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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)

EHN STAFF:

KRISTI DAUGHERTY
Chief Executive Officer

PAULINE MOTTS
Chief Financial Officer

CHRYSTAL DAVIS
Chief Operating Officer

RENE HURTADO
Chief Development Officer

OMAR VILLA
General Counsel

MARIA LUISA ESCOBAR
Board Secretary

Emergence Health Network Board of Trustees (“EHNBOT”) Meeting

Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 5:30 PM

Central Administration, Boardroom, 3rd Floor, 1600 Montana Avenue, El Paso, Texas

PRESENT: WENDT, CINTRON, ESCAMILLA, LEON, BARTLETT, and AGUIRRE

ABSENT:

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.

Mr. Wendt introduced and welcomed Ms. Kathleen Peyton, new Board Trustee.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of the Minutes from February 26, 2015.

B. Approve and authorize CEO to submit Project Champs grant application, a program aimed toward the successful rehabilitation and integration to society of youth in the judicial system and improve health outcomes.

C. Approve and authorize CEO to amend contract with Mitel Leasing Inc. and Linehan Communications, Inc. for additional phone lines for Westside Clinic and Central Administration relocation to 201 E. Main (Chase Tower).

D. Approve and authorize CEO to execute a contract with AT&T Texas for MPLS services to 201 E. Main (Chase Tower) for Central Administration relocation.

EHNBOT Action: Cintron moved/Bartlett seconded to approve items a, through d.

Motion Carried (5/0)

Meeting proceeded to the Regular Agenda, Item #4.

3. REPORTS

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

Mr. Hurtado noted that a meeting was held and members were provided an update of reports. There was no quorum and as such no action was taken. A new slate of officers will be presented to the members at its next meeting.

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

Ms. Motts stated that for the previous month there was a loss of \$96k once they remove the 1115Waiver funds compared to a \$23K loss in the budget.

Three items were responsible for the loss which were for the previous year resulting in a withhold of \$270k for a 10% withhold from DSHS, the other being a \$68k sanction for

not meeting benchmark measures and a third item was due to miscalculation of the match to a HUD grant and after working further with this organization the \$21k amount will be put back into the budget. Appeals made to the state were denied.

Mr. Navarro provided the following points:

- The 10% withhold is part of the contract with DSHS and in the second six months. Of the 52 measures 8 did not meet the benchmark targets.
- Employment and Housing Measures targets, the actual versus the targets were 0.1% and 0.3% which are the highest withhold areas. Frequent Admissions were 0.8%.
- The performance contracts are similar statewide, however El Paso is very different from other areas and it creates a challenge in meeting the benchmarks due to the severity and Medicaid population served.

Ms. Davis shared the following information:

- Employment Measure reports to the state that the individual is gainfully employed and is able to sustain the employment. The state is looking towards changing this measure to provide credit for part-time employment.
- Housing Measures were not met because the state does not recognize a halfway house that takes in patients from other parts of the state, i.e. Lubbock, or homeless individuals. While these patients are recognized as receiving services, their housing does not meet this measure. The state is looking to change the manner this benchmark is measured.
- Engagement Measures requires face to face contact to patients that receive full services. There was a methodology change in this area.
- Frequent Admissions is being monitored as there are challenges with the EPPC and the expeditious manner in which individuals admitted could be better served on an outpatient basis or through the EOU. EHN Crisis Staff shortages at the various hospitals and EPPC have hindered the referral of these individuals from our facility, however the shortages are being filled and they should be back to full staff position. Dr. Escamilla noted that currently these are residents making the decision to admit at the EPPC and the concern is that these are 1st year students that need proper training.
- Assessments for Adults and Children, is a very cumbersome system to monitor and report back to the state.
- Counseling is a challenge as there is a shortage of LPC's that are credentialed in the appropriate therapy services. A department was created to monitor the various needs of the organization in the different sites.

Mr. Cintron recommended that the organization monitor these benchmarks closely and report them to the board especially the higher monetary impact.

Mr. Aguirre noted that numbers are important; however the quality of the services is not reflected. The quality has been really improved and it is sad that the numbers do not reflect where the agency was and is now.

The Texas Council is very involved at the state level to address requests from the various organizations statewide. EHN must continue to monitor these benchmarks closely so that there are no more sanctions applied.

- YTD there is \$245k less of a loss and compared to 2014 EHN is \$86k better than prior year, current month due to process improvements.
- There was a positive in the Health Fund close to \$50k better due to increases in premium to employee and employer.