

GOOCHLAND POWHATAN COMMUNITY SERVICES
MINUTES
December 6, 2021

Goochland Powhatan Community Services Board of Directors held its December 2021 meeting on Monday, December 6, 2021, in Virginia House, with a zoom link available to members unable to attend in person.

Present

Jackie Cahill
Angela Cimmino
Parthenia Dinora
Julie Franklin
Erin Harnage
Mariah Leonard
GaElla Matthews
Yvette McDermott Thomas
Crystal Neilsen-Hall
Renee Sottong

Absent

Staff Attending

Les Saltzberg
Lateshia Brown
Carinne Kight
Cheryl Smith
Irene Temple

Welcome

Les Saltzberg welcomed all attending Board members and thanked them for joining either by Zoom or in person. The meeting was brought to order. Parthy chaired the meeting.

Minutes

November 2021 meeting minutes were reviewed for approval. There were no corrections or revisions noted.

ACTION: Motion to approve November 2021 meeting minutes, was made by Y. McDermott Thomas, seconded by J. Cahill. Motion carried by all, and November 2021 minutes were approved.

FY 2022 October Budget Report

Cheryl Smith, Account Analyst, provided the October 2021 Budget Report to the Board. She noted that in October expenses are right in line at 32% however income is slightly high at 38%. This is due to the agency receiving \$62,000 in Prevention funds for Alcohol and drug treatment. Also of note, job advertisements for the year are high due to the number of open positions.

ACTION: Motion to approve FY 2022 October Budget Report as presented, was made by P. Dinora, seconded by M. Leonard. Motion carried by all, and FY 2022 August Budget Report was approved.

Convert MH Case Manager position to MH Outpatient Clinician position

Les explained that when he evaluated operations when he first arrived as clinic director, he noted a few things. First several consumers were assigned to mental health case management that didn't belong in mental health case management. Also, there was a requirement that consumers had to be assigned to either a case management or outpatient service regardless of if it was clinically needed. Since that time Les, and now Irene, have changed criteria to remove that requirement and assign people to programs they clinically need. In addition to this, there is currently a mental health case manager position that had not been filled while these reassignments and new criteria were implemented. Currently the number of requests for services has gone up, both from schools and DSS, particularly for children. Les is proposing that it is in best interest of GPCS and makes the most sense to convert the open mental health case manager position from to a mental health outpatient clinician position. The difference in cost between 2 positions is about \$5600

ACTION: Motion to approve conversion of mental health case manager position to mental health outpatient clinician position as proposed was made by R. Sottong, seconded by P. Dinora. Motion carried by all, and conversion of the position was approved.

Goochland Budget Meeting Update

Les reminded the Board that in the past GPCS has generally requested a \$5,000 increase in county appropriations from each county. Two years ago, the request was a \$20,000 increase but last year the request was nothing due to COVID. This year Les met with Goochland County and requested an increase of \$75,000. He provided them documents showing how GPCS has historically been conservative with funds, including staff increases. He also showed them how GPCS is behind other local boards in salaries and how services are expanding (MAT, more children's services, etc.). There is a meeting scheduled with the Powhatan County Administrator in a couple weeks and Les plans to provide him with the same information and ask for the same increase in appropriations. He will report back on how that meeting goes as well.

COVID Update

Les reminded the Board that at the last meeting it was discussed that CSBs meet the CMS definition of Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC). VACSB has supported that interpretation, and there have been letters from DBHDS supporting this. In November GPCS met with our attorney to develop a COVID Vaccination Policy to meet the CMS Vaccine Mandate. This policy was implemented as the Board had approved. There were three staff that submitted religious exemption requests. They were reviewed and approved with accommodations. Since the policy approval and roll out the Hanover County attorney sent an email to Hanover CSB leadership that he did not think a CSB qualified as CMHC. Les and Carinne met with GPCS' attorney, and she talked with expert who agreed CSBs are not qualified as CMHCs. At this point the options are to discontinue implement the policy or to continue down this path (and implement the policy as approved. Les proposes continuing with the implementation given the increased exposures and variants going around. Les' plan is to be honest with staff about it and explain that it's still a gray area and it's in the best interest of GPCS to continue with implementation.

ACTION: Motion to approve the implementation of the GPCS COVID Vaccine policy as proposed was made by A. Cimmino and seconded by R. Sottong. Motion carried by 9, opposed by 1 and the implementation of GPCS COVID Vaccine policy was approved.

State Crisis System Update

Les informed the Board that DBHDS & DMAS have been working on updating and modernizing the state crisis system including the implementation of MARCUS alert system. Currently the Marcus alert system doesn't impact GPCS, 5 cities are rolling it out, based on population. Currently the closest city to receive it is Richmond. The way the system works currently, if there is a crisis the CSB for that area must respond and are the only ones who could do prescreening for hospitalization. In the modernized system there will be a regional call center that would dispatch crisis calls as they come in. Eventually all crisis calls will filter into that call center. The client will talk with person at the call center and hopefully resolve it at that point. If more is needed the call center would have a database of private providers & CSBs to do next steps of intervention. If need prescreening would be CSB, but if need mobile crisis unit could be a regional one, or a private provider. The system doesn't have all the providers in it yet, and much must happen in the next 6 months to bring everything up to speed.

Culture/Engagement Survey Update

Les explained to the Board that he put in their packets a culture survey and employee engagement survey. He believes that GPCS will never be the highest paying CSB, so part of what drives if it is successful or not is if the culture supports excellent clinical programs that staff want to work at. Part of building that culture is to be very intentional about what we are trying to accomplish and how you want to accomplish it. The start of this is to have a large meeting with all staff and explain that the survey will be coming out. Then explain to staff where leadership would like GPCS to go, where it is currently, and what leadership is doing to get to where we want to be. The timeline at this point is to do the staff meeting and survey at the end of January. Once these are completed Les will share results with staff and the Board.

Reports

Les mentioned two brief things. First, Les and leadership wanted to get into training students more. There has been work in this area and contacts and relationships have been built in addition to the current VCU Social work program relationship. Two students are working with the agency this winter and spring. One student is a current employee that is completing her work while working. The second student will start in Virginia House in January. In addition, Irene has talked with William and Mary counseling program, and it's likely a student from there will join GPCS.

The second item Les wanted to mention is that he had a meeting today with Goochland Cares and he thinks we will be working more closely with them around mental health, medication, and substance use. Both sides excited about potential in this collaboration.

Yvette requested a tour of the facilities since she hasn't had one after joining the Board. Les will reach out & set time to complete the tour.

Parthy noted that she is the Chair of Special Ed advisory committee for Goochland County Public Schools, and they have been really impressed with changes at GPCS and feel as though they can depend on this partnership.

Julie and Les asked the Board about the next Board Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for January 3rd, does the board want to keep it on that date or move to the following week. All approved to move to January 10th.

GaElla let the Board know that there was recently a meeting with NAACP in Powhatan in reference to bullying in schools in Powhatan. Recently they've had one suicide in the high school and there has been an increase in the bullying (particularly regarding racial, LGBTQ, and transgender) and it's really effecting the youth.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm.

The next meeting is January 10, 2022.

Erin Harnage, Secretary
EH/ck

Date