

June 24, 2021

**TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES  
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

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The Trillium Health Resources Governing Board met on Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. via WebEx.

**Members Present:** Gary Bass, David Clegg, Jimmy Farrington, Mary Ann Furniss, Tracey Johnson, Charles Jordan, Ron Lowe, Jim Madson, Janice Nichols, Wayne Petteway, Dr. Denauvo Robinson, and Lea Wolf.

**Members Absent:** Emmie Taylor

**Staff Present:** Bland Baker, Cindy Ehlers, Lisa Fuller, Joy Futrell, Patrick Hinnant, Richard Leissner, Mike Lewis, Michelle Martin, Chris Penrod, Dave Peterson, Rick Pickett, 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), Carolyn Manning, Northern Region CFAC member.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Furniss called the June 24, 2021 meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Furniss called for a motion to approve the consent agenda to include the following items:

- April 22, 2021 Governing Board minutes
- 2021-2022 Compliance Plan
- 2021-2022 Quality Assessment & Improvement Performance Plan
- Governing Board Meeting Schedule FY21-22

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

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**IV. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 - 2022**

Ms. Furniss called for a motion to enter into the public hearing on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2021 – 2022. Commissioner Jordan so moved. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Farrington, was unanimously approved.

There were no comments or questions from the public on the proposed budget.

Ms. Furniss called for a motion to adjourn the public hearing. Commissioner Farrington so moved. The motion, seconded by Ms. Nichols, was unanimously approved.

V. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Ms. Furniss called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Lowe so moved. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Farrington was unanimously approved.

VI. **BOARD COMMENTS/CONCERNS**

There were no comments or concerns expressed by the board.

VII. **CONVENE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Ms. Furniss entertained a motion to recess the Governing Board meeting in order for the Finance Committee meeting to convene. Mr. Madson so moved. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Jordan, was unanimously approved.

VIII. **BUDGET REVISION III FISCAL YEAR 2020 -2021**

Ms. Futrell reported that the third budget revision for fiscal year 2020-2021 is to clean up and realign expenditures for June 30. The biggest expenditure that we under budgeted for at the beginning of the year that we are finalizing now is around the contracted services. This includes consultants that worked with us on the submission of the Tailored Plan RFA, the consultants that we have working with us for contractual issues with our Standard Plan and Pharmacy Benefit Plan Manager, and the one-time temporary staff that IT has needed to do some of the work that is required for both today and in the Tailored Plan. These expenditures come to about \$800,000 that we need to pull out of fund balance and make up the majority of the increase on the expenditure side. Ms. Futrell stated that most of this could be made up from other expenditures and she thinks that at year-end this will all work out when final adjustments are made, but we wanted to make sure we were covered in the budget. This revision brings the total budget to \$617,440,944.

Ms. Nichols moved to approve the budget revision, seconded by Mr. Lowe and unanimously approved.

IX. **PAY PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 – 2022**

Ms. Futrell reviewed the Pay Plan for fiscal year 2021 – 2022. She reported that the biggest change on the plan was the addition of new titles needed for the Tailored Plan as we begin recruitment for those positions. Salary ranges on the plan were not adjusted for any type of cost of living adjustment.

Ms. Furniss entertained a motion to approve the pay plan. Commissioner Jordan so moved. The motion, seconded by Mr. Lowe, was unanimously approved.

X. **BUSINESS FINANCIAL PLAN AND ADOPTION OF BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR FY 21-22**

Ms. Futrell presented the proposed budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 totaling \$604,350,073. Funding sources are the same as in the past, with Medicaid and State making up the majority of the budget. A big change for this year is the number of Medicaid eligibles that we will be responsible for as of July 1, an estimated 71,000 each month. State funded eligibles are an estimated 138,000 monthly. Currently we have 257,000 Medicaid eligibles. This is a big change and is a result of members transitioning to Standard Plans as they go live in North Carolina on July 1.

Medicaid represents the primary source of funding for our budget at about 85%. State funds and grants make up about 12% of the budget and county appropriations and other funding including our fund balance make up about 3%.

The current budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 contains funding for 538 positions. The budget for July 1 of 2021 supports 613 positions. This is an additional 75 new positions directly related to Tailored Plan work that we will recruit for in the next fiscal year. This is the biggest difference in the budget and is funded through our savings by fund balance. Of the budgeted fund balance, approximately \$3 million is for our inter-governmental transfer that we are required to make for Medicaid and the remaining \$7 million is budgeted for expenses related to Tailored Plan go live, with most of that being various personnel cost.

Ms. Futrell noted that approximately 90% of our Medicaid funding for the next fiscal year goes directly to services for the estimated 71,179 Medicaid eligibles.

The current proposed budget for state service funds is based on a draft allocation received from DHHS for our single stream funds plus our other state and federal current year allocations less any one-time funds.

County funding in the budget represents approximately \$5.5 million and that assumes that all of the counties contribute the same amount as they have in the current year.

A breakdown of the budget by cost center was reviewed.

Mr. Clegg moved to approve the Business Financial Plan and adopt the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Mr. Lowe, seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**XI. ADOPTION OF BUDGET REVISIONS NECESSARY TO CLOSE FISCAL YEAR**

Ms. Furniss called for a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the Governing Board chair to approve any budget revisions for fiscal year 2020-2021 needed subsequent to this Board meeting and June 30, 2021. Commissioner Johnson so moved. The motion, seconded by Mr. Clegg, was unanimously approved.

**XII. ONE-TIME BONUS**

Ms. Furniss reported that following the CEO Evaluation Committee, the committee discussed an idea suggested by Ms. Nichols and wanted to recommend giving Trillium staff, with the exception of the Executive staff, a one-time bonus of \$1000 for their hard work through COVID and on the Tailored Plan. Ms. Furniss called for discussion by the board on this recommendation before a vote was taken. Ms. Nichols stated that she intended this to be for any staff that were employed from April 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Ms. Futrell requested that it be added that the staff receiving the bonus would still be employed in the month of July of 2021. She explained that if the board approves the bonus, the payment would be made in July of 2021.

Following discussion on this item, Ms. Nichols made a motion that Trillium staff, excluding the Executive staff, receive a one-time bonus of \$1000 for all of the hard work that was done for COVID. The bonus would be for staff that were employed as of April 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Jordan, was unanimously approved.

**XIII. CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS A PENDING CONTRACT**

Ms. Furniss called for a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to GS 143-318.11(a)(1), to discuss confidential contractual issues. Commissioner Johnson so moved. Dr. Robinson seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

**XIV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

### Cardinal Innovations/Vaya Merger and County Realignment

With all of the county disengagements Cardinal was facing, the Cardinal Board made the hard decision that Cardinal would not remain viable and they negotiated a merger with Vaya. DHHS has indicated they will approve the merger, but they have made it clear that the remaining Cardinal counties may choose where they want to go and do not all have to go with Vaya. With that opening, Trillium has been reaching out to several counties that are contiguous to us. Ms. Wainwright explained that in some ways joining Vaya is the easier decision for the counties because they don't have to do anything, the merger will just make it automatic. If they choose to join us, they will have to formally request to disengage from Cardinal to do so. The other problem is timing, as DHHS has asked the counties to let them know their LME/MCO preference by June 30 and this is a busy time for counties with finalizing their budgets.

### Tailored Plan Award

A definitive date for the announcement of the award for the Tailored Plan has not been announced.

### General Assembly

The Senate presented a budget proposal for the 2021-2023 biennium, which passed this evening. The budget calls for adding 1000 new Innovation Waiver slots over the biennium, provides funding to move Direct Support Professional in ICF-IID to \$15 hour wage, and moves \$30 million from Medicaid to the Division of Mental Health for Single Stream funding, but then reduces that by nearly \$10M on a permanent basis. There is also additional Mental Health Block Grant funding for this year and next from the American Rescue Plan.

### One Community

Trillium has launched a time-limited outreach initiative called One Community. The One Community staff are knocking on doors in underserved communities to tell people who Trillium is and to offer assistance if they need help with mental health, addiction or I/DD issues. Community events are also being held throughout the catchment area to call attention to these issues.

### Standard Plan Partner

Mr. Leissner and the Centene attorneys are in the final stages of negotiating the contract with them for Standard Plan services. The selection of the Pharmacy Benefit Manager has also been finalized and will be announced after the award of the Tailored Plan.

### Carolina Pandemic Preparedness Task Force

Ms. Wainwright reported that she has been asked to participate in the Carolinas Pandemic Preparedness Task Force. The North Carolina Institute of Medicine (NCIOM) and the South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health (IMPH) are convening the Task Force to develop actionable recommendations for resilient response through shared learning about the COVID-19 pandemic. They are planning for this to be a six month effort that will begin in July.

### Lisa Fuller

Ms. Wainwright reported that upon Ms. Joyner's retirement, Lisa Fuller will become her new Executive Assistant and Clerk to the Governing Board effective July 1.

## **XV. CFAC REPORT**

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



**XVI. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Ms. Furniss reported that she had asked Mr. Lowe, Mr. Madson, and Ms. Wolf to serve on the Nominating Committee and to present a slate of officers for board chair and vice chair at the August meeting.

Ms. Furniss called for a motion to approve the committee members. Mr. Petteway so moved. The motion, seconded by Dr. Robinson, was unanimously approved.

Ms. Furniss asked that for any nominations sent to the Nominating Committee that the nominee has agreed to serve.

Ms. Furniss recognized three members of the board whose terms would be expiring or they would be leaving the board as of June 30, 2021. Those members were Commissioner Farrington, Commissioner Johnson, and Mr. Petteway. She presented each with a Certificate of Appreciation for their service.

**XVII. CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS CEO EVALUATION**

Ms. Furniss entertained a motion to enter into closed session, pursuant to GS 143-318.11(a)(1)&(6), to discuss a personnel matter. Mr. Madson so moved. The motion, seconded by Mr. Lowe, was unanimously approved.

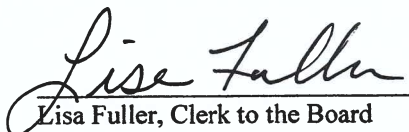
Upon returning to open session, Dr. Robinson moved that Leza Wainwright receive a 10% salary increase effective July 1, 2021. The motion, seconded by Mr. Lowe, was unanimously approved.

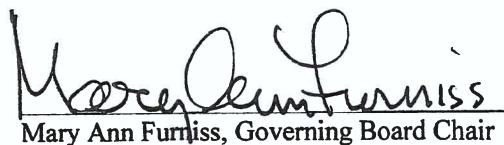
**XVIII. ADJOURNMENT**

With there being no other business, Ms. Furniss called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Farrington so moved. Dr. Robinson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Recorded by Rita Joyner, former Clerk to the Board.

  
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Lisa Fuller, Clerk to the Board

  
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Mary Ann Furniss, Governing Board Chair