



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday, July 16, 2024

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

7711 Goodwood Blvd, Room 102

Virtual Option:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/VEoI54LkSGg2FBIHWYEWjPy7dE4eE3xNP9zsPAGL1G-LJjY73\\_oG12lPhPMhZ.qPHLTgyNuTdj\\_Jfp](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/VEoI54LkSGg2FBIHWYEWjPy7dE4eE3xNP9zsPAGL1G-LJjY73_oG12lPhPMhZ.qPHLTgyNuTdj_Jfp)

### MINUTES

#### I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 PM. Board participants were Chair Patrick Seiter, Kathy Kliebert, Donna Collins Lewis, Lauren Crump, Michael Denicola, Michael Mitchell, Cynthia Munn, Hillar Moore, Randal Johnson, Tiffany Simpson, Dr. Jan Laughinghouse, Charles Abboud, Denise Amoroso, and Gerri Hobdy. A quorum was determined.

Charlotte Claiborne, Deputy Chief Sharon Douglas, Jessica Wagner, Emily Grey, Beverly Haydel, Al Bourgeois, Joy Brunson Nsubuga, and Shawne Langston-Emery also participated.

#### II. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Lewis asked if any members of the public wished to comment. After hearing no comment, Ms. Lewis proceeded with the agenda as written.

#### III. MINUTES

A. For Action: Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held May 21, 2024

Ms. Lewis reviewed the minutes from the Board of Directors meeting held on May 21, 2024. On a motion by Michael Mitchell and a second by Cynthia Munn, the minutes were unanimously approved.

#### IV. FINANCE COMMITTEE

A. For Discussion: 2024 Financial Overview

Ms. Lewis deferred to Ms. Claiborne to review the financial overview. Ms. Claiborne provided an overview of the Center's funding sources, expenditures, and cash on hand as of July 15, 2024.

B. For Action: Approval of the 2025 City-Parish Budget Request

Ms. Claiborne reviewed the 2025 City-Parish Budget Request. Ms. Claiborne examined each line-item request, providing a detailed explanation for each. Ms. Claiborne emphasized that the individual amounts listed are components that collectively add up to the total requested budget amount. Ms. Claiborne also underscored that the suggested amounts do not guarantee the full expenditure of the specified dollar amount. After further discussion and on a motion

by Cynthia Munn and a second by Michael Denicola the 2025 City-Parish Budget was approved.

V. BRIDGE CENTER UPDATES

A. For Discussion: Bridge Center for Hope Bylaws

B. For Discussion: Request for Attorney General Opinion on Board Member Use of Proxies and/or Designation of Alternate

Mr. Seiter deferred to Ms. Grey to discuss the Bridge Center Bylaws, use of proxies, and designations. Ms. Grey addressed potential amendments to the Bridge Center's bylaws, including the possibility of allowing electronic/virtual meetings, voting by unanimous consent, and the use of proxies or designates. Ms. Grey reported that voting by unanimous consent was prohibited due to the Open Meetings Law's requirement for live voice votes. Ms. Grey reported that allowing proxies or designates was deferred pending an Attorney General's opinion, as the enabling legislation and articles of incorporation may need to be amended to permit such a practice. After due discussion on a motion by Lauren Crump and a second by Tiffany Simpson, the Board approved amendments to the bylaws to allow for electronic/virtual meetings, provided that all requirements of the Louisiana Open Meetings Law are satisfied.

C. For Discussion: Fifth Amendment to the Service Agreement

Mr. Seiter deferred to Ms. Grey to discuss the Fifth Amendment to the Service Agreement. Ms. Grey covered the two main aspects: (1) documenting the monthly payments made to RI for 2023 and 2024, and (2) extending the agreement for one additional year through December 31, 2025, with the continuation of the monthly payment structure during the extension period. Ms. Claiborne discussed the potential impact of changes in Medicaid reimbursement rates by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) and the need for flexibility in the agreement to accommodate such changes. After due discussion and on a motion by Kathy Kliebert and a second by Charles Abboud, the Fifth Amendment to the Service Agreement was approved as drafted, with the possibility of revisiting the payment terms in a future amendment if LDH introduces changes to the reimbursement structure.

D. For Discussion: Mobile Crisis Response

Mr. Seiter deferred to Ms. Claiborne to discuss Mobile Crisis Response. Ms. Claiborne reported the potential acceptance of a grant from the Baton Rouge Police Department (BRPD) for mobile crisis services that would provide funding to the Bridge Center to allow for the expansion of mobile crisis services from 5 days a week to 7 days a week and increase the hours of operation from 40 hours to 56-70 hours. Ms. Claiborne also reported that the sustainability of the mobile crisis services after the grant expires, with BRPD, was dependent upon BRPD committing to providing \$200,000 annually to continue the services.

E. For Discussion: LDH Update

Mr. Seiter deferred the request to Ms. Claiborne to provide the update. Ms. Claiborne reported that Bridge Center representatives had met with the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) on June 17, 2024, to discuss the issues regarding the current Medicaid reimbursement structure being inadequate for crisis providers that employ professionals in addition to facility staff. Ms. Claiborne reported that in subsequent conversations, LDH is working with their actuarial firm, Milliman, to assess the crisis services provided and determine appropriate

reimbursement rates. The Center is awaiting further information from LDH and Milliman on this matter.

VI. ACCOUNTABILITY AND QUALITY COMMITTEE

A. For Discussion: Bridge Center Dashboard

Mr. Seiter deferred to Ms. Claiborne. Ms. Claiborne provided an update on the accountability and quality dashboard, a comprehensive tool for tracking and analyzing the Bridge Center's operations. The dashboard includes detailed data, demographics, and other important information. Ms. Claiborne reported that the dashboard is designed to be accessible to the public and will be available on the Center's website.

VII. RI INTERNATIONAL

A. For Discussion: Facility Update

Mr. Seiter deferred to RI representatives for an update. Ms. Langston-Emery reported that RI was waiting on the resolution between Bridge and BRPD in terms of the Mobile Crisis so that they could begin their next steps.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

IX. NEW BUSINESS

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

X. ADJOURN

With no further business to discuss, the Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 1:21 PM on a motion by Denise Amoroso and a second by Michael Denicola.