

## Item #2

### WESTERN HIGHLANDS AREA AUTHORITY January 19, 2007, REGULAR MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Carey; Phil Castro; John W. Condrey; William J. Cook, Jr.; Susan Hendrick; Minnie Jones; Abigail Karroubi; Mandy Stone; Michael Talbert; and Arthur C. Wilson, Jr.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Patricia Franklin; Michele Lawhern; G. Keith Parker; Robert Ratcliffe; and Steve Wyatt.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: Leslie Boyd, Citizen Times; Leslie Huntley, CFAC Co-Chair; Robert Huntley, NAMI; Nancy Baker, CFAC, Co-Chair; Bob Carey; Jayne St. Clair; Larry Thompson; Curtis Venable; Judy Dunn, Families Together; Elizabeth Smith; 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; Kathy Rubendall, Access & Services Management; Bill Bullington, State Liaison; 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 19, 2007, at 9:10 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. Ms. Hendrick requested that the board approve the appointment of Mr. Castro who was sworn in at the December 15 meeting. Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve the appointment of, and to appoint, Phil Castro as a Board Member. Mr. Talbert seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

CLOSED SESSION: A motion was made at 9:11 a.m. by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Stone, and carried by a unanimous vote to go into Closed Session, pursuant to Sections 143-318.11(a)(3) and (6) of the General Statutes of North Carolina, in order to consult with the Authority's Legal Counsel in order to consider personnel matter.

The open session resumed at 9:46 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Jerry Rice made comments regarding Buncombe County leasing office space at 356 Biltmore to Congressman Heath Shuler. Mr. Rice is concerned about the confidentiality of consumers. Ms. Jayne St. Clair thanked Ms. Rose Stouder and others who were responsible for updating the web site. She also made comments regarding the Local Business Plan forums. Ms. Elizabeth Smith, Co-President, NAMI NC requested that NAMI be involved in the preparation of the Local Business Plan along with as many advocates as possible. Mr. Bob Carey made comments relative to the Local Business Plan asking that there be sufficient public input with respect to the content.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Condrey seconded the motion, and it carried by a unanimous vote. (A copy of the agenda is included in the minute book with these minutes.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Carey made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 15, 2006, Regular Meeting. Mr. Talbert seconded the motion, and it carried by a unanimous vote.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT: Ms. Hendrick made a report with respect to the following:

- (a) Parent/Guardianship Issue was addressed at the LOC and clarification is expected any day.
- (b) Board member request for information are to be directed to Mr. Carder. Ms. Atkins will provide Mr. Carder's contact information to board members.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT: Mr. Carder referred to the comment made by Mr. Rice regarding Congressman Shuler's office in the building. Consumer confidentially rights is also a concern for Mr. Carder. He stated the buildings were constructed with Federal funds and he assumed that the counties would continue with the original intent for usage of the buildings. It should be discussed whether or not such buildings in any county should be used for something other than community mental health and substance abuse services needs.

Mr. Carder reported that the process for gathering data for the 3 year Business Plan has begun. There is a training session later this month to discuss details with the consultants that Legislators required the State to hire for this process. The plan is limited to 40 pages and will address goals for each of the next 3 years. Mr. Carder stated that it is his understanding that the March 31<sup>st</sup> submission date of the Business Plan was legislated and is not something over which Western Highlands nor the Division has control. Western Highlands is working on scheduling as many forums as possible.

Mr. Carder stated that included in the material in the board packet is information regarding County Funding.

Mr. Carder then presented an update on the funds received from the State with respect to New Vistas Mountain Laurel process. Western Highlands received \$200,000 from the State to help with improving physician coverage. Since this came as a general allocation it can be used to help with the transition. Currently \$142,700 has been spent to pay 4 (four) providers to take unassigned consumers, (Families Together, Alpha-Omega, Parkway, and Family Preservation Services), leaving a balance of \$57,300 which must be used by the end of the fiscal year. Western Highlands received an allocation of \$200,000 from the state to help with the operation of the Six Avenue Clubhouse program. Also, we are anticipating receiving \$216,996 to be distributed to Henderson County toward the purchase of the Six Avenue Clubhouse. These funds will come out of the Mental Health Trust Fund. These are funds the State has provided this area for assistance.

Mr. Carder requested approval for an additional 11 staff positions as described in the spreadsheet attached to item #3. This request is based on the proposed cost model for LME functional responsibility. After discussion, Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve the addition of 11 staff as requested. Mr. Condrey seconded the motion, and it carried by a unanimous vote.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Ms. Lentz presented the financial report for November, 2006. (A copy of the financial report is included in the minute book with these minutes.) Ms. Lentz reported that the Business Office is working with providers to help them with their billing. When asked by Ms. Jones how providers can get help with billing questions, Ms. Lentz provided the e-mail address of [billingquestions@westernhighlands.org](mailto:billingquestions@westernhighlands.org).

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Ms. Hendrick reported that Executive Committee will be meeting with the CFAC Executive Committee on Monday, January 22. Ms. Carey reported that the Human Rights Committee will be meeting the first Tuesday in February. Ms. Hendrick stated that QIAC will meet following the board meeting to which Families Together, Alpha-Omega and Horizon Recovery have been invited for presentations. Mr. Wilson reported that the Operations Policy Committee met on January 9 to review the proposed By-Laws for the Area Authority. Mr. Wilson stated that House Bill 2077 which was passed made some changes that needed to be incorporated into the By-Laws. After discussion, Mr. Wilson encouraged members to review the By-Laws which will need approval at the February meeting. Ms. Atkins will send board members a copy of House Bill 2077.

CFAC: Ms. Huntley reported that CFAC did not meet in December.

STATE LIAISON REPORT: Mr. Bullington reported that he has met with Mr. Carder who provided him a to-do-list. He will be meeting soon with Division administration with respect to his new duties.

LOC REPORT: Mr. Thompson made a report with respect to the Legislative Oversight Committee of which Senator Nesbitt is Senate Co-Chair and Representative Insko House Co-Chair. He distributed and discussed the 17 potential items for consideration at the next meeting of the joint LOC. There are 210 million dollars covered in these 17 items.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Carder reported that there is a lot of discussion in Raleigh among different groups. The one with potentially serious implications for LMEs with respect to County Funding expectations is the Maintenance of effort funds and percentage of Medicaid dollars that Counties currently pays. There is support of discontinuing the requirement that counties pay Medicaid dollar. Mr. Carder is very much in favor of limiting county participation in Medicaid dollars, but there has been discussion with the County Commissioners Association and others about setting a standard formula for how much Counties would provide to the LMEs. There is a danger that the standard might be set so high that it would be impossible for WHN Counties to meet the expectations. Mr. Carder asked County Managers to discuss this with their County Commissioners.

BOARD COMMENTS: Mr. Wilson requested that Mr. Carder put together a plan of action with respect to the Local Business Plan. Will there be input from all eight Counties? Perhaps forums can be held to make sure there is ample time to review the plan prior to it being sent to Raleigh on March 31. The County Commissioners will need to review the document. Mr. Carder stated the State allows LME Boards to approve the plan sent to the State for their review and process. Each of the eight County Commissions must then ratify the plan with recommendations for any modifications that they might want added. Mr. Carder stated that there is no way to get around to eight counties between now and March 31 to get the County Commissioners to approve the plan. Ms. Carey stated that she agrees with Mr. Wilson regarding forums and input into the Local Business Plan process. Ms. Carey stated that she is also concerned about mental health buildings being used for other than mental health services.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Condrey seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote; and the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Atkins  
Clerk to the Board