

THE DURHAM CENTER
Providing Behavioral Health & Disability Services

AREA BOARD MEETING
March 3, 2005

The Durham Center Area Board met March 3, 2005 at 501 Willard Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Doug Wright, Nancye Bryan, Karen Crumbliss, Colleen Kilsheimer, Terry McCabe, Phil Golden, Emily Baldwin, George Quick, Thomas Owens

MEMBERS ABSENT (EXCUSED):

Hugh Wright, Ellen Reckhow, Eureka Capri Daye

STAFF PRESENT:

Ellen Holliman, Janet Whichard, Carrie Baines, Kelly Goodfellow, Carla Alston, James Osborn, Beth Bordeaux, Vivian Harris

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lowell Siler, County Attorney

Area Board Chair Doug Wright called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 3, 2005 MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the February 3, 2005 Area Board Minutes by George Quick and seconded by Terry McCabe. The motion unanimously carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Human Rights: Colleen Kilsheimer reported the committee met last week. Paula Perez has been hired as our new bilingual Customer Service representative.

Board members had a brief discussion about the Provider Fair. While the Fair was well attended by providers, staff and CFAC were disappointed with low numbers of consumer and family members who attended. Customer Service is making follow-up calls to people we serve to see why they did not participate or what we could have done differently to attract them to this event. A full report will be available at a later date.

Finance: George Quick reported the committee had budget discussions and will be sending the recommended budget out to the Board prior to the April meeting. They would like Board members prepared to vote at the April meeting. There will be a narrative accompanying the budget that will explain the numbers. At the March 16th budget retreat we will be looking at five providers whose entire budget comes from grants of area program funds. All Board members are invited to the retreat, which will be held at the NC Mutual building.

Mr. Quick also announced the Durham Center has been allocated \$5,000 for First in Families that will be explained in the Action Items.

CFAC: Betsy MacMichael reported that Sharon Youse is the new co-chair of CFAC. She also said that Sam Bryan is developing a website for CFAC. March 7th will be a strategic planning meeting for CFAC as a follow up to last year.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Budget Amendment.** The following Budget Action Agenda Form was presented to the Board for discussion and approval.



DURHAM CENTER AREA BOARD
Agenda Action Form

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION:

The Durham Center has been allocated a total of \$5,000 in state funds on a recurring basis for the Durham Center First in Families of North Carolina. This is the second allocation of its kind this fiscal year. The fundamental principle guiding the NC First in Families' program is to create in communities an environment that promotes the belief that people with disabilities and/or their families are recognized for their right to make their own life choices. Further, the mission of NC-First in Families programs is to assist communities in the responsibility to support the needs of these persons.

A motion was made by George Quick and seconded by Terry McCabe to approve the budget amendment as written for a total of \$5,000 and forward it to the Board of County Commissioners. The motion carried unanimously.

2. **Recommendation from Search Committee;**

Mr. Wright read the recommendation from the search committee to offer the position of director of The Durham Center in a permanent capacity to Ellen Holliman. (Copy attached).

A motion was made by Terry McCabe and seconded by Karen Crumbliss to offer the position of Director of The Durham Center in a permanent capacity to Ellen Holliman. The motion unanimously carried.

This will be presented for approval at the County Commissioners meeting on March 14th.

Ms. Holliman shared with the Board that serving with this Board this past three years has been the highlight of her career. She is delighted to have the opportunity to continue working with the staff we have on board and to serve the consumers of our community.

3. **Board Applicant:** The Board received an application from the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners office today from Amelia Thorpe for the vacant position on our Board. It was the general consensus of the Board that Ms. Thorpe would be a very appropriate candidate.

A Motion was made by Nancye Bryan and seconded by Tom Owens to recommend Amelia Thorpe to the Board of County Commissioners to serve on the Durham Center Area Board with the stipulation that staff check with Ms. Thorpe to see if she is still willing and available given that her application was dated October 8, 2004. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

Gilfort, Atkinson and Associates – Level IV Group Home

Dr. April Gilfort addressed the Board giving a progress report since receiving the Level IV contract which includes:

1. Currently do not have a facility but are diligently searching
2. Have made two visits to Whitaker school regarding their re-education program and technical issues
3. A major barrier is the state moratorium on Level IV Facilities – Ellen Holliman and Rob Robinson will assist.
4. Funding- financial entity that would lend this kind of money knows there is a moratorium on level IV.
5. The current timeline has the home opening January 1, 2006 with zoning, licensing and staffing.

Dr. Gilfort responded to questions about staffing about staffing and experience. She said their staffing is masters and doctoral with residential being bachelors and graduate level. Racial makeup is diverse in white and Afro-American and they are aware of their need for Latino. An appropriate staffing pattern of male and female will be used. While no one on the staff has had direct Level IV experience, there are several staff members with locked facility experience.

Dr. Gilfort shared the frustration with zoning and Lowell Siler, County Attorney, offered to meet with Frank Duke to work out the appropriate code and zoning.

DD Draft Plan:

Robin Baker

Robin Baker was introduced to review the “Crafting Services & Supports for Persons with Development Disabilities” draft document. (Copy attached) Board members were asked to submit any questions or information regarding this document to Mr. Baker at bakerr@mh.co.durham.nc.us The report will be posted to the Durham Center website and will be refined once all comments are received.

This plan has many recommendations. From this we will design a plan where we will put our dollars and develop our strategic plan for this population.

Area Board Chair

Doug Wright

Mr. Wright shared that Dr. Al Mooney presented the Substance Abuse report to the Commissioners and that Commissioner Cheek was really excited about it. There was a lot of support for the plan. The plan was approved by the Board of County Commissioners with praise from Commissioner Cousin.

The NC Council will be meeting on the 18th and Mr. Wright plans to participate.

Mike Moseley is having conferences on March 16th for consumers and families and will be discussing service definitions. These will be at different places throughout the state. Seats must be reserved.

Board members are encouraged to attend the Budget Retreat March 16th at NC Mutual building. It is an opportunity to learn about our providers, our services and our consumers.

Mr. Wright encouraged volunteers for the new Quality Management Committee.

Terry McCabe reported that the children’s collaborative is doing extremely well. People around the state are coming to sit in on the meetings so they can go home and duplicate what they learn from Durham. We are the leading collaborative in the state.

Ellen Holliman said we are doing quality case reviews to see what to do to move the system forward and up a notch. We are taking it to the adult side as quickly as we can.

Monthly Board Report

Ellen Holliman

Before giving the monthly Board report, Ms. Holliman reported receiving a letter from parents of a child served in a Life Skills program. The parents wanted to know if the money being used to serve their son could be moved to another program to serve him. She assured them this was possible. The parents were relieved to know they did have a choice.

Ms. Holliman called on Beth Bordeaux to review the Monthly Board Report. (Copy Attached)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Specialty Training in Asheville in One Week
Best Practices in April
The Waiver – Training at Best Practices

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen S. Holliman
Interim Area Director