

MINUTES
NORTHWESTERN COMMUNITY SERVICES
December 13, 2008
Jimmy's Steak and Seafood Grill, Winchester, VA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Jack Alkire, Mr. Derek Aston, Mr. Mike Dart, Mr. Robert Geiser, Mr. Michael Haymaker, Dr. Bernard Lewis, Ms. Melissa Mumaw, Ms. Joan Richardson, Ms. Kathleen Ruffo, Mr. Bob Stieg, and Mr. Derf Vondy. **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. Beverley Fleming, Ms. April McClain, Mr. John Van Wyck, and Mr. Glenn White. **STAFF PRESENT:** Mr. Buddy Hall, Mr. Mark Gleason, Mr. Dave Toth, Ms. Christine Hartman, Ms. Denise Acker, Ms. Nancy Haden, and Ms. Cindy Toth.

Mr. Dart called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Stieg made a motion to accept the November 19th minutes as written. Ms. Richardson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Opening Statements: Mr. Alkire noted the information from Total Image and Workingman's Store. Proceeds will be given to Concern Hotline. Mr. Vondy reported that the Mental Health Task Force met last month. He and Ms. Hartman attended. They have adjourned until late January.

Distributed Materials: Buddy included several communications with local government officials regarding changes to the agency.

Introduction of Staff: None

Public Presentations: None

Personnel Committee: Did not meet

Property Committee: Ms. Mumaw provided a report regarding the Woodstock building project. The Board of Supervisors allocated money for the purpose of studying the proposed new building, which would house multiple public agencies, including NWCS. No funds have been allocated yet for the purpose of building. Mr. Hall discussed the history of our Woodstock facility, and his communications with Shenandoah County regarding the project.

Public Awareness Committee: There was no committee meeting. Mr. Stieg announced that he has been working with senior management regarding the public announcements of changes to NWCS. This communication plan involved simultaneous announcements to agency staff, clients, and local governments, and culminated in a press conference on 12/10/08. Mr. Stieg, Mr. Hall, and Ms. Hartman met with newspaper reporters to discuss the changes NWCS will be undergoing. Information was also provided regarding changes in Part C Services, which is separate from the services provided by NWCS. This was largely in response to confusion among some parents

regarding the relationship of NWCS with Part C. Today's press conference will result in articles on tomorrow's papers. Continued media releases regarding changes are pending. Mr. Dart encouraged the Public Awareness Committee and senior management to be proactive in anticipating and responding to issues that may be raised by the transformation, and to keep the all community partners informed.

Program Committee: Did not meet

Executive Committee: Did not meet

Nominating Committee: Met last month, and brings forward the following nominations for board positions: Chair: Ms. Ruffo; Program Committee: Ms. Richardson; Finance: Mr. Fleming; Personnel: Mr. Aston; Promotions: Mr. Stieg; Property: Ms. Mumaw. Mr. Vondy made a motion to accept the slate of new officers. With the motion coming from committee, no second was required. Board approved unanimously.

Chief Executive Officer's Report: Mr. Hall noted that Ms. Partlowe is not present tonight, as her son is graduating from basic training.

Mr. Hall recognized Dr. Lewis, who is retiring from the board. Dr. Lewis has the sincere appreciation of Mr. Hall and the board for his willingness to serve, and for his dedication to the work of the agency. His sentiments were also endorsed by many members during the Chairman's Call to the Board for Closing Comments.

Governor Kaine will be announcing new budget cuts on or about December 19th, which will impact the agency's upcoming fiscal year. While it is clear that budget cuts will impact community programs such as NWCS, the depth of impact may not be known until DMHMRSAS makes decisions regarding how to distribute the cuts. There is also a great concern for our partners in local government, who are also struggling with significant budget difficulties. The Board and senior management will be working with local governments regarding agency funding in this difficult financial climate. It is desired that local funding remain at its current rate. The Virginia Department of Medical Assistance (DMAS) continues to work through issues related to the Targeted Case Management moratoria, as well as an overall budget that could also be impacted by the state of the economy. The senior management may be delayed in presenting a budget for the new fiscal year until we receive more information on all fronts.

Mr. Dart asked about the status of transportation for residents of Page County, and whether Medicaid-reimbursed taxi services may be of service to residents who may have to travel to new services sites. Ms. Hartman and Mr. Hall indicated that this is always an option to residents, but cannot be relied upon due to constraints within that system. NWCS does provide limited Medicaid-reimbursed transportation services already to some clients in both Page and Shenandoah County.

Mr. Hall stated that board members will be kept up to date via email regarding changes implemented under the transformation plan as well as the status of Part C services. This will allow members to respond to questions they may receive. Mr. Stieg encouraged board members to send any questions they have to senior management.

Questions: None

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Comments: Mr. Dart stated that the board of directors has been tasked with maintaining agency stability during very difficult financial times. This has required some very difficult decisions. The board has acted professionally, with strong character, and has kept the needs and concerns of individuals served by the agency as its highest priority.

Dr. Lewis noted that his time on the board was very educational. He learned a great deal about public agencies such as NWCS, and the efforts required to maintain operations in difficult financial times. He has enjoyed serving with other board members, and will follow agency developments with great interest.

Mr. Alkire noted that management has spent a great deal of time and energy this year responding to the fiscal challenges presented to the agency. Mr. Alkire wanted to recognize management for rising to these challenges while also doing the work required to run the agency on a day-to-day basis. The effort and foresight of management in anticipating, responding, and planning for these challenges is admirable. Mr. Alkire also thanked the board members for meeting these challenges as well. In closing, he noted that, "It is not what happens, but how one responds to what happens", that is a hallmark of success in the agency.

Board members filling chair positions thanked other members for their confidence, and are looking forward to the New Year.

Mr. Vondy recognized the services of Mr. Dart as Board Chair. The board has appreciated his care, concern, and advocacy for individuals served by the agency, his leadership and guidance, and his use of the committee process for decision-making.

Mr. Dart thanked the board for their support during his term as Board Chair.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Administrative Assistant

Board Chairman

pc: Board of Directors
NWCS Sites
County Administrators/City Manager
Ms. Mary Ann Bergeron, VACSB
Mr. Joel Rothenberg, Community Contracting Administrator