion by Cynthia Munn and a second by Randall Johnson.