

R. JACOB CINTRON
Chair

DAVID STOUT
Vice-Chair

MARTIN BARTLETT
Secretary

RAFAEL AGUIRRE
Trustee

MICHAEL ESCAMILLA
Trustee

KATHLEEN PEYTON
Trustee

PAMELA COOK-HOWARD
Trustee



Emergence Health Network

El Paso Center for Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities

EMERGENCE HEALTH NETWORK BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES

(Audio copy of the meeting is available upon request)

Emergence Health Network Board of Trustees (“EHNBOT”) Meeting
Thursday, August 20, 2015 at 5:30 PM
Central Administration, Boardroom, 201 E. Main St. Ste. 600, El Paso, Texas 79901
PRESENT: STOUT, BARTLETT, PEYTON, AGUIRRE, and HOWARD
ABSENT: CINTRON, ESCAMILLA

1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- a. **Call to Order and Certification of a Quorum**
Quorum was certified.
- b. **Public Comment**
There was no one signed up to speak.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes from April 6 and June 25, 2015.
- B. Approve and authorize Board Chair to execute an engagement letter with White, Samaniego and Campbell to conduct the FY 2015 Financial and Compliance Audit.
- C. Approve and authorize CEO to execute the START Agreement for Consulting Services with the University of New Hampshire.

**EHNBOT Action: Bartlett moved/Peyton seconded to approve items a through c.
Motion Carried (5/0)**

3. REPORTS

A. **Planning and Network Advisory Committee (PNAC)**

Mr. Hurtado noted that Ms. Gilda Lopez was unable to attend and he provided the following points:

- Strategic Plan/Training Session for PNAC members is being planned for October 13, 2015 for a half day orientation and setting definite goals towards a strategic plan developed at that time.
- PNAC working to develop a tool for parents to enroll children in the interest list so as to increase awareness within the public school districts on the wait times for many of those services available to special needs children.

Mr. Puentes responded to Mr. Bartlett’s question stating that the IDD Waiver Programs offer bundles of service coordination etc. and have a wait time of about 10 years. It is recommended that people act early in their child’s education.

Ms. Howard shared that this list should be presented to the Director/Superintendent of Special Education and/or General Counsel of EPISD. The list cannot be disseminated at school meetings prior to going through the districts’ approval processes.

B. **Chief Financial Officer’s Report regarding EHN Financials.**

Ms. Motts reported the following points:

- Variance for single month of July was about \$6k favorable to the budget and YTD basis that was about \$787k. This is due to higher Medicaid Waiver revenue, higher capital expenditures and lower medication costs.
- YTD basis it is the higher MAC Revenue due to the number of participants doing time studies and lower medication costs and lower UPLICF Program revenues.
- Comparing July 2015 to 2014 there was a \$185k favorable variance; however there was a \$506k unfavorable variance on an YTD comparison due to lower medication cost. The new pharmacy was established and there has been a need to set up procedures to address cost issues. YTD there were unfavorable variances due to lower fee for service revenue, however it is getting lower due to productivity initiatives. This is offset by the UPL for ICF's and lower capital expenditures.
- Health fund had a loss of \$135k; however overall that fund is still at \$50k net revenue over expenses and this is a trend due to increased doctor visits during the summer months for children that are on vacation.
- Sun City made \$10k compared to \$6k budgeted last month for a \$4k variance and YTD that entity is at \$43k versus a \$63k budgeted amount for a \$20k variance.
- Clinic continues to do better and there were higher psych evaluations. EAP is helping offset the commercial clinic under budget.
- Hospital visits were lower.
- Balance Sheet is strong with a \$10.5 in cash and cash investments due to the 1115 Waiver Project.

C. Chief Executive Officer's Report regarding EHN Operations.

Ms. Daugherty provided the following points:

- Due to legislative cuts of 30% funding for the ECI Program and lower Medicaid rates, EHN has taken steps to address expenses and inefficiencies within that department. Seven administrative positions were affected. Two positions were moved into other department, two positions were reclassified and three positions were offered severance packages. No patient care positions were affected. These cuts are of great concern statewide and some agencies will be shutting down their ECI services. Billing and collection practices are being reviewed for improved operations.

Com. Stout stressed that there was no reduction in patient care. Mr. Bartlett added that at some point whereas these cuts may continue the program is sustainable. Com. Stout shared that discussion at the state level on the Texas Council Board will be making an effort as to why this is happening as there was no idea on the level of negative impact this has been to ECI. He added that perhaps there should be a study on the impact of the change at the state level.

Ms. Howard noted that all efforts should be made to restore the program and funding as this is a very essential program in the community. Mr. Bartlett inquired if the Texas Council lobbies for these types of initiatives and Mr. Hurtado so noted. Ms. Daugherty added that Bexar County has a very good system in place for processing reimbursements for those services and Ms. Aponte-Pacheco will be working with them.