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**Notes from the Board of Directors Meeting of June 1, 2022**

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

*Due to Covid-19 concerns, this meeting was held both in-person at Columbia-Greene Community College and virtually on the Zoom web platform. All voting was done contemporaneously in person and via computer audio.*

The meeting was called to order by President Scott Thomas at 2:34 p.m.

The following members were present at the call to order: Art Proper, Becky Polmateer, Bob Gibson, Casey O’Brien, Dorothy Urschel, John Thompson, Ken Stall, PJ Keeler, Scott Thomas, Theresa Lux.

The following members were absent at Roll Call: Chelly Hegan, Dan Almasi, Jack Mabb, Kevin McDonald, Robin Andrews and BOS Rep, Kathleen Eldridge.

Also present were the following staff members: Claire Parde, Lisa Thomas, Ashling Kelly

1. **Communications/Announcements**

Theresa Lux of Catholic Charities announced the Healthy Families program is expanding; WIC is still operating and will be taking phone appointments through October.

*[Kathleen Eldridge joined the meeting at 2:37 p.m.]*

1. **Consent Agenda**
2. Board of Directors meeting minutes of April 6, 2022
3. Annual Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2022
4. Committee meeting minutes:

* Executive Committee Meeting of May 4, 2022
* Corporate Compliance Meeting of May 4, 2022
* Budget and Finance Committee Meeting of May 24, 2022

**Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Directors accepts Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, the Annual Meeting Minutes, and all Committee Meeting Minutes. *[All members may act].***

**Motion made by Casey O’Brien, seconded by Theresa Lux, and unanimously approved.**

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

In Treasurer Jack Mabb’s absence, Executive Director Claire Parde provided the report. The numbers are all good. Effective June 1st, the $100k loan made by the Consortium to NYS Association for Rural Health has been repaid, with three months’ interest, which inflates our cash position. Grants receivables are good; we have been reimbursed for all vouchers through March. The investment account has fared a little poorly due to volatility in the market. However, the account will continue to grow over time. The ratios are great, and we currently have 6-7 months cash-on-hand.

*[David Rossetti entered the meeting at 2:49 p.m.]*

**VI**. **Executive Director’s Report**

Claire reported that all of the New York State contracts are in good standing. The NYS Office for the Aging award amount for NY Connects is consistent with prior years, and was ahead of schedule. Claire applied for and received a Rural Health Network Technical Assistance Grant of almost $10k, which will be used to offset some of the cost of the CARTS strategic design project. That project is expected to continue until September.

The contract with Greene County passed through the County attorney, and will go to the County legislature next. Transportation will begin July 1st; however, the expectation is that there will not be a great deal of utilization in the first several months of this arrangement.

Last year the Consortium received a $100k grant per year for three years from the Foundation for Community Health; the first year ends June 30th. Claire is preparing for a meeting with FCH to report on the first year of activities. A written description of our goals for year two will be due at the end of July.

The CARTS strategic design project continues.

Claire has begun working with Columbia County Departments of Health and Social Services to identify the needs of the community’s immigrant population, including both seasonal and year-round workers. Claire sent an informal email survey to a number of organizations to determine what services are currently being provided. Claire also met with Neighbors Link, which currently serves Westchester County but is looking to provide services in Columbia County, in an effort to be inclusive. Once this assessment phase is concluded, the intention is to hold a larger stakeholder meeting.

Claire serves on the Community Services Board and is Chair of the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Subcommittee. The subcommittee’s focus has included the challenges in sustaining the health and human services workforce. Focusing on retention, skill-building, and potentially demonstrating a career pathway, Claire and Melissa Scheriff have been working with Columbia-Greene Community College to explore how their micro-credentialing programs might result in title changes and higher wages.

Claire reported that the agency held a staff retreat at Olana on May 27th. There was a house tour followed by a staff potluck picnic. Claire received a great deal of positive feedback from staff.

**VI**. **Presentation – Kim Atkins, Executive Director, Alliance for Positive Health**

Kim Atkins spoke about the Alliance for Positive Health, which has been providing services since the 1980s, and serves fifteen counties in upstate NY, including Columbia and Greene Counties. The Alliance provides a number of services to people living with HIV/AIDS, as well as care management to people with other chronic illnesses who are enrolled in Medicaid and prevention programs to reduce new HIV/HCV infection**.** Currently they are serving many older people with chronic medical conditions related to HIV/AIDS.

Kim touched on several issues affecting clients locally. Increasing housing costs are leaving more people homeless, or pushing them to the outskirts of Hudson, which makes receiving services more difficult. It is not unusual for clients to have pets and since homeless shelters don’t generally allow animals, clients will choose to live in their cars or on the streets rather than be parted from them. The Alliance provides housing assistance for those who are HIV positive.

Additional Alliance services for those with HIV include: a health insurance access program; the Food4Life program, which provides a food pantry, nutrition education, and cooking skills; and links to providers for testing, prevention, and ongoing care. For those with chronic illnesses other than HIV, such as Hepatitis C, the Alliance does targeted outreach in Hudson, referring those clients to the best providers for their situation. The Alliance’s harm reduction efforts include Project Exchange, to reduce the transmission of HIV and HCV, safe disposal of used syringes, and opioid overdose prevention.

The Alliance is also focused on creating a “bridge-to-care” support counseling system, which would provide interim supportive counseling until regular services are available. Kim noted that intervention at the time of crisis can mitigate the need for long-term care later.

*[David Rossetti left the meeting at 3:27 p.m.]*

Kim remarked that moving forward ‘long COVID’ is likely to present similar needs as other chronic illnesses and require ongoing support. Concluding his presentation, Kim told the group that the Alliance is committed to collaboration and cooperation, stating those serving rural areas need to band together and share resources.

*[Kim Atkins left the meeting at 3:35 p.m.]*

Scott Thomas updated the group on the MDT Field Support Team, announcing that a staff member has been hired to begin June 6th. He noted that the organizations have pushed to make this work and it is coming to fruition.

**VII**. **Strategic Discussion**

Scott announced the return of the “Strategic Discussion” item to Board meeting agendas; this segment will take place in the final 10-15 minutes of each meeting. The intention is to share ideas on how members are handling the rural challenges we have in common. Generally, the topic for discussion will be noted in the meeting reminder and agenda, but Scott forecasted that the subject for the August meeting will be strategies for attracting staff at a time when so many are facing difficulties in hiring.

Claire reminded the group that all Board meetings for the remainder of the calendar year will continue to occur in person at the College with a virtual option.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The business of the Board being concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

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**Executive Director’s Report to the Board**

**June 1, 2022**

**Fiscal Management**

**New York State Contracts**

* TOB—The contract for our **Tobacco Control Program** is paid through March. Also, the budget modification request we submitted has been approved.
* NAV—NYSDOH has reimbursed expenses incurred by the **Navigator Program** contract through March. RHNDP—We have been reimbursed for all first quarter expenses associated with the **Rural Health Network Development Program.**
* ***Takeaway:***  ***All NYSDOH contract budgets are reimbursing expenses timely.***

**Other Contracts**

* NYC--We recently received an invitation from NYSOFA to submit a budget for the current **New York Connects** contract period, which began on April 1. The award amount is unchanged from previous years.
* RHN TA—My application to the NY State of Rural Health (SORH) was successful, and we have been awarded **Rural Health Network Technical Assistance** funds in the amount of $9,750 to offset the expense associated with our contract with M.S. Hall & Associates.
* GCDHS—Our contract with Greene County to provide transportation services to the clients of the **Greene County Department of Human Services** has been reviewed and approved by the County Attorney and currently making its way through the legislative process. The expected start to the contract term is July 1.
* FCH--In the next two weeks, we will be focused on reporting to the **Foundation for Community Health** about the past General Operating Support award, including a planned meeting with the contract manager on June 15th. In July, we will also be engaged in planning for the next award, expected in July.

**Planning and Other Project Work**

* The work of the Strategic Design Workgroup and our contracted consultants from M.S. Hall & Associates continues, with meetings scheduled through June 17th.
* In collaboration with key partners at CCDSS and CCDOH, we have embarked on an effort to better understand the needs of and services for our immigrant population, including both migrant seasonal workers, typically originating from Latin American countries and Jamaica, as well as immigrant workers who reside in the County year-round. Although the group already has some awareness of this, we realized that we needed to make a more systematic inquiry with a larger group of helping organizations. Toward that end, we developed and disseminated an email survey to key stakeholder groups and are collecting the responses now. After we complete this survey, it is our intention to convene a larger group of stakeholders with whom we will share the findings, identify any gaps in services, and strategize about how to fill them.
* I continue to meet regularly with the Columbia-Greene Planning Partners—that is, Greene County Public Health, the Columbia County Department of Health, and the Columbia Memorial Health—to complete the Community Health Needs Assessment and initiate the Community Health Improvement Plan.
* As part of my work as a member of the Columbia County Community Services Board and as a Chair of its Alcohol and Substance Abuse Subcommittee, Melissa Scheriff and I have been engaged with CGCC, including President Carlee Drummer and Dean Casey O’Brien, to explore education and training options for the health and human service workforce
* Jim Funk and I continue to be actively engaged in the Columbia County Transportation Committee and its current effort, ably led by Supervisor Michael Chameides, to review and revise the Countywide Transportation Coordination Plan. This effort considers all public and private transportation options in the county, identifies gaps, and considers ways to address the unmet need. A current, coherent Coordination Plan is an important point of reference for anyone seeking state or federal transportation funding. Most recently, I worked with Commissioner Bob Gibson to develop a questionnaire for area agencies about their transportation programming and capacity.
* I continue to facilitate a strategic planning project for Coarc, with a full-day retreat for Directors and Leadership staff on May 24th
* I continue to facilitate the Southern Hub Behavioral Health Workgroup, which meets monthly

**Personnel Management**

* We have submitted brief positions descriptions for two part-time Public Health Americorps Members to the Rural Health Network of South Central New York (RHNSCNY). We are hopeful that we will be included in this opportunity and are awaiting further guidance.
* On Friday, May 27th, we had a nearly full-day staff retreat at Olana, including house tours and a potluck meal. This was probably one of the nicest staff events we have had during my tenure, and I received some very nice notes and comments from staff communicating their appreciation for the experience.

**Community Relations**

* On May 11th, I attended the Healing Hearts Breakfast hosted by the Addictions Care Centers of Albany
* On May 18th, I participated in the semiannual meeting of the NYHealth’s Community Advisory Committee
* On May 20th, I met at length with Supervisor Donal Collins, Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Columbia County Board of Supervisors

**Upcoming Board and Committee Meeting Dates**

7/6 Executive Committee 9:00 am

7/26 Budget and Finance 3:00 pm

7/27 Governance 1:00 pm

8/3 Board of Directors 2:30 pm

**PLEASE NOTE:** Board meetings will take place in the Saland Forum, Room 614, at Columbia Greene Community College. This room provides adequate space for social distancing, as desired, and is well-equipped to support remote participation for anyone who needs/wants to “Zoom in.” For the sake of convenience, committee meetings will continue to be conducted via Zoom.