

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Zoom - Virtual Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Christopher Yendt called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present: Andrew Bassingthwaighte, Sarah Cacilhas, Matthew Mahler, Lindsey Marois, Rajesh Ravisankar (left at 6:49 p.m.), Dawn Shickluna, Chris Ventura, Christopher Yendt, Tara McKendrick (ex officio)

Guest: Brandy Sand (left meeting at 6:15 p.m.)

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT

No conflict of interest was declared.

AGENDA

Moved by: Dawn Shickluna

Seconded by: Lindsay Marois

That the Agenda for the Board Meeting of April 22, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

PRESENTATION

The Executive Director introduced Brandy Sand, Clinical Supervisor for Immediate and Brief Services. Brandy spoke about the introduction of the Zero Suicide Project at CMHA Niagara. In 2019, Niagara Region Public Health reached out to CMHA. They were looking to have an evidence-based, standardized assessment tool that would transform suicide prevention system-wide. The Zero Suicide model is a comprehensive approach to client safety and quality improvement that requires an organizational commitment to the aspirational goal of zero suicides. Brandy reported about the status of its implementation at the agency, including the

training on the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale protocols, which involve a series of simple, effective questions. Chris Ventura asked about what success would look like in five years. Brandy responded that trends are being tracked in the community, not just at CMHA. A specific percentage isn't identified; rather they want the trend to be lower. She noted that when the training started to be rolled out, there was a spike, but this was attributed to staff becoming more sophisticated in understanding the risk and how it is documented. The Vice President noted the holistic nature of the tool, including the impact that it seemed to have on the confidence of the front-line clinical staff. The Executive Director thanked Brandy for the solid work that has been done intentionally and thoroughly. She added that the staff are embracing it, which is due to Brandy's passion. Brandy left the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved by: Matthew Mahler

Seconded by: Chris Ventura

That the Minutes of the Board Meeting held Thursday March 25, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- **April 22, 2021 ED Report**

The Executive Director highlighted items from the pre-circulated report.

- There have been no new positive COVID test results since the January report. The work of the Admin team and the Health and Safety Committee members was acknowledged.
- The results from the Guarding Minds at Work survey will be brought to the Board when they are further analyzed.
- Work has started with the Canadian Centre of Diversity and Inclusion which will result in a Diversity and Inclusion Roadmap.
- All staff, Board and Client and Family Advisory Committee members will have received thank you messages from the Board and Executive Director.
- Positive feedback has been relayed about the Governance College sessions, particularly about the recent risk assessment session.
- The Executive Director continues to spend significant amounts of time at Niagara Ontario Health Team meetings.

- Opportunities for improving coordination between the emergency response teams for 9-1-1 calls related to mental health and addictions continue to be explored with MCRRT (Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team) and MHART (Mental Health and Addictions Response Team).
- Approval was received for carrying over \$400,000 of unspent one-time COVID funding to the 2021-22 fiscal year. This allows the screener/cleaners to remain in the residential programs which frees up the community support workers. The Treasurer indicated that this was great, but not unexpected, news and anticipates the budget will formalize the plans for the additional funds.
- A proposal was submitted to the Niagara Prosperity Initiative to continue to fund two Community Support Workers at shelters. A response is outstanding.
- Matt Mahler was cited, in a Thorold Today article, for his volunteerism and passion about mental health.
- Positive feedback was received from the university, and from students, as another year of the the Brock partnership counselling ended.
- The Ontario Hockey League has cancelled their season. Staff are actively reaching out to the players of the impacted teams that are part of the Talk Today program.

Moved by: Lindsay Marois
 Seconded by: Chris Ventura

That the ED Report of April 22, 2021 be accepted.

Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from the 2021-04-13 Committee of the Whole Meeting

Moved by: Andrew Bassingthwaighte
 Seconded by: Dawn Shickluna

That the Consent Agenda information be received.

Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Branch Division Agreement**

The President noted that there had been a comprehensive discussion about this agreement at the April 13th Governance Committee meeting. The Treasurer asked whether any additional feedback from CMHA Ontario had been received. The Executive Director indicated that she had received nothing further and anticipates that the revisions will be accepted by the branches.

Moved by: Sarah Cacilhas
Seconded by: Lindsay Marois

That the Branch Division Agreement, as circulated at the Board Meeting of April 22, 2021, be signed by the President and Executive Director.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

Chris Ventura moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Recorder Margaret Rankin

President Christopher Yendt