



Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 26, 2023

On the above date, the regular meeting of the Texana Center Board of Trustees was held at 2330 Graeber Road in Rosenberg, Texas.

Board Members Present:

Sue Fagan, Board Chair
Dennis W. Young, Vice Chair
John Robson, Secretary
Leroy Cerny
Willie Greer
Toi Blakley Harris
Sarah Hudgins
Asim Shah (zoom)

Members absent:

Linda Harnist
Lt. Jerome Ellis (Ex Officio Member)
Sheriff Skipper Osborne (Ex Officio Member)

Staff Present:

George Patterson, Chief Executive Officer
Amanda Darr, Chief Financial Officer
Kevin Barker, Director, IDD Provider Services
Sheree Prather, Director, Development & Community Relations
Dot Preisler, Director, Human Resources
Sheri Talbot, Director, IDD Authority and Admissions (zoom)
Shena Ureste, Director, Behavioral Healthcare
Katherine Bauer, Grant Writer

Staff Absent:

Kate Johnson-Patagoc, Director, IDD Specialized Services

Guests:

Christy Garza, Fort Bend Clubhouse
Xaren Miller, Fort Bend Clubhouse



I. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, DETERMINATION OF QUORUM AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Sue Fagan, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. Sue asked Dennis Young to give the invocation. Sue confirmed that there was a quorum for the meeting. Sue welcomed guests Christ Garza and Xaren Miller from Fort Bend Clubhouse.

II. RECOGNITION OF ABSENCES

Sue announced that Linda Harnist, Lt. Jerome Ellis, Sheriff Skipper Osborne, and Director Kate Johnson-Patagoc were absent from the meeting.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sue recognized Christy Garza from Fort Bend Clubhouse as wanting to make a comment.

Christy Garza spoke about her work at Fort Bend Clubhouse providing transportation and reaching out to work with Crossroads Villas and their clients. The board is always invited to join Clubhouse for lunch to see the work.

Sue thanked Alyssa for her comments.

Sue recognized Xaren Miller as wanting to make comments.

Xaren gave a brief testimonial about how he appreciates the Fort Bend Clubhouse helping him to learn to manage money, find a job, and make friends.

Sue thanked Xaren for his comments.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sue presented the minutes from the April 26, 2023 meeting and asked the board if there were any questions or changes needed. There were none. Dennis Young made the motion to approve the minutes. Willie Greer seconded the motion. **Motion Carried.**

V. THE BOARD WILL CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Texana Center Board of Trustees and Board Assignments Committee Assignments FY 2024

Texas Council Board: Sue Fagan



Nominating Committee Chair: John Robson

Nominating Committee: Willie Greer, Dr. Asim Shah

Planning and Network Advisory Committee (PNAC): John Robson, Dennis Young

2. Review and Consider Approval of FY 2024 Nomination of Officers of the Board of Trustees of Texana Center

Board Chair: Sue Fagan

Vice-Chair: Dr. Dennis Young

Secretary: John Robson

3. Review and Consider Approval of Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule for FY 2024

4. Annual Review of Investment and Cash Management Procedure

Leroy Cerny made the motion to approve all four agenda items as they were presented. Willie Greer seconded the motion. **Motion Carried.**

VI. THE BOARD WILL CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

1. Review and Consider Approval of the PNAC Report

Kevin Barker gave the PNAC report. He shared that the conversation once again focused on the changes to IDD services and payment for those services. Kevin announced that sadly the state had fallen far short of the \$15 per hour needed to retain staff, and had put forth a final proposal of \$10.60 per hour for direct care staff. This will be a challenge for Texana and other providers. Also they kept changes to day habilitation, making it an hourly service. These changes are not sustainable for Texana Center and other providers, and PNAC recommends that the board do intense outreach to the 89th legislature.

Sue asked if this means we have to wait two more years for rates to potentially be raised or if this might be covered in the October session. George responded that we will have to wait until January of 2025 for the legislature to cover this topic again, but he has already started working with Texas Council to build a strategy for 2025. They plan to launch the new initiative to inform legislators of the needs of individuals with disabilities as soon as the special session is over.



Sarah Hudgins stated that if the providers in the community like Texana shut down or decrease admissions, then the clients will be forced to receive the services they need in state schools with no choices.

Amanda Darr affirmed this statement, reminding everyone that it is a systemic issue. A recent survey showed that many LIDDAs have given up on providing any services in Medicaid Waiver Programs, and only 50% provide any ICF facilities. The system reflects that it lost \$25 million dollars last year. (In other words, expenses for these programs state-wide exceeded expense by \$25 million.) She said that others in the Texas Council Workgroup are saying they have never seen this kind of low point in terms of support for community based IDD services. What we need is for local legislators to understand that providers will close and people in their districts will have no choices if they do not act.

Sheri Talbot said that she will also be attending the Texas Council Meetings to work on this problem. She also recently had a meeting with Fort Bend County including law enforcement. More and more people with IDD are entering the system already in crisis. The people staffing the group homes they are placed in are poorly paid, receive very little training, and cannot meet their needs. The providers end up calling the police when they cannot handle the level of crisis. It is becoming evident to the county that this is now a very important problem.

Leroy Cerny made the motion to approve the PNAC report. Dr. Toi Harris seconded the motion. **Motion Carried.**

Sue asked what we can do at this time. George said that we should all be writing emails and sending letters. Sheri Talbot added that people do not know the system is in crisis until she explains the situation. She is working on training and education in the community to build support over the next two years. Dr. Shah said that we all need to put as much pressure as possible on the government, but also make sure we have a unified message.

2. Review and Consider Approval to Purchase Property Located at 3027 N. Richmond Road, Wharton

George Patterson announced that the item has been pulled from the agenda. Amanda Darr elaborated that the property in question is the old professional services building for the former hospital, which is a dangerous eyesore that needs to be torn down. Texana was only interested in the land in order to protect the clinic property. The owner had quoted a high price of \$300,000 before. He recently passed away, and the estate said they might take a lower bid. Just tearing down the building would have cost \$100,000 to \$200,000. They got a \$100,000 bid for the land from someone looking to build an RV park, which was higher than both the appraisal and what Texana can offer for such property. John asked if the buildings are close to our clinic. Amanda and Shena assured the board that our property will not be



impacted as the RV park will be required to build a fence. She also added that this may eventually play out in our favor if they want another parcel of land, since we own property in back that they might want to purchase to expand the RV Park. We already have unfinished space in the clinic, so we are not in need of additional space.

Leroy asked if the easement is fairly wide. Amanda said she doesn't know exactly, but it is fairly large and there are multiple points of access. Shena added that anyone tearing down the building will benefit Texana as it will prevent homeless individuals from living in a dangerous property.

VII. THE BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WITH NO ACTION REQUIRED:

3. 3rd Quarter FY 2023 Financial Report

Sue asked Amanda Darr to present the 3rd Qtr. FY 2023 Financial Report.

Amanda said that there is a surplus of \$2.6 million dollars due primarily to the charity care funding, which has replaced DSRIP payments. These payments will always be for the prior year after a cost report is completed after the end of the year. With data from the first year cost report, we recorded an estimated revenue and receivable throughout this year. However, after further evaluation of the specifics of the funding, our auditors recently advised us not to accrue this as a revenue and receivable this fiscal year, but rather to recognize the revenue on a cash basis when received in the next fiscal.

Interest income is positive. We earned \$124,000 in interest in May. This should help some with the stress this coming year from the \$10.60 wage and waiting 18 months for charity care payments. This past year, Texana received \$1 million dollars from two large foundation funders to subsidize wages while waiting for the legislature to act, but those grants are not renewable this year.

In Medicaid/Medicare, we are still struggling to retain IDD Service Coordinators. It would help if the state would change the payment structure for these positions back to a flat case rate (a standard amount per person) instead of a hybrid fee for service where they get \$90 for face-to-face but only \$30 for phone visits. HHSC seems motivated to exercise their ability to do this without needed action from the legislature. This is something we can push for right now before the legislature meets again.

The Behavior Treatment and Training Center (BTTC) is another program that is struggling as their capacity was hit hard by the pandemic. They are currently at just 64% of capacity. Staffing is a struggle since this is roughly two miles from the state supported living center where they can pay \$17-\$20 per hour. This program has its own cost based rate, but the rate was last determined for this program in 2001. The state has proposed to raise it 4.5%, which is not enough. We are urging them to raise a sustainable rate that covers the full cost or if



only a 4.5% increase is provided to reconcile at the end of each year to our actual costs This would mean we get payments the next year, much like the charity care pool, to make the program whole. She added that if we don't get this built into our next contract, we may not be able to continue to offer this service in the long term as it has a deficit of \$400,000 year to date.

At Sue's request, Amanda explained the program serves children with behavioral issues from around the state. It is two homes with 6 beds each. It was originally a part of the state supported living center and was funded by general revenue. When the state decided to cut the program, the former director of services at Texana converted it into an ICF facility to allow it to draw down federal matching funds. The state later expanded the facility to serve all of Texas. It is the only short-term residential Medicaid funded facility for this population. It provides children with lots of one-to-one attention and helps to train parents to assist their child. It serves only children with intense behavioral issues, which is why the current rate is \$693 per day. Part of the problem is that we cannot admit children due to understaffing.

John asked where the facility is. Amanda said it is on Collin's road. Dennis asked if we need to change the paradigm. Amanda said that they are willing to look at the service model, but there is only so much you can do without losing the quality of service.

Amanda explained that overall the LIDDAs are re-examining what their role is in the IDD provider space. Texana provides services to over 450 clients in provider services each year, while many centers have already stopped providing any services. Now even funding for Sheri's department is in question. She said that although they did put a halt to the Managed Care Pilot, the question remains whether some services will be transitioned to managed care next session.

Sue asked if there is any way to publicize the BTTC program. Amanda said they publish it with other LIDDAs as that is the way to access the program. Sheri said COVID made people less willing to send their kids to the program. The larger problem is that this is part of the Medicaid system, and getting Medicaid eligibility and payment are both very difficult. Often, by the time a child is eligible, the true crisis is over. It is possible that some of the beds could be converted into longer term beds because the stipulation that the child must be able to return home within a year can also be limiting. There are children in CPS who might benefit from this intensive services over a longer period of time.

VIII. NEXT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The next Board of Trustees meeting will take place on October 18, 2023.



IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarah Hudgins announced that she would like to have Temple Grandin come to Wharton for an event. The event would start at the ranch with Temple speaking about cattle and then proceed to a luncheon at the Civic Center with Temple speaking about autism. It would be a fundraiser and awareness. Amanda Darr got Temple's cell phone, so she and Sarah will talk.

Sarah also said that she was going to pass out flyers for the Café in Fulshear. John asked if everyone saw the Texana Café video a while back.

George Patterson announced that it is also Sheree Prather's last board meeting. Sheree has been here for almost six years. George thanked Sheree for her service.

George also announced that he and Dr. Shah will be speaking at an upcoming panel on mental health at Fort Bend Chamber on Thursday August 10th.

X. ADJOURN

The Texana Center Board of Trustees meeting ended at 10:11 A.M.

Minutes Approved:


Sue Fagan, Board Chair