

North Metro Community Services Board Minutes

For the meeting held on

April 28 2016

Dr. Bertagnolli called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 PM. He said he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2016 meeting (there was no board meeting held in March 2016 due to weather), approve the agenda for the April meeting and to excuse Doug Shepherd and Judy Stevens (all other board members were present). Edie Wallace made the motion, which was seconded by Mona Valdez and passed unanimously.

Audience Recognition:

At this point Dr. Bertagnolli noted that there were two visitors to the board meeting this evening, David Owen and Maureen Welch. Dr. Bertagnolli invited both visitors to address the board, Mr. Owen declined but Ms. Welch addressed the board.

Ms. Welch told the board that she has a son who is on the CES waiver through Rocky Mountain Human Services (RMHS). She is a volunteer advocate for people with disabilities and their families and has been very involved in the transparency bill (SB16-038) that is currently making its way through the state legislature. As part of her efforts to see that there is more transparency in the system she is in the process of visiting the board meetings of all 20 CCBs in the state.

Ms. Welch said that the lack of transparency has been a significant issue with CCBs and that some boards like RMHS have been very closed to public scrutiny. She said it was good to see SB16-038 progressing and that it would bring more transparency to the system. Ms. Welch also commended Mr. Brodersen for his efforts in helping with SB16-038. She also commended NMCS for the fact that it does not employ a lobbyist.

Ms. Welch went on to encourage the board to embrace Conflict Free Case Management (CFCM) and to end the participation of NMCS with the firm of Squire, Patton and Boggs and their efforts to get an extension on the time lines for the implementation of CFCM. She said that SPB's efforts in Ohio had been basically unsuccessful and that retaining them is a waste of money. She also encouraged the board to drop its membership with Alliance and encouraged the board to be as transparent as possible. Ms. Welch distributed a handout to the board which summarized these points as well as several other issues.

Dr. Bertagnolli thanked Ms. Welch for her comments and asked the board if they had any questions. Edie Wallace asked Ms. Welch a few questions regarding her background and then the board moved on with the agenda.

Finance Committee Report:

Bill Hawthorne presented the finance report for the months of February and March. Bill said that there was nothing extraordinary to report from the month of February; NMCS had net revenue of about \$69,000 and total revenue of just over \$2.5 million. In the month of March NMCS had net revenue of \$3600 on total revenue of \$2.7 million. Year to date NMCS is showing a loss of \$131,205.

March was actually a pretty good month financially. We were budgeted to lose about \$46,000 so we exceeded budget by about \$50,000. March would've been a far better month but for the fact that NMCS was closed for 2 days due to a winter storm in late March. That closing reduced revenue by about \$77,000.

At this point a question was raised about the days that NMCS was closed. Randy explained that NMCS tends to follow the lead of the local school districts when it comes to closures. All of the school districts in Adams County closed on both March 25 and 26 because of the weather. Though the weather improved later in the day on the 26th it would've been very difficult to transport people first thing that morning. Randy also said it is hard to justify transporting people, many of whom have significant ambulation issues, when the school districts are essentially saying it is unsafe to transport people without such issues.

Edie Wallace asked Randy where the closure information is posted. Randy said that we post it on the websites of Channels 4, 7 and 9 and it is also posted on NMCS's Facebook page.

Paul Yantorno moved that the board accept the finance committee report for February and March. The motion was seconded by Dr. Warren Taylor and passed unanimously.

Executive Committee Report:

Dr. Bertagnolli told the board that Randy would cover what was discussed in executive committee as part of his report.

Executive Directors Report:

Obviously our budget this year is going to be very tight. We hope to have it in the black by the end of the year but it is possible that won't happen; the two days we lost to the weather in March may be the difference between net revenue and a net loss. We will be taking a draft budget to the finance committee in May and will be bringing the budget back to the full board in June.

The State has completed the budget for FY 2016/17. The good news is that we did not get our rates cut as was originally proposed in the Governor's budget however the bad news is that we did not get a rate increase this year.

The one big item still pending in the legislature that will impact us in the coming years is the Hospital Provider Fee. A bill has been passed in the House that would designate the Hospital Provider Fee as an enterprise fund, which would exempt those revenues from the limits imposed by the Tabor

Amendment. There is a companion bill that earmarks the revenue from this change for education and transportation funding, which should make it somewhat more palatable for Republicans in the Senate. Since the Republicans control the Senate the speaker, Senator Cadman, will determine which committee this legislation is referred to or if it gets referred at all. So he has the power to kill the bill without ever letting the Senate vote on it if that's what he chooses to do. There are a lot of negotiations going on to try to get this bill heard in the Senate but how it will all play out is yet to be seen. Though this bill would not help us this year or directly in future years it does have the potential to free up funding in the rest of the budget that could benefit other areas like funding for IDD services.

Senate Bill 38, which imposes additional transparency requirements on CCBs is making its way through the House and will be moving back to the Senate shortly. It includes a performance audit of all 20 CCBs and also requires us to post certain items on our website such as minutes and agendas. This bill is why George has been working with you to set up email addresses for the board. We expect this to pass and it will probably take effect July 1 but we'd like to have everything in place to meet the requirements of the bill before that.

Our annual awards meeting is coming up on Thursday May 19. It will be held at the Westminster Recreation Center at 104th and Sheridan. We will start serving food at 5:00 and the program will begin at 6:00; hope you can attend.

New Business

Audit Subcommittee: John Coates told the board that the subcommittee selected an audit firm to do a review of the audit work that has been performed for us by Cal Logan. This review should begin in May and hopefully will be concluded by the end of June.

Conflict of Interest/ DRA forms: Randy handed out to the board copies of our conflict of interest disclosure form and the DRA Policy regarding fraud, waste, abuse and reporting same. Randy explained that the DRA policy needs to be signed, acknowledging that the agency has policies against fraud, waste and abuse and that all staff and the board have a responsibility to report such activities if they should become aware of them. The conflict of interest also needs to be signed and if a board member has any kind of potential conflict that should be disclosed on the form.

Funeral Leave Policy: Randy handed out, for first reading, the amended funeral leave policy for NMCS. Staff is recommending changing the policy to provide five days of leave to any employee who loses a spouse or child. The prior policy gave 3 days leave for local funerals and five days leave for funerals requiring significant travel. Recently a staff member's spouse passed away and under the old policy that person would have only received 3 days of leave, which administration felt was insufficient. This policy amendment will be back on the May board meeting agenda for a vote.

Dr. Bertagnolli asked Randy to give the board an update about his meeting with reporters at the Denver Post. Randy told the board that he and three other CCB representatives had met with the Post after the last story they had run regarding CCBs. Randy thought the meeting was somewhat productive and provided an opportunity to better explain what CCBs do. He also told the board that he had invited both

reporters to come visit NMCS so that they could see how we provide services and meet our staff and the people we serve but so far they haven't come by for a visit.

At this point Dr. Bertagnolli made a few comments in regards to the current board. He told about how when he first became President of the board John Flynn (a former board member) had told him the most important thing was to surround himself with good board members and to "keep your mouth shut" and let your board members do the talking. Dr. Bertagnolli told the board he felt we have a very good board that is focused on doing the best we can for the people we serve.

Support Services Update: Carrie Morris gave the board an overview of the efforts of her department to meet the needs of people on the SLS and CES waivers. Carrie reported to the board that the SLS program has grown both in the number of people served and the number of staff in the program. Currently the SLS program has 9 full time staff and 1 therapist. The program provides direct services in State and Medicaid SLS, CES, FSSP and Parent Education programs to 414 people and families. Many of the direct services in the waiver program are provided by 166 part time employees titled as "Support Partners". These support partners provide a variety of in home and out of home services under the SLS and CES waivers. Carrie also reported on the behavioral therapist employed by NMCS. The therapist provides multiple types of behavioral supports as needed by people in these programs.

Adjournment

Edie Wallace made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Warren Taylor and passed unanimously.