

**BEXAR COUNTY BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR
MENTAL HEALTH MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES d/b/a
THE CENTER FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

6800 Park Ten Blvd, Suite 200-S

San Antonio, Texas 78213

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

6:00 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Daniel T. Barrett, Chairman
Polly Jackson Spencer, Ret. Judge, Vice Chair
Graciela Cigarroa, Treasurer (Virtual)
Shari Hromas
Roberta Krueger, M.D.
Sandee Marion, Ret. Judge
Travis L. Smith

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

Margaret M. Vera
Donnie Windham Whited, Secretary

STAFF PRESENT:

Jelynn LeBlanc Jamison, President/Chief Executive Officer
Frank Garza, General Counsel (by Teams)
Dr. Amber Pastusek, Chief Medical Officer
Elizabeth Ackley, Chief of Employee Experience
Venisa Saenz, Chief of Staff/Board Liaison
Brad Benoit, VP, Children's Behavioral Health
Leonard Rodriguez, Sr. Director of Development & CHCS Foundation
Adam Velez, Sr. Director of Contracts & Procurement
Randa Gipson, Director of Contracts & Procurement
Ashley Esparza, Interim Director of Marketing & Communications
Erinn Graber, Peer Services Manager
Carla Riedl, Legislative Analyst
Aman Lalani, Marketing & Communications
Grecia Garcia Navarro, Marketing & Communications
Daniel Perez, Social Media Analyst, Marketing & Communications
Jackie Villanueva, Marketing & Communications
Cynthia Hinton, Executive Assistant

GUEST PRESENT:

Kathryn Keeton, Chair of CHCS Foundation Board

The regular meeting of the Bexar County Board of Trustees for Mental Health Mental Retardation Services d/b/a The Center for Health Care Services was held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at the Administrative Offices located at 6800 Park Ten Blvd, Suite 200, San Antonio, Texas 78213.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM

Mr. Barrett called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., with the following trustees present: Mses. Cigarroa, Hromas, Krueger, Marion, Spencer, and Mr. Smith thereby establishing a quorum.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Mr. Barrett

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD – None to be heard.

I. SWEARING IN & INSTALLATION OF NEWLY APPOINTED BOARD MEMBER

Before the new Board Member was sworn in, Mr. Barrett introduced Travis Smith and looks forward to having him join this Board of Trustees.

Judge Sandee Marion performed the Oath of Office for Travis Smith, who was appointed by the University Health System for a two-year term. Mr. Smith will serve through June 2026.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Barrett asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 10, 2024, Regular Board Meeting, which were presented for review and approval. Judge Marion so moved for approval as presented; Judge Spencer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

III. BOARD CHAIRMAN REPORT – *Daniel Barrett*

a) Narrative – *Elizabeth Ackley*

Ms. Ackley gave a narrative about Zachary “Zack” Bullard, Sr. Trainer, and employee of the Center who recently passed away.

b) Proclamation for Zachary Bullard

Mr. Barrett read the Proclamation. The Center’s Board of Trustees expressed their sincere gratitude and appreciation of Zachary “Zack” Bullard for his invaluable contributions to the Center and the community.

Mr. Barrett then stated that the Informational Items would be next.

VII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. CHCS Foundation Board Retreat – *Leonard Rodriguez, Kathryn Keeton*

Ms. Keeton stated that in addition to sharing how well the Foundation Board Retreat went, she also wanted to pose follow-ups as they look ahead and ask the Board to consider them for feedback and discussion. The Foundation Retreat was held on January 23rd with over half the Board participation. There was great discussion about revamping the Golf Tournament, about further addition and support of the Behavioral & Wellness Conference and discussed people to help in Mental Health First Aid training which continues to grow. As they look ahead to the future, one of the things that as a Board they agreed to was pushing forward a Donor Development Fund Program, but by the end of the Retreat session it was clear that there are going to be some things they will need to reevaluate between the two Boards to actually make it come to fruition. There are three things that they would like to get from the

Center's Board:

- A. The first is understanding the support from both the Foundation Board and the Center's Board in this collaborative effort. As part of that discussion raising \$1 million within a certain time would be a big goal. It is achievable but would first require collaboration between both Boards. One of the things thought of is it would be great if Foundation Board had support to develop an Advisory Committee between both Boards to discuss how to move forward with such an ambitious goal.
- B. The second one is around resources. With Mr. Rodriguez' departure from CHCS, the Foundation Board had to reevaluate their infrastructure support and are looking to make sure they have the infrastructure to be achievable. Mr. Rodriguez has done an amazing job with the Grants and Programs and providing support to the Foundation Board. The Foundation Board knows that if they are going to set a goal like this, is it ambitious that they would ask and would need a dedicated individual to help support the Foundation's Board specifically in achieving that goal, in addition to the person who will take over Mr. Rodriguez' position.
- C. The third one is on looking to recruiting the Foundation Board in a focus for those members that have connections with the community and that fund raising focus. The Foundation Board has many amazing individuals that are diverse, but they need a focus on individuals that can connect them, especially when they think about CHCS's master plan that aligns with the fundraising goal to that level.

Ms. Keeton said those are the three things and asked Ms. Cigarroa and Mr. Rodriguez if they had anything to add. Ms. Cigarroa thought she went through all the information and thanked Ms. Keeton for all she does as Chair of the Foundation Board. Mr. Rodriguez said that it has been a real pleasure working here at the Center and wearing two hats both from the Foundation side and the Center side. He is happy that they have maintained things and got them to a new place. The new place is enabling the Center to move forward in conjunction with the Foundation, but it does require the Foundation will need a dedicated person that is waking up every day thinking about what the Foundation must do and needs to be doing. This all comes on the heels of a Brand Refresh, an interesting legislative landscape, and a Capital Campaign on the horizon. We feel confident that if we have the Board's support to give the Foundation the resources that it needs, it will continue to thrive and support the Center as it should.

Ms. Keeton thinks that in coming away from that Retreat, they retained a Consultant Eric Grays to help with such a goal, and to have the energy of those that were engaged at the meeting, it is clear that they would love to go in this direction and look forward to the Center's Board for guidance and support. Mr. Barrett said it is certainly something that we have been working on for a long time, and it is a commitment, a financial commitment.

Mr. Guevara stated that Mr. Rodriguez has been at it for four and a half years and has done an amazing job. Now that the news is out, he wants to recognize Mr. Rodriguez for all the demanding work and wish him the absolute best in his endeavors. Mr. Barrett thanked Ms. Keeton for all she does and appreciates it.

2. Legislative Update – *Allison Greer Francis*

Ms. Greer stated that Governor Abbot had outlined seven items in the State of Address. He also mentioned that he was committed to improving the health of Texans which includes expanding access and funding for mental health and provide pay increases for IDD Caregivers. Those individuals that care for the IDD population are Direct Support Professionals (DSP) and made \$8.50 an hour up until 2023, when they got a raise to \$10.60 an hour which is not a living wage. The Center pays a living wage because there are other programs at the Center which allow to supplement that pay. The Center is one of the few IDD Providers in the State of Texas that can do that. From Texas Senate – Senate priority bills 1 – 5 did not include any items on mental health or substance use disorders. What is promising is that one of the priority items is establishing the Dementia Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (DPRIT) which will look to find cures for Alzheimer's. From House of Representatives – Dustin Burrows was elected Speaker of the Texas House. Speaker Burrows is considered the more moderate of the two candidates, he and David Cook. The committee assignments have not come out yet, if there are no committees, then there is no legislation being considered. Senate bill 2, the voucher bill is out of the Senate and is now being sent to the House.

Ms. Greer went over the 89R Legislative Priorities which are:

- Do No Harm to existing funding.
- Enhance TCM Rates for IDD and raise the DSP wage to \$15/hour.
- Increase funding for Adult Behavioral Health (ABH) outpatient services.
- Expand behavioral health loan repayment programs.
- Fund additional psychiatric inpatient beds.
- Relax Peer Support Certification standards.
- Increase Early Child Intervention (ECI) funding (Exceptional Item for \$18 million)

Ms. Greer reported that the potential funding freeze has been halted. Ms. Jamison, Ms. Riedl, and herself will be going on the SA to DC trip. The sole purpose of this trip is for them to explain what happens if the freeze is allowed to go through and what happens if Medicaid is cut. She said that President Trump had said that the Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid would not be affected unless abuse or waste was found. The House and Senate are looking for about a trillion dollars in savings options also known as budget cuts and are looking at different items on the budget. They are looking at per capita rates, work requirements, and how much that would save in the budget. The National Council believes that individuals who are in expansion states may be affected. Programs thought to be safe are Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP), Block Grants, and Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHC). Any kind of cut would be catastrophic, there are 400,000 individuals in Bexar County who are on Medicaid. These include Moms, children, and families who do not have insurance through their employer, people who are very vulnerable and need mental health or substance use treatment. It is all unknown until those budget cuts come out.

Ms. Greer wanted to recognize Carla Riedl, Special Projects Manager, in her department. Ms. Riedl has been responsible for much of what is going on in community engagement. The Center is working closely with the Hispanic Chamber and the Greater Chamber and have a couple of priority items for the inpatient funding and the behavioral health workforce in those federal and state platforms. Ms. Riedl attends most of those meetings and is collaborating directly with them to make

sure our voice is heard at that level as well.

- Starting last January, Ms. Riedl has been meeting with CHCS leadership and with community partners to determine priorities.
- Develop Collateral
- Meet with legislative delegation to learn about their priorities and share the Center's
- Draft legislation – early bill filing began in November 2024
- Monitor and provide testimony at Interim Hearings and Regular Session
- Meet weekly with Bexar Healthcare Coalition to discuss legislation.
- Develop a list of SMEs, individuals from the Center workforce for testimony during the session.

They will have a lot of certainty at the House level when the committee assignments come out.

IV. PRESIDENT/CEO REPORT

Leadership Briefing

- Brand Refresh – *Ashley Esparza*

Ms. Esparza stated that she has brought the internal launch video for the Brand Refresh. It is a video that was compiled for the CHCS Quarterly Management Staff meeting held with staff this past December 12. It was the unveiling for staff to see the logo and to get some more background on how it came to be this logo. The video was played for the Board to view. Ms. Esparza stated the video introduced the metrics behind the logo. She is excited to leave the Board with their very first tangible keepsake of the Brand Refresh. Cookies with the new logo were passed out by her staff. She thanked the Board for their continued support as they move through the Brand Refresh to enhance the vibrancy, to showcase CHCS vibrant staff, to reshape those perceptions that are still out there in the community, and to better connect people to care.

Next steps are:

- There will be Brand Refresh informational sessions that will be hosted at the end of February for Center staff at five of the larger clinics. There will be sharing of the video, give more insights into the Brand as well as what is to come, and refreshments.
- Employee Appreciation Day is coming up, the National Day is March 7. There will be an Employee Appreciation Week at the Center where Swag Bags will be provided for every employee. This will be a starter kit to the Brand Refresh and taking ownership of the Brand for themselves.

New Board Member, Mr. Smith stated that not only is the logo's shape based upon the shape of Bexar County, but it looks like home. If you look at it like a house, now the perception is CHCS patients getting their home care with the Center. Ms. Esparza thanked him for that great observation and thanked the Board for their time.

- **Chief Medical Officer Report – Dr. Pastusek**

A Nurse Administrator was hired this past month, the primary function is to take on the Nursing Education piece but also quality safety stats to help with the policy procedures and being support to the direct care nursing. This still leaves three Nurse Manager positions vacant but making progress. One Psychiatrist resigned who was a colleague from Houston

that came on in November to provide support at one of the clinics, so the Center did not have to use Locum Teens. The Center was able to place a Nurse Practitioner. It is the season to hire with the UIW Residents that are finishing and the UT Child Fellows that are interested. There have been interviews and interest.

- **Contracts executed by the President/CEO over \$50,000 and under \$100,000 for the months of December 2024 and January 2025** – None to report.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Review/Approve the authority for the President/CEO to negotiate & execute a contract with Garza/Gonzalez and Associates, LLC to provide external Auditor Services as recommended by the Finance Committee – *Adam Velez*
2. Review/Approve the authority for the President/CEO to negotiate & execute a contract with Garza/Gonzalez & Associates, LLC to provide external Auditor Services for The Center for Health Care Services Foundation as recommended by the Executive Committee – *Adam Velez*
3. Review/Approve the authority for the President/CEO to negotiate & execute a contract with RW Lone Star Security, LLC for Document Shredding Services as recommended by the Finance Committee – *Adam Velez*
4. Review/Approve the authority for the President/CEO to negotiate & execute a contract with Southtown Psychiatry, PLLC dba Crosstown Mental Health for the provision of Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Services – *Adam Velez*

Mr. Barrett asked for a motion to accept items under Consent Agenda. Judge Spencer so moved; Ms. Hromas seconded. Motion carried.

VI. INDIVIDUAL ITEMS FOR REPORT, DISCUSSION & APPROPRIATE ACTION

1. Review/Approve acceptance of the Center's Financial Statements for the period ending October 31, 2024, and November 30, 2024 – *Robert Guevara*
 - a) October 2024 Financials
 - Operating loss of (\$832,930) does include 2.3 million in CCP. With all funds recognized at the end of the fiscal year.
 - Monthly personnel costs were \$536,309 above September expenses. October had two additional payroll days.
 - DPP/Charity Care recognition YTD \$3,080,343 – Approximately (\$2,351,040) below the budget year to date. CCP Cost Report was submitted in the month of November. Current estimates of it coming back are that all Centers that have participated in this cost report will take about a 20% cut, because the cap was met by all the reporting Centers and our cap was a little under \$500,000 million. For CHCS it could mean a loss of about \$6.6 million in revenue that was not budgeted but was reported. This is watched very closely.
 - Fund Balance Composition – Cash \$21,175,535, A/R \$13,137,278.
 - Cash Flow – Beginning Balance \$25.4 million, In Flows \$7.5 million, Out Flows \$11.2 million, Ending Balance \$22.7 million.

Mr. Guevara said that this same time last year through the month of November 2023 the Center

had a \$5 million outstanding debt with the bank. This time this year the Center is debt free.

b) November 2024 Financials

- Operating gain of \$53,404 bringing the overall deficit to (\$113,146), recognizing \$3.4 million in CCP.
- Monthly personnel costs were (\$482,884 below October expenses. November had two less payroll days.
- DPP/Charity Care recognition YTD \$4,667,851 – Approximately (\$3,479,224) below the budget year to date.
- Fund Balance Composition – Cash \$12,394,128, A/R \$13,093,504.
- Cash Flow – Beginning Balance \$22.7 million, In Flows \$5.5 million, Out Flows \$14.9 million, Ending Balance \$13.4 million.

Questions ensued.

Mr. Barrett asked for a motion to accept the October and November 2024 Financial Statements. Judge Spencer so moved; Judge Marion seconded. Motion carried.

2. Review/Approve the acceptance of funding from the Texas Department of Family Protective Services (TDFPS) for the Provision of Texas Family First Preservation Services Pilot Project and create positions for the services to be managed – *Adam Velez*

Mr. Velez stated that Erinn Graber, Peer Services Manager, would speak about the Texas Family First Preservation Services Pilot Project. Ms. Graber introduced herself and stated she oversees the Peer Services here at the Center and has been working with Brad Benoit, VP of Children's Services, on this Pilot Project. She stated that Texas Family First is a prevention program with the Department of Family Protective Services, and a grant for \$906,000 has been received to participate in the Pilot Project. The goal of the program is to keep children out of foster care and is a positive care treatment program that supports family services. It will fill a critical gap in the Center's current processes with serving children who are at risk of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Texas Family First identifies children and families who have a child or adolescent that is at risk of being removed from their home. In addition to family based traditional services that can be offered, the family has an option to participate in a court ordered program that is going to provide specific evidence based therapeutic models in addition to those family services that are already provided. This is very new; it is a Pilot and Bexar County will be the sixth region to roll it out. The Center is moving forward with this and will be subcontracting out some of these therapeutic services to community providers and will be providing Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) and Trauma Focus Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TFCBT) through this Pilot. This is court ordered but the family has a voluntary participation in it. It is considered a short-term treatment program. There is no wait list for this program, which is a significant difference. All these services are provided in the family's home. Questions ensued.

Mr. Barrett asked for a motion to approve the Center's participation in the Texas Family First Preservation Services Pilot Project. Judge Spencer so moved; Dr. Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

3. Review/approve the authority for the President/CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with

DePelchin Children's Center for the provision of Texas Family First Preservation Services – *Adam Velez*

Mr. Velez stated that the TDFPS has contracted with the Center to establish a pilot project with evidence-based family preservation services. The Center issued a Request for Applications (RFA) in August 2024 to obtain Texas Family First Preservation Services. In November 2024, DePelchin Children's Center submitted a response to the RFA. The Center's Evaluation Committee reviewed the application submitted and recommended them for the contract award. As the sole applicant currently serving as a Texas Family First services provider, DePelchin Children's Center is equipped and has a proven record of successfully implementing these services through the St. Jude's Ranch for Children Belong initiative in TDFPS Region 8b. The proposed contract will be for an initial term through August 31, 2025, and the Center shall have the option to renew under the same terms and conditions as allowed by the TDFPS contract. The projected annual cost is a total amount not to exceed \$438,000 billed monthly for approved line items as allowed through the TDFPS Budget. The proposed contracted services will commence upon contract execution.

Mr. Barrett asked for a motion to approve the contract with DePelchin Children's Center. Judge Spencer so moved; Ms. Hromas seconded. Motion carried.

4. Review/Approve the authority for the President/CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with Chosen Care, Inc. for the provision of Texas Family First Preservation Services – Adam Velez

Mr. Velez stated that a RFA was issued in August 2024 to establish a pilot project with evidence-based family preservation services. In November 2024 Chosen Care, Inc. submitted a response to the issued RFA. The Center's Evaluation Committee reviewed the application submitted and recommended Chosen Care, Inc. for the contract award. As a result of providing ten years of providing family preservation services, Chosen Care, Inc. reports a 99% family preservation rate, and demonstrates that they possess a knowledge base of and commitment to assisting the Center in implementing a successful Texas Family First Preservation Services program. The proposed contract will be for an initial term through August 31, 2025, and the Center shall have the option to renew under the same terms and conditions as allowed by the TDFPS. The projected annual cost is a total amount not to exceed \$263,000, billed monthly for approved line items as allowed through TDFPS' budget. The proposed contract will commence upon contract execution. Questions ensued.

Mr. Barrett asked for a motion to approve the contract with Chosen Care, Inc. Ms. Hromas so moved; Judge Spencer seconded. Motion carried.

5. Review and Approve the FY 2024 Board Individual Self-Assessment Results and the Board Annual Evaluation Results – Frank Garza/James Chapman

Mr. Garza stated the Board is required by policy and CARF governance standards to assess itself, both collectively and individually, which they have done. Mr. Garza went over the Summary totals of the Individual Assessment results and stated it was a particularly good self-assessment score with regards to how the Board feels they themselves are doing. He then went over the Board Annual Evaluation results. This analysis is required and will be done again next year at this time. Questions ensued.

Mr. Barrett asked for a motion to approve the Results for the FY 2024 Board Individual Self-Assessment and for the Board Annual Evaluation. Judge Spencer so moved; Ms. Hromas seconded. Motion carried.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (DISCUSSION ONLY: CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC) PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 551, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE 551.071 (Consultation with General Counsel)

551.071(Consultation with General Counsel): Advise on matters in which the duty of the General Counsel to the Center under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State of Texas clearly conflicts with Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code

Executive Session not held, no items to discuss.

X. REPORTS

1. TEXAS COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY MHMR CENTERS INC. BOARD – Daniel T. Barrett

Mr. Barrett reported that he attended the Board meeting and has passed out the Texas Council Report for January 2025. He let the Board know that he would be happy to share the packet he has with anyone who is interested. It is twenty-six pages of background that the Texas Council is working on at this point, and there are many moving parts. There are a lot of rural centers that have some influence in the State of Texas, and Texas Council leans on them for their legislative priorities. The Texas Council too are profoundly serious about mental health and in needing services. They sacrifice their time to meet with their legislations as well. Texas Council does a lot of work lobbying for the Centers and we are fortunate to have them.

2. TEXAS COUNCIL RISK MANAGEMENT FUND BOARD (TCRMF) – Robert Guevara

Mr. Guevara stated they had their first TCRMF Board meeting last week. The net position is now sitting at \$44.7 million which is a rather advantageous position when they are looking at doing great things with stabilization for the 2026 fund year. It is similar to what it was this year. Another piece is talk of about what is happening in Austin, there are some rules they are watching. The Fund Board will have some coverage issues that they will have to address. An employee in the scope and work of their duties through their job was pulled over at a border patrol checkpoint and was arrested for transporting an undocumented consumer in their car. The consumer was arrested as well. As a Fund they had to decide to cover potential legal fees. Those are the things that are currently being looked at. Questions ensued.

Mr. Garza stated that because of that and a result of their recent current activity, he has been asked to put together guidelines on what happens if Vice shows up to a clinic and what happens if Vice pulls you over. He is preparing documentation to share with the employees and clinics as to how to respond in situations like that.

Mr. Barrett asked how much is anticipated when certain coverages get incessantly expensive, would the Fund stabilize the premium by paying in to the premium for that year. He asked what is anticipated from the fund balance paying in to the premium? Mr. Guevara said it would be about \$2.6 million across the board. The Fund did increase the retention from \$150

to \$600 per property, and from \$300 to \$400 for liabilities. They are taking some more risks with the retention piece and adding in to the coverage.

The Fund had a claims audit which did very well with property, general liability, but did not do well with workers' compensation. Since then, there have been some personnel changes, and the Board has committed to bringing in an Auditor to do a review in six months to look at their plan of correction. The Senate will be paying for that audit instead of TCRMF. There will be more to come about that.

3. TEJAS HEALTH MANAGEMENT BOARD – Robert Guevara

Mr. Guevara reported Tejas had a Board meeting last month. The focus of that meeting was to look at the loss of the Superior Contract. They did a lot of financial stress testing. Tejas has about eighteen months of reserves. There is time to get another MCO to do a Healthy at Home type model and then looked at their IT product pricing. Overall, eighteen months of reserves is a decent shape to be in right now.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Barrett asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Judge Spencer so moved; Dr. Krueger seconded. Mr. Barrett adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Passed and approved this 8th day of April, 2024.


Daniel T. Barrett
Board Chairman


Cynthia Hinton
Executive Assistant