

WESTERN TIDEWATER COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

OUTCOMES

March 18, 2025

The regularly scheduled bi-monthly meeting of Western Tidewater Community Services Board was called to order March 18, 2025, at 9:44 a.m. Attendance is recorded below:

PRESENT

Cindy Edwards, Board Chair
Alysia Pack
Margaret Ann Smith
Rachel Lewis (Emeritus)
Vicki Wiggins-Pittman (Emeritus)

ABSENT

Steven Blunt
Lula Holland, Vice Chair
Randy Keaton
Audrey Lee
LaRhonda Mabry
Sarah Rexrode
Angela Vick
Melvin Wofford

STAFF

Brandon Rodgers, Executive Director
Ross Greene, Board Attorney
Damara Beckett
Carolyn Blackmon
Debbie Dashiell
David Hopkins
Brittany Johnson
Andrew Jurewicz
Latril Mariano
Lara Matthews
Michelle Moore
Natalia Tague
Sara Thuecks
Natalia Tague
Vonda Warren-Lilly

GUESTS

No guests were present

1. Public Comments:

- There were no comments from the public.

2. **Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions:**

- Cindy Edwards called the meeting to order at 9:44 a.m.
- Mr. Edwards recognized the Board, Executive Director, Board Attorney, and staff

3. **Approval of Minutes/Outcomes:**
Board of Director's Meeting: February 4, 2025
Outcome: Ms. Edwards noted a quorum was not present and the minutes could not be approved

4. **Executive Director's Report:**

- Mr. Rodgers called the Board's attention to the Business Agenda and shared a publication by Suffolk Vice Mayor Lou Ward, Jr.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Compensation Study
 - The RFP has been posted on eVA
 - Once proposals come in, they will be brought before the board

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Employment and Recruitment Update
 - There are currently 775 full-time, part-time, and hourly employees
 - There are 120 vacant positions
 - 55 new employees have been welcomed since the last meeting
 - 41 separated from employment
- Same Day Access (SDA)
 - Current onboarding for outpatient services is 13 days
 - Current onboarding for mental health is 10 days
 - Current onboarding for medication management is 23 days
 - Latril and Damara continue to work on wait time for child psychiatry
- Summary of Variances
 - A positive variance of \$1.3 million is reported
 - Expense variances are a positive \$1,199,164
 - There was positive fee revenue of \$809,000 and a positive variance in personnel costs of \$1.6 million
 - Estimated revenues including funds year to date are \$40 million
- Crisis Therapeutic Home Property
 - Property has been identified in Isle of Wight County off Yellowhammer Road
 - Purchase price is \$200,000 for 30 acres
 - Property will be subdivided to accommodate two houses
 - An engineering firm has been hired to present the project to Isle of Wight County
 - The project manager is working on the architectural design
- Legislative Updates
 - The full \$1.5 million request for funds to support outpatient restoration to competency

- \$8.1 million of the \$17 million request for substance use disorder (SUD) services
- The full \$8.7 million for onboarding Support Coordinators for ID Waiver slots
- \$4.8 million of \$18 million requested to support Marcus Alert implementation
- Medicaid Expansion Monitoring
 - Medicaid Expansion passed in 2018 included trigger language that automatically terminates the program if federal funding falls below 90%
 - The House budget passes 2/2025 included \$800 billion in cuts to healthcare spending
 - This could impact 600,000-700,000 Virginians
 - WTCsb is aware of this risk and will be conservative in budget planning
- Strategic Plan Update Suggestions
 - Four top suggestions were obtained in five town halls held recently
 - Engage children and families where they are: school, church, athletic events, etc.
 - Homelessness and supports for those who are homeless
 - Community engagement, better marketing, and better ways to advertise available services
 - Drop-in support groups (virtual and in person)
 - Over the next few months goals and objective will be determined for 6 broad working goals
 - Broaden community education and awareness efforts
 - Develop relationships with all local public and private schools
 - Create and strengthen workforce development opportunities with local high schools, colleges and universities and expand internal clinical development
 - Increase diversion from acute psychiatric units and incarceration
 - Diversity fee revenue portfolio
 - Expand employee benefits
- Proposed Employee Benefits
 - Offer free employee memberships to YMCA with reduced rates for spouse and/or family
 - Cash out of leave once per year providing the employee with extra money for a vacation or other expenses

7. Permanent Supportive Housing Presentation by Michelle Moore

- PSH offers voluntary, flexible supports to individuals with SMI and experiencing chronic homelessness
- The goal is to assist individuals in choosing and obtaining stable housing
- Team includes 2 case managers, an outreach case manager, two peers, and a housing specialist
- Referrals are received from Tidewater Cove, prisons/jails, the homeless hotline, continuum of care team, crisis receiving center, same day access, and the community
- Current census is 40 with 6 pending referrals
- PSH currently collaborates with 13 community partners (apartment complexes, hotels, private landlords)
- There is a grant-funded project to build 75 rental units with 8 specifically for PSH which will hopefully be completed by 2026

8. Adjournment:

There being no further business, upon a ***motion*** made by Vicki Wiggins-Pittman and seconded by Alyria Pack, the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.