

**MINUTES  
CENTRAL UTAH COUNSELING CENTER  
AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING**

**DATE:** October 11, 2023

**PLACE:** Steve's Steakhouse  
1170 S College Ave  
Richfield, UT 84701

**TIME:** 4:30 PM

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Scott Bartholomew, Commissioner Dennis Blackburn, Commissioner Ralph Brown, Commissioner Trevor Johnson, Commissioner Marty Palmer, Commissioner Sam Steed, Nathan Strait, Richard Anderson, Anna LaDamus, Chad Williams, Jared Kummer, Holly Kunzler, Lynnette Robinson, Christian Matthews, Julie Lynn

**EXCUSED:**

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Ralph Brown to approve the minutes of the September 13th, 2023 Authority Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Trevor Johnson. Motion carried.**

**II. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Richard Anderson presented the fiscal year (FY) 2024 financial report. There continues to be problems with revenue reporting in the new PRISM system so some categories are blank. Some of the counties have not yet paid their match. The Center's funding begins with county funding that is used to match state funding that matches Medicaid funding. State billings were submitted so that revenue has been flowing in. Medicaid revenue is 13% mental health and 12% substance abuse with 25% of the year gone. On the expenditure side, wages and fringe are 26% mental health and 25% substance abuse. Some line items such as substance abuse in-state travel look high at 37% because a substance abuse conference is held once per year that many staff attend. Total expenditures are 26% mental health and 33% substance abuse. Educational assistance is a bit high. Any new requests will be delayed until next fiscal year. Inpatient shows 6%. Capital and Equipment pulled \$1.4 million mental health and \$394,000 substance abuse for the Richfield clinical and day treatment projects. The Center has a Community Impact Board (CIB) loan grant for these projects that was granted during COVID. By the time the project was bid, prices had increased so some funding had to come from reserves.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Ralph Brown to approve the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis Blackburn. Motion carried.**

There have also been problems with the state paying through the finance system. There was an issue with the bulk of payments being released. The Center currently shows paid \$528,000 that has not yet been received. PRISM also tracks Medicaid eligibility. During the public health emergency, people who got on Medicaid were able to stay on regardless of eligibility. Medicaid has started terminating those no longer eligible. However, the system is going back 22 months and removing eligibility for around 30% of Medicaid eligible clients in the Center's catchment area. This is a problem in their system they are trying to resolve. There are many issues that need to be corrected before the amount of money received can be verified. Commissioner Ralph Brown asked if Medicaid has an auditing process. Richard stated he does not know what their auditing process is. Commissioner Dennis Blackburn asked how many people are being affected by the eligibility termination. Richard stated at the end of the pandemic, there were 14,000 eligible people in the Center's catchment area and those numbers have dropped to 10,000 or 11,000, which is not correct. Medicaid is focused on the 834 eligibility file. Hopefully a full audit will be completed to ensure eligibility is correct. The Center's financial audit will probably be delayed again until December. Commissioner Ralph Brown asked if the commissioners should reach out to their congressional contacts. Nathan Strait suggested holding off while progress is being made. Medicaid is also dealing with the same issues on the physical health side.

### **III. HOLIDAY SOCIAL REQUESTS:**

Lynnette Robinson stated the General Staff Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 29th at Snow College in Richfield. Commissioners are invited to attend. Lunch will be provided. Administration would like to provide every staff member with a turkey and \$15 beanie or headband with the Center's logo. Administration would also like to provide staff service recognition gifts and provide four hours paid on Friday, December 22nd so the office can be closed.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Dennis Blackburn to approve the holiday social requests. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ralph Brown. Motion carried.**

### **IV. GUNNISON CITY REPORT:**

Nathan stated last month there was discussion on the need to start the administration building in Gunnison later than anticipated due to current financial issues. A warranty deed expected the Center to break ground this month, which was 18 months after the original contract was signed, with occupancy by March of 2025. Nathan and Richard attended the city council meeting to request an extension. They were very amiable and would like Nathan and Richard to return with a proposal to update the warranty deed. Nathan would like to commence the project by September of 2025 with occupancy in 2028. This would delay the project by three years and would provide administration time to get things in place. Commissioner Marty Palmer asked why there is a timeline in place. Nathan stated Gunnison City owned the piece of ground on Main Street and wanted to see it improved to a certain standard. They did not want someone to buy it just to turn around and sell it at a higher rate. They put the timeline on in order for the Center to purchase the property. Richard stated the property was purchased at a discount rate with the understanding the building would be completed within the timeframe. Commissioner Dennis Blackburn asked for an update on the discussion of building with the pharmacy. Richard stated they do not feel this is a good option because the organizations are public and private. One

would have to own the building and lease to the other. Nathan added he is concerned about confidentiality. Commissioner Scott Bartholomew stated there could be liability issues with joint ownership. Commissioner Marty Palmer asked if the pharmacy owns land. Nathan stated they own land just south of the piece the Center owns. Commissioner Scott Bartholomew stated the pharmacy purchased their land first and has not built yet, which is something the mayor is unhappy about. The parking lot could be shared if two buildings are built. Richard stated the plan is to coordinate properties with a common exit onto Main Street. Commissioner Marty Palmer asked about the land size. Richard stated the lot is 0.83 acres. Nathan stated if funding is approved for a receiving center, both buildings would easily fit there. Commissioner Scott Bartholomew stated if the money for that comes in, the decision could be made to start building sooner. Nathan and Richard will meet with Gunnison City again on Wednesday.

#### **V. RECEIVING CENTER REPORT:**

Nathan stated the state of Utah established a crisis commission appointed by the legislature to look at the statewide crisis system. They first looked at the 988 system that stabilizes 90% of crisis calls with 10% going to the mobile crisis outreach teams (MCOT). It funnels down to the acute inpatient hospitalization unit at the Utah State Hospital. They are focusing on going upstream for emergencies. At the end of their meeting period, they make recommendations to the governor and legislature for funding in the upcoming legislative session. They met on September 21st and agreed on five specific priorities. The first is two additional MCOT teams. The second is adding a receiving center in Central Utah. This has been discussed for 18 months, and the Center was initially second to Northeastern Counseling Center (NCC). The third priority is another two additional MCOT teams. The fourth priority is a receiving center for NCC. The fifth priority is making existing MCOT and receiving centers whole. Nathan and Richard agree this should be the first priority, but Nathan is not a voting member of the crisis commission and can only voice his opinion. The Center was given \$498,000 to start MCOT. The number jumped to \$700,000. Additional MCOT therapists were hired to right size the team. Then that money was taken away because, unbeknownst to administration, it was temporary American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Commissioner Dennis Blackburn asked who is on the crisis commission. Nathan stated there are 30 members with two from UBIC, a couple from Salt Lake County, Representative Steve Eliason, Senator Evan Vickers, etc. If the Center receives funding for a receiving center, construction on the property in Gunnison will begin sooner. The receiving center will be placed at the front of the property on Main Street so it is easier for law enforcement and emergency medical service (EMS) to find. The administration building will be at the back of the property. Richard stated if the receiving center is fully funded, that would cover all the improvements to the property, and the Center would just have to fund the administration building. This would be a cost savings of \$200,000 to \$300,000. Commissioner Scott Bartholomew asked when the funding will be received. Nathan stated the funding might be received July 1st. Commissioner Ralph Brown stated he spoke to the governor when he was in Richfield about the time and staff it takes to transport patients from rural Utah and how a receiving center in Central Utah makes sense. Nathan stated there must be things going on behind the scenes because he was surprised the Center pushed past NCC in priority for a receiving center. Their presentations were very similar except Nathan asked for more funding than is being projected.

## **VI. PERSONNEL ACTIONS:**

Nathan stated there have been one nurse practitioner and two therapists hired with three therapists fully licensed and one reassignment. Lisa O'Donnal was hired as a part-time nurse practitioner for the Sanpete team. Ashton Seely was hired as a part-time therapist intern for the Millard-Juab team. Matthew Call was hired as a full-time therapist for the Millard-Juab team. Jenny MacKay received her full therapist licensure for the Sanpete team. Shaunna Meredith and Heather Anderson graduated from their master's programs and obtained their licensure as therapists for the Millard-Juab team. Jonatan Lopez-Mancilla was a case manager who is in a master's program to become a therapist and has been reassigned as a therapist intern for the Sanpete team. Nathan spoke with someone interested in working for the Center as a physician assistant. He is from the Manti area and would like to move back. Nathan will meet with him next week and hopes to have additional news on that at the next meeting. The Center seems to be fully staffed at this point for therapists. There are some case manager and office manager positions that need to be filled. Richard stated wages and fringe are right on the mark. Nathan appreciates the support from the board in bumping wages to remain competitive with hiring.

## **VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Ralph Brown to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation, property, and personnel. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marty Palmer. Motion carried. Roll call of those in attendance included Richard Anderson, Nathan Strait, Lynnette Robinson, Christian Matthews, Commissioner Sam Steed, Commissioner Dennis Blackburn, Commissioner Scott Bartholomew, Commissioner Ralph Brown, Commissioner Trevor Johnson, and Commissioner Marty Palmer.**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Marty Palmer to move out of Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Trevor Johnson. Motion carried.**

## **VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION:**

**As a result of the Executive Session, a motion was made by Commissioner Dennis Blackburn to sell the property at 255 S Main St in Richfield. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Trevor Johnson. Motion carried.**

## **IX. MEETING SCHEDULE:**

The next Authority Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 8th, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. at Steve's Steakhouse in Richfield.

## **X. OTHER:**

Commissioner Dennis Blackburn read a message from former Commissioner Darin Bushman who resigned as a commissioner to take another position in transportation. He appreciated working with the board and staff and loved the gift. Nathan stated he will work with former Commissioner Darin Bushman on an initiative with his new role in transportation. He will do a lot of good for the state.

Commissioner Marty Palmer provided an update on Juab County Commissioner Marv Kenison who was injured in a head-on crash between Levan and Nephi.

**XI. MATTERS FROM THE BOARD:**

Nothing to report.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Ralph Brown to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marty Palmer. Motion carried.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.**

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**Julie Lynn, Accountant**