

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
January 3, 2023

The Richmond Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA) Board of Directors met in the Board Room at 107 S. 5th Street in Richmond, Virginia 23219.

This meeting was also held through electronic communication means due to safety concerns stemming from the coronavirus pandemic.

The public was provided the option to attend in person or by teleconference/videoconference via Zoom.

RBHA Board members present: Jenny Aghomo; Tameisha Archer; Kristi Babenko; Irvin Dallas, **Chair**; Karah Gunther, **Vice Chair**, via Zoom; Dr. Brian Maiden; Sarah Mines; Rev. Dana Sally-Allen; Malesia "Nikki" Taylor, **Secretary/Treasurer**; and Eduardo Vidal.

RBHA Board members absent: Scott Cannady; Shauntelle Hammonds; Dr. Cynthia Newbille; and Stephen Willoughby.

Staff present: Dr. John Lindstrom, **CEO**; Amy Erb via Zoom; Bill Fellows via Zoom; Susan Hoover via Zoom; Dr. Jim May via Zoom; Shenee McCray via Zoom; Carolyn Seaman via Zoom; Michael Tutt via Zoom; Scott Ward via Zoom; Cristi Zedd via Zoom; Steve Buffenstein and Meleese Evans, Executive Assistant.

RBHA's Legal Counsel: Jon Joseph of Christian & Barton, LLP.

Guests: None.

Proceedings:

- The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m. by Irvin Dallas, Board Chair.
- **Public Comment:** None.
- **The Board meeting minutes for November 1, 2022, were approved with a motion by Malesia Taylor, seconded by Dr. Brian Maiden and unanimously approved by all Board members present, with the abstention of Sarah Mines, as she did not attend the November meeting.**

Employee Recognitions

- Support Associates During the Pandemic were recognized as team of the month.
- Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness Outreach Team in the Adult Mental Health division was also recognized as team of the month.

Presentation: The FY 2022 Audit Report was presented by Chris Murray, CPA, of Brown Edwards & Company. The reports were sent electronically to RBHA Board members.

Motion: Malesia Taylor moved to accept the FY 2022 Audit Report as it is; seconded by Sarah Mines and unanimously approved by all Board members present.

Chief Executive Officer's Report - Dr. John Lindstrom

- The CEO Report was discussed and is included in today's Board meeting packet and with today's meeting minutes.

RBH Foundation Report – Carolyn Seaman

- Carolyn Seaman provided an update on the RBH Foundation from July 2022 through December 2022. The report is included in today's Board meeting packet and with today's meeting minutes.

Committee Reports:

Access & Service Delivery Committee – Tameisha Archer, in absence of Chair

- The Access & Service Delivery Committee reviewed and discussed the RBHA Service Data report for the 1st Quarter of FY-2023, the Rapid Access report for the 1st Quarter of FY-2023, and the Human Rights reports for FY-2023.
- The Committee discussed topics for future Board presentations and was provided an update on the Regional CREST program and REACH program, the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic grant and RICH Integrated Care Clinic.
- A draft report of the Access and Service Delivery Committee meeting is included in today's Board meeting packet.

Advocacy & Community Education Committee –Scott Cannady

- The Advocacy and Community Education Committee has not met since the last Board meeting.

Executive Committee – Irvin Dallas

- The Executive Committee has not met since the last Board meeting.

Finance Committee Report – Malesia "Nikki" Taylor

- Total cash in the bank at October 31st was \$27 million, and RBHA's share of that cash is \$8.3 million.
- RBHA's current operating reserve ratio for October was 1.05 or more than 2 months of expenses.
- RBHA's net worth is \$18.4 million and net income at October 31st was \$24.5 million.
- Gross Accounts Receivable is \$9.3 million and net Accounts Receivable, after the allowance for doubtful accounts, is \$4.9 million due from the Managed Care Organizations.
- The note payable balance at October 31st was \$2.7 million.

Human Resources Committee –Karah Gunther

- The Human Resources Committee has not met since the last Board meeting.

Nominating & By-Laws Committee – Chair to be determined

- The Nominating and By-Laws Committee has not met since the last Board meeting.

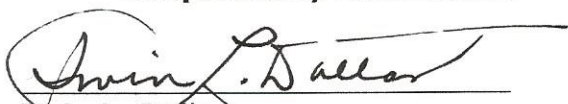
Presentation from RBHA's Legal Counsel: Attorney Jon Joseph discussed the proposed updated RBHA Policy for Remote Participation and All-Virtual Meetings. The policy is included in today's Board meeting packet.

Action Item: Board Members will review the updated RBHA Policy for Remote Participation and All-Virtual Meetings to be considered for approval at the February Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m. with a motion by Eduardo Vidal, seconded by Jenny Aghomo.

The next Board of Director's meeting will take place on **Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 3:00 p.m., at RBHA, 107 S. 5th Street in Richmond, VA 23219.**

Respectfully Submitted:


Irvin L. Dallas
RBHA Board Chair


Dr. John P. Lindstrom
Chief Executive Officer

Richmond Behavioral Health Authority
Board of Directors
Chief Executive Officer's Report
January 3, 2023

Where did 2022 go and what do we anticipate for 2023? These questions mark our yearend celebrations as we reflect on what has been and what we might anticipate for the new year. A common theme is that of hope, I believe a central and important focus of most, if not all, celebrations at this time of year. One sees this play out in media conversations at the national, state, and local level, in places of worship, social gatherings, and around the kitchen table.

For RBHA, 2022 was yet another year of challenges related to the Pandemic. For the third straight year, COVID-19 was an overarching consideration as we met service needs, addressed public health safety, and examined new opportunities. Somehow, we managed expansion in key service areas while straining under the extreme challenges pertaining to staffing vacancies and employee recruitment and retention. Twenty twenty-two marked the first full year of crisis continuum expansion including the operation of our Region 4 Crisis Call Center (988), Marcus Alert protocols, launch of the joint RBHA/RPD Community Response Teams, 23-hour Crisis Receiving Center development, expansion of regional mobile crisis response and stabilization, and our internal Crisis Task Force and Regional Crisis Stakeholders group.

At the very beginning of 2022, RBHA assumed the assets of HRI, Inc. and began the direct delivery of Methadone treatment services for Opioid Addiction. We launched the exploration and procurement process for replacing our legacy Electronic Health Record and participated with Region 4 partners in selecting a new digital learning platform (Relias) to support training, not only for

many elements required for onboarding and licensing, but also for meeting new standards for service delivery.

Throughout 2022, RBHA's Revenue Cycle Management workgroup pressed forward with the regular monitoring and management of the complexities surrounding managed care reimbursement. This included ongoing report development, near continuous modifications to billing structures, rate changes, and rules.

The last three components of STEP-VA were in preliminary stages of development this past year: Case Management, Care Coordination, and Psychiatric Rehabilitation. In their furtherance, RBHA will continue to work with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) toward refining these critical services while continuing to make strides within the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) movement. RBHA is wrapping up its second two-year CCBHC grant and, earlier in 2022, was awarded a new four-year CCBHC-related grant. DBHDS submitted a CCBHC planning grant application to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) just before the holiday break. If funded, and with the Governor's support, RBHA will be part of a process that ultimately results in CCBHC implementation across the Commonwealth.

I am sure I am leaving something out of this summary of accomplishments. Every achievement, every challenge sets the stage for what we expect in 2023. The Governor's proposed amendments to the state budget include the infusion of more than \$200 million for behavioral health. Of those dollars, RBHA and our region might anticipate new funds to bolster crisis expansion and the development of community-based alternatives to hospitalization. Funding for more Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities waiver slots has been included, along with the Governor's pronounced goal of eliminating the priority waitlist over the next three years. During the upcoming legislative session, our association, VACSB, is pressing for more state

funding for CSB workforce recruitment and retention. To me it is clear, critical needs in mental health, addictions, and intellectual/developmental disabilities has the attention of the public, the General Assembly, and our Governor.

Some updates -

1. The final purchase agreement with Pilgrim Baptist Church is pending
2. Zoning application for REACH Office/House has been initiated
3. The City of Richmond is undertaking a study, examining the feasibility and cost of transitioning to participation in the Virginia Retirement System – VRS will treat RBHA as a separate entity during the necessary actuarial studies
4. DBHDS submitted application for a CCBHC Planning Grant on Dec. 19 – its potential award has tremendous implications for our own planning process, movement toward state acknowledged certification, and reform of the Medicaid payment system
5. The last of the EHR vendor demonstrations will wrap up next week, with selection and award targeted for February
6. Management has consulted on a new Virtual meetings policy with Christian & Barton – Jon Joseph will present a draft today for Board comment and adoption
7. Our external Auditor, Brown Edwards, will present the results of the FY 22 audit during today’s meeting
8. RBHA Budget Planning Process recently began with a December submission of a city budget request focusing on maintaining the local match requirement – project a need of nearly \$300,000 to meet this requirement
9. Other RBHA budget priorities/challenges for FY 24 -
 - a. Elevating critical positions
 - b. Continued attention to compression
 - c. Streamlining services/costs while maintaining revenue
 - d. Federal funds recovery/Reimbursement-based funding

- e. Altria's "Give Together" campaign recently awarded RBHF \$20,000 targeted toward homelessness
- f. State level studies/reports released or initiated in December
- g. Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission (JLARC) Report – reported out
- h. Behavioral Health Commission Report – reported out
- i. Temporary Detention Order (TDO) Prompt Placement Taskforce - initiated

Respectfully submitted,



John P. Lindstrom, Ph.D., LCP
Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: VACSB Guidance Document
General Assembly's Public Hearings Notice



VACSB Guidance & Talking Points for the 2023 Budget Hearings on the 2023 - 2024 State Budget

All regional hearings will take place on Thursday January 5, 2023.

All hearings will be held virtually.

Please note: You have to sign up to speak the day before (morning of Jan. 4th) the hearings. The link will be posted ([HERE](#).)

Providing Testimony (Logistics and Helpful Hints):

- **Please do not use this document as a speech.**
- **Sign up the day before the hearings in order to speak (Wed. Jan. 4th).** The details to sign up for the hearings are [HERE](#) and the link to sign up will be at this same location. Sign up usually begins at 7 am the day before. The link to sign up may not be available until that time.
- Every speaker should have a **clear take away message**. Think about what it is you want the legislators to remember from your 3 minutes of testimony. Use only 1 compelling statistic in your 3 minutes of testimony, as legislators are more likely to remember it.
- Thank the General Assembly for its past work in supporting community services for individuals with behavioral health conditions and developmental disabilities.
- **Let them know how the services your CSB provides has helped you in your life or someone you know.**
- We have provided you with a robust listing of areas to speak about and know that it will not be possible to speak about all these areas in just the three minutes allotted. For your time to speak, please talk about the **areas from this document that are most relevant to you** or that you can speak about with **your own examples or stories, but please at least mention the need for an investment in the CSB workforce**. Perhaps share an example of how staff turnover or vacancy has affected you.
- Anyone can submit comments electronically [HERE](#), whether you speak at the hearing or not. Since written comments are not limited in size, you can submit additional comments or share a personal story/example that you may not have time for in a 3 minute testimony. Plan to submit your written comments no later than close of business the day of the hearings.

LIST OF FUNDING REQUESTS:

CSB Workforce is VACSB's Top Budget Priority:

Share how you appreciate that the governor's budget amendments provide a significant investment in behavioral health services, however it cannot be emphasized enough that the **CSB workforce needs to be funded and stabilized now through recruitment and retention bonuses.**

Some CSBs have had to reduce service capacity in certain areas due lack of staff. While the governor's investment in expanding services is critical to meet the increased demand, there is great concern that the staff needed to provide this expansion of services simply won't materialize without an immediate and significant investment in CSB staff.

Last year, VACSB began its advocacy in support of a four-pronged approach to workforce development initiatives for CSBs. The General Assembly did not provide any funding for those initiatives which means that **workforce development will remain VACSB's top priority for the 2023 session. As such, the VACSB requests \$162.6M in FY24 to provide quarterly recruitment and retention bonuses for direct care positions in CSBs.** State psychiatric facilities received funding to address compensation issues in FY22 and FY23 and are slated to receive additional funding in FY24. CSBs need a similar level of investment across all service lines.

Until workforce is addressed with a comprehensive strategy for the entire public system, the CSBs will continue to lose their staff to not only private providers, but now also to state psychiatric hospitals, and may struggle to meet the increased demand for behavioral health and developmental disability services in their communities.

Alleviating the hospital census crisis is dependent on the CSB workforce being stabilized. Recruitment and retention bonuses will be important for not just the CSB staff that work in the crisis services part of the continuum (which can sometime divert individuals from needing an inpatient level of care), but also for the CSB staff that work in post crisis services for individuals leaving a psychiatric hospital. As Secretary Littel pointed out in his recent presentation to the Behavioral Health Commission, post crisis services such as housing, wrap arounds services, and employment are essential to preventing individuals from cycling back to a psychiatric hospital.

Invest in all Areas of the CSB Workforce: It is important to note that the CSBs need an investment in **all** areas of their workforce which includes direct care staff for services for developmental disabilities, serious mental illness and substance use disorder.

For example:

- We applaud and support the additional funding for developmental disability (DD) waivers in the governor's budget, however the vacancy rate for the support coordination staff that initiates and manages these waivers services is so high, that this area of the workforce needs to be stabilized in order for CSB staff to handle the additional work involved with each new Waiver.
- The governor's investment to expand mental health crisis services through Crisis Receiving Centers and Mobile Crisis Units is severely needed, but please keep in mind that the CSBs are struggling to fully staff the already existing crisis centers. For example, one 16 bed Crisis Stabilization Unit in the state has closed due to lack staff and some others are not able to serve at full capacity because of a lack of staff.

Provide Funds for VACSB's Other Budget Priorities:

- **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY (DD) WAIVER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS:** The VACSB appreciates the funds in the governor's amendments for 500 additional DD Waiver slots **DMAS - Item 304 - 4.a.**, yet hopes the general assembly will keep in mind that, as mentioned above, the CSB workforce needs need to be stabilized **at the same time** in order to keep up with Waiver services. The VACSB also supports The Arc of Virginia's initiative to build out DD provider capacity, which was not in the Governor's budget.
- **STEP-VA INFLATION PRESSURES:** All of the steps of STEP-VA have now been funded, however, funding for the initial steps has remained level since inception. In order to mitigate the cost of inflation, **VACSB is requesting an additional \$8.7M in ongoing funding for Same Day Access, primary care screening and outpatient services.** This funding should be provided for flexible use among the three service areas according to each CSB's needs.
- **UNDERAGE CANNABIS USE PREVENTION PROGRAMS:** Legislation legalizing simple possession of cannabis passed in 2021 with language directing a portion of the revenue from retail sales to cannabis prevention and treatment programs. With retail sales on hold, CSBs do not have appropriate funding to effectively develop and engage in cannabis youth prevention programs. Therefore, the VACSB requests **\$2.5M in ongoing funds until such time as revenues from retail cannabis sales are made available.** The key to successful prevention campaigns is ensuring that they are deployed well ahead of policy changes such as cannabis legalization. These funds will position CSBs to fully engage in this critical prevention effort.

Items From the Governor's Budget:

Share appreciation for some of the funding areas listed below that are a part of the governor's budget but please emphasize that without funding to stabilize the CSB workforce, the CSBs won't be able to maximize their capacity of keeping people in the community and out of state hospitals.

1. **Early Intervention - DMAS - Item 304 - TTTT. \$1.1M General Funds & \$1.1M Non General Funds in FY24** Increase the reimbursement rates for Early Intervention services, excluding case management, by 12.5% for all children enrolled in Early Intervention.
2. **Crisis Services - DBHDS - Item 312 - W.1. \$58M in FY24** Expand Crisis Services System through additional crisis receiving centers, crisis stabilization units and enhancing existing crisis sites. Some of this funding will be specifically for youth.
3. **Mobile Crisis – DBHDS - Item 312 - Y. - \$20M in FY24** for the one-time costs of establishing additional mobile crisis services in underserved areas.
4. **School Based Mental Health Services - DBHDS - Item 311 - HH. \$15M in FY24** - Expand the current school-based mental health pilot program.

5. **Housing for Individuals with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) - [DBHDS - Item 312 - X](#). \$8M in FY24 -** Supervised residential care for individuals with SMI with a priority for individuals ready for discharge, but are on the state hospital extraordinary barriers list (EBL).
6. **Behavioral Health Student Loan Repayment Program - [Virginia Dept. of Health \(VDH\) - Item - 278 - B.1](#). \$2.5M in FY24** to bolster the existing behavioral health loan repayment program.
7. **Psychiatric Residencies - [DMAS - Item 304 - GG.1](#). \$1M in FY24** to support 20 additional psychiatric residencies slots.
8. **Additional Waiver Slots - [DMAS - Item 304 - 4.a](#). \$15.1M in General Funds & \$15.8M in Non General Funds for FY24** To add 70 new Community Living slots and 430 new Family and Individual Support slots.
9. **Fentanyl Poisoning in Youth - [Secretary of HHR - Item 283 - L](#). \$5M in Non General Commonwealth Opioid Abatement and Remediation Funds.** Public Awareness campaign to reduce fentanyl poisoning among youth.
10. **Access to Peer Recovery Services - [DMAS - Item 304 - WWW](#).** Language requiring DMAS to implement changes to reduce administrative barriers to accessing and delivering Peer Recovery Services.
11. **Increase reimbursement rates for Personal Care, Respite and Companion - [DMAS - Item - 304 - XXXX](#). - \$41M** - DMAS shall have the authority to increase the rates for agency- and consumer-directed personal care, respite and companion services by 5%.
12. **Mental Health Services in K-12 and colleges - [State Council of Higher Education - Item 144 – W](#). \$9M in FY24.** Expand mental health services through the State Council for Higher Education.

Please note: Hilary Piland will be available to discuss strategies, should you wish. Email Hilary at hpiland@vacsb.org for support. For more information and additional statewide data, see the most recent annual report from VACSB [here](#).



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PUBLIC HEARINGS NOTICE

GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE 2022-2024 BIENNIAL STATE BUDGET

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS AND SENATE FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES OF THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL HOLD **VIRTUAL** REGIONAL PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE 2022-2024 BIENNIAL STATE BUDGET, AS FOLLOWS:

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2023

(Hearings begin at 10:00 a.m.)

All public hearings will be held virtually. There will be four separate virtual hearings with legislators from each region participating as follows:

Northern Virginia Western Virginia Hampton Roads Central Virginia (Richmond)

Public registration to speak at one of the public hearings will occur on Wednesday, January 4, 2023. Please check either of the following websites for more information:

Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee Website (sfac.virginia.gov)

House Appropriations Committee Website (hac.virginia.gov)

Public Hearings will be livestreamed on the Virginia General Assembly [Website](http://www.virginiageneralassembly.gov)

<https://virginiageneralassembly.gov/membersAndSession.php?secid=1&activesec=0#!hb=1&mainContentTabs=0>

The purpose of the hearings is to receive comments on the Governor's proposed amendments to the 2022-24 biennial state budget. Those persons wishing to speak may register to speak the **day before** each virtual hearing.

Speakers will be taken in the order of registration. Each person may register only one speaker at a time and only sign-up to speak at one of the hearings. Speakers are asked to limit their comments to three minutes or less. Speakers representing groups and organizations should consolidate remarks to reduce duplication. Persons unable to attend may submit their comments electronically at https://hodspeak.house.virginia.gov/upcoming_meetings

People with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations by calling (804) 698-7480. All requests for reasonable accommodations must be received by 5:00 p.m., Tuesday December 27, 2022. Requested arrangements for sign language interpreters, received by December 27th, will be provided via video format.

FY23 – 6 Month Review – July 2022 through December 2022

Grants:

Awarded 6 grants totaling \$101,500 – *exceeding grant funding for all FY22.*

- Children's Services Center
- Therapeutic Day Treatment
- Children's CReST
- Children's Mental Health
- WRTC
- Homeless Services

Mini Grants:

3 \$5,000 Grants Awarded to programs and services – unrestricted donations

- Children's Developmental Services (Community Integration Opportunities)
- WRTC Children's Services (Community Integration Opportunities)
- ACT Team (Educational/Vocational Group)

Will be awarding 3 more Mini Grants in January 2023

RBHF Board Fundraising:

\$10,000 – Refresh for Recovery Campaign – to paint the entry, common areas, and dining room at 1700 Front St., North Campus

Volunteer Events:

Large Altria Volunteer Event – North Campus in July – 100+ Volunteers

Smaller Altria Volunteer Event – North Campus – 30 Volunteers

Large CarMax Volunteer Event – North Campus – 90+ Volunteers

DIY Volunteer Events:

HandsOn Greater Richmond – Children's Personal Care Kits

Nourishment Kits

Personal Care Kits

Cold Weather Item Kits

All totaling to date (still some to count): 3,082

Church Group donate gifts for all members at the Marshall Center for Christmas

Giving Tuesday Appeal:

\$700 for Homeless Services Outreach – Facebook & Instagram

RBHA United Way Campaign:

Increased giving overall and increased giving to RBHF

Year End Appeal:

Still receiving donations but have already surpassed last year's donations