



Notes from the Board of Directors Meeting of June 7, 2023

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Due to Covid-19 concerns, this meeting was held virtually on the Zoom web platform. All voting was done contemporaneously via computer audio.

The meeting was called to order at 2:34 p.m.

The following members were present at roll call: Amanda Pierro, Becky Polmateer, Casey O'Brien, Jack Mabb, John Thompson, Kathleen Eldridge, Marielle McKasty-Stagg, PJ Keeler, Robin Andrews, Scott Thomas, Toni Carroll, and Victoria McGahan.

The following members were absent at roll call: Art Proper, Bob Gibson, Dan Almasi, David Rossetti, Dorothy Urschel, Ken Stall, Kevin McDonald, Theresa Lux.

Also present were staff members Claire Parde, Lisa Thomas, and Ashling Kelly.

II. Reminder of Duty to Disclose

President Scott Thomas reminded members to disclose any interests that may give rise to a conflict.

III. Announcements

Robin Andrews announced that the Philmont Library now has a private space available for tutoring, counseling, consulting, or one-on-one meetings, and it is hoped the community will make use of that space.

Claire Parde welcomed new Board members Amanda Pierro, Marielle McKasty-Stagg, Toni Carroll, and Victoria McGahan, newly back from leave.

Marielle McKasty-Stagg announced that Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood Hudson Health Center is now open five days a week and asked that members share that information.

[Ken Stall joined the meeting at 2:40 p.m.]

IV. Consent Agenda

A. Board of Directors regular business meeting minutes of April 5, 2023

B. Board of Directors Annual meeting minutes of April 5, 2023

C. Committee meeting minutes:

- Executive Committee Meeting of May 3, 2023
- Corporate Compliance Meeting of May 3, 2023
- Budget and Finance Committee Meeting of May 23, 2023

The motion to accept the minutes/actions of the Board of Directors meeting of April 5, 2023, the Board of Directors Annual meeting minutes, and all Committee meeting minutes was made by Becky Polmateer, seconded by Robin Andrews, and unanimously approved.

V. President's Report

President Scott Thomas requested the Board confirm his appointment of Becky Polmateer as Vice President for a term ending April 2024. The motion was made by Amanda Pierro, seconded by Casey O'Brien, and unanimously approved.

Scott Thomas asked for a motion to remove former Board members Beth Schuster and Linda Tripp as bank signatories. The motion was made by Robin Andrews, seconded by Ken Stall, and unanimously approved.

Scott then requested a motion to designate the following Board officers as bank signatories:

- Scott Thomas, President
- Becky Polmateer, Vice President
- Jack Mabb, Treasurer
- Robin Andrews, Secretary

The motion was made by Amanda Pierro, seconded by PJ Keeler, and unanimously approved.

VI. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Jack Mabb reported that the agency is in the process of transitioning the 401k plan from Nationwide to Voya. John Ray has identified a higher-interest online savings account in which to deposit excess cash from our TBOGC checking account.

The agency's tax filing is under review with the accounting group at Bonadio.

The Budget and Finance Committee has begun an in-depth exploration of the CARTS program and plans a deeper dive at its July meeting. Financial performance in the last four months has been favorable to budget, due in part to a vacancy in the Program Assistant role; due to financial constraints, it was determined that filling that position could wait. Claire noted that the CARTS Team forced themselves to defend filling that position, given that in the past, they have managed 16,000 trips per year with a two-person staff, and are now providing many fewer trips—roughly 13,000-- annually. This was a useful discussion, as the Team soon realized that a comparison of trip count from one year to the next is no longer a reliable measure of the program's overall activity. This is due to a significant drop in the number of group rides, in which each person in a group ride was counted as a trip. While the Team still groups passengers in a single vehicle as much as they are able, for efficiency's sake, the proportion of trips in which only one person is transported at a time has increased significantly. As a result, vehicle miles are now a better measure of activity than trip count. For example, in 2022, the program covered a total of 227,000 miles; in early 2023, 100,000 miles have already been logged and we anticipate covering 250,000 by year-end. Furthermore, Claire reported that the pace of work for the CARTS office staff is intense; they are placing or receiving 80-100 calls a day! Therefore, the Team concluded that adding a Program Assistant is justified and will pursue doing so. The Team is also thinking about succession planning for the role of Program Director, as Jim Funk would eventually like to retire.

[Bob Gibson joined the meeting at 2:54 p.m.]

In response to a question regarding service delivery, Claire reported that 75% of trips are non-payers. In the past, transports for individuals attending PROS, the dayhab program at MHA, accounted for a significant part of our ridership; however, early in the pandemic, MHA starting to deliver PROS virtually, and while they are now doing so in person again, it has been a challenge to coax people to return. Nevertheless, Medicaid revenue has increased month-to-month over 2022, on target with predictions.

Claire noted that she plans to provide program overviews at future Board meetings; one of those will be the CARTS program.

VII. Executive Director's Report

Claire shared that a Board member had inquired about the Consortium's outreach and education. At her request, Program Directors provided an extensive list of outreach activities that took place between April and early June, as well as upcoming activities scheduled through July. This information is included in Claire's written Executive Director's report. Claire reported that an internal mechanism for reporting out on these activities has now been developed. One of the Board members expressed appreciation for the great amount of work that went into this.

VII. Board Education on Main Street Rural Health

The Board welcomed Brendan Cudmore, New York Market Manager for Main Street Rural Health. Brendan explained that the organization works with primary care clinics situated in rural areas. The program hinges upon the placement of Health Navigators within a primary care practice. The Health Navigator is provided to the practice and trained by Main Street Rural Health at no cost to the provider practice or the patient. The Navigator's role is to connect patients with necessary community resources based on the individual patient's social challenges and needs.

The program launched in New York last year, and has begun expanding. Brendan reached out to Claire because the program is exploring expansion into Columbia County. The group discussed the current workforce shortage and the challenges for organizations such as the Healthcare Consortium competing with Main Street Rural Health to hire similar people – those who are mission-driven, good at problem solving, and able to provide good customer service.

Brendan explained the scope of financial benefits to the provider practices and how patients qualify. He ended his presentation by describing Main Street Rural Health as collaborative rather than territorial, and not having a one-size-fits-all model.

[Brendan left the meeting at 3:56 p.m.]

VIII. Adjournment

The business of the regular Board meeting being concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m. following a motion by Becky Polmateer.