



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

7711 Goodwood Blvd, Room 102

### MINUTES

#### I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:06 PM. Board participants were Chair Patrick Seiter, Sharon Robinson, Donna Collins-Lewis, Cynthia Munn, Kathy Kliebert, Greg Dicharry, Randal Johnson, Denise Amoroso, Michael Denicola, Jeffrey LeDuff, and Dennis Grimes. A quorum was determined.

Also participating were Charlotte Claiborne from the Bridge Center for Hope, Shawne Langston-Emery and Lysha Best from Recovery Innovations, Sharon Doughlas from the Baton Rouge Police Department, Beverly Haydel from Sequitur Consulting, Geneva Vogelheim from Healthcare Management Associates, and Al Bourgeois from EisnerAmper.

#### II. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Seiter asked if anyone wished to make a public comment, and after hearing none, he proceeded with the agenda.

#### III. MINUTES

A. For Action: Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held January 30, 2025

Mr. Seiter reviewed the minutes from the January 30, 2025, Board of Directors meeting. On a motion by Randal Johnson and a second by Michael Denicola, the minutes were unanimously approved.

#### IV. FINANCE COMMITTEE

A. For Discussion: Financial Overview

Mr. Seiter deferred to Ms. Robinson, who provided a brief overview of the current financial status. She mentioned that approximately \$7.4 million in revenue has been received this year, predominantly from millage taxes. Ms. Robinson also confirmed that the financial position remains stable, with ongoing monitoring in place to ensure that spending aligns with the budget.

#### V. BRIDGE CENTER

A. For Approval: Bylaws

Mr. Seiter deferred to Ms. Claiborne for the Bridge Center Bylaws update. Ms. Claiborne provided an overview of the final updates to the Bridge Center's bylaws, noting that the primary revision involved Section 4 on director selection, clarifying the nominating committee's responsibilities and ensuring representation from appointed offices: Mayor-

President's Office, EBR Sheriff's Office, Baton Rouge Police Department, Coroner's Office, EMS, Metro Council, District Attorney's Office, and the Capital Area Human Services District. The language was changed to guarantee office representation rather than individual proxies, in compliance with open meetings laws.

Ms. Claiborne also addressed Section 12, which allows for up to two virtual board meetings per year, provided they are not consecutive to comply with Louisiana Open Meetings Law. After due discussion and on a motion by Cynthia Munn and a second by Kathy Kliebert, the Bridge Center Bylaws were unanimously approved.

#### B. For Discussion: Mobile Crisis Response

Mr. Seiter deferred to Ms. Claiborne to provide the update on Mobile Crisis Response. Ms. Claiborne reported that preliminary discussions had occurred in February with Council members to educate them about the amendment. Ms. Claiborne also reported that the amendment was presented at the March 12, 2025, council meeting and was subsequently set for approval at the March 26, 2025, meeting.

#### C. For Discussion: HMA

Mr. Seiter deferred to Ms. Claiborne for the HMA update. Ms. Claiborne reminded the board that HMA was contracted to analyze service rates at the Bridge Center for the Louisiana Department of Health, aiming to increase rates for crisis-receiving centers. Ms. Claiborne then deferred to Ms. Vogelheim.

Ms. Vogelheim summarized the report "Louisiana Crisis Receiving Center Cost and Reimbursement Review," set for submission to the Louisiana Department of Health. The report addresses the regulatory challenges of crisis care in the state, focusing on cost gaps between actual per diem expenses and Medicaid reimbursement, especially during the first 23 hours of crisis observation care, which requires significant resources due to strict staffing and regulatory needs. It highlights the "firehouse model" of staffing—ensuring readiness for crisis admissions—as a significant cost factor not extensively documented in past advocacy. The report positions Crisis Receiving Centers (CRCs) as vital to Louisiana's mental health system, crucial for meeting the U.S. Department of Justice's requirements for a statewide crisis care continuum.

### VI. RI INTERNATIONAL

#### A. For Discussion: Facility Update

Mr. Seiter deferred to Ms. Langston-Emery to provide the facility update. Ms. Langston-Emery reported that the facility (Recovery Innovations) had just completed its Joint Commission Survey and had passed. Ms. Best reported that they received remarkable reviews and that the commission was impressed by the facility, which has achieved reaccreditation.

### VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

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

IX. ADJOURN

With no further business to discuss and on a motion by Denise Amoroso and a second by Randal Johnson, the Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 12:49 PM.