

REGION I GOVERNING BOARD
February 15, 2018
Region 1 Behavioral Health Authority, Scottsbluff, Nebraska
MINUTES

Chair, Doug Hashman, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:01 a.m.

Opening meeting with a prayer by Bob Post

Pledge was recited

Meeting was held at the Gering Civic Center, Platte River Conference Room located at 1050 M St. Gering, NE.

Introductions of individuals sitting around the table

Roll was called and the following Board members were present:

Bob Post, Banner County

Darrell Johnson, Cheyenne County

Vic Rivera, Dawes County

William Klingman, Deuel County

Bob Radke, Garden County

Daria Faden, Kimball County

Susanna Batterman, Morrill County

Sherry Blaha, Scotts Bluff County

Jack Andersen, Sheridan County

Doug Hashman, Box Butte County

Members absent:

Hal Downer, Sioux County

Also present was Barbara Vogel, Region I Regional Administrator; Michelle Fries, PHG Executive Director; Jama Batt, Fiscal Director; Jennifer Kriha, Assistant Fiscal Director; Jolene Fales, PHG Fiscal Coordinator; Lisa Simmons, Region 1 Network Manager; Sue Wengler, HR Coordinator and Irene Guerrero, Region 1 Administrative Assistant

The meeting agenda was emailed to all members prior to the meeting and was available in the meeting packets.

Motion was made by Andersen to accept the agenda as is with a second by Klingman. Voice Vote was made with all members present voting aye. Motion passed.

The minutes to the previous meeting were available in the meeting packets for the board members. Batterman made a motion to approve the minutes as is and a second to approve by Blaha. Voice Vote was made with all members voting aye. Andersen abstained. Motion Passed

Mass Mutual:

Presented by Sue Wengler to the board members a request for hardship withdrawal for an employee. Wengler is requesting approval from the board. The employee does have the funds available.

Motion was made by Klingman to approve the hardship withdrawal with a second by Andersen. Voice Vote was made with all members present voting aye. Motion passed.

Region 1 Behavioral Health Authority:

A. Regional Governing Board Duties: Annual meeting

1. Election of Officers - Motion was made by Blaha to retain the current officers, with a second by Klingman. Current officers are Doug Hashman Chair, Susanna Batterman Vice Chair, Bob Radke Secretary, Daria Faden Treasurer. Roll call was made with all members present voting aye. Motion passed.
2. Reading of Bylaws – Bylaws were reviewed with a motion to approve the bylaws as presented by Batterman with a second by Johnson. Roll call was made with all members present voting aye. Motion passed.
3. Staff Appointments –
 - i. Region 1 Regional Administrator – Motion was made by Post to retain Barbara Vogel as Regional Administrator with a second by Blaha. Roll call was made with all members present voting aye. Motion passed.
 - ii. PHG Executive Director - Motion was made by Batterman to retain Michelle Fries as PHG Executive Director with a second by Blaha. Roll call was made with all members present voting aye. Motion passed.
 - iii. Fiscal Director - Motion was made by Radke to retain Jama Batt as Fiscal Director with a second by Andersen. Roll call was made with all members present voting aye. Motion passed.

Financial:

- A. PHG Income Statement: Jama Batt presented and reviewed the PHG income statement for the period ending January 31, 2018. To meet payroll funds were pulled out from the CD in the amount of \$54,000.00. The year to date is a loss of \$95,479. Motion made by Klingman to approve PHG income statement with a second made by Post. Roll call was made with all members voting aye. Motion passed.
- B. Region 1 Income Statement: Jama Batt presented the Region 1 income statement for the period ending January 31, 2018. Motion made by Blaha to approve and second made by Faden. Roll call was made with all members voting aye. Motion passed.
- C. Accounts Payable/Checks/Account Balances – Jolene Fales and Jennifer Kriha presented and reviewed the PHG and Region 1 Accounts Payable Check & Balances for 01/18/2018-02/14/2018. Motion made by Batterman to approve accounts payable, checks and account balances a second made by Klingman. Roll call was made with all members voting aye. Motion passed.
- D. Balance Sheet – Presented by Jama Batt as informational. Reviewed as of 01/31/17 balance sheets. Also reviewed was the Bank Balances for both PHG and Region 1.

**** At 11:00 a.m. Recess for Lunch Break**

**** At 1:03 p.m. Meeting back in session**

Introductions of individuals sitting around tables

Roll was called and the following Board members were present:

Bob Post, Banner County
Darrell Johnson, Cheyenne County
Vic Rivera, Dawes County
William Klingman, Deuel County
Bob Radke, Garden County
Daria Faden, Kimball County
Susanna Batterman, Morrill County
Sherry Blaha, Scotts Bluff County
Jack Andersen, Sheridan County
Doug Hashman, Box Butte County

Members absent:

Hal Downer, Sioux County

Panhandle Health Group:

A. Information Update:

1. Historical Financial Report – Jama Batt presented data on the Income/Expenses for past 8 fiscal years. FY17 includes the additional revenue received by the Division of Behavioral Health. Several other documents were presented with data showing the PHG Income/loss totals.
2. Governance/Interlocal Report – Attorney Adam Hoelsing spoke to the audience on the history of the 11 counties regarding the creation of what is currently known as PHG, the facility. In 1974 the entire state adopted a regional model for Mental Health and Substance Abuse services. All 11 counties began Region 1 BHA. Region 1 is a statutorily created state agency that has a duty to administer funds for the state and has a duty to network Mental Health and Substance Abuse services throughout the region. State and Counties recognized that there was already a group committed in place at PHG and therefore, Region 1 and PHG were connect through a second interlocal agreement to perform what the state requires. One operating the facility and one operating Region 1. Region 1 has to exist to administer funding and MH and SA services. However, the operating of the facility is a choice of the 11 counties. If you were to vote to close PHG, you are making a recommendation to the 11 counties to withdrawal from their interlocal agreement then amend the existing agreement to continue on with Region 1. Simply closing PHG will not be accomplishing anything. So whatever you vote will not be complete until you go to all 11 counties and go through the process.
3. Operating Model Report - Barbara Vogel read a document to the audience.
4. Transition Team Update- The Transition Team is a diverse group of professionals committed to the best outcomes for the consumers of PHG. Transitional Team has been created to guide the transition process, with the responsibility of advising the Panhandle Health Group Governing Board on the best model for providing services in the future. Additionally, the goal of the committee is to provide the Region 1 Behavioral Health Authority Governing board an effective, sustainable long-term plan regarding how community-based mental health services should be provided in the Region 1 catchment area.

Members of the Transition Team –

- 1 Psychiatrist
- 4 Clinical Psychologists
- PHG Executive Director
- PHG Executive Governing Board Members
- District 12 Probation Representative
- Children and Family Services Representative
- 3 MH and SA Service Providers
- Region 1 Regional Administrator
- Region 1 Staff

Susanna Batterman made a statement to the audience:

The consumers of PHG have been the top priority during this difficult time of decision making. And that we plan to transition services in the event that we close or start that process to close PHG. The transition services will go on without closing the facility and with minimal interruption of services to consumers.

B. Public Comments

Several individuals spoke about their concerns about Panhandle Health Group closing.

Teresa Slack
Pamela Goding
Sally Jo McGarry
Andrew Van Der Vi
Sara Jo
Lester Foster
Janet Craven
Fredrick Marquez
Ashley Walker
Lacey Fleeman
Larry Daggett
Andy Tucker
Sharon Wolhers
Phil Darley
Susan Elsberry
Stan Bills
Juan Valdez
Tina Ram
Liz McDonald
Tom Perkins
Irene Flowers
Lynette Richards
Michael Leach
Byron Peters
Jeanie Wylie
Cheryl Howard
Jeffery Corrigan
Jodelle Keeler
Ken Hunter CEO of Kimball Hospital

Susanna Batterman gave a last comment on the decision that need to be made on the transition of the consumers.

C. Discuss and Consider Closure of PHG

Andersen had a question on the Income/Expenses. Net Income / Loss from CD. After much review and discussion by the board members a motion was made by Post to consider the closure of Panhandle Health Group on or before June 30th, contingent upon approval of all 11 counties to dissolved the interlocal agreement, with a second made by Klingman. Roll call was made with all members voting aye, with Radke voting nay. Motion passed.

Motion made by Batterman to access a line of credit to maintain PHG's operations during transition phase and authorize PHG staff to transfer facilities and services and at this time the Foundation House will stay in place. A second made by Johnson. Roll call was made with all members voting aye. Motion passed.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:46 P.M.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for **March 29, 2018** at the Region 1 building in Scottsbluff.

Questions or Comments by Non-Members:

Questions or Comments by Members:

Will someone be coming to any and all the county meetings. Yes, Adam Hoelsing, attorney will attend any meetings in March.

Respectfully submitted by,

Irene Guerrero
Region I Administrative Assistant

Signed:

Bob Radke, Garden County Commissioner

Action Items