

Florida Parishes Human Services Authority Administrative Office
Minutes of the Online Governing Board Meeting
August 27, 2021

** In Light of the spread of COVID-19, Governor John Bel Edwards issued Proclamation Number JBE 2020-30 on March 16, 2020 that provided for all state agencies, boards, and commissions, and local political subdivisions of the state to allow attendance at essential governmental meetings via teleconference or video conference during the pendency of this emergency. **

(Source: <https://www.ag.state.la.us/Files/Article/9743/Documents/AmendedOpenMeetingsGuidance.pdf>)

Dr. Genesa Garofalo Metcalf, Board Chair, called the meeting of the Florida Parishes Human Services Authority (FPHSA) Online Governing Board to order at 9:34 a.m.

Rebecca Soley conducted a roll call. A quorum was established.

Attendees

Governing Board: David Cressy; Liz Gary; Timothy Lentz; Genesa Garofalo Metcalf, M.D; Mona Pellichino; Rev. Gary Porter and Carol Stafford

Absent: Danielle Keys

FPHSA Staff/ Guest: Richard Kramer, Executive Director; Rachelle Sibley, Chief Operating Officer; Rebecca Soley, FPHSA/Executive Administration; Charlene Lilly, St. Tammany Parish School Board; Rona Burkett, FPHSA

Prayer was offered by Rev. Porter.

Agenda/Consent Agenda

Dr. Metcalf extended an offer for additional agenda items or revisions to the agenda.

Ms. Pellichino made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented; seconded by Ms. Stafford.

The motion passed unanimously.

Excused Absences

Rev. Porter made a motion excusing the absence of Ms. Keys; seconded by Mr. Lentz.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Lentz made a motion adopting the July 23, 2021 minutes as written; seconded by Ms. Pellichino.

The motion passed unanimously.

Public Input

Dr. Metcalf welcomed all in attendance and extended an opportunity for public input. Dr. Metcalf extended a warm welcome and introduced special guest, Ms. Charlene Lilly with the Livingston Parish School System.

Executive Director Report

Mr. Kramer presented the Executive Director's Report for August to members of the governing board. He outlined the following:

1. TEFRA – We were notified on last week's HSIC call that the long discussed Act 421 plan has been cancelled and that the state will be, instead, implementing a true TEFRA plan that is included in the state Medicaid plan. The current projection is that this will begin on January 31, 2022 with enrollment beginning in December but there are still some approvals required before those dates can be finalized.
2. Residential downsizing – Over the past year our census numbers at residential have been kept low due to covid and a need for social distancing. Since the majority of our bedrooms are either doubles or quads, social distancing required holding beds open. Throughout this period referrals have also continued to decrease as other providers have opened in the area. We have temporarily downsized to one unit to save on costs and it is my intention that we explore a permanent downsizing to one unit. If there are enough other community resources for this level of care in our region then downsizing would allow us to use some our own resources in other places across the agency where there is a greater need. One thing that has to be explored is whether there needs to be changes to the establishing legislation of the agency as it originally mentioned both Fontainebleau Treatment Center and The Alcohol and Drug Unit. If a change in the legislation is required I am confident we can find a sponsor but it may delay the process.
3. Collections – At our last meeting we discussed outsourcing our collections operations to improve our ability to collect on our billing, particularly when it comes to working denials and rejections which we don't currently have the capacity to do. After meeting with a couple of different companies it appears that it will be difficult to contract with someone until we get our new electronic record implemented due to transition issues. In the meantime I have approved the fiscal department to fill two temporary biller positions so that we can push hard at working denials and rejections until such time as we are able to reconsider outsourcing collections.
4. Unclassified pay increase – Last year we did not give unclassified employees a pay increase due to the projected deficit. As you know, throughout the year we worked hard to reduce the deficit and basically broke even by the end of the fiscal year. Although we are projecting a deficit again early this year I believe that it is appropriate to give a pay increase to our unclassified staff this year as their costs continue to go up and they will not have seen a raise in two years if not. We have very dedicated and hardworking employees who generally make less than they could somewhere else with us. As we work to cover the deficit again this year this will be something that we'll just have to make up somewhere else like we would with any other necessary expense and I believe it is the right thing to do.
5. ICF Group Homes – In the past few weeks we have been getting several reports about ICF community homes closing due to lack of staffing. This appears to be related both to the

pandemic and the overall condition of hiring difficulty in our community at the moment. This is obviously a troubling situation. These community homes are the correct level of care for certain number of individuals in our area and with less beds available then there are less options available for them. As of now, most of those closures have been identified as temporary but this is an area of concern we will continue to monitor.

6. State crisis system – Earlier this month LDH held a meeting with all of the LGE Executive Directors to present their updates on the plan for a statewide behavioral health crisis continuum. The plan will involve local providers reimbursed by Medicaid for crisis response and stabilization services. There is a meeting scheduled for Monday for the FPHSA region’s stakeholders to learn more about this plan.
7. Hurricane Ida – We are currently monitoring Hurricane Ida and will make plans as deemed appropriate.
8. Developmental Disabilities Services Data Information – Mr. Kramer provided some developmental disabilities services data for May, June, and July 2021-on the following information: Systems Entry; Referrals for Crisis Placement; PASRR; Residential Placement Searches; IFS Information including referrals, new referrals, individuals/families receiving IFS, the number on the waiting List, and denials; FFF information including those receiving FFF; the number on the waiting list; denials; and Waiver Information including those receiving Waiver Services, pending waiver services, waiver recipients admitted to institutions; and the number of SUN referrals submitted to State Office.
9. Behavioral Health Services Information – Mr. Kramer provided the number of persons served and services provided for the following: Bogalusa Behavioral Health Clinic; Denham Springs Behavioral Health Clinic; Mandeville Behavioral Health Clinic; Rosenblum Behavioral Health Clinic; Slidell Behavioral Health Clinic; Outreach Services in Franklinton, Greensburg, and Kentwood; and Home and Community Based Services, as well as the number serviced through Residential Treatment Services for May, June, and July 2021.

Mr. Lentz made a motion to accept the Executive Director’s report as presented; seconded by Ms. Stafford.

The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report- August 2021:

Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021)

FPHSA is still in the process of closing out FY21. The close out invoices must be paid by August 15 and the state has until September to close out the year. As Mr. Kramer alluded to earlier, we ended up at basically a “break even” point. The finance report for this will be available at next month’s meeting.

Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022)

The first financial report for FY22 will be following September 30 once we have three months under our belt of expenditures for official projections. We are projecting a deficit for FY22, similar to what we had last year. We are basing that off a preliminary “needs budget” regarding special initiatives, filling vacant positions, etc. This is not based off an official analysis but just a preliminary review for the new fiscal year needs.

Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023)

At the next meeting, we will present the budget request recap for FY23.

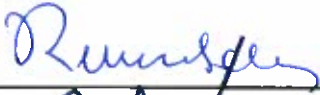
Confirmation of the next meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the FPHSA Governing Board is scheduled on Friday, September 24, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rebecca Soley, Secretary

9/24/21

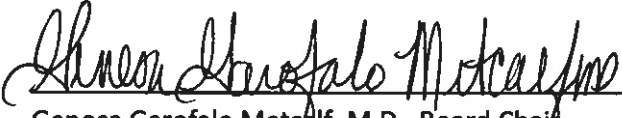
Date



Richard J. Kramer, Executive Director

10-22-21

Date



Genesa Garofalo Metcalf, M.D., Board Chair

10/22/21

Date