



Wake County

301 South McDowell Street
Raleigh, NC

Meeting Minutes Board of Commissioners

Monday, October 26, 2020

2:00 PM

Wake County Justice Center

Work Session - Meeting Held Remotely

Meeting Called to Order: Chairman Greg Ford

Present: 7 - Chairman Greg Ford, Vice-Chair Vickie Adamson, Chair Matt Calabria, Commissioner Susan Evans, Commissioner Jessica Holmes, Commissioner Sig Hutchinson, and Commissioner James West

Staff Present: David Ellis, County Manager; Scott Warren, County Attorney; Denise Foreman, Assistant County Manager; Toni Womack, Senior Executive Assistant; Chris Snow, Parks Recreation and Open Space Director; Michelle Cerett, Executive Assistant, Portia Johnson, Executive Assistant.

Others Present: Rob Robinson, CEO, Alliance Behavioral Health; Sean Schreiber, Executive Vice-President, Alliance Behavioral Health; and Dr. Mehul Mandad, Medical Director, Alliance Behavioral Health.

1. Agenda

Attachments: [10-26-20 Work Session Agenda.pdf](#)

Chairman Ford called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He shared the agenda for today's meeting.

2. Update on 2019-2020 Behavioral Health Update

Attachments: [BH Presentation - Work Session Oct 2020 .pdf](#)
[BH Plan Approved.pdf](#)
[19-20 Wake Behavioral Health Plan Update Oct 2020.docx](#)

Ms. Denise Foreman, Assistant County Manager, said she will be providing an update on the county Behavioral Health plan. She shared the agenda for today's meeting.

- Behavioral Health Update
- Behavioral Health COVID Response - Alliance
- DSS Partnership and Child Crisis Facility Update - Alliance
- Medicaid Transformation Update - Alliance
- Behavioral Health Plan Update - Wake County
 - Crisis Services
 - Criminal Justice
 - Access and Coordination
 - Housing
 - Familiar Faces

She shared today's update and introduced Rob Robinson, CEO, Alliance Behavioral Health; Sean Schreiber, Executive Vice-President, Alliance Behavioral Health; and Dr. Mehul Mandad, Medical Director, Alliance Behavioral Health.

Dr. Mankad shared information on the COVID response.

Pandemic as a mental health crisis

- *Uninterrupted* capacity for crisis
 - Call Center, UNC WakeBrook Facility Based Crisis, all Wake EDs, all Wake inpatient
- Hotel efforts
 - Facilitated telepsych providers in both Wake County hotels (7 days a week initially)
 - Alliance-funded shelter for families May 18-September 1
- Statewide efforts
 - Hope4NC, Hope4Healers helplines
 - Close contact with NC DHHS and NC DPH
- Criminal justice
 - Alliance staff remain embedded in Wake Courts (adult and juvenile)

He said COVID has caused an increased need for behavioral health services throughout the county.

Mr. Schreiber shared information on the Provider COVID response.

COVID response providers

Stabilizing the network

- Allocated roughly \$13 million through Session Laws 2020-88 and 2020-97 to be spent by December 31, 2020
- Received an increase in Medicaid funding

- At pandemic onset provided \$7.5 million in provider stability payments
- Implemented broad array of provider rate increases and other support - on target to spend \$20+ million by December 31, 2020

Member and network support

- Rapidly implemented comprehensive strategy to ensure telehealth services were widely available and accessible, including purchasing of smartphones and data plans for high risk members
 - Improved engagement for members in care
 - Survey of members revealed high rates of satisfaction (88 percent)
- Increased funding to Wake County inpatient providers to support increase availability to the uninsured
- Increasing funding to local Opioid Treatment Programs to serve uninsured individuals
- Developed new service definitions and new billing mechanisms to support services typically done in group/facility settings

He shared system improvements.

System Improvements

- Expanded programs aimed at improving member engagement in care
- Expanding community living options
- Intensive residential options for individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI)
- New independent living options for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who currently live in institutional settings

Chairman Ford asked if there has been an increased need for services for children. Mr. Schreiber said that request has not increased, but it may as schools begin to return to in-person classes.

Mr. Robinson said the numbers served are being monitored closely and he expects to see them increase.

Dr. Mankad said the mental health burden of a pandemic surface after the pandemic is over.

Mr. Schreiber shared how children in Department of Social Services custody are being supported.

He shared information on a new child crisis center.

DSS Partnership and Child Crisis Update

- Support for children in DSS Custody
- Developed comprehensive plan to address children with more complex needs
 - Funding development and operations of 24/7 crisis group home
 - Implementing an intensive case management service
 - Expanding access to specialized trauma assessments
 - Continuing work and strengthening contractual requirements with Alliance treatment foster care providers
 - Building predictive models and early identification support plan

Child Crisis Center

- 16-bed crisis facility for children and teens ages 6-17
- Includes behavioral health urgent care services to address emergency department overcrowding
 - Walk-in access to same-day clinical assessments, psychiatric evaluations, necessary medications
- Designed to stabilize youth experiencing behavioral health crisis and engage them in appropriate treatment
 - 24/7 access to assessment, stabilization, treatment planning
- The provider is KidsPeace, a leading non-profit provider of behavioral health services to children and families
 - Inpatient and residential treatment centers
 - Outpatient and community-based services
 - Foster care
- 40 locations across eight states
- Accredited in North Carolina by the Joint Commission
- Selected through a competitive process
- Center addresses critical gaps in service continuum that have resulted in children sitting in EDs, youth homes, and DSS custody
- Investment in behavioral health safety net supports dynamic growth of the Alliance region
 - Raleigh is third fastest-growing large metro area in the U.S.
 - Area currently has no access to a child crisis center
- Would be one of the state's first facilities of this type

Mr. Schreiber said the facility should be open in 2021. He shared the location of the new child crisis center. The center will be centrally located in

Fuquay-Varina, accessible to the entire Alliance region.

Commissioner Holmes asked what the average length of stay would be for the new facility. Mr. Robinson said the goal is for a 7 day stay.

Commissioner Holmes asked about collaboration with Wake County Schools and the Court system. Mr. Robinson said there will be great collaboration.

Mr. Mankad said the new facility will reduce the use of emergency rooms.

Mr. Schreiber shared a Medicaid transformation update.

He shared the two types of Managed Case Plans.

Types of NC Managed Care Plans

- Standard Plans
 - Serve most Medicaid enrollees, including adults and children
 - Provide integrated physical health, behavioral health, and pharmacy services at launch of Medicaid managed care program
- Tailored Plans
 - Specifically designed to serve special populations with unique health care needs
 - Provide integrated physical health, behavioral health, and pharmacy services

He shared information on the individual standard plan contracts.

Standard Plan Contracts

- Statewide PHP contracts were awarded to:
 - AmeriHealth Caritas North Carolina, Inc.
 - Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina
 - UnitedHealthcare of North Carolina, Inc.
 - WellCare of North Carolina, Inc.
- PHP contract awarded to Carolina Complete Health, a provider-led entity (PLE), to operate in Regions 3 and 5
 - DHHS extended CCH contract to also cover Region 4 (October '19)

Mr. Schreiber shared information on the individual providers for the tailored plans.

Tailored Plans

- LME/MCOs are the only entities that may operate a Tailored Plan during the initial four-year term
- There will be 5-7 Tailored Plans (yet to be determined)
- Tailored Plans must partner with a Standard Plan
- Tailored Plans must provide integrated care for all members to include physical health, behavioral health and pharmacy support

He shared a timeline of the Medicaid transformation.

Commissioner Hutchinson said he is very impressed with the progress Alliance Behavioral Health has made on this transformation. He is also excited to see the new child crisis center coming to fruition.

Ms. Foreman shared an update on the Behavioral Health Plan.

She shared the progress of the plan.

Wake County Behavioral Health Plan

- Developed for FY19 and FY20
- Team of community leaders helped develop plan based on feedback from 2017 Behavioral Health Summit
- Organized around Five Focus Areas:
 - Crisis Services
 - Criminal Justice
 - Access and Coordination
 - Housing
 - Familiar Faces
- Follow-Up Report Attached to Meeting Material

She shared key achievements and future focus for Crisis Services.

Key Achievements

- Launched enhanced mobile crisis program with EMS
- Opened Behavioral Health Urgent Care
- Increased capacity at WakeBrook

Future Focus

- Sustain WakeBrook operations
- Expand substance use treatment and recovery services
- Expand crisis services for youth

She shared key achievements and future focus for Criminal Justice.

Key Achievements

- Expanded case management at detention center
- Launched post-release intensive case management program
- Expanded diversion programs

Future Focus

- Expand substance use treatment and recovery services
- Enhance re-entry services and connections
- Utilize peers to expand outreach to treatment and community services

She shared key achievements and future focus for Access and Coordination.

Key Achievements

- Implemented NC CARE360
- Expanded school-based team
- Responded to COVID related system needs

Future Focus

- Continue support of Medicaid Transformation
- Expand access to suicide prevention awareness in school-aged population
- Respond to changing community needs from COVID-19

She shared key achievements and future focus for Housing.

Key Achievements

- Supported funding for 281 new permanent supportive housing units
- Piloted transitional supportive housing program
- Supported emergency housing during COVID

Future Focus

- Increase short-term supportive housing options
- Eliminate wait list for permanent supportive housing units
- Evaluate assessment process to ensure familiar faces receive opportunity for supportive housing

She shared key achievements and future focus for Familiar Faces.

Key Achievements

- Supported Oak City Cares Opening
- Developing integrated data system to identify and connect familiar faces
- Awarded Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant

Future Focus

- Identify familiar faces by name using cross-system data
- Connect familiar faces with care managers and care
- Evaluate system improvements and health outcomes

Ms. Foreman shared information on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars and a grant they provided.

Awarded three-year grant for a multidisciplinary team from Wake County EMS, Human Services, WakeMed, Duke Health and UNC Health to focus on the complex care needs of Familiar Faces

She shared focus area performance measures. She said four of the ten met their goals and the others will continue to be addressed.

She shared the next steps.

Next Steps

- Receive Commissioner Feedback
- Share Update with Stakeholders
- Convene Behavioral Health Summit 2021
- Update Behavioral Health Plan for FY22 and FY23

Chairman Ford thanked Ms. Foreman for the update.

Commissioner Hutchinson commented on the Behavioral Health Summit a few years ago. He said it was very exciting and informative. He asked for an update at a future meeting on Wake Brook and the mobile mental health services.

3. Results from Open Space and Greenways RFP Process

Attachments: [2019_2020_Greenways_OS_RFP_Evaluation_Results_October_2020.pdf](#)

Mr. Chris Snow, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Director, shared an update on the Open Space Program.

He shared discussion topics for today's meeting.

- Successes of the Open Space Program
- Use of the request for proposal (RFP) Format
- Current Available Funding
- 2019-2020 RFP Evaluation and Results
- Future Use of Recreation Land Dedication Ordinance Funding

He shared the successes of the Open Space Bond Referenda and the 2018 Parks, Greenways, Recreation, and Open Space (PGROS) Bond.

Three Open Space Bond Referenda

- 7,672 acres in 139 acquisitions
- 23.7 miles of greenway in 11 projects
- Partnered with every municipality
- Two nature preserves open to the public one under construction
- Open space and greenway planning

2018 PGROS Bond

- \$20 million in open space funding
- \$20 million in greenways funding

He shared the RFP format.

Four previous RFP cycles

- Identify property for acquisition and/or municipal/nonprofit projects
- Specifically target land and projects
- Evaluate against one-another

Mr. Snow shared the available funding for Greenways and Open Space acquisition.

Greenways

- **\$5.0 million for greenway development**

Open Space

- **\$25.0 million for open space acquisition**
 - \$20.0 million Bond
 - \$5.0 million NC Department of Transportation (up to 25 percent match to County funds)

He shared the RFP results.

Process

- Targeted private landowners, municipalities and non-profits
 - Landowners based on Open Space Model
 - All twelve municipalities, NCSU and Non-profits
- November 20, 2019 - January 17, 2020

Overall Results Greenways

- 5 municipalities
- 8 projects totaling 6.6 miles

- Estimated project costs = \$21.3 million
- Requesting \$6.7 million (31.5 percent)

Overall Results Open Space

- Landowner / municipal / non-profit
- 253 positive responses
- 6,963 acres valued at \$152 million

He shared the Greenway evaluation and recommendations.

Minimum RFP Criteria

- Shovel ready
- Maximum 50 percent match

Recommendations

- Apex (x2), Cary, Raleigh = 3.2 miles
- Estimated Project Costs = \$13.7 million
- Requesting \$4.7 million (34 percent)

Mr. Snow shared the 2020 Greenway recommendations.

2020 Greenway Recommendations

Map with the following locations highlighted

- **Apex - Beaver Creek Greenway**
- **Apex - Middle Creek Greenway**
- **Cary - Black Creek Greenway**
- **Raleigh - Crabtree Creek Greenway West**

He shared a map and project cost for the Beaver Creek Greenway project.

He shared a map and project cost for the Middle Creek Greenway project.

He shared a map and project cost for the Black Creek Greenway project.

He shared a map and project cost for the Crabtree Creek West Greenway project.

Mr. Snow shared the next steps.

Next Steps

- Authorize staff to move forward with funding agreements
- BOC approval of individual projects

Commissioner Hutchinson said some of these projects have been in process for 20 years and he is very excited to see them come to fruition.

He said it is exciting to see all the greenway projects connected and he is supportive of moving forward.

Commissioner Evans said she is also excited to see these greenways come to fruition.

Chairman Ford asked if there is a timeline for project completion.

Mr. Snow said the projects are all shovel ready and will move forward as soon as the paperwork is completed. He said the plan includes three years for completion.

Mr. Snow shared information on the Open Space Preservation project.

Open Space in Wake County

- County Goal = 30 percent of County or 165,000 acres
- Preserved in different ways:
 - Regulation (60,000 acres)
 - Land development process (22,000 acres)
 - As park and conservation lands (83,000 acres)
- Currently 65,000 acres or 78 percent of the park and conservation lands

He shared the evaluation and recommendations.

Open space evaluation and recommendations

- **Open Space Acquisition**
 - Open Space Model
 - Experience & Successes
 - Special Opportunities
- **Recommendations**
 - Landowners, Wendell & TLC
 - 41 parcels = 2,140 acres, w/ value of \$29.5 million

He shared maps of the Open Space recommendations around the county.

Mr. Snow shared the next steps and asked for direction on how to move forward.

Next Steps

- **Authorize staff to move forward with landowner negotiations and partner funding agreements**
- **BOC approval of individual projects**

Commissioner Hutchinson offered his full support for all these projects.

Following further discussion, it was determined there is consensus of the board to move forward with all these projects.

Mr. Snow shared the use of recreational land dedication ordinance funding.

Use of recreation land dedication ordinance funding

- Added to the Unified Development Ordinance in 2002
- Goal of generating funding for park land acquisition
- Required a dedication of land or payment in lieu of dedication
- Funding could only be used to acquire land within the immediate area of where it was collected
- Removed from the Unified Development Ordinance in 2011
- Since 2002 collected \$1.77 million through ordinance; current balance is \$1.36 million
- Three-mile restriction has been very problematic
- Staff recommends lifting the 3-mile restriction thus allowing the funds to be used to acquire land County-wide

Mr. Snow said the three miles restriction is problematic and staff is requesting to lift that restriction.

He shared the next steps.

If board concurs, staff will prepare an agenda item for future consideration.

Commissioner Hutchinson said he is in support of lifting the restrictions. He said these funds could be very helpful towards projects around the County.

Commissioner West asked if these fees are still being collected,

Mr. Snow said the fees were only collected from 2002 to 2011. He said they have not been used due to the 3 mile restriction.

Commissioner West is supportive of lifting the restriction.

Commissioner Evans agreed that the restriction be lifted.

Following further discussion, there was concensus of the full board to move forward with lifting the three mile restriction.

Adjourn

Chairman Ford adjourned the meeting at 4:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Cerett, Executive Assistant
Wake County Board of Commissioners