

**Notes from the Board of Directors Meeting of February 6th, 2019**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Robin Andrews at 2:33 p.m.

Roll Call

The following members were present at Roll Call: Robin Andrews, James Campion, Robert Gibson, Theresa Lux, Jack Mabb, Jeff Rovitz, Laurie Scott, Ken Stall, Sarah Sterling, Scott Thomas, Linda Tripp, and Nancy Watrous

The following members were absent at Roll Call: Michael Cole, Chelly Hegan, PJ Keeler, Kevin McDonald, Art Proper, Beth Schuster, Tina Sharpe, and John Thompson

*John Thompson arrived at 2:44 p.m.*

*Chelly Hegan arrived at 2:46 p.m.*

Staff members Claire Parde and Lisa Thomas were present.

Consent Agenda

1. Board of Directors Meeting minutes of December 5, 2018
2. Committee meeting minutes:
* Strategic Planning Committee Meeting of December 14, 2018
* Executive Committee Meeting of January 2, 2019
* Strategic Planning Committee Meeting of January 11, 2019
* Budget and Finance Committee Meeting of January 15, 2019
* Governance Committee Meeting of January 23, 2019
* Strategic Planning Committee Meeting of January 25, 2019

**Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Directors accepts the minutes/actions of the Board of Directors Meeting of December 5th, 2018 and all Committee meeting minutes.**

**Motion made by Jack Mabb, seconded by Jim Campion and unanimously approved.**

President’s Report

1. 401(k) distribution

The Executive Committee approved the distribution based on the same formula as last year.

The employer contribution for this year is $18,743.00. It has been distributed. The employer contribution is planned many months in advance of the distribution according to a formula to which the Board had previously agreed. Some staff also make voluntary salary deferrals.

1. Joinder Agreement with Capital Behavioral Health Network

The Executive Committee approved executing an agreement to participate in this large, multi-county collaborative. We are a “c” level member, meaning there are no risks, profits, capital requirements or dues.

1. Tobacco-Free Fiscal Policy

The Executive Committee approved a written policy stating we do not have any financial arrangements with manufacturers of tobacco products. This was a requirement of the New York State Department of Health, which funds our Tobacco Control Grant. An attestation to the policy was included in the grant application submitted in early January.

1. Personnel Policy 902: Paid Family Leave

The Executive Committee reviewed revisions to the existing Paid Family Leave Policy (Personnel Policy 902) which changed the reference to payroll deductions to more general language, as follows: “percentages set by New York State.” The Committee recommends the revised policy to the Entire Board for approval.

**Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Directors approves the changes to Personnel Policy 902: Paid Family Leave**

**Motion made by Theresa Lux, seconded by Linda Tripp and unanimously approved.**

1. Strategic Planning Committee

Robin reported that the Strategic Planning Committee has been meeting regularly and the Action SWOT currently underway is going well. All Board members are encouraged to review the three sets of minutes from these meetings as there is a lot of content.

Treasurer’s Report

A. Fiscal Highlights Report

Members were provided with a copy of the Fiscal Highlights Report. Jack reviewed the report and stated that we are in good shape with our daily cash balance and all payments have been received. We sold the Chevy Impala for just over $2,200.00.

Executive Director’s Report

Members were provided with a copy of the Executive Director’s Report (see attached).

There was further discussion about transportation through Circulation: There is frustration because clients have many trips they need to take and providers aren’t making the referrals. Claire has been in touch with BHNNY and there is a training for Care Managers on March 13th, but there are also weekly trainings in Albany. Claire will inquire if local agencies can go to those trainings. How will future staff be trained? BHNNY suggested that both Navigators and Information and Assistance Specialists with the NYConnects Program be trained, but Claire inquired whether this wouldn’t be a compliance issue on the basis of self-referral. She has referred the matter to BHNNY’s Corporate Compliance Officer and is awaiting clarification. It was noted that Lyft also provides this service in Columbia County, which may address the issue.

There was further discussion about public charge: Claire commented that rule-making can have a profound effect at the local level. Other agencies are seeing a decrease in enrollment because of it.

There was further discussion about rural EMS: There is a decline in the number of volunteers. There are significant training requirements and a lot of travel. There is only a $200 tax rebate per year. Nancy shared that she recently had three patients who needed to be transported and it took 4-6 hours to make those arrangements. There is great concern that ambulance response times will get longer. Ideas for change include mobile training and paid health insurance.

Program Spotlight: Navigator Program

Lisa Thomas, Director of Consumer Assistance Programs, provided an overview of the program for the past 5 years. Annual budget, staffing pattern, languages spoken, site schedule and productivity data were shared. It was noted that in the most recent quarter reported, our Navigator Program was ranked in the 1st quartile for all measures (applications, determinations and enrollments per FTE as well as cost per applications, determinations and enrollments); the lowest we’ve ever ranked in any category is the 2nd quartile.

Network Member Spotlight: Columbia County Department of Social Services

Bob Gibson, Commissioner, gave an overview of programs and services. He noted that there have been positive changes. The Department of Social Services is broken down into units. Many people are familiar with some of the units like Child Protective Services, Foster Care and Adult Protective Services; they are less familiar with Prevention Services. A lot of pain and suffering can be avoided with prevention. By creating valuable partnerships, DSS has been able to access the schools and other agencies to help families. There were 112 children in foster care, now there are 37.

There are great staff at DSS, and they are always looking to do better. They look at what other counties and states are doing. Upgrades were given to Social Welfare Examiners. There is less turnover.

Bob estimated that 5,000 individuals could be affected by the government shutdown. People received their February SNAP benefits in January. Many didn’t budget properly and spent their February benefit in January. DSS will be working with the Salvation Army to hold food drives at DSS starting Friday.

They are always looking to find creative ways to do things. An after-school program was created using federal funds.

Bob stated that he is willing to work with other agencies to help further their mission. He works with Claire a lot on different initiatives. He said that the Healthcare Consortium plays a valuable role in this county and is the mortar to its bricks.

*Chelly Hegan left the meeting at 3:58 p.m.*

Adjournment

Prior to adjournment, Claire noted that the Hudson Opera House is available for our annual event the same day as the Board meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m. Motion made by Scott Thomas and seconded by Laurie Scott.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Linda Tripp, Board Secretary**

**Columbia County Community Healthcare Consortium, Inc.**

**Executive Director’s Report to the Board, February 6, 2019**

**Program Updates**

Rural Health Network Program Update

The RHN contract year began on January 1, 2019. We are currently funded at $190,000 per year for the next five years. Unlike in prior years, the Executive Budget did not propose a reduction or elimination of the program.

Navigator Program Update

We continue to await a response to our grant application to the NYSDOH for the Navigator Program. We requested $330,000 for the 5-year period beginning May 1st, 2019 and ending April 30, 2024. We have been advised that notice will be given this month. In the meantime, we are preparing and submitting a request to modify the budget of the existing contract that expires on April 30, 2019. Among other reasons, a budget modification was necessary to provide for more funds in the fringe line, as a result of greater health insurance utilization by program staff.

NYConnects Program Update

CCOFA is in the process of amending our current contract upward, from $90,000 to $140,000. The next contract period begins April 1, 2019. NYSOFA has not advised the County what next contract year’s allocation will be.

Transportation Program Update

Although we have been contracted with Circulation, the web-based platform that is being utilized by the two Albany-area DSRIP Performing Provider Systems (PPS’s), the Alliance for Better Health (“the Alliance”) and Better Healthcare for Northeastern NY (BHNNY), since early December, we have not been dispatched any trips. After some investigation, we learned this is largely because BHNNY has provided very little outreach, education or support to the agencies that would be responsible for initiating transport. Very frustrating. We alerted BHNNY to the deep interest among local providers in learning more about this service option, and are now helping them to organize a training in Hudson in March.

The Community Health Worker Project

 We have submitted an application to the Dyson Foundation for General Operating Support, which, if granted, will be used, in part, to support the Community Health Worker Project (formerly the SUNY Women’s Health Project) once it comes under the Consortium’s umbrella in the early part of 2019. I have been advised that I should hear the outcome of our application by the end of next week.

**Personnel Updates**

Taylor Wenk, part-time Navigator, part-time Information and Assistance Specialist with the NYConnects Program, will be leaving us on March 2nd to pursue a nursing degree in NYC. We’re both very happy for Taylor and very sorry to lose her. We are currently advertising for the position, renamed “Consumer Assistance Specialist,” and have interviewed a few candidates We expect that this position, which is a challenging one to fill at any time, will be particularly so at this time.

**Policy Updates**

On Monday, January 28th, I attended a policy briefing at the Legislative Office Building that included HANYS, MHANYS, CHCANYS and others. While there, I learned the following things of interest:

* The Governor’s Budget created the Governor’s Commission on Universal Access, which creates a forum for an extended stakeholder discussion about single payer.
* There was language in the Governor’s budget that allows for the extension of DSRIP waivers beyond the project period
* Community Health Centers have observed a drop-off in immigrants enrolling/renewing in Medicaid because they fear the Public Charge provision, which disadvantages individuals applying for admission or green cards if they demonstrate through prior program enrollment that they may become “primarily dependent on the government for subsistence, as demonstrated by either the receipt of public cash assistance for income maintenance, or institutionalization for long-term care at government expense.” Changes proposed by the US Dept. of Homeland Security would expand benefits considered under public charge determinations to include non-emergency Medicaid, SNAP, the Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy, an Section 8 housing assistance (SSI and TANF are already and will continue to be considered).. This may have a dampening effect on enrollment, which may impact uncompensated care at hospitals and FQHC’s.
* At the briefing, we also heard from Steve Kroll about rural EMS. He asserted that there is a crisis in the making, tied to a decline in volunteers and an unsustainable reimbursement model.

**Board and Community Relations**

* On Monday, January 7th, I attended the Human Services Advisory Council meeting at the Omega Institute in Rhinebeck.
* On Thursday, January 10th, I attended a training on Community Service Boards in Non-Chartered Counties
* On Friday, January 11th and again on Monday, January 14th, Linda Tripp and I had informal networking lunches with select board members. This was an initiative of the Governance Committee, which is seeking to engage particularly newer members
* On January 14th,
* On January 16th, I addressed the Hudson Lion’s Club at their evening meeting
* On January 17th I spoke to participants in this year’s Leadership Columbia-Greene group at CGCC
* On January 23rd I was one of several reviewers of applications to the NYS Health Foundation’s Special Projects Fund
* On January 24th, Lisa Thomas, Elaine Allen and I attended a training on Human Trafficking
* On February 1st, I addressed the East Coast Riders, a motorcycle club that does considerable fundraising for charitable endeavors, at their evening meeting in Kinderhook
* On February 2nd, I represented the Healthcare Consortium at CMH’s annual Winter Blast

**Upcoming Events**

* On February 25th, I will be meeting with the Workforce Development Committee, a workgroup of the Human Services Advisory Council, at the Omega Institute in Rhinebeck
* On February 28th, I will address the Greenport Seniors
* On March 8th, I will attend the last Community Advisory Committee Meeting of the SUNY Women’s Health Project, where the transfer of the project to the Consortium will be announced
* On March 13th, several staff and I will attend a training provided by BHNNY to become “users” of the Circulation platform for non-medical transport