

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Inman opened the meeting by inviting the citizens in attendance to join the Board with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Inman opened the special session by expressing the Board's appreciation to those in attendance to discuss mental health issues in Stokes County.

CEO Betty Taylor presented the (FY 2006) 2nd Quarter Report for CenterPoint Human Services. (Members of the Board were given a copy of the 2nd Quarter Report).

Ms. Taylor spoke briefly on the following issues regarding the 2nd Quarter Report:

- Funding pressures – Nationals Cuts (\$39 billion in cuts including \$6.4 billion from Medicare and \$4.8 from Medicaid)
- North Carolina cuts – to date less than \$20,000,000 has been transferred instead of the targeted \$43,980,200 to LMEs
- LME Management funds – state will cut these funds to Local Management Entities in Fiscal Year 2007 by \$28 million
- CenterPoint has been informed that its current LME allocation of \$6,553,968 will be reduced in Fiscal Year 2007 by 31% or \$2,010,137
- Effects on CenterPoint's Reduction in Funding

Ms. Taylor discussed in detail the following additional information provided to the Board:

Mental Health Reform Overview

- Pamphlet which explains the following – Local Management Entity for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services and answers the following questions:
 - What is Mental Health Reform?
 - What are LMEs?
 - What is CenterPoint?
 - Why is the LME Important?
 - Who Does the LME Serve?
 - What About Funding?
- Screening, Triage, Referral (STR) in Transition
 - STR will be performed in house by CenterPoint effective 7-01-06
 - STR will be a 24hour/7 day operation
 - STR will be overseen by CenterPoint's medical director
- Status of the Utilization Review (UR) Contract with Guilford

- Projected LME Management Funding Cuts
 - Meeting scheduled with State Legislative Representatives to try to obtain Systems Management allocations and PCPM amounts to equal \$1.54 instead of CenterPoint's current rate of \$1.38

Future of Mental Health Reform from CenterPoint's Perspective

- Consolidation of Administrative Functions
- Crisis Response Network
 - Awarded \$100,000 grant from the State to start up the operation of the mobile crisis center for this fiscal year
- Stabilization of Psychiatric Services
 - NC is more than 70 psychiatrist short especially in child psychiatry
 - Rates are not sufficient for reimbursement for psychiatric services
- Shrinking Funding/Need for Expanding Community Resources
- Durham Litigation

Stokes County MH/DD/SA Services

- Consumers Served/Services Provided
 - Service data from CenterPoint is based on the billing that has been processed through CenterPoint
- Future of the First Opinion Waiver Pilot Program

Mr. Paul Caldwell, Triumph LLC discussed the following information:

- Currently providing outpatient services to 276 individuals (ages 3-82)
- Funding sources for clients are: 56% Medicaid; IPRS (90% adults), 10% Medicare, and 10% other
- Case Management (soon to be Community Support) is being provided 81 individuals, 42 adults, and 39 children
- Outpatient services at King and Danbury locations (2 locations in King)
- Seeing approximately 80 individuals in Danbury locations
- Currently have 4 – full time Outpatient Therapists and 2 part time Outpatient Therapists – all of whom have “Q” status
- Currently have 5 Case Managers, all of whom have “Q” status
- Triumph and DayMark work together with each other due to not performing the same services in Stokes – to ensure services are available to the citizens of Stokes County
- Since August 29, 2005 through February 2006, Triumph has loss \$154,000 in Stokes County
- Provides daily services every day
- Possible future request for additional funding from either CenterPoint or Stokes County
- Provider concerns/issues
 - Limited opportunity for Stokes County residents to receive in-county emergency mental health, substance abuse treatment

- Limited funding resources for uninsured Stokes County adults. Division consistently exhausts all IPRS funds by the 3rd week and has been continuing services uninterrupted
- Limited transportation opportunities for residents resulting in difficulty engaging treatment. Given that 24% of our client population is IPRS, they are not entitled to utilize YVEDDI
- Ongoing and escalating concerns about levels of funding for the provision of adequate services in three locations in the County
- Concerns about the ability of the mental health system to adequately process and pay private providers in a timely fashion.
- How mental health got to where it is now
 - Mental Health under funded
 - Past mental centers were in financial trouble
 - Reimbursement rates are too low
 - Regulatory requirements from the State
 - Rates have not been changed since 1998-Integrated payment system
 - Currently, there is more accountability for services being charged to the appropriate County

Mr. Billy West, DayMark Recovery Services, discussed the following information:

- Services provided – Mental Health (psychiatric), First Opinion Waiver, and some substance abuse services (physicians and nurses –main staff) and after hour services for phone calls, magistrate, jail consults, and hospital consults
- Primary location is in King with one day in Danbury
- Clients are seen usually about every three months- sometimes every six months
- Losing about \$10,000 a month
- Providing services to approximately 400-425 clients
- Stokes County residents are being served in Forsyth County
- Agreed that Integrated payment system rates from the State are too low and system has not been changed 1998 – system is very costly to operate
- Disadvantages of the County being its own LME
- Receives no reimbursement for no-shows and cancellations which can be very high numbers
- NC regulatory requirements very strict
- Attribute excellent staffing at the County Jail which reduces after hour services
- Currently, usual respond is within the hour for after hour services
- Non essential services driving up costs
- Issues with having to call several hospitals to access bed availability before being allowed to transport to John Umstead Hospital
- Possible need to consolidate services within the county and maybe within the 30 minute or 30 mile ruling to save cost

The Board discussed the following with CEO Betty Taylor, Paul Caldwell-Triumph, and Billy West-DayMark Recovery Services:

- Other options to provide mental health services in Stokes County
- Services being offered in Forsyth for Stokes County residents
- Services mandated by the State that the County must provide to citizens
- Setting priorities for the needed services in Stokes County
- Time being spent by Sheriff's Department personnel waiting for services
- Consolidation of services – pros and cons
- Transportation problems for clients receiving services
- First Opinion Waiver Program – value service

Mr. Paul Caldwell-Triumph and Mr. Billy West-DayMark both expressed the willingness to try to work with CenterPoint and Stokes County to continue to provide the best services available to Stokes County residents.

Captain Al Tuttle-Sheriff's Department stated that currently there were no problems with the present setup being used, only issue with the judicial system not using Stokes Reynolds Memorial Hospital and requiring transport to Forsyth Memorial Hospital. Captain Tuttle also commented on the issue with having to call several hospitals to access bed availability before being allowed to transport to John Umstead Hospital.

Captain Craig Carico-Jail stated that currently there were no problems with the services being provided to Jail. Captain Carico also noted the current financial issues within everyone's budget. Captain Carico suggested that each provider perform a needs assessment to determine if there are any cost savings that may have been overlooked.

District Resources Director Tony Hill stated one problem is that no one really knows how to get in touch with either provider nor the services being provided by DayMark and Triumph. Director Hill also offered available space to cut cost for Triumph and DayMark. Ms. Robin Howell-NWPCOG suggested more education to local facilities regarding services which are available at specific locations.

Ms. Taylor noted that all services were listed on the CenterPoint web site and suggested brainstorming together to find the most effective way to get this information to the public.

DSS Director Jan Spencer noted no major problems with services being provided to clients with substance abuse problems or domestic violence issues.

Health Director Don Moore noted issues in referring clients for mental health services was continuing to get better.

Ms. Taylor noted that the First Opinion Waiver, which was a pilot program, is scheduled to end June 30, 2006 unless the Legislative Representatives extend funding for the services. Ms. Taylor urged Commissioners to contact state representatives to make the First Opinion Waiver Program permanent. The Board discussed the consequences which could occur if the First Opinion Waiver Program is eliminated. Ms. Taylor noted that the County can contract the First Opinion Service with County Funding.

Chairman Inman reviewed the following Allocation of Stokes County Funds for as of December 31, 2005:

Stokes County Funding	\$398,820.00
Step One/Partnership	42,120.00
ARC of Stanly	164,313.00
Triumph	29,900.00
DayMark	16,667.00
Pharmacy Vouchers	108,419.00
Total Expenditures	\$361,419.00
Remaining Balance	\$37,401.00

Budget Director Dennis Thompson suggested setting up a meeting with CEO Betty Taylor, Interim County Manager Darlene Bullins to possibly discuss 3 alternatives such as:

- (1) If County allocated \$0 funding in mental health, what services would citizens be entitled to by state law?
- (2) If the County decided to fund at the Davie County per capita level which would bring forward approximately \$270,000, what services could be provided?
- (3) If services were provided exactly as today, what would be the cost to the County?

Ms. Taylor, Mr. Caldwell, and Mr. West extended their appreciation for the Board's commitment to mental health services and for taking the initiative to meet to discuss openly the issues that face the County, CenterPoint, Triumph, and DayMark.

Chairman Inman expressed his appreciation to all those in attendance for their participation in this special session to discuss mental health issues in Stokes County. Chairman Inman concluded that everyone wants to get the most services available for the tax dollar.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Inman entertained a motion to adjourn the special session. Vice Chairman Joe Turpin moved to adjourn the special session. Commissioner McHugh seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

J. Leon Inman
Chairman