

December 22, 2022

**TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The Trillium Health Resources Governing Board met on Thursday, December 22, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. via WebEx.

Members Present: Gary Bass, David Clegg, Mary Ann Furniss, Ann Floyd Huggins, Charles Jordan, Ron Lowe, Janice Nichols, Dr. Denauvo Robinson, Dr. Sheila Smith, David Stanley, Emmie Taylor, Rob Zapple.

Members Absent: Jim Madson

Staff Present: Bland Baker, LaDonna Battle, Cindy Ehlers, Sue Ann Forrest, Joy Futrell, Senitria Goodman, Sean Kenny, Mike Lewis, Melissa Owens, Cecelia Peers, Dave Peterson, Dr. Michael Smith and Lisa Fuller, Clerk.

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Furniss called the December 22, 2022 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 item:

- October 27, 2022 Governing Board minutes

Mr. Stanley moved to approve the consent agenda item. The motion, seconded by Ron Lowe, was unanimously approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Ms. Furniss called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Ms. Nichols so moved. The motion, seconded by Ms. Taylor, was unanimously approved.

V. BOARD COMMENTS/CONCERNS

Mr. Lowe – Mentioned the possibility of inviting consumers with autism to CIT classes, and have them spend time with officers during training. Ms. Futrell stated that prior to COVID, Trillium had begun a project inviting consumers to CIT trainings; we can look into restarting the project again.

Commissioner Huggins announced that this would be her last meeting as a member of the Governing Board.

Commissioner Zapple announced the dedication of The Healing Place is scheduled for January 17, 2023.

VI. CONVENE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Ms. Furniss entertained a motion to recess the Governing Board meeting and to convene the Finance Committee meeting. Commissioner Zapple so moved. The motion, seconded by Mr. Clegg, was unanimously approved.

VII. BUDGET REVISION I FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023

Ms. Owens reviewed each line item in the budget revision. The original budget amount \$866,795,006, with the Tailored Plan being launched December 1, 2022. Now with the launch scheduled for April 1, 2023, the revised budget amount is \$785,697,091. The budget revision represents approximately a 9% decrease, mainly resulting from the delay.

Mr. Clegg inquired as to the need for the budget revision at this time. Ms. Owens replied that along with the delay of the Tailored Plan launch, we also received revised rates that needed to be incorporated in the budget for the April 1 launch. This is driven by a timeline, to ensure that we are aligned with the actual numbers.

Ms. Nichols asked if the Tailored Plan launch is further delayed, would another budget revision be required. Ms. Owens – We would do a comparison based on the revenue shift. We would shift to our regular Medicaid contract; this is what we are doing from December 2022 to March 2023. We do not anticipate another amendment, if the Tailored Plan does not launch April 1.

Ms. Futrell - The budget is not revised each time we receive an allocation. However, when the amount is significant, we make sure we include it on the expense side.

Commissioner Zapple asked Ms. Owens, do you feel confident that we have the money needed to provide the services that we are mandated to provide. Ms. Owens - At this time, yes Sir.

Mr. Clegg moved to approve the budget revision. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Jordan, was unanimously approved.

VIII. GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

Ms. Forrest provided the Board with the following updates:

Elections

North Carolina remains divided government, with Republican controlled Legislature and a Democratic Governor. Republicans increased majorities in both chambers. Without a veto-proof majority in both chambers, the dynamics will likely resemble the status quo.

The House is one seat short of a supermajority and the Senate has a supermajority. Leadership in both parties has stayed mostly the same. All House and Senate Health Chairs were reelected to their same positions, a total of eight, five in the House and three in the Senate. Due to redistricting, Trillium gained two new members in leadership this cycle, Senator Jim Perry (Lenoir, Craven, Beaufort counties) – Health Committee Chair and Senator Brent Jackson (Duplin, Jones, Sampson, Bladen, Pender counties) – Appropriations Chair. These additions will be helpful from a lobbying standpoint.

Legislative Planning and Topics for 2023

Getting to Know New Members

Foster Care

Budget

Medicaid Expansion

Mental Health

Hurricane Relief

Ms. Nichols expressed her concern regarding Hurricane Relief in the Black River area, Bladen and Pender Counties. Flooding continues to be an issue in the area and needs to be addressed.

IX. CARE MANAGEMENT & POPULATION HEALTH PRESENTATION

Ms. Battle Trillium's Care Management and Population Health Officer introduced herself to the Board. She gave an overview of the Care Management & Population Health soft launch as of December 1, 2022, and what to expect for the full launch on April 1.

X. CHILD AND FAMILY INITIATIVE

Mr. Stanley addressed the Board with concerns regarding the Child and Family Initiative (Foster Care) and the issues facing DSS Directors in many counties. The major challenge is lack of providers/placement options for difficult to place children (ages 13-16) in the Foster Cares system. Some instances when a child's current placement is no longer viable, the child is moved before a safe discharge plan is in place, this is creating a larger issue for all involved. Children are staying in emergency rooms, in DSS offices and hotel rooms with social workers. There have been times when DSS offices have ventured outside of the catchment area, or out of state to find a proper placement. In the event a placement is found, outside of the catchment area, there may not be a contractual agreement with the provider, complicating the issue. Meanwhile, these children are not attending school or receiving therapy. Mr. Stanley thanked Commissioner Zapple of New Hanover County, Cecelia Peers and Sean Kenny from Trillium, who have been meeting with him to address this issue.

Commissioner Zapple added, when the State eliminated group homes eight years ago, the issue has now become a concern for providers. Commissioner Zapple thanked Mr. Stanley for continuing to raise this issue, and bringing it before the Board.

Ms. Nichols shared her concerns and experience as a therapeutic foster parent. Foster parents are not given all the information about the child prior to placement, from DSS and the agency/provider. She suggested that including the foster parent in the planning/placement process along with Trillium, DSS and the providers would help with some of these issues. In addition, "realistic" therapeutic training for foster parents is needed.

Mr. Bass referenced Senate Bill 693, signed into law on September 1, 2021. The bill addresses expediting privacy planning hearings for children removed from homes. The need for a comprehensive clinical assessment to identify appropriate treatment. Some of these children have already exhausted therapeutic foster care, and require a certificate of need for a higher level of care. There is a need for collaboration between the provider community and DSS, to quickly identify treatment needs and to get these documents in the hands of DSS workers.

Residential programs including therapeutic homes, have decreased in the state of North Carolina. This along with the current lawsuit against NC DHHS and low reimbursement rates, we will have a difficult challenge in the future.

Mr. Stanley thanked the Board for the feedback; and plans to share the information with the work group.

XI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Tailored Plan Activities

We are continuing to focus on building the physical health care network, to meet the network adequacy standards and continuity of care for the members in our health plans. Over the past 10 plus years, we have built a solid network of behavioral health care providers throughout our catchment area. We along with Carolina Complete Health are continuing to recruit providers and specialists to join our network, to build a physical health care network of providers that goes beyond our 28 counties.

The hospitals have been a challenge. Their experiences over the last year and a half with the Standard Plan go live, and working with the various commercial plans, have made them a little reluctant to sign contracts with us. We are continuing to work with them to join our network.

NC DHHS

All six MCOs opened our networks for recruitment and open enrollment for providers for the foster care population, to help reduce the administrative burden. Statewide we added approximately 1000 providers. This does not mean we have providers with additional new beds. However, if we have providers in another part of the state that want to join our network, we welcomed them.

We reviewed and increased rates in some areas where rates had not been increased.

Cindy Ehler's team just released a new initiative that gives North Carolina licensed child placement agencies the opportunity to hire staff and – to recruit families interested in foster care work and supportive homes for children. We will continue to work to improve access and services for this population.

Mobile Clinics

All mobile clinics are operational and on the road.

Other

A new Oxford House opening in Rocky Mount, the ribbon cutting scheduled for January 2023.

XII. CFAC REPORT

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

XIII. CHAIR'S REPORT

This is the last meeting for Governing Board members Commissioner Ann Floyd-Huggins and Jim Madson. Ms. Furniss thanked them for their service and read their certificates of appreciation.

Dave Peterson thanked Commissioner Huggins for her service as a Regional Advisory Board member and her support of Trillium in Pitt County.

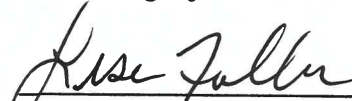
Commissioner Huggins thanked the Board for the opportunity to be involved.

Ms. Furniss thanked the Trillium staff for the work they continue to do on the Tailored Plan. She offered the support of the Board to help in any way possible.


XIV. ADJOURNMENT

With there being no other business, Ms. Furniss called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Lowe so moved. Commissioner Zapple seconded the motion, was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.



Lisa Fuller, Clerk to the Board



Mary Ann Furniss, Governing Board Chair

