

**WESTERN HIGHLANDS AREA AUTHORITY
JANUARY 4, 2008, REGULAR MEETING**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Carey; William J. Cook, Jr.; Steve Garrison (via conference call); Susan Hendrick; Minnie Jones; Abigail Karroubi; Michele Lawhern (via conference call); Mandy Stone; Steve Smith; Charles Vines; Arthur C. Wilson, Jr.(via conference call); and Steve Wyatt.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: John W. Condrey; Patricia Franklin; Robert Ratcliffe; and Ryan Whitson;

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: Leslie Boyd, Asheville Citizen-Times; Bob Carey; Judy Dunn; Larry Thompson; Jerry Rice; and Dan Zorn, Families Together.

ALSO PRESENT: Arthur D. Carder, Jr., Chief Executive Officer; Sharon Lentz, Chief Financial Officer; Rhonda McKee, HR Director; Lynn Trotter, Provider & Consumer Relations; Charlie Schoenheit, Chief Operations Officer; Victor W. Buchanan, Legal Counsel; and Beverly Atkins, Clerk to the Board.

CALL TO ORDER: The area board ("Board") of the Western Highlands Area Authority met on Friday, January 4, 2008, at 9:35 a.m. in the second-floor Conference Room (Room 312/315) of 356 Biltmore Avenue, Asheville, North Carolina. The Chair called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Bob Carey made comments regarding the action taken at the last December 7, 2007 meeting relative to the use of dissolution funds. Mr. Jerry Rice made comments regarding his concerns relative to children and the cut in school funding. He also made comments relative to the Broughton Hospital grant.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Wyatt requested to add a discussion item under the CEO report in reference to the memorandum that Mr. Carey distributed. *Mr. Wyatt made a motion to approve the agenda as modified. Mr. Vines seconded the motion, and it carried by a unanimous vote. (A copy of the revised agenda is included in the minute book with these minutes.)*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Ms. Hendrick made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 7, 2007, Regular Meeting and the minutes for the December 7, 2007, Closed Session and to seal and withhold the Closed-Session Minutes from public inspection so long as public inspection would frustrate the purpose thereof. Mr. Cook seconded the motion, and it carried by a unanimous vote. (A copy of the December 7, 2007, Regular Meeting minutes is included in the minute book with these minutes.)* After discussion regarding the Closed Session minutes, the consensus of members was to have Ms. Stone and Mr. Buchanan meet in order to recommend the best way for board members to review and approve Closed Session minutes.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT: Ms. Stone reported that the Executive Committee will meet January 9th to begin the process for the CEO Evaluation. There will be a report at the February meeting.

CFAC REPORT: Mr. Carey reported that CFAC did not meet as its regular scheduled meeting fell on New Years Eve. CFAC meeting was rescheduled for Monday, January 7, 2008.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT: Mr. Carder made a report with respect to the following:

- ⇒ Reported that a group went to McDowell County in December and met with County representatives to discuss their interest in being affiliated with Western Highlands LME.
- ⇒ State denied WHN's request to apply for 1915B Medicaid Waiver. The reason given was that they were evaluating the Piedmont experiment with the 1915B Waiver. The Legislature established that three more LMEs should be considered for the 1915B Waiver process. When Mr. Carder expressed Western Highland's interest in being selected for the waiver, he was informed that before Secretary Hooker-Odom left office she selected Smoky, Guilford and Mecklenburg to receive the waivers. He

stated that Smoky, Gilford and Mecklenburg are forming an ASO (Administrative Service Organization) to consolidate their services across the State. It is his opinion that their ASO should be considered as one entity applying for the 1915B Waiver. He hopes to have discussions later this month with Senator Nesbitt and Representative Insko regarding this matter. Mr. Carder will be meeting with the Director of Piedmont LME who has a 1915B Waiver about the possibility of Western Highlands coming under the Piedmont waiver. Their Waiver was written to be an expandable without State approval.

- ⇒ WHN has received the \$1.5 million of the budget reduction due to an error in their calculations. He believes that there are substantial funds to which WHN is entitled because the New Vistas closure prevented a large number of providers from billing for delivered services. The providers, therefore, were not paid. He has asked the providers that delivered services last year to send a spreadsheet with date of service and information about the service. Mr. Carder will meet with Mr. Mike Moseley to discuss this issue.
- ⇒ Detox Unit at Pardee Hospital is rapidly moving along. Already had six admissions to the unit since December 27th. This is more than Western Highlands or Pardee intended. Ms. Karroubi will be meeting with staff today to define procedures and process to address getting folks into the unit.
- ⇒ The Mercer Group will be conducting the evaluation of Western Highlands on January 29th. He hopes that Ms. Stone and several other Board members can be present. This is a critical meeting at which they will be looking at various functions of the LME. This group is charged with making recommendations regarding what functions of LMEs should be merged or consolidated with other LMEs. The new Secretary is likely to use the Mercer recommendations during the Legislative short session.
- ⇒ With regards to the Broughton Hospital grant, Western Highlands will be much more involved and will be able to track where consumers are going when they are discharged from Broughton.
- ⇒ Terminated services of a couple of providers due to endorsement requirements not being met. One provider is appealing the decision.
- ⇒ Mr. Carder asked that his response to Mr. Carey's comments come later in the meeting as he is reviewing board minutes. He stated that his use of the term "resolution" may have been incorrect. The Board does not pass very many resolutions.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT: Ms. Lentz presented the November, 2007 financial statements. (A copy of the November, 2007 financial report is included in the minute book with these minutes.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Ms. Stone reported that the Finance Committee met prior to the Board meeting and went over the financial statements. The Committee has asked Ms. Lentz to bring forth a recommendation on a method for WHN to closely monitor or increase accountability for the local expended or MOE dollars as well as saving federal dollars. Ms. Lentz will present a plan to the Finance Committee at the February meeting. Ms. Carey stated that the Human Rights Committee will meet February 5, 2008 and she has asked Ms. Stone for extra time to present her report.

Ms. Hendrick stated that QIAC will be meeting following the Board meeting and all are welcome to attend.

BOARD MEETING COMMENTS: Ms. Stone stated it had been discussed previously to include, as part of the board agenda, county specific updates on mental health related issues. Ms. Atkins will put a reminder on the agenda under Board Member Comments.

Ms. Karrioubi requested an update regarding the CIT (Crisis Intervention Training) program. Ms. Schoenheit reported that the curriculum for the training of law enforcement officers is being developed from the training received in Memphis. The training for Buncombe County Law Enforcement will be the initial group training then they will have a basis for which to have CIT training in the seven other counties of WHN. Ms. Smith stated that he would like to get CIT training in his county in 2008.

Ms. Hendrick reported that Rutherford County has a committee working on how to spend the dissolution funds. When the group was setting their goals with respect to the use of the funds there was discussion about CIT Training. Ms. Mona Cornwell will be meeting with a group of folks from Rutherford County in January.

Ms. Carey requested that a copy of Mike Moseley's letter regarding dissolution funds be sent to Board members.

Mr. Smith reported that Transylvania County stakeholders group has invited Secretary Benton to attend their next meeting and he has accepted the invitation. He extended an invitation to Board members to attend the meeting as well which is scheduled for January 17, 2008. He will send the meeting information to Ms. Atkins to share with Board members.

Mr. Wyatt , in response to Mr. Rice's comments about public school budgets being cut dramatically, stated that the public education budget as a whole has increased by millions over the years. Mr. Rice stated that he was speaking of the funds for special education.

Mr. Carder stated that in response to Mr. Carey comments he has been unable to find the motion in the minutes that dissolution funds will be spent however the counties desire. A copy of Mr. Moseley's letter was distributed. There was a motion that was made about the resolution that Buncombe County brought to the Finance Committee meeting was defeated. Another motion was made requesting that Mr. Buchanan review the resolution and report to the board at the September meeting. At the September 15 regular meeting, the Board went into Closed Session to discuss information from Legal Counsel. Mr. Carder was allowed to attend this particular meeting and remembered that there was much discussion. Following the Closed Session there was only one motion made by Mr. Whitson with respect to the use of Mitchell County dissolution funds. Mr. Carder stated that he believes that the agreement was that dissolution funds would be returned to the LME and that the county would say how they intended to use the funds. He stated that this has been the practice since that time. Because the motions are hidden within the text of the minutes, Mr. Carder suggested that in future minutes, motions should be bolded or otherwise highlighted to stand out.

Ms. Stone asked that Mr. Buchanan review Closed Session minutes with respect to the dissolution. Mr. Buchanan and Ms. Stone will then meet to decide how to proceed.

Ms. Stone asked that Mr. Carder consider how to incorporate the goals of the State Plan into the Board meeting agenda.

Mr. Wyatt stated that it need to be clear on how the Board takes action. His interpretation of how the Board takes action is by voting. Mr. Wyatt made a motion to have the minutes indexed from the beginning of Western Highlands. Ms. Carey seconded the motion, and it carried by a unanimous vote

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Stone made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cook seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote; and the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Atkins
Clerk to the Board