

**WESTERN HIGHLANDS AREA AUTHORITY
NOVEMBER 15, 2007, SPECIAL MEETING**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Carey; John W. Condrey; William J. Cook, Jr.; Patricia Franklin; Steve Garrison; Susan Hendrick; Minnie Jones; Abigail Karroubi; Ryan Whitson; Mandy Stone; Arthur C. Wilson, Jr.; and Steve Wyatt.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Michele Lawhern; Robert Ratcliffe; Steve Smith; and Charles Vines.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: Bob Carey; David and Mona Cornwell; Florence Rowe; Jerry Rice; Mr. & Mrs. Morrow; Jason Morrow; Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Brooks; Representative Ray Rapp; Mr. & Mrs. Smith

ALSO PRESENT: Arthur D. Carder, Jr., Chief Executive Officer; Sharon Lentz, Chief Financial Officer; Rhonda McKee, HR Director; Donald Reuss, Provider & Consumer Relations; 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 Thursday, November 15, 2007, at 6:15 p.m. at the Orchard at Broadmoor, French Broad Lane, Feltcher, NC. The Chair called the meeting to order. Ms. Hendrick thanked the members of the planning committee. The committee members are as follows: Ms. Hendrick, Ms. Karroubi, Ms. Stone, Mr. Carder, Ms. McKee, and Ms. Atkins.

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

PRESENTATION OF AUDIT: Ms. Lentz introduced Mr. Chuck Killian and Mr. Danny Yelton, representatives of Gould Killian CPA Group. Mr. Yelton presented the Financial Statements and Correspondence to Management relative to the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2007. After some discussion, Mr. Condrey made a motion to accept the audit as presented. Mr. Wyatt seconded the motion, and it carried by a unanimous vote. (Copies of the audit documentation are available for inspection in the office of the Clerk to the Board).

Representative Ray Rapp gave the invocation before dinner.

CFAC PRESENTATIONS: Mr. Jim Greer, CFAC Liaison presented a plaque to Western Highlands CFAC in recognition of their passion for consumers and families as well as their commitment to working with Western Highlands Network Board.

Ms. Tatnall, CFAC Co-Chair presented CFAC awards to the following: Mona Cornwell for her leadership in bringing Crisis Intervention Training to Western Highlands counties; NAMI Four Seasons and NAMI Western Carolina for their enormous strides in bringing awareness of mental illness throughout the eight county region. Mr. Carey accepted the award on behalf of NAMI Western Carolina and Ms. Smith on behalf of NAMI Four Seasons.

Ms. Tatnall then presented a trophy to Jason Morrow, who competed as a member of Team USA in aquatics at the Special Olympics World Summer Games held in Shanghai, China.

BOARD PRESENTATIONS: Mr. Reuss, Director, Provider & Consumer Relations, presented the Provider Recognition award to October Road. Mr. Jeff Brooks accepted the award.

Ms. Lentz presented the staff member award to Mr. George Scott whose expertise as the IT/MIS leader has enabled him to have great impact across all departments.

Mr. Carder recognized the 21 employees from various departments involved with the Post Payment Review process. This process was accomplished through substantial planning and rearrangement of schedules and duties.

Mr. Carder announced the establishment of the "Rowe Lifetime Achievement Award" in honor of John and Florence Rowe who gave of their time and talents to help those in need. This award will be an annual award presented to someone who emulates the values and compassion of John and Florence.

Mr. Carder then presented the first annual Rowe Lifetime Achievement Award to Mr. Larry Thompson. Mr. Thompson worked extensively with the Rowes. His leadership was essential in the development of the Blue Ridge Area Program as one of the finest area programs in North Carolina.

Ms. Jones stated that the board would be remiss if we did not recognize Ms. Bev Atkins for her outstanding work on the annual meeting as well as her excellent work as Clerk to the Board. Ms. Atkins was given a round of applause by the entire group.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT: Mr. Carder thanked everyone for coming. He stated that annual meetings are for reflection on what has been accomplished over the past year. "We have all made a difference".

Mr. Don Herring, Director, Access & Services Management, discussed the pilot project for which Western Highlands has been selected along with Smoky Mountain Center, Mecklenburg, and Center Point. Each will receive an allocation from the State to reduce hospital days at Broughton Hospital. Mr. Herring reported that he just returned from making a presentation to the Legislative Oversight Committee regarding ways Western Highlands plans to reduce hospital days.

Mr. Carder reported that he will present a proposal at the December Board meeting regarding the Primary Care Initiative.

Mr. Carder then presented information with respect to the FY 08 continuation budget. Western Highlands FY 08 budget included a \$3,586,828 reduction. The information distributed is a comparison of the FY 07 and FY 08 budget indicating the change. There will be further discussion at the December meeting.

Mr. Carder then reported that the State has hired the Mercer Group to do an independent evaluation of all the LME's. They will review strengths and weaknesses of LME functions. Western Highlands staff will participate in a conference call November 16.

Mr. Carder stated that he appreciated the work done by everyone to make this meeting happen. He thanked the Board for all it does. Mr. Carder stated that as it is not the case for all LME boards, noting that it is an actively involved Board which is not the case in all LME's.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT: Ms. Hendrick reported that she is proud of the things the Board has accomplished over the two years including two board retreats, an improved relationship with the NC Division and the accomplishment of a strong and positive relationship with the Western Highlands CFAC. Ms. Hendrick stated that it has been a privilege to work with quality staff. She thanked Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Thompson. She also thanked Mr. Carder for his work with the Division and NC Council. His knowledge and leadership has helped our LME. Ms. Hendrick stated that she has appreciated his empowerment of advocacy groups. This is a quality Board with which she has appreciated working.

Ms. Hendrick presented the slate of officers for the new year.

Mandy Stone, Chair

WESTERN HIGHLANDS AREA AUTHORITY
NOVEMBER 15, 2007, SPECIAL MEETING
PAGE 3

Abigail Karroubi, Vice Chair
Ryan Whitson, Treasurer
Susan Hendrick, At-Large

Mr. Condrey made a motion to approve the slate of officers as presented. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion, and it carried.

Ms. Stone presented a gift of appreciation to Ms. Hendrick for her service as Board Chair.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Condrey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Whitson seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote; and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Atkins
Clerk to the Board