

Land of Sky Regional Council
August 28, 2019
Regular Meeting



Please mute all electronic devices, including cell phones, laptops, tablets, and recorders. Delegates are requested to state their names when moving on orders of business. Thank you!

AGENDA

***Special Presentation: Healthy Opportunities Pilot
Neil Gurney, Director of the Legacy Operations Group, Dogwood Health Trust (12:45pm)***

- I. Call to Order (1:15pm)**
- II. Invocation**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. Roll Call**
- V. Modification and Approval of Agenda**
- VI. Public Comment**
- VII. Recognition of Special Guests**
- VIII. Chairman's Comments and Roundtable**
- IX. Approval of Minutes from the June Regular Meeting**
- X. Consideration and Approval of Consent Agenda Items**
- XI. Presentations/Recognition**
- XII. Old Business**
- XIII. New Business**
- XIV. Executive Director's Report**
 - A. 4th Annual Summer BBQ Lunch
 - B. NADO Impact Awards
 - C. Appalachian Regional Commission Summit
 - D. Strategic Plan Implementation Update
- XIV. Important Dates**
 - A. Next Regional Board Meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2019
- XV. Adjournment**



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

- Subject:** June Board of Delegates Meeting Minutes
- Item Number:** X. Approval of Minutes from the June Regular Meeting
- Responsible Party:** Zia Rifkin, Administrative Services
- Attachment(s):** Minutes from the June 2019 Meeting
- Background:** A quorum was present to conduct business at the June 2019 meeting and the minutes provide a recap of the special presentation by Sara Coplai, representing the Dogwood Health Trust regarding the Medicaid transformation in the state and the opportunities available through the Healthy Opportunities Initiative. A public hearing was held at the meeting for the FY 2019/2020 Budget Ordinance and approval of the ordinance under old business was gained.
- Staff Recommendation:** Recommend acceptance of the June 2019 meeting minutes
- Suggested Motion(s):** Move to approve the June minutes as submitted

**Meeting of
Land of Sky Regional Council Board of Delegates
June 26, 2019**

Minutes

Special Presentation – North Carolina’s Medicaid program is transitioning from a fee-for-service payment model to a managed care model. The vision for this is to improve the health of North Carolinians through an innovative, whole-person centered, and well-coordinated system of care that addresses both medical and non-medical drivers of health. As part of this reform, NC DHHS plans to award two to four Regional Pilots to improve health and reduce health care costs through the utilization of non-medical supportive services. Each Regional Pilot is required to identify a Lead Pilot Entity (LPE) to serve as the essential connection between Managed Care Plans and Human Service Organizations. The pilot programs must address housing instability, food insecurity, transportation insecurity, interpersonal violence and toxic stress.

The Legacy Foundations of Dogwood Health Trust and Mission Health Partners have formed a consortium in response to the state’s request and will be applying to Healthy Opportunities to serve Region 1 as the LPE. Dogwood Health Trust has asked Land of Sky Regional Council to collaborate with them to manage two of the four interventions – housing instability and transportation insecurity.

Sara Coplai, Legacy Operations and Grantee Capacity for the Dogwood Health Trust shared about the wonderful opportunity available through the Healthy Opportunities Initiative. She noted that Medicaid transformation is underway in the state. At this time, North Carolina is the only state to have the opportunity to develop a human services network for Medicaid recipients. Sara Coplai shared information about the Dogwood Health Trust and noted that the Healthy Opportunities Initiative is headed up by the Legacy Foundations in the Dogwood Trust. These are public/private organizations that only fund in the area where they are located. Sara Coplai noted that the WNC Bridge Foundation probably has the most assets and was established in the 1980s. That foundation would make grants throughout the western region. Mission Health Partners is the primary care practice, offering skilled nursing facilities and other acute care organizations. Medicaid transformation in the western region would begin with pediatric facilities. She communicated that the Dogwood Health Trust is interested in developing the pilot for Medicaid transformation. Pre paid health plans (PHPs) are those plans that are developed by the state under Medicaid transformation, who would provide all of the managed care. The goal of managed care is to reduce the number of hospital trips made by Medicaid recipients. The PHPs are those state plans which would manage the care provided under the Medicaid transformation and would control the funds that really drive the Healthy Opportunities program. The Legacy Foundations are new organizations and would rely on the network that the PHPs have already built. Development of the network for expanded services is already underway. Referrals could be made to organizations to assist Medicaid recipients with challenges around housing, transportation, food insecurity and interpersonal violence/toxic stress. The consortium informed the state in March 2019 of their interest in the Healthy Opportunities grant. The six legacy organizations have come together and would take on the LPE role. Sara Coplai noted that the region currently has more than 900 non-profits, who could expand capacity through technical assistance under the Healthy Opportunities Initiative. She noted that the region is a strong contender due to its sustainability plan. The Cashiers Legacy Foundation, which already has the capacity to handle the initiative through the human service organizations (HSO), is the lead entity charged with developing the initiative.

Sara Coplai shared that North Carolina is the only state given permission by US DHHS to try this pilot; because this is a very scrutinized process, little information is available at this point. The pilot is designed to test what works. Rapid cycle assessment allows two weeks to respond to requests for information. She noted that large scope regional efforts are under-funded and have traditionally been so. Rural geography is very challenging for service providers. Sara Coplai noted that in the last couple of weeks, organizations have been collaborating to come up with a plan to provide access to care, which is very challenging in the western region. Along with Medicaid recipients, other low-income folks, including the homeless could be served. Fact analysis shows that many Medicaid recipients and other low-income individuals have transportation challenges. Sara Coplai concluded her remarks by sharing that this is a wonderful opportunity that has provided a big shift in the region to align resources for the betterment of the western region.

Discussion occurred regarding how the initiative would create more beneficiaries for the expanded Medicaid services. As there is a huge gap of folks not able to receive care currently. Under the pilot development, providers would be in every domain, in every county; meaning that folks would receive services in their community. Organizations providing services in the focus areas would be offered assistance to expand their capacities through technical assistance funding.

Discussion occurred about the role LOSRC would play in this initiative, which would be to provide referrals to resources for housing insecurity and transportation insecurity. The pilot project would rely heavily on the organization to develop the network of services.

Chair Harris clarified that this is an opportunity for Delegates to receive information on this initiative. Delegates would have the opportunity to weigh in when this matter comes before them at a future meeting. Chair Harris also noted that all of the COGs in the western region would be part of this initiative in the two areas of housing and transportation. Sara Coplai communicated that LOSRC is the only organization with the regional capacity to take on this initiative. Justin Hembree shared that he is reaching out to the other COG directors to begin discussions of how to get the right people in the room with Dogwood Health Trust. A group of human service providers in the LOSRC region has been recently convened. Once the request for proposals (RFP) is released, a more specific picture of the work would emerge.

Chair Harris inquired if the Medicaid transformation, to impact those social determinants of health, would really provide a footprint for the Dogwood Health Trust to step into with the help of the state dollars. The Dogwood Health Care Network would work to deploy funding to supplement legacy organizations. It was noted that the state has already approached Mission Health Partners, who declined to pursue the opportunity. An important part of the initiative would provide capacity-building opportunities, which could be very impactful for the region. The Dogwood Health Trust is hoping to provide a rising tide for the region. Out-of-county overseers would be crunching the data to assure that programs are working during the five-year pilot project, which would provide 18 months to get services set up through providers. Chair Harris noted that \$650 million is available through the state for the five pilot programs. Once the RFP is released, a gap analysis would be conducted. Some of the framework is built and some would need to be developed. Nonprofits would complete a self-assessment tool to determine their capacity and where they need assistance to build that capacity. Dogwood Health Trust's goal is to build where weakness is in the service providers. Another goal is to have as many nonprofits participate in the region as possible.

Discussion occurred regarding the Legacy Foundation boards and how they joined together. Chair Harris shared about WNC Bridge, which would deploy a significant level of funds. Sara Coplai noted that some nonprofits would be left out due to their service structure. The HSO network would be paid through the Dogwood Health Trust. Chair Harris noted that LOSRC has reached out, after assessing on how funds could best be deployed for aging services. LOSRC is in the business of deploying funds and convening relevant service providers and others. Chair Harris shared that the power of the Council is as a forum for communication. Sara Coplai noted the extreme need in the rural counties, who may not be as nonprofit-rich as the Buncombe County/Asheville area.

Sara Coplai agreed to return for the August meeting to provide additional information to Council.

- I. Call to Order – Chairman Larry Harris called the meeting to order at approximately 1:35pm.
- II. Invocation – Chairman Harris gave the invocation.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance – All stood as Chairman Harris led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- IV. Roll Call – Justin Hembree called the roll. The following members were present: Norris Gentry, Forrest Gilliam, George Goosmann, Jonathan Kanipe, Larry Harris, Maggie Tuttle, Pat Christie, Bob Davy, Barbara Volk, Nancy McKinley, Nathan Bennett, Patrick Fitzsimmons, George Morosani and, Bob Tomasulo. The following guests were present: Sara Coplai, Terry Bellamy, and Tammy Cody, and Marianna Daly. Justin Hembree announced a quorum was present to conduct business.
- V. Modification and Approval of Agenda – The agenda was presented with no modification requested.

Bob Davy moved to approve the agenda as presented. Jonathan Kanipe seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

- VI. Public Hearing – FY 2019/2020 Budget –
Bob Davy moved to open the public hearing. George Goosmann seconded the motion and the public hearing opened for comments on the FY 2019/2020 Budget Ordinance.

Justin Hembree communicated that there have been no changes to the proposed FY 2019/2020 Budget Ordinance since last month. The public hearing was advertised as required. Chairman Harris noted that the budget contains a 10% cut to Workforce Development and the NEMT call center is budgeted for eight months due to the uncertainty with Medicaid transformation. The Budget Ordinance also includes a 2.5% COLA for staff instituted in two installments in July 2019 and January 2020. Justin Hembree noted that under the Medicaid transformation, private insurance companies would deliver services currently provided through NEMT, hence, the caution with the call center budget.

Chair Harris called for comments from the public. None were heard.

George Goosmann moved to close the public hearing. Bob Davy seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

- VII. Recognition of Special Guests – Justin Hembree recognized Neal Wheeler, LOS' summer intern. Chair Harris recognized Terry Bellamy.

- VIII. Chairman's Comments and Round Table – Terry Bellamy – Shared that she is now the Economic Development Director for Madison County. Barbara Volk – Shared that the City of Hendersonville adopted their budget and property values did go up but the tax rate remained the same. The second Rhythm & Brews was a very exciting evening and more are coming up through September. She also shared that the first Pride Celebration was held in the City and there were no protesters the day of the event. NPR provided a very positive segment about the event. Pat Christie – Shared that the Village of Flat Rock passed their budget and approved a two-cent tax increase. Bob Tomasulo – Shared that the Regional Advisory Committee on Aging meets in Madison County on July 11- everyone is welcome. He also announced two new staff people in the AAA-Zack Schmidt and Telle King (summer intern). Melissa Wright – Shared that the Workforce Development department is getting ready for its audit in July. Jonathan Kanipe – Shared that the Town of Biltmore Forest is holding its July 4th celebration on July 1 and everyone is welcome. Bob Davy – Shared that in the Town of Fletcher, the US 25 development through downtown is moving along- sidewalks are installed and light fixtures are going in. He also shared that three monuments are going up in the Town and the charter school's expansion could lead to a new park opportunity through a gift of land (behind Smiley's Flea Market) for a high altitude park. Lastly, he shared that the Town recently approved a new rental community to be built between the Town Park and Cane Creek Road. Patrick Fitzsimmons – The Town of Weaverville has adopted their budget. Maggie Tuttle – Shared that in the Town of Black Mountain, the budget passed and everyone is getting ready for big a Fourth of July in the downtown area. She also shared that the geese have nearly been eliminated from the park by the Town's new goose dog. He is also a great public relations addition. Nathan Bennett – Shared that everything is great in the Town of Mars Hill. Norris Gentry – Shared that Madison County passed the budget with a three-cent tax increase for capital improvements and staff support.

- IX. Approval of Minutes from the May Regular Meeting –
Bob Davy moved to approve the minutes of the May 2019 meeting as submitted. George Morosani seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

- X. Consideration and Approval of Consent Agenda Items –

- XI. Presentations/Recognition –
A. 40th Anniversary of the Ombudsman Program – Carol Allison, Long-Term Care Ombudsman, shared with Delegates about the Ombudsman program. She informed them that the Ombudsman Program is nationwide and LOSRC's AAA services all counties in the region. The Ombudsman program handles complaints

regarding assisted living facilities, family care homes and adult care homes; from caregivers, residents, families, and they work to resolve those issues. The Ombudsman program oversees in-home services for care homes. The Ombudsman are very proud to serve residents to maintain their respect and autonomy. In the LOSRC region, there are around 5500 residents in assisted living facilities, family and adult care homes, and three Ombudsman (Carol Allison, Cori Search and Jamie Foust) to serve them. The majority of the facilities are in Buncombe County. Last year, the Ombudsman program received/resolved three hundred cases. Anyone can call the Ombudsman program for referrals to other aging services.

XII. Old Business –

Fiscal Year 2019/20 Budget Ordinance Adoption – Justin Hembree shared that the proposed budget reflects new funding, ongoing program funding, and deletions for grants and adjustments to grants. The total FY 2019/2020 proposed budget for LOSRC is \$12,950,911. He reviewed funding for the various departments housed at the organization and noted that the proposed budget represents nearly a 14% decrease from the current year's budget, as amended. He noted that the FY 2019/20 budget would most likely be the same with additional funding coming in as the year progresses. Justin Hembree shared that part of the decrease in the budget is due to the debt service on the building. Other reductions include a 10% reduction in federal Workforce funding and a significant, anticipated reduction in Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation (NEMT) as the call center could be lost due to Medicaid reform. The FY 19/20 proposed budget has eight months of funding for NEMT, which is planning for the worst; even as hope is high that the entity (LogisticCare) would contract with LOSRC for the NEMT service. Justin Hembree noted that overall, this could have a negative impact on the organization and it would be a loss if the capacity that has been built left the organization.

Justin Hembree continued that included in the proposed budget is a 2.5% COLA increase in salaries for staff. He noted, too, that the indirect cost rate must be approved. Therefore, the idea is to provide half of the salary increase in July 2019 and the remaining half in January 2020. He noted that indirect covers the cost of doing business for the various programs at LOSRC and includes space, human resources services, payroll, accounting, etc. He also communicated that the budget has no proposed increase in local government dues. Local dues support match funds required by ARC, EDA and the Aging programs. Justin Hembree pointed out that the proposed budget is balanced and in accordance with the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act. He shared that as, or more, important that the proposed budget is the first budget amendment (usually in September or October), which is when all carry over funding is fully realized and included in the budget.

George Morosani moved to approve the FY 2019/2020 Budget Ordinance. Bob Tomasulo seconded the motion.

Chair Harris noted Section III of the Budget Ordinance, which requires Executive Director and Executive Committee action to approve any changes to staff compensation outside of COLA.

The motion carried upon a vote without further discussion.

XIII. New Business –

XIV. Executive Director's Report –

A. Committee Appointments – Justin Hembree shared that the Executive Committee confirmed appointments to the Legislative Relations Committee and the Communications Committee. Anyone interested in serving on a committee should contact him.

B. Annual BBQ - Justin Hembree shared about the upcoming LOSRC BBQ, planned for Wednesday, July 24 in Hendersonville at the Tommy Thompson Emergency Services Facility located at 2529 Asheville Highway. Please share the invitation everywhere. Everyone is welcome. RSVP required.

C. ARC Annual Summit – Justin Hembree shared that the annual ARC Summit is scheduled for September 4-6 in Asheville at the Renaissance Hotel.

D. Strategic Plan Survey – Justin Hembree shared about survey tool for LOSRC’s Strategic Plan. He communicated that the link to the survey would be shared in the next few days.

XV. Important Dates – The next LOSRC Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 28, 2019. No meeting will be held in July.

XVI. Adjournment – As there was no further business, George Goosmann moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by George Morosani and the meeting adjourned.



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

- Subject:** Executive Director's Report
- Item Number:** XIV. Executive Director's Report
- Responsible Party:** Justin Hembree, Executive Director
- Attachment(s):** None
- Background:** The following item will be presented as part of the Executive Director's Report:
- A. 4th Annual Summer BBQ Lunch
 - B. NADO Impact Awards
 - C. Appalachian Regional Commission Summit
 - D. Strategic Plan Implementation Update
- Staff Recommendation:** N/A.
- Suggested Motion(s):** N/A