

**WESTERN HIGHLANDS AREA AUTHORITY
NOVEMBER 19, 2007, SPECIAL MEETING**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Carey (via conference call); John W. Condrey (via conference call); William J. Cook, Jr.; Susan Hendrick (via conference call); Minnie Jones; Abigail Karroubi; Ryan Whitson; Robert Ratcliffe; Steve Smith; Charles Vines; Arthur C. Wilson, Jr.; and Steve Wyatt (via conference call).

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Patricia Franklin; Steve Garrison; Michele Lawhern and Mandy Stone.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: Bridget Barron, Pardee Hospital; Pat Ashe, Pardee Hospital; Leslie Boyd, Asheville Citizen Times; Bob Carey (via conference call); 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; 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 Monday, November 19, 2007, at 9:35 a.m. in the second-floor Conference Room (Room 312/315) of 356 Biltmore Avenue, Asheville, North Carolina. Abigail Karroubi, Vice Chair called the meeting to order.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Whitson made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 5, 2007, Board Retreat Business Session. Dr. Ratcliffe seconded the motion, and it carried by a unanimous vote. (A copy of the October 5, 2007 minutes is included in the minute book with these minutes.)

PARDEE DETOX UNIT DISCUSSION: Mr. Carder presented an overview of the situation. He stated that he received a call from the county managers from Henderson, Polk and Transylvania regarding their concern that Pardee Hospital's eight bed Detox unit would be closing on December 1, 2007. Because the Board Retreat had established that there is the need to have improved crisis service throughout the eight county area and that there were few resources in the southern counties, the three county managers asked for a special meeting of the WHN Board. Mr. Carder, Mr. Schoenheit and Mr. Reuss met with Pardee staff who shared that the cost of the unit is so expensive that admissions to Broughton Hospital and other state operated facilities are less expensive. Mr. Carder stated that it could be possible over a period of time that the Pardee unit would be able to do some crisis services, detox and crisis mental health access in a cost efficient manner. Also, discussed was the possibility of using the unit as an assessment center to help consumers avoid unnecessary hospitalizations. Mr. Carder reported that the most recent contact with Pardee Hospital had been by Hederson County Manager, Mr. Wyatt who learned that the hospital board was interested in proceeding with a possible plan with Western Highlands involvement. Because of her association with Pardee Hospital, Ms. Karrioubi requested that Mr. Whitson take over chairing the meeting. Mr. Condrey made a motion to excuse Ms. Karroubi and have Mr. Whitson to chair the meeting during discussion and voting with respect to this issue. Mr. Wyatt seconded the motion, and it carried.

After further discussion, Mr. Wyatt made the following motion. Effective as of December 1, 2007, and subject to the negotiation and execution of a grant agreement between the Authority and the Hospital, the Authority will provide to the Hospital a grant in the amount of \$350,000.00, to be provided to the Hospital in quarterly or other equal installments during the year commencing on December 1, 2007, and ending on November 30, 2008 (the "Grant Year"), to be used by the Hospital to preserve its detox unit during this Grant Year; during this Grant Year, there shall be no reduction in the detox unit's prior and normal capacity, and there shall be no discrimination with respect to who can and cannot pay for services; during this Grant Year, the detox unit shall

serve the citizens and residents of the Authority's eight-county catchment area; and within ninety days after December 1, 2007, the Authority's Administrative Staff and the Hospital shall consider treatment options and shall make a report to the Authority's Board about such options and the best use of the detox resources. Mr. Whitson seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Vines made a motion to allow Ms. Karroubi to resume chairing the meeting. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion, and it carried.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Ms. Lentz presented financial statements for September, 2007. She reported that Western Highlands is billing and getting payments to providers much more rapidly this year than last year.

Ms. Lentz distributed final continuation budget 2008 document from the State which includes a \$3,586,828 deficient in service dollars. There will be more discussion at the December meeting.

Ms. Barren thanked the Western Highlands Board for their grant proposal in an effort to keep the detox unit open.

ADJOURNMENT: Dr. Ratcliffe made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Whitson seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote; and the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Atkins
Clerk to the Board