

April 23, 2020

**TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The Trillium Health Resources Governing Board met on Thursday, April 23, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. via conference call.

Members Present: David Clegg, Mary Ann Furniss, Tracey Johnson, Ron Lowe, Jim Madson, Ed Masters, Dr. Denauvo Robinson, Sheri Slater, Tom Savidge, Emmie Taylor-Ortiz, and Lea Wolf.

Members Absent: Ernestine Bazemore and Jimmy Farrington.

Staff Present: Bland Baker, Cindy Ehlers, Joy Futrell, Richard Leissner, Mike Lewis, Michelle Martin, Dave Peterson, Dr. Michael Smith, Leza Wainwright, Dennis Williams and Rita Joyner, Clerk.

Guests: Lisa Jackson, liaison with the NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS, aka The Department).

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Robinson called the April 23, 2020 meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Robinson called for a motion to approve the consent agenda items to include the following items:

- February 27, 2020 Governing Board minutes
- Policy Revisions for Approval
 - Risk Management
 - Ethics and Compliance
 - Monitoring of Experience

Ms. Slater moved to approve the consent agenda items. The motion, seconded by Mr. Lowe, was unanimously approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Clegg moved to adopt the agenda. The motion, seconded Dr. Robinson, was unanimously approved.

V. BOARD COMMENTS/CONCERNS

Mr. Clegg expressed his concern regarding the period of time we are living in and how important what Trillium does is to those we serve at this very important and fragile time. He hoped to hear more at this meeting of how Trillium has been reaching out.

Mr. Lowe stated that he would like to thank Trillium and their staff for everything they have been able to offer during this period of time. He was also appreciative of the conference calls that DHHS has had with providers and asked that Ms. Jackson pass along his appreciation for the hard work that The Department has been doing around covid-19, as well as the press briefings.

VI. CONVENE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Dr. Robinson entertained a motion to recess the Governing Board meeting in order for the Finance Committee meeting to convene. Ms. Taylor-Ortiz so moved. The motion, seconded by Mr. Lowe was unanimously approved.

VII. DRAFT BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 - 2021

Dr. Robinson entertained a motion to reconvene the Governing Board meeting. Mr. Masters so moved. The motion, seconded by Ms. Taylor-Ortiz, was unanimously approved.

Ms. Futrell reviewed the draft budget and stated that it was being presented to give the board an idea of where we are in the budget planning process, but that no action was needed at this time. An actual proposed budget for adoption will be presented to the board by June 1, 2020, along with the budget message which will summarize the budget. It will be advertised that the budget will be available for public inspection as of June 1, 2020. The public hearing on the budget will be held at the June 25, 2020 board meeting, following which the board will consider the proposed budget for adoption.

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Wainwright discussed the following items from her written report.

Covid-19

Trillium has granted rate increases from 5%-30% to a variety of providers; a total of 268 providers with an impact to a little over 5,000 members. Ms. Wainwright gave a summary of the Medicaid and State services by cost and provider type.

Trillium has requested and received approval for a variety of "in lieu of services" and Alternative Service Definitions to allow providers to continue to deliver services in new and innovative ways. Ms. Wainwright stated that The Department promised they would approve new "in lieu of" or Alternative Service Definitions in record time and they have been true to their word and turned these around very quickly. Ms. Wainwright asked Ms. Jackson to relay kudos to The Department for this. She then reviewed some of the changes that Trillium has put into place as a result of these approvals.

Ms. Wainwright reported that the State had received approval from CMS for a variety of flexibilities around the Innovations Waiver. She reviewed the most significant of these and stated that Trillium has implemented all of these flexibilities to the fullest. This is on top of the rate increases that were given to Innovations Waiver providers and to residential providers who also serve Innovations Waiver members.

One of Trillium's biggest concerns at this time is what will happen when covid-19 appears in one of the congregate living facilities. A staged crisis plan is being developed for how we will respond if one or more group homes are unable to maintain operations due to the disease.

DMA gave a 1.5% increase in our capitation rates effective April 1. This is the amount that they can increase rates without having to go back to CMS for permission. For Trillium that amounts to approximately \$1.6 million. Ms. Wainwright explained that in addition, DHHS has authorized LME/MCOs to borrow up to 15% of their restricted risk reserve if needed to support providers, but anything borrowed from that has to be repaid. Trillium would only do this as a last resort. There have also been press briefings that DHHS gave LME/MCOs \$30 million in addition to State money. This was actually money that was supposed to go to LME/MCOs anyway to help offset the Single Stream reduction in SFY 2019. Trillium did not receive any of that money, because we did not have a Single Stream reduction in SFY 2019. We are expecting to see a drop in expenditures despite all of these rate increases and flexibility. We are hearing from providers that some members are uncomfortable and do not engage in telehealth and some families do not want workers coming into their homes due to the fear of the spread of the virus. As much as we are trying to make sure that we do everything possible to keep services at the maximum level possible and that we give providers flexibility to keep delivering those services, we are expecting to see some drop in claims. Depending upon what we see, we may have to make some adjustments in May when we see what the impact has been from April.

Trillium has been on nearly 100% "work from home" status since Monday, March 23. Ms. Wainwright shared that she is incredibly proud of everyone from Trillium, including departments that have never worked at home before like the Call Center and Claims Department. She commented that they have not missed a beat and that she cannot tell any difference in the quality or the quantity of the work that people are doing now that they are at home versus being in an office.

Medicaid Reform

DHHS has postponed the issuance of the Tailored Plan RFA indefinitely and at this point there is no indication of when Medicaid Reform will be re-started.

Trillium Preparation for Tailored Plan

Although Trillium has paused Tailored Plan preparation due to covid-19, we are ready and will be in good shape to respond whenever things are reactivated.

State Budget

The General Assembly reconvenes their short session on Tuesday, April 28, 2020. This session will probably be abbreviated and will focus solely on covid-19. At some point later in the summer, depending on what the pandemic does, they will convene again and take up unfinished business, possibly including the budget for SFY 2021.

In response to a question about the Gaps and Needs survey, Ms. Wainwright replied that it was still in progress, but we are not expecting to have the number of respondents as we have had in the past. Response from the board is also down from last year. Any feedback that members may have time to give would be appreciated.

In response to a question about the Gaps and Needs survey, Ms. Wainwright replied that it was still in progress, but we are not expecting to have the number of respondents as we have had in the past. Response from the board is also down from last year. Any feedback that members may have time to give would be appreciated.

IX. CFAC REPORT

Ms. Furniss, Southern Region CFAC designee, Mr. Lowe, Northern Region CFAC chair, and Mr. Masters, Central Region CFAC chair, gave reports on behalf of their respective committees.

X. CHAIR'S REPORT

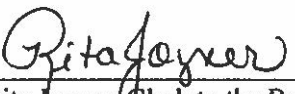
With it being Administrative Professionals Week, Ms. Furniss recognized and thanked Ms. Joyner for the work she does as clerk to the board. She also thanked Trillium for all of the work that is being done around covid-19 for our members and commented about how important it is for us to be there for the people we serve during a time like this. To the Board, the Executive Team, and Ms. Jackson from DHHS, she expressed wishes for them to stay safe and well and thanked them for their service.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Robinson called for any other comments or business to be discussed before adjourning the meeting. Mr. Savidge, speaking on behalf of the providers that he has talked with, expressed that everyone has been very grateful for the support and flexibilities that Trillium has given them. He suggested that perhaps Trillium could help with getting some recognition for the mental health staff that are still providing services. Unfortunately, they are still not recognized as being essential healthcare providers and suggested that perhaps Trillium could help to facilitate something such as a news story around the type of work that our providers do. Ms. Wainwright replied that she would have Jennifer Mackethan, Trillium's Communications Director, to contact Mr. Savidge regarding this.

With there being no other business, Dr. Robinson called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Masters so moved. Mr. Madson seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.



Rita Joyner, Clerk to the Board



Dr. Denuvo Robinson
Governing Board Vice Chair