

# **WESTERN TIDEWATER COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD**

## **OUTCOMES**

**September 17, 2024**

The regularly scheduled bi-monthly meeting of Western Tidewater Community Services Board was called to order September 17, 2024, at 9:39 a.m. Attendance is recorded below:

### **PRESENT**

Cindy Edwards, Board Chair  
Lula Holland, Vice Chair  
Randy Keaton  
LaRhonda Mabry  
William McCarty  
Alysia Pack  
Sarah Rexrode  
Margaret Ann Smith  
Vicki Wiggins-Pittman (Emeritus)

### **ABSENT**

Steven Blunt  
Audrey Lee  
Rachel Lewis (Emeritus)  
Melvin Wofford

### **STAFF**

Demetrios Peratsakis, Executive Director  
Brandon Rodgers, Associate Executive Director  
Ross Greene, Board Attorney  
Donna Boykin  
Debbie Dashiell  
David Hopkins  
Andrew Jurewicz  
Latril Mariano  
Lara Matthews  
Chaquita Merrill  
Sara Theucks  
Vonda Warren-Lilly  
Staci Young

### **GUESTS**

Ms. Edwards welcomed new Board Attorney Ross Green with Pender & Coward. Mr. Green introduced himself and expressed that he is looking forward to working with the Board. He has been with Pender & Coward for 17 years.

#### **1. Public Comments:**

- There were no comments by the public.

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

- Cindy Edwards called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m.
- Ms. Edwards announced a Thanksgiving luncheon and retirement celebrations following the November Meeting
- Ms. Edwards announced Margaret Smith and Lula Holland will serve on the Nominating Committee at the November meeting to present a slate of officers at the November meeting

### 3. **Approval of Minutes/Outcomes:**

Board of Director's Meeting: July 2024

**Outcome:** Upon a ***motion*** made by Lula Holland and seconded by Margaret Ann Smith, the July meeting's minutes were approved.

### 4. **Closed (Executive) Session:**

- Ms. Edwards requested a motion, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (a), to allow the WTCSB Board of Directors to enter into closed session for the purpose of hearing from its Search Committee on the recruitment and possible selection of a new Executive Director. The Executive Director and the Human Resources Director were asked to remain during the closed session as they had assisted the Search Committee in its work.
- ***MOTION*** TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION made by Ms. Sarah Rexrode and seconded by Ms. Lula Holland: "I move that the WTCSB Board of Directors enter into closed session for the purpose of discussion and consideration of prospective candidates for the position of Executive Director pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2.-3711(a)(1)."
- After the Search Committee's report, the matter was discussed. Ms. Edwards then requested a motion to exit the Closed Session. Motion made by Ms. Alysia Pack and seconded by Ms. Sarah Rexrode:
- ***MOTION*** TO APPROVE CERTIFICATION AFTER CLOSED MEETING
- "The Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge: (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting, were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting."
- A roll call was held with each Board Member in attendance attesting that no business other than personnel matters were discussed during the Closed Session.
- Upon a ***motion*** made by William McCarty, Ms. Cindy Edwards, Board Chair, was authorized to extend an offer of employment to Mr. Brandon Rodgers, MBA, on behalf of the Board, for the position of Executive Director of Western Tidewater Community Services Board. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lula Holland and approved unanimously by the Board Members in attendance via roll call. Those voting in the affirmative included Cindy Edwards, Randy Keaton, Alysia Pack, Lula

Holland, Sarah Rexrode, William McCarty, Margaret Smith, LaRhonda Mabry, and Vicki-Wiggins Pittman.

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

- Mr. Peratsakis shared the Business Agenda

**6. OLD BUSINESS:**

- Employment and Recruitment Update
  - There were 244 interviews since the last reporting period
- Same Day Access (SDA)
  - 1000 initial screenings have been completed
  - 406 Clinical Needs Assessments (CNAs)
  - 52 ID/DD Waivers
- Budget Trends
  - State funding has increased from \$14 million in 2021 to \$34.5 million
  - Funding will be monitored for efficient and practical use
  - Performance metrics will be tied to funding
  - WTCSB fees now comprise 40% of the budget and have increased from \$20 million in 2021 to \$30 million now

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

- Business and Data Informatics
  - DBHDS has two Strategic Plans on their website – one for CSBs and State Hospitals and one for Private Providers
  - WTCSB is responsible for 2 websites – one for the agency and one for Region 5
- DBHDS Cost Report – Presented by Brandon Rodgers
  - The Virginia General Assembly requires DBHDS to conduct a needs assessment for each of the 9 STEP-VA components and report findings by December 1, 2024
  - It is intended to provide a uniform way for CSBs to report costs and project future costs of services and expected personnel
  - Report is the bases for DMAS rate setting for Fee for Service and any Prospective Payment System
  - 3 virtual trainings were held to answer questions and provide technical assistance
  - Estimated time to complete the report was 50-60 hours. WTCSB doubled that.
  - The Cost Report now focuses on direct and indirect costs instead of accounting and reporting on Disability and the Core Services Taxonomy
  - WTCSB's Cost Report was submitted September 6, 2024 with a total cost of \$41,798,442
  - Performance measures and benchmarks will be finalized December 1, 2024
  - Evaluation of implementation/improvements for 9 steps concluded in December 2024
  - All 9 steps will be fully implemented at all 40 CSBs by June 2026
- STEP VA Evidence Based Practices
  - Required EBP's include:
    - Motivational Interviewing
    - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

- Solution Focused Brief Therapy
  - Menu of Optional EBPs
- Outcome Measures include:
  - DLA-20
  - Staff Training Survey
  - Quarter Workforce Reports
  - Suicide Risk Screening
- Tighter CSB Monitoring – Data-driven decision making will be utilized to make improvements in the behavioral healthcare services system. Two of the administration’s nine goals:
  - Goal 7: Transform the management and administration of services among DBHDS, Community Services Boards, facilities and private providers
  - Goal 9: Deliver transactional and secure statewide data exchange for behavioral health and developmental disability data
- DBHDS has developed a Strategic Plan Dashboard as part of “Right Help, Right Now” implementation modernizing core systems and processes:
  - Workforce – Recruitment and Retention, Workforce Sustainability
  - Continuum of Care – Youth and Adult Continuum, Quality of Service Outcomes and Crisis Services
  - Modernization – Services Administration, Facility Systems Modernizations, and Statewide Data Exchange
- Performance Dashboards will be broken down by CSB and will show:
  - Columbia Suicide Risks Assessments (for Adults and Children)
  - Same Day Access Appointments Kept
  - Same Day Access Appointments Offered
  - SUD Engagement
- WTCSB Communications
  - Rebranding colors
  - Employee portal as single source for updates
  - Create and leverage a communications team for internal and external communications
  - “Forward Together” kick off
- Prevention – Presented by Vonda Warren-Lilly
  - Prevention is a DBHDS state mandated department that refers to strategies and initiatives aimed at preventing and reducing behavioral health issues and developmental disabilities within the population. Efforts include:
    - Education and Awareness
    - Early Intervention Programs
    - Support Services
    - Policy and Advocacy
    - Collaboration and Partnerships
    - Research and Evaluation
  - Continued Campaigns
    - Problem Gaming and Gambling
    - Together in Pride LGBTQIA support group
    - Nurturing Parenting Program
    - Strong African American Families Group (SAAF)
    - WTCSB Community Coalition
    - Safe TALK suicide prevention training

- Mental Health First Aid (Adult and Youth)
- REVIVE – emergency Narcan training in person and virtual
- Cannabis Education classes to MS and HS youth at schools
- Clinics and Prevention collaborating to provide monthly community activities
- Lock & Talk gun safety
- ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences)
- Over the Counter fatal overdose prevention
- Opioid overdose prevention
- Merchant education for tobacco sales
- Community events
- Media campaigns and strategic promotion
- Suicide events “Shatter the Silence” and “Out of the Darkness” community walk
- QA Internal Audits
  - 36 programs and 502 audits were conducted during the months of July and August 2024 with overall agency-wide performance rate of 75.24%
  - 5 Departments (CM – ACTCOMM; MH ACTCOMM; CM ACT Cover; CM Life Management; and TBI MHOP all had a performance compliance rate of 75% or higher
  - 23 programs scored above the agency-wide performance rate of 75%
  - 7 programs scored below the agency-wide performance rate of 75%
- New Isle of Wight Clinic Space
  - Space at 1913 S. Church Street, Smithfield, VA has been secured
  - Allows accommodation of growing needs in the Smithfield/Isle of Wight communities
  - Will allow implementation of additional services
  - Improves functionality
  - Will better support families and children

**8. Adjournment:**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.