

**WESTERN HIGHLANDS AREA AUTHORITY  
AUGUST 18, 2006, REGULAR MEETING**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Susan Hendrick, Chair, Presiding; Nancy Carey; John W. Condrey; William J. Cook, Jr.; Minnie Jones; Abigail Karroubi; Michele Lawhern; Rick McDevitt; G. Keith Parker; Robert Ratcliffe; Mandy Stone; Michael Talbert; Ryan Whitson; and Arthur C. Wilson, Jr.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Patricia Franklin; Justin B. Hembree; and Michele Lawhern

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: Nancy Baker, Co-Chair, CFAC; Jerry Baker; Will Callison, CEO, New Vistas; Vicki Ittel, COO, New Vistas; Chuck Gallopo, CFO, New Vistas; Gina Tipton, Director, Tipton Therapeutic Foster Homes; Angela Pittman, Buncombe DSS; Becky Kessel, Buncombe DSS; Richard Munger, Buncombe Health Center; Pam Fiset, Henderson DSS; Carson Giff, Transylvania DSS; Bob Huntley; Leslie Huntley, Co-Chair, CFAC; Dan Zorn, Families Together; and Jerry Rice.  
ALSO PRESENT: Arthur D. Carder, Jr., Chief Executive Officer; Charlie Schoenheit, Director, Services Management; Sharon Lentz, Chief Financial Officer; Sonia Eldridge, Provider & Consumer Relations; Kathy Rubendall, Access & Services Management; 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, August 18, 2006, 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. Ms. Hendrick discussed the Public Comment time. She encouraged Board members to limit comments relative to statements made during the public comment period. The CEO is directed to investigate any issues brought forth and add them to the agenda of the next board meeting. Ms. Hendrick also stressed that confidentiality needs to be respected at all times.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Ms. Tipton made comments relative to denied claims and the Rutherford County Community Collaborative. Mr. Callison made comments concerning New Vistas and providers. Mr. Rice made comments related to New Vistas, consumers, providers, and the performance of the Board, the provision of services, the Strategic Planning Council, and the performance of the Chief Executive Officer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ms. Stone made a motion to revise the agenda to add action item to consider a resolution during the Finance Committee Report. Mr. Whitson seconded the motion, and it carried (Ms. Karroubi, Ms. Jones, Mr. Condrey, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Parker, Mr. Talbert, Mr. Cook, Ms. Stone, and Mr. Whitson voting to revise the agenda and Ms. Carey opposing). Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Ms. Stone seconded the motion, and it carried. (A copy of the amended agenda is included in the minute book with these minutes.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Carey asked that the June minutes be amended to include her comment with respect to CFAC that their recommendation be given to the public. Mr. Cook made a motion to approve the minutes as amended for the June 16, 2006 meeting. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion, and it carried by a unanimous vote.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT: Ms. Hendrick reported that she and Mr. Carder met with Mr. Callison and Ms. Carol Minton, New Vistas, Board Chair on August 1, 2006 in an attempt to have a continuous dialogue between the two boards. Ms. Minton stated that the NV Board has decided to begin having board members attend WHN Board meetings. NV Board meets the first Monday of the month and WHN Board members are welcome.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT: Mr. Carder presented the August CEO report. Mr. Carder stated that two critical pieces in the last two months have been the numerous communications from the Division regarding legislative issues that will impact Western Highlands. Some of the changes are delineated in a correspondence from Mike Moseley, Communication Bulletin #60 that was sent to Board members. This communication outlines the role and responsibilities of boards. Mr. Carder distributed and discussed the summary of the 2006 Legislative session as outlined by the NC Council. He hopes to have the changes in board

membership incorporated into the Board By-laws/Board Policies ready for the October Board meeting. Mr. Carder stated that there will be additional discussion with New Vistas folks attending the Quality Improvement Advisory Council meeting. He then spoke about CIT (Crisis Intervention Training) an area in which he has special interest. CFAC and the Crisis Task Force expressed interest in having this training in our area. Ms. Mona Cornwell, with AB Tech and CFAC has taken the lead on this project and will be attending the National CIT Conference. Mr. Carder presented item #5 a summary of service definition and benefit changes that happened on March 20, 2006. Mr. Carder distributed a graph showing the number of adult mental health allocations for FY 07 as it pertains to different providers. The monthly management report for June and July was presented. There was much discussion regarding the figures provided in the management report. Dr. Ratcliffe has concerns relative to New Vistas. Mr. Wilson asked that the State be asked to partner with Western Highlands to find a solution. Mr. Carder suggested that QIAC have the opportunity to discuss the issues and come up with solutions to be presented at the next board meeting. Dr. Ratcliffe made a motion to have a report from Arthur and Will at the September Board concerning the "Safety Net" issue with a state representative observing/participating. Ms. Jones seconded the motion, and it carried. Mr. Carder stated that he has prepared a statement, which will be distributed relating to the resolution, which will be presented at the time of the Finance Committee. Mr. Carder reported that with respect to the consumer, who made comments at the last board meeting, he has met with the consumer and there is ongoing discussion regarding service availability and the level of care needed. A new diagnostic assessment was done and the Medical Director has reviewed the assessment. They have asked for an additional intensive evaluation around some other issues. Hopefully, these actions will enable this person to receive services that are more appropriate.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Ms. Lentz presented the final FY06 Budget Amendment, after which Mr. Talbert reported that the Finance Committee reviewed the Budget Amendment and recommends approval. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion, and it carried by a unanimous vote. (A copy of the final FY06 Budget Amendment is included in the minute book with these minutes.) Ms. Lentz presented Communication Bulletin, which relates to filing IPRS in a timely manner. This Communication Bulletin has been sent to providers. Ms. Lentz stated that the final Tentative Settlement Report for Blue Ridge, Rutherford-Polk and Trend has been received from the Controller's Office. She went over the report with the Finance Committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Ms. Hendrick reported that the Executive Committee had met twice since the Board's last regular meeting and that there would be a closed session at the end of this meeting to consider personnel matters.

Mr. Talbert reported that the Finance Committee had met immediately prior to this meeting and that the Committee had reviewed and discussed claims and reimbursement staffing and the need for additional staffing so that claims could be processed in a more timely and efficient manner. It was the recommendation and motion of the Committee that two claims-processing employment positions be approved and that the recruitment and hiring of two such employees be authorized. (The Committee will present a financial-impact report and budget amendment at the Board's next regular meeting.) Mr. Whitson seconded the motion, and it carried by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Talbert further reported that the Finance Committee had discussed the proposed resolution which was added as an action item to the agenda for this meeting. (A copy of the proposed resolution is included in the minute book with these minutes.) It was the recommendation and motion of the Committee that the proposed resolution be approved and adopted. After a discussion, Mr. Wilson seconded the motion, but after a further discussion, it failed to pass. The following seven Board Members voted against the motion: Ms. Carey, Mr. Condrey, Mr. Cook, Ms. Hendrick, Ms. Karroubi, Mr. McDevitt, and Dr. Ratcliffe. The following six Board Members voted for the motion: Ms. Jones, Mr. Parker, Ms. Stone, Mr. Talbert, Mr. Whitson, and Mr. Wilson.

Mr. Condrey made a motion that: the sum of \$1,000,000.00 received, or to be received, from Buncombe County in accordance with Section 122C-115.3(f) of the General Statutes of North Carolina be used for a crisis center

which will serve the eight counties constituting the Authority's catchment area and which will be located in Buncombe County; and at the next regular meeting, Mr. Buchanan is to render a legal opinion relative to the above proposed resolution. Dr. Ratcliffe seconded the motion, and it carried by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Carey presented the Human Rights Committee report and requested approval of its annual report. Mr. Parker made a motion to approve the annual report. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion, and it carried by a unanimous vote.

CFAC: Ms. Huntley distributed a written CFAC report. Ms. Huntley reported that the public forum held in Transylvania County in July worked out well. CFAC is trying to go out into the counties to meet with consumers and family members. Ms. Huntley invited WHN Board Members to visit with CFAC at their regularly scheduled meetings on Monday immediately prior to the WHN Board meeting. Ms. Huntley reported that at the August meeting CFAC discussed the changes contained in S.L. 2006-142, which will affect State and local CFAC.

CLOSED SESSION: A motion was made at 11:55 a.m. by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Ratcliffe, 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, to consult with the Authority's Legal Counsel and to consider personnel matters. The open session resumed at 12:43 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Whitson seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote; and the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Atkins  
Clerk to the Board