



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, April 24, 2025, 5:00 p.m.

300 Medical Drive, Hampton, VA 23666

Present: Mr. Steven Brown, Chair; Mrs. Bea Dahlen, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Ann Abdullah, Secretary; Dr. Diane Griffiths; Mr. Ryan Kotrch; Dr. Kristie Norwood; Mrs. Gisele Russell; Dr. Tarita Stonewall; Dr. Tamara Temoney-Porter; and Mrs. Hui-Shan Walker.

Staff: Dr. Daphne Cunningham; Dr. Melanie Bond; Ms. Keisha Carroll; Ms. Joy Cipriano; Mr. Ron Clark; Mr. Tony Crisp; Mr. Ryan Dudley; Dr. Baltej Gill; Mrs. Lisa Hogge; Mr. Marcus King; Mr. Tom Miller; Mrs. Allison O'Brien; Mrs. Rhonda Perry; Ms. Beverly Smith; Mrs. Kimberly Thompson; and Mrs. Jae Hee Jackson.

Absent: Mrs. Mary Stewart; Mrs. Ginger Blount-Moore; Sheriff Karen Bowden; Mrs. Mary Miller

**Members of the
Public and
Other Guest(s):**

None

CALL TO ORDER

Members of the Board, Guests, and Staff were welcomed to the Meeting of the Board of Directors for the Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board (H-NNCSB) by Mr. Steven Brown, Board Chair, who called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. on April 24, 2025.

REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Brown welcomed the Members of the Board of Directors then he gave Dr. Daphne Cunningham, Executive Director, the floor.

Dr. Cunningham welcomed everyone and introduced staff members present: new ELT member Mr. Ron Clark, Director of Crisis Services, and Mr. Marcus King from Training Services. Dr. Cunningham provided some impressive milestones achieved by Mr. Clark over the 27 years as an H-NNCSB employee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS**A-1. Board Approval of the March 27, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

- Issue:** Board approval of the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held on March 27, 2025.
- Background:** The Board meeting minutes were provided to Members of the Board of Directors for review in the Board packet, pages 40 through 44, distributed on April 17, 2025.
- Action:** There being no discussion or comments, the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held on March 27, 2025 were approved as presented.

**STANDING BOARD
COMMITTEE REPORTS****Community Relations
& Governmental
Affairs**

Members of the Community Relations and Governmental Affairs Committee met on Monday, April 14, 2025 via Zoom virtual meeting. The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m., then Dr. Daphne Cunningham, Executive Director, provided updates on Legislative activity.

Dr. Cunningham provided an update on a few items in the Governor's budget that will affect CSBs. She shared that the funding for hiring support coordinators to process the additional Priority I waiver slots was reduced as was funding for new Marcus Alert/Co-Response programs. Dr. Cunningham stated these two issues will not affect H-NNCSB directly since the Agency doesn't have many clients on the Priority 1 waitlist and the funds for the Agency's rollout of Marcus Alert program were provided over two years ago.

Dr. Cunningham has participated in a few town halls that address changes at the federal level. There's still concern for Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security funding. At a recent town hall where Delegate Jeion Ward, Senator Mamie Locke, and Congressman Bobby Scott were in attendance, it was shared that there's a State Rainy Day Fund, which may cover funding gaps from reductions at the federal level. However, there is concern from the VACSB that the state funds would not be enough. Tonight's town hall hosted by Congressman Scott will be attended.

When asked about cuts for programs that are required for STEP-VA, Dr. Cunningham stated a new working group has been formed to look at what would happen with these funds, and meetings will begin on April 21, 2025. Dr. Cunningham will attend to represent Region 5. After the meeting, there should be more information to share. Additionally, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds were rescinded for several CSB programs. Fortunately, the staff were moved to other programs so none have lost their positions due to the funds being returned.

Dr. Cunningham provided updates on the continued work on the BJ Roberts Behavioral Health Center. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is scheduled for April 25, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. The Certificate of Occupancy was received, and the Agency can move forward to completing the license applications. Once licensed, the programs will be moving into the CRC in a staggered manner. Dr. Cunningham thanked the

Board Members for touring the new facility and mentioned several different groups that have also toured the Center. The community stakeholders are very enthusiastic about the CRC and the Agency is very excited about opening the facility for services.

I asked whether the budget cuts to the Marcus Alert funding would affect the program. Dr. Cunningham stated the Agency already received funds to roll out the Marcus Alert and there shouldn't be any issues since an annual budget is allocated to continue the program.

Mr. Tony Crisp provided a status report on the three projects under the Opioid Abatement Authority. The Mobile Unit will be fully staffed as of April 28, 2025. As reported at the last Board of Directors meeting, the Board of Pharmacy amended the current license to allow medication on the mobile unit. The temporary Peer Drop-In Center has been located. Some staffing issues persist for the MAT program for Jail based services, but other programs have filled open positions. Mr. Soltys commended Tony and his team for their great work. I also thanked the staff for their hard work during challenging times.

Ms. Evelyn Steward of NAMI provided an update on various events in the past several months to get the organization operational again. Meetings have restarted for Family to Family at Liberty Baptist Church. The website is working and there's a new phone number, 757-779-9019, for NAMI. Connection Peer Group meetings are continuing. And there are several events planned in the coming months.

Mr. Johnnie Mullins of SAARA provided an update on recent and upcoming events. Four Oaks classes were suspended for about a month due to illness, but the classes at the Newport News city jail have continued.

There is a new location for SAARA of the Peninsula and they are celebrating 30 years of Recovery. A Voices of Recovery luncheon in Richmond is planned for June. They are in the process of selecting Year of the Peer and would like to celebrate the hard-working members, possibly a Spirit of Norfolk cruise event.

Dr. Cunningham reminded the Committee that the Hall of Fame nominations are this committee's responsibility and read a brief description of the Hall of Fame Award then discussed the timing for this year's nominations. The May committee meeting will require a vote on the person(s) nominated to be recommended to the full Board of Directors. The Employee Recognition luncheon, where the Hall of Fame and PLG Award recipients are also recognized, will be on June 18, 2025 at the Newport News Marriott. I requested the criteria and previous Hall of Fame Awardees information be sent to the committee members for review.

Dr. Cunningham mentioned the upcoming VACSB Training and Development Conference in May in Norfolk. She highlighted the Mental Health Expo on May 10 at the Midtown Community Center in Newport News, where the Eight Dimensions of Wellness will be the focus. The flyer with more information is in the red folders.

Dr. Griffiths mentioned wanting to attend one day of the May conference and asked if that is possible. There are options to attend only one day and not the full three days, so she will plan on attending. I encouraged every Board Member to attend the VACSB conference to meet other Board Members and participate in these events for networking and other benefits.

The next meeting will be on Monday, May 12, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

Budget, Finance & Audit

Members of the Budget, Finance and Audit Committee held a virtual meeting via Zoom on Monday, April 21, 2025, at 4:01 p.m. Mrs. Mary Miller, Committee Chair, presided.

Mrs. Raymona Barnes, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the agenda, which included: H-NNCSB's Financial Statements – Operating results through February 28, 2025; Financial Statements for Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board Property Company, Inc.; Share-A-Homes of the Virginia Peninsula; and the Balance Sheet for Trust for Disabled Persons.

Mrs. Barnes then provided the following updates:

The finance team is now working on finalizing the FY2026 budget as the individual program reviews have been completed. The team continues to explore ways to maximize revenue and efficiently manage expenses. The Agency also continues to monitor the impact of changes to Federal and State funds.

As of March 24, 2025, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds were suspended. These funds were for specialized projects that would reduce barriers to treatment and provide connections to treatment services. The funding affected the following projects:

- Mental Health Federal Block Grant – designed to implement Medicaid billing for peer services. Funds also provided salaries for the Lead Peer position and a portion of the Peer Coordinator position.
- SUD Federal Block Grant/Women – designed to strengthen SUD services for women. New initiatives were developed with DBHDS expanding the utilization of these funds in November 2024. The expansion included funding two peer positions, Pathways to Recovery training and materials, Residential and Detoxification services for individuals who are uninsured and underinsured, childcare for women in treatment, along with other incentives for consumers participating in treatment.
- SUD Federal Block Grant/Prevention – funds were allocated over a three-year span to enhance evidence-based Prevention Set Aside Framework and Strategies.
- SUD Federal Block Grant/Recovery – funded key peer positions including a portion of the Peer Coordinator position and other Recovery initiatives and enhanced peer training and recovery services.

The Agency anticipates changes to the STEP-VA fund allocation as the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) advised these funds will be re-evaluated.

There being a question about whether the Agency has seen a slowdown in federal grant payments, Mrs. Barnes responded that there hasn't been a change as funds are State-administered federal grants. Mr. Tony Soltys asked if there were reductions in funding due to federal cuts and if any staff were affected. Mrs. Barnes stated that the ARPA funds suspension did require the Agency to move staff into other positions that still had funding, but that no staff lost their positions. Mrs. Bea Dahlen asked about the space in building 500, and Mrs. Barnes replied that the Housing programs would move into that space after the lease was not renewed with the prior tenant.

The finance team continues to closely monitor the Aging and modify processes to maximize collections. The team continues to see delays in Medicaid unwinding as there are increased lapses in coverage. The team is exploring additional methods for expediting collections such as an added feature in the Avatar software.

The cash balance in the operating reserve is stable. The line of credit continues to be unutilized. The Agency still serves as the fiscal agent for several Region V project funds for specific programs and projects.

Health insurance expenses for February are currently over budget but continue to trend towards the budgeted projections.

Finally, Mrs. Barnes provided details on the balance sheets and income statements for Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board Property Company Inc, Share-A-Homes of the Virginia Peninsula, the and Trust for Disabled Persons. She also provided detailed variance analysis of the divisional net income through February 28, 2025.

There being no additional business, Mrs. Miller thanked the Finance Team and the Budget, Finance, & Audit Committee adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Chairman Brown thanked Ms. Walker for her committee report and asked whether there was a glitch in the Avatar system. Dr. Cunningham explained that it wasn't a glitch but a feature that the Agency is not currently using in the Avatar system and that meetings were planned to explore the available features to help with accounts receivables as well as the added costs for the service.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Chairman Brown thanked the committee members for all their hard work. He stated the Members of the Board received Clinical Division Program Highlights on pages 7 through 39 of the Board Package. Next, he gave the floor again to Dr. Cunningham.

Dr. Cunningham stated she and everyone was very much looking forward to the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Friday, April 25 at 11:30 a.m. as well as the Center's opening for services. The certificate of occupancy was received so the Agency is now working on the various licenses.

Then Dr. Cunningham reviewed the items in the red folders: the VACSB Talking Points regarding Medicaid and the impact of changes to Medicaid. Dr. Cunningham shared that one of the Agency's ELT members mentioned the increased cost to localities for emergency room visits and jails. The costs may be reduced on Medicaid's side, but there will be an exponential increase for localities since those costs are higher per day, per individual than regular community-based behavioral health care.

Then Dr. Cunningham shared information about the Employee Health & Wellness Fair, to be held on May 1. The Agency's Wellness team has worked hard all year on various enhancements and look forward to providing information from vendors next week.

Next, she presented information on the Give Local 757 fundraising event on May 6, with this year's goal of \$20,000. Theme this year is "Together We Can ..." and the

Agency hopes for increased participation from non-employees.

Also included are the Prevention Team's calendar featuring events for May, some statistics of the team's impact in the communities; Mental Health Exp on May 10 at the Midtown Community Center, and various contests and classes offered by the team.

Lastly, the Annual Report for 2024 highlights the Agency's work last year.

Mrs. Dahlen asked if Mental Health First Aid training was available for Newport News residents and Dr. Cunningham stated classes were scheduled as requests came in from both communities.

CLOSING

Chairman Brown stated he watched Wavy 10 and saw that one of our Board Members was a keynote speaker at an event. Dr. Kristie Norwood shared that it was the inaugural Trauma Conference and it was held as a message of hope, healing, and resilience.

Chairman Brown thanked the Board Members for their involvement in community events. He also commended the team that produced the Annual Report for their wonderful work.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business, the Meeting of the Board of Directors for the Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board adjourned at 5:29 p.m.



Mr. Steven Brown
Board Chair



Ms. Ann Abdullah
Secretary

*Submitted by
Jae Hee Jackson*

