

WESTERN TIDEWATER COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

OUTCOMES

January 30, 2024

The regularly scheduled bi-monthly meeting of the Western Tidewater Community Services Board was held on Tuesday January 30, 2024, at 9:36 a.m. The attendance was recorded as below:

PRESENT

Cindy Edwards, Board Chair
Toni Brown
Lula Holland, Vice Chair
Rachel Lewis (Emeritus)
LaRhonda Mabry
Alysia Pack
Sarah Rexrode
Margaret Ann Smith
Vicki Wiggins-Pittman (Emeritus)

ABSENT

Steven Blunt
Malcolm Clark (Emeritus)
Margaret Jones (Emeritus)
Audrey Lee
Donald Robertson
Angela Vick
Dr. Melvin Wofford

STAFF

Demetrios Peratsakis, Executive Director
Matt Hull, Board Attorney
Donna Boykin
Amy Byrne
Debbie Dashiell
David Hopkins
Cheryl Knight
Latril Mariano
Lara Matthews
Sheila Reaves
Brandon Rodgers

GUESTS

Rose Brown

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions:

- Cindy Edwards called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.
- New board member Alysia Pack was welcomed representing Isle of Wight County
- Rose Brown was recognized for 26 years of service

2. Public Comments:

- There were no public comments

3. Approval of Minutes/Outcomes:

Board of Director's Meeting: November 11, 2023

Outcome: Upon a *motion* made by Vicki Wiggins-Pittman and seconded by Toni Brown, the outcomes of the November 11, 2023, meeting were approved with a correction changing the Vice President from Toni Brown to Lula Holland

4. Executive Director's Report:

- Mr. Peratsakis thanked all for thoughts and prayers for Board Clerk Darlene Rawls who is recovering from brain surgery
- Mr. Peratsakis noted the absence of Directors Andrew Jurewicz who is attending a Finance Director's Meeting and Staci Young who is conducting ASSIST suicide training
- Mr. Peratsakis congratulated Brandon Rodgers on being promoted to Associate Executive Director of Western Tidewater CSB
- Mr. Peratsakis encouraged all to review the program highlights included in the Board packets

5. OLD BUSINESS:

- Employment and Recruitment Update
 - The current number of WTCSB full-time employees is 760
 - 46 employees have been hired and 30 terminated/separated
 - There are 120 vacancies
 - 143 interviews have been conducted since the last board meeting
- Same Day Access (SDA)
 - Staff performed 337 initial screenings
 - Last year's data shows 2,203 initial screenings and almost 1800 intakes
- Peer Supports:
 - The agency currently employs 36 peers
 - 15 are certified and registered
 - 17 are certified
 - Peer support is currently being provided to over 100 consumers
 - Peer providers have billed 76 consumers
- Reimbursement:
 - The General Assembly increased reimbursement rates approximately 10%
 - This results in an additional \$238,000 for the remainder of FY24 and an extra half million in FY25
- Auxiliary Grant Increase:
 - Rate increase should result in \$340,000

6. NEW BUSINESS

- 2025 General Assembly Legislative Issues – Brandon Rodgers reviewed “hot button issues
 - HB608 and SB34 propose authority be given to ER physicians to execute a TDO – VACSB strongly opposes this as it is not an independent evaluation of the individual’s needs and rights
 - HB37 – Loan Repayment Program for mental health professionals – VACSB is advocating for changes in language
 - HB224 regards mental health awareness training in public schools and would allow the Board of Education to determine the appropriate age for a child to receive mental health education – this is being monitored by VACSB
 - HB426 could remove requirements or offer alternative requirements for individuals to become licensed and is being actively opposed
 - HB515 would grant the Commissioner of DBHDS the ability to discharge an individual from a mental health institution without consent of the CSB and is being actively opposed
 - HB822 and HB823 relate to ECOs and TDOs and alternative transportation and would place custody of the individual with the transportation provider – this is being opposed
 - HB1246 supports training law enforcement on handling individuals with autism spectrum disorders and is being supported
 - HB1269 reduces the impact of barrier crimes on individuals seeking employment and is being supported
- Legal Issues
 - Board Attorney Matt Hull educated board members on legal issues:
 - Civil and Criminal Trespass
 - Firearms in buildings
- Right Help, Right Now funding
 - There is an additional \$85 million in grants to localities in 2025 and \$89 million in 2026
 - \$110 million in 2025 and another \$110 million in 2026 for behavioral health and substance abuse
 - \$990 million in 2025 and another \$900 million in 2026 for Developmental Disabilities
 - Crisis Funding:
 - \$10 million for mobile crisis teams
 - \$3 million for first responders
 - \$72 million in 2025 and \$42 million in 2026 to build out crisis programs across the state
 - \$9 million for STEP VA
 - \$42 million for children’s mental health
 - \$7 for peer wellness
 - \$2 million for adolescent substance use disorders
 - CSBs will see more emphasis on gambling addiction
- Highlights of the Governor’s new funding initiatives:
 - \$150 million to support comprehensive crisis system
 - \$15 million for School Based Mental Health
 - \$7.9 million for implementation and expansion of VA Mental Health Access Program for ages 0-5

- \$4.7 million for alternative transportation and custody services
 - \$8.5 million for salary increases in state facilities
 - \$1.5 million for workforce initiatives at state facilities
 - \$60 million for DBHDS infrastructure improvements
- Initiatives to support Right Help, Right Now initiatives:
 - \$150 million to eliminate the Priority 1 waiting list for Developmental Disability waiver slots
 - \$10 million to the Department of Education and State Council for Higher Education for Virginia to support access to mental health services
 - \$10 million to enhance the Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program to ensure students to join the behavioral healthcare workforce
- Possible partnership with VDSS:
 - Sarah Rexrode informed the board of the Governor's Kinship Placement initiative for foster care
 - Mr. Peratakis and Rufus Darden will participate in a call to Steven Wade
- Wait Time Data Question
 - Ms. Rexrode questioned wait times for services – both for individual counseling and psychiatry
 - Current wait times for an assessment is no longer than a week
 - Psychiatry has a wait time of 30 days
 - Brandon reminded all of the availability of Same Day Access at Northgate 5 days per week and one day per week in Franklin and addressed plans for expansion of this service
 - The Crisis Receiving Center is available 24/7
 - Can handle emergencies and non-emergencies
 - Walk in/drop off/transportation available
 - Available peer support, licensed counselors, other mental health professionals and nursing staff, and a psychiatric nurse practitioner who can prescribe in an emergency
- Permanent Supportive Housing
 - WTCsb will have 77 units available by mid-year
 - 29 individuals are currently housed and 3 referrals are being processed
 - Supportive Housing Institute requires partnership with a developer – WTCsb was awarded a 76-hour training course on this
 - Hampton/Newport News CSB received \$300,000 which will be included in apartment complexes in Northern Suffolk
 - Another grant opportunity is available and WTCsb is working with a development on a new project with 10 units set aside for PSH
 - The development will include office space for onsite staff
- AWARDCO:
 - Platform that streamlines and enhances employee recognition from peers and/or management
 - Cloud based and partners with Amazon
 - Provides an extensive reward catalog
 - Can be monetary or non-monetary
 - Offers real-time recognition
 - Mobile Accessibility
 - Reporting and analytics

- Automated Celebrations
- Performance Management Integration

7. Executive Session: No Executive Session was called

8. Adjournment:

There being no further business, on a *motion* made by Toni Brown and second by Sarah Rexrode, the meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.