



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, October 23, 2025, 5:00 p.m.

300 Medical Drive, Hampton, VA 23666

Present: Mr. Steven Brown, Chair; Dr. Kristie Norwood, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Mary Miller, Treasurer; Ms. Madonna Flores, Secretary; Ms. Ann Abdullah; Dr. Mark Bell; Dr. Cynthia Gaither; Dr. Diane Griffiths; Dr. Kristie Norwood; Mrs. Gisele Russell; Dr. Tarita Stonewall; and Dr. Tamara Temoney-Porter.

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; Mr. Tom Miller; Mrs. Allison O'Brien; Mrs. Beverly Smith; and Mrs. Jae Hee Jackson.

Absent: Sheriff Karen Bowden; Mr. Ryan Kotrch; Mrs. Mary Stewart; and Ms. Hui-Shan Walker.

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

Dr. Ajay Kuchibhatla

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, Chair, who called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. on October 23, 2025.

REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

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

Dr. Cunningham welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Dr. Ajay Kuchibhatla. She then read the letter of congratulations from Governor Glenn Youngkin for being selected by his peers as one of this year's *Virginia's Top Doctors* in the field of Psychiatry. Dr. Cunningham thanked Dr. Kuchibhatla for his years of service to the H-NNCSB.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

<u>A-1.</u>	Board Approval of the September 25, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Issue:	Board Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held on September 25, 2025.
Background:	The Board meeting minutes were provided to Members of the Board of Directors for review in the Board package distributed on October 16, 2025.
ACTION:	There being no discussion or comments, the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held on September 25, 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, October 13, 2025 via Zoom virtual meeting. Dr. Tamara Temoney-Porter, Committee Member, presided, as Dr. Griffiths was unable to attend.

Dr. Cunningham, Executive Director, provided information from the recent VACSB conference held in Roanoke, VA. She shared that there were discussions about the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) model and that there was a speaker at the conference who has consulted nationally with other states to become CCBHCs. This model will provide additional funding which will enable CSBs to provide services and expand access to services.

There was also discussion around the changes at the state and federal levels. The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) personnel were also in attendance and held discussions on changes to work requirements and verification.

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services' (DBHDS) Commissioner Nelson Smith also attended the conference. With the upcoming election for Governor, there will most likely be a change in leadership at DBHDS. The CSBs are very grateful for Commissioner Smith's service.

There was also discussion about legacy services and the transition to the new combined services model in July 2026. The CSBs continue to assert that it will be difficult to make such extensive changes in such short time period.

Dr. Cunningham shared the CSB would meet with Delegate Shelly Simonds on October 17. The agency will share some of our initiatives and ask for her support with any funding for the CSBs.

Mr. Ryan Dudley, Deputy Executive Director, provided updates on the BJ Roberts Behavioral Health Center. The center is now receiving referrals to the 23-Hour Observation unit and staffing is being increased in order to provide services.

Regarding Marcus Alert, there has been press coverage on suicide prevention and the CRC. In addition to recent interviews by local papers, a member of the Hampton CARE team will participate in Hampton Police Chief Wideman's podcast to highlight the teamwork the CSB has with the fire and police departments.

Dr. Temoney-Porter asked about clients to come to the CRC but who are not from the Hampton Roads area and what happens after they are discharged. Mr. Dudley responded that the CRC will work carefully on the discharge plan to best serve the client and assist them to get back to their own community.

Mr. Tony Crisp, ARTS Director, provided a status report on the three projects under the Opioid Abatement Authority. The Substance Use Disorder counselor, who will be working in Hampton City Jail, was hired in early September and is in training. There are two candidates for the assessor position with interviews scheduled this week.

This week, the mobile unit will host an information session at the Newport News site and provide information and overdose prevention kits. Next week, will be a visit at the Hampton site with the same type of information session in addition to meeting with city leaders. Although the mobile unit will not be accepting new clients immediately, staff will refer people to the brick and mortar sites for services.

The Peer Drop-In Center location is being renovated and the team is excited about the opening.

Dr. Cunningham provided updates on the partnerships with the Hampton City Schools, sharing that the CSB is recruiting for the therapist roles. The position for Sentara CARES clinic in downtown Newport News has been filled by a license eligible therapist who will work at the clinic and be supervised by the manager of the Adult Outpatient program.

Next were partner updates from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and the Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance (SAARA) of the Peninsula.

Mrs. Evelyn Steward shared news related to the transition of leadership for the local affiliate and recent activities. She is working with Hampton University to get student involved with NAMI on Campus. She will be speaking at Christopher Newport University to bring NAMI on Campus to CNU. Through connections with the Behavioral Health Docket, Mrs. Steward will also speak at The College of William and Mary. These are all efforts to expand the footprint in the area and let everyone know NAMI is active in the region.

Mrs. Steward then asked whether Narcan was still distributed. Mr. Crisp confirmed that it was part of the overdose prevention kit and advised that there is a training available from the Peers and Prevention team, and to contact the CSB to schedule one, if needed.

Mr. Johnnie Mullins said SAARA of the Peninsula is active in the area and well known on the Peninsula and Tidewater area. There are five graduates from the Recovery Leadership Academy, a year-long program. SAARA is trying to connect with Hampton University for activities.

The classes at Newport News City Jails are continuing, with a new six-week class beginning this week. Graduates receive a certificate of attendance and the hope is participants learn skills before leaving the jail. There is a weekly Saturday all-inclusive recovery meeting at Four Oaks Day Center. Mr. Mullins thanks the H-NNCSB for continuing to support SAARA of the Peninsula.

Finally, Dr. Cunningham stated the CSB is finalizing invitations to the Thanksgiving Luncheon which will be held on November 13 at the Hampton Roads Convention Center, and hoped to see everyone there.

Budget, Finance & Audit

Members of the Budget, Finance and Audit Committee held a virtual meeting via Zoom on Monday, October 20, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

Mrs. Raymona Barnes, Chief Financial Officer, presented the agenda, which included: the H-NNCSB's Financial Statements – Operating results through August 31, 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 stated the finance team is working to finalize the FY2025 audit and will begin an annual cost report for FY2025 for the Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs).

The agency continues to monitor the impact of the Federal government shutdown as well as changes already approved by the current administration. These changes may result in fluctuations in Medicaid revenue, and changes in the oversight and distribution of federal funds.

In Accounts Receivable, there were delays in claims submission during July and August for ICF programs since the annual cost report needed to be completed to determine the new rates. There was some miscommunication with one of the health insurance companies regarding documentation but it has been cleared; however, payments have not yet been received for case management services that were impacted.

The finance team is in the final phases of procuring an agreement with NetSmart to outsource commercial claims for outpatient services. This will enable the agency to streamline claims submission, and improve collections.

The cash balance in the operating reserve is stable. The line of credit continues to be unutilized.

The August health insurance reflected a high volume of prior year claims paid out by our insurance carrier. This resulted in health insurance being over budget for the month and year. The September health insurance information is more in-line with the budgeted monthly expenses.

Mrs. Barnes reviewed the financial statements, highlighting specific line items that changed then took questions from Committee members. Mr. Tony Soltys posed questions about operating the Crisis Receiving Center (CRC). Mrs. Barnes stated the BJ Roberts Behavioral Health Care Center is in line with the budget and that the services that moved to the CRC earlier in the fiscal year are showing increases in revenue.

There being no additional business, I thanked the Finance Team and the Budget, Finance, & Audit Committee adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Mr. Brown asked why the Accounts Receivable is looking to outsource a function, and Dr. Cunningham explained it is to help clear some of the backlog since NetSmart is the vendor who set up the Electronic Health Record (EHR) system, they will best be equipped to help with the outpatient service claims. The Finance team has open staff positions so this will be the easiest solution. Mr. Brown asked if the work will return in-house once they catch up and Dr. Cunningham explained that is the goal and the outsourcing will only be for a year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Mr. Brown thanked the committee members for all their hard work. He stated the Members of the Board received Clinical Division Program Highlights on pages 6 through 39 of the Board Package. Next, he gave the floor again to Dr. Cunningham.

Dr. Cunningham thanked all the Board Members who attended recent CSB events and stated she wanted to thank a few individually: Chairman Brown for expediting the street signs for Marcella Road and Medical Drive, making it easier for the community to find the CSB; Dr. Temoney-Porter, Ms. Abdullah, Sheriff Bowden, and Mr. Brown for attending the Employee Appreciation Day; Dr. Griffiths for joining the meeting with Delegate Simonds; Mrs. Russell for inviting her and Mr. Dudley to Congressman Scott's Town Hall, which was an opportunity to hear from the community about the government shutdown.

Next, she stated the Southeastern Family Project (SEFP) will be returning to the newly renovated location soon and the agency hopes to host an open house so the communities can see the program. It is the only program for pregnant and postpartum women with substance use disorder in the area. The CSB will highlight this resource to the wider community.

Then, Dr. Cunningham shared the recent activities of the Mobile Unit and staff changes. The bus held information sessions at both the Newport News and Hampton host locations last week and this week, where overdose prevention kits and links to CSB services were distributed.

Dr. Cunningham reviewed some of the items in the red folder: a flyer for the Mobile Unit; the upcoming Girls' Summit hosted by the Prevention team; an invitation to the Thanksgiving Luncheon on November 13 at the Hampton Roads Convention Center.

Dr. Cunningham then provided information excerpted from the presentations shared at the VACSB October Public Policy conference regarding the impact of recent cuts to Medicaid and the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) model.

Dr. Griffiths asked about some of the timing of the requirements for Medicaid and noted the administrative burden on bi-annual recertifications.

Dr. Cunningham shared the VACSB will move forward with the CCBHC model which also has some support at the federal level. Information from a few states who have already moved to the CCBHC model and the positive results were shared. There was an increase in care workforce, cost savings, and more access to services.

CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Brown asked if anyone had comments and Mrs. Russell addressed the government shutdown. She requested everyone reach out to their legislators and request they find a way to end the deadlock. If the shutdown lasts longer, it will affect not just a few people, but everyone. And since the sticking point is healthcare, it will trickle down to other areas of life.

ADJOURNMENT There being no additional business, the Meeting of the Board of Directors for the Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board adjourned at 5:51 p.m.



Mr. Steven Brown
Board Chair



Ms. Madonna Flores
Secretary

*Submitted by
Jae Hee Jackson*