



**Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
Date: October 23, 2024**

On the above date, the regular meeting of the Texana Center Board of Trustees was held at 2330 Graeber Road in Rosenberg, Texas.

Board Members Present:

Sue Fagan, Board Chair
Dr. Dennis W. Young, Vice-Chair
John Robson, Secretary
Dr. Asim Shah
Sarah Hudgins
Leroy Cerny

Members absent:

Dr. Toi Blakely Harris
Vince Bryant
Lt. Jerome Ellis (Ex Officio Member)

Staff Present:

Shena Ureste, Chief Executive Officer
Kevin Barker, Director, IDD Provider Services
Kate Johnson-Patagoc, Director, IDD Specialized Services
Dot Preisler, Director, Human Resources
Sheri Talbot, Director, IDD Authority and Admissions
Amanda Darr, Chief Financial Officer
Kara Janecek, Director, Behavioral Healthcare Services

Staff Absent:

None

Guests:

Sudan Britton, Communications/Grants Coordinator
Brian Gurbach, UM/QM Manager

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, DETERMINATION OF QUORUM AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Sue Fagan, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M. Sue asked Dr. Young to give the invocation. Sue confirmed that there was a quorum for the meeting.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT:



Shena Ureste introduced Sudan Britton, Communications/Grants Coordinator to the Board with no public comment made by Sudan. The Board and SLT welcomed Sudan.

Sarah Hudgins, Board member, provided public comment in her role as the Chair of the Arc of Wharton. Sarah had requested a follow-up article from the *Wharton Journal-Spectator* which was published on October 9, 2024. Sarah referenced the article in the *Wharton Journal-Spectator*. She stated that she had sent it to Senator Huffman's office and Representative Kitzman's office. She briefly described the article to the Board and encouraged all staff and board members present to contact Senator Huffman's office by directly sending an email to her Chief of Staff Sean Opperman as he is her chief advisor. She stated that Senator Huffman is the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee and the most important Senator to address our issue with the low IDD direct care worker wage rate.

Amanda Darr asked going forward if Sudan Britton could provide copies of these articles to the Board. Shena stated yes and asked Sudan to please go make copies. Sudan returned with copies of the article.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sue presented the minutes from the July 23, 2024, meeting and asked the Board if there were any questions or changes needed. Sue noted that Kara Janecek's title was incorrect.

Motion made to approve the minutes with this correction by Leroy Cerny and seconded by Dr. Asim Shah. Motion Carried.

III. THE BOARD WILL CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS #1 - #4 as one item:

There were no consent agenda items to approve.

IV. THE BOARD WILL CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

1. Review and Consider Approval of the PNAC Report

Sheri Talbot reviewed the most recent meeting of the Planning and Network Advisory Committee (PNAC) that occurred on October 23, 2024, as detailed in the PNAC report.

Discussion ensued regarding the recommendation made by the PNAC for fundraising. Currently, the Board and SLT agree that fundraising is not appropriate as



the legislature needs to step up and pay adequate rates for what is their responsibility. In addition, the last gala Texana hosted was not successful. Further discussion included the importance of improving community awareness and developing relationships prior to attempting additional fundraising events as they are very labor intensive for the little money you receive.

Sarah referred to several of her recent experiences with fundraising for the ARC of Wharton. Fundraising should be for specific programs (Texana Café) and not operational costs that the state should be funding. John also stated that big events have not been as successful as they were prior to COVID.

Motion to approve the PNAC report was made by Dr. Young. Motion seconded by Dr. Shah. Motion carried.

2. Kara Janecek reviewed the requirements for the two plans including the Utilization Management Plan and the Continuous Quality Improvement Plan (CQI.) She gave an update on changes from the prior year which included the new Continuous Quality Improvement projects. Brian Gurbach, UM/QM Manager further clarified the CQI process to be used for one of the projects and described the fishbone tool to be used. Shena clarified this was one of many tools used in the CQI process.

Motion to approve the two plans was made by John Robson and seconded by Dr. Shah. Motion carried.

3. Amanda Darr reviewed the FY2025 operating budget by explaining that IDD Provider Services budgeted an \$835,000 deficit with Behavioral Healthcare budgeting a roughly \$1.5 million surplus and the other divisions had balanced budgets. Amanda described the approach taken this year was different from previous years. Medicaid Administrative Claiming funds from BH had been used in IDD Provider Services in prior years. This year, they are budgeted in the BH Division where they are earned. In addition, Amanda explained how the IDD Authority contract funds had traditionally been used to provide services but with the significant increase in the LIDDA unfunded responsibilities, the general revenue had to go back to the LIDDA to cover costs. The LIDDA contract only requires the providing of services to 181 individuals which is easily met. This resulted in IDD Provider Services in a \$400,000+ deficit for FY24. So, additional general revenue funds had to be allocated to Authority Services for FY25. Amanda discussed the steps taken by Kevin and IDD Provider Services to reduce costs by consolidating group homes where there were vacancies. This resulted in closing two group homes (one in El Campo and one in Sugar Land) and the Eagle Lake Learning Center (ISS) Facility. Any money from the sale of these homes will then be placed back into the IDD Provider Services Division.



Amanda further acknowledged Kevin's work to educate legislators on the shortfall and the IDD Direct Care Worker's rate crisis. Amanda also stated that these are state funds that the legislature must sustain so fundraising only buys so much time and then we are back to the same issue.

Amanda explained the New Rosenberg Clinic capital project and the status of how the building would be paid for indicating the BH division should be able to cover the cost with the surplus from FY24 and surplus funds from FY25.

Amanda acknowledged Kate and Amanda McCalla (ECI Manager) for their work writing a grant to the George Foundation to sustain ECI operations for two years. This grant was awarded. She explained the current per child funding is \$452 versus the \$504 established by the state in 2010.

Shena informed the board that Kate, Amanda McCalla, Shena and a member of the Texas Coalition for Children did meet with Senator Kolkhorst's Chief of Staff to educate on the ECI issue and funding needed.

Shena drew attention to the fact that county funds are also being allocated to the IDD Provider Service Division (\$768,053) and interest income is being allocated to IDD Provider Services Division (\$660,307). Amanda stated that county funds were also being allocated to IDD Specialized Services (\$235,786) and the remainder of interest income (\$292,506) are also being allocated to IDD Specialized Services. None of these funds are being allocated to the other divisions. Shena stated if these funds were not being distributed to the IDD Provider Services Division, the deficit for this division would be closer to \$2.3 million.

Kevin stated the intent of IDD Provider Services is to "right-size" the division to try to maximize efficiencies. He explained that state-wide, private corporate providers are not available to purchase small providers and therefore small programs are also operating at a deficit, and some can no longer do that and are closing. This means that eventually, there will be no group homes for these IDD individuals.

Dr. Shah raised a question about Texana serving more individuals. Shena questioned if we really wanted to do that since the division was already operating at a loss. Sheri explained the "cap" policy for Texana as the public provider for waiver services versus private providers with no cap. Texana Center is the provider of last resort and cannot even be included on the list of providers available.



John Robson asked for clarification on exactly how group homes are funded. Does it all come out of the individual's social security check? Sheri and Kevin explained that SSI benefits are for room and board and everything else must come out of the rate which includes \$10.60/hour for the worker plus 15% benefits. Amanda explained that Texana is currently paying \$15.00/ hour and with benefits it makes the rate \$19.50/hour. Amanda further explained the additional costs including indirect costs.

Kevin stated that we are also working on staffing patterns and schedules, overtime and turnover. There are also unfunded mandates for IDD Provider Services and penalties if not met.

Sarah stated that in the Learning Center in Wharton they are all older adults and there are no younger adults in the program due to the long waiting list. She explained how the Arc of Wharton has helped to support the Wharton Learning Center but cannot continue to sustain this and August 2025 is the end.

Shena stated that unfortunately, the legislature will not act until they see the detriments. Sue stated we need to get families to the legislature.

Dr. Young stated that families are angry when Texana closes programs, but we must be transparent and let them know that it is not Texana but rather the legislature.

Sue stated that she and Shena will be at the Capitol, and she requested letters to take along. Kevin suggested that handwritten letters are more effective.

John asked how much was needed. Shena indicated \$150 million per year to get to the minimum wage of \$17.71 paid by the State Supported Living Centers.

Motion to approve the FY25 Operating Budget as presented was made by Dr. Shah. Motion was seconded by Leroy Cerny. Motion carried.

4. Sue asked if there was any discussion regarding the sale of two group homes. Leroy Cerny asked approximately sale price and Amanda Darr stated around \$250,000 each.

A motion was made by Leroy Cerny to authorize the sale of the two group homes. Dr. Shah seconded the motion. Motion carried.

V. THE BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WITH NO ACTION REQUIRED:



1. Review of the 4th Quarter FY 2024 Financial Report

After significant discussion of the FY25 Operating Budget with interjections about actual FY24, Amanda stated the report was self-explanatory and asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

2. Review of Recent Audits

Shena stated the Board had been emailed the results of the OIG audit and asked if there were any further questions. Sue stated that she did the math, and we scored a 98% which is an A+!

Shena reviewed the HHSC QM audit by stating there were only two minor issues found: one regarding the wording in a crisis procedure and the other the death review procedure that had not been updated to reflect current Texas Administrative Code.

Kevin then provided a report on the IDD DAHS program.

3. Shena informed the Board that the Texas Council of Community Centers had requested a "Thank You Letter" be sent to the legislators signed by the Board. Shena requested all the Board members sign the prepared letter so it could be sent to the legislators. Board members present signed the letter. Shena will work to get the remaining signatures and get the letter mailed.

4. Shena provided Board training by going back to the basics of how Texana was created along with our roles and responsibilities of the Local Mental Health Authority and the Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authority. A review of the Board Polices and By-Laws was also completed.

5. Shena asked the Board if they would be willing to participate in a retreat. Shena will email potential dates and times to coordinate the retreat and any topics to be covered.

VI. NEXT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The next Board of Trustees meeting will take place on January 22, 2025.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dr. Shah asked for a copy of our liability insurance showing the Board of Trustees coverage. Amanda Darr agreed to email it to him.

VIII. ADJOURN

The Texana Center Board of Trustees meeting ended at 11:15 am.

Minutes Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sue Fagan". The signature is written over a thin horizontal line.

Sue Fagan, Board Chair