JCCMHFB Special Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: February 27, 2019  Time: 7:30 am  Location: Arnold office – Sue’s Office

Board Attendees: Jerry Rogers; Dr. Josh Isaacson; Elizabeth Diveley; Mark Mertens; Audrey Mitchell and Dennis Gannon

Staff in Attendance: Sue Curfman, CEO and Amy Rhodes, CFO

Not in Attendance: Kelly Steffens and Dr. Steven Crawford

The JCCMHFB Meeting was called to order by Beth Diveley at 7:30 am.

1. Approval of Agenda

The February 27, 2019 meeting agenda was reviewed with Beth Diveley requesting that Agenda Item #3 be moved to the #2 spot on the Agenda.

Recommendations: “I, Josh Isaacson, move that the February 27, 2019 agenda be approved as with the revisions as presented.” Jerry seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2. Local and State Inquiry
Beth Diveley stated that there was some conversations last Monday with Senator Paul Wieland regarding the JCCMHFB. He brought some concerns up that Beth Diveley would like Sue Curfman to share. Sue Curfman was informed that Senator Wieland has had several people come to him regarding the mental health funding and the first change that needs to occur is in the by-laws where it states that JCCMHFB members are automatically part of the COMTREA Board. Sue Curfman explained the structure of the board and the separation and that the JCCMHFB will need to change the bylaws and the appropriations board has been informed of this also. Since then some of the community members have received emails inquiring about funding.

Sue Curfman discussed the conversation further and also stated that a legal review has been done of the contracts and bylaws. When the board was created originally the council wanted this to be part of the COMTREA board for the oversight and there is a state statue says the state appointed agent has to be the administrator of the funds.

Beth Diveley asked if there was any questions regarding the statement. Amy Rhodes stated that an email was received regarding funding. Dennis Gannon stated that it was not new to him and the topic was shared previously. Amy Rhodes reminded everyone that she and Jerry Rogers met with the Senator a year ago. Dennis Gannon stated that wording on the bylaws with “will be on COMTREA Board” to change to something like 2 or 3 specific individuals from the board to be on the COMTREA Board allowing a link and oversight. This has not been discussed with the county council and Dennis Gannon has asked for documents from the clerk’s office. Dennis Gannon spoke that starting offering grants and that might have brought more awareness. Dennis Gannon stated that the impression in minds may become reality and it’s that there is one board.

Sue Curfman stated that when she joined in 2016 there were concerns heard in the community and that others wanted some of the funds and that was brought back to the board
and the funding process was developed. Dennis Gannon stated that individuals may not want to share information. Jerry Rogers stated that the grant money must be under one of the areas stated in the beginning of bylaws. Dennis Gannon stated that he is not going to initiate anything but that it looks like one board. Josh Isaacson went over the wording in section 2. Sue Curfman stated that A-N in the bylaws those are the things that must be provided based on the dollars given. The board gives the over sight that these services are provided. Josh Isaacson asked is there a choice of the board to change those services or is it legislation trying to change it. Amy Rhodes stated that there should be two different boards in her opinion. Dennis Gannon stated that as a member on the MHFB and sitting on the COMTREA Board his perception is he could see he should sit on the MHFB but sitting on the COMTREA Board seems unusual. Jerry Rogers doesn't disagree that they don't need to be split and that would solve some of the issues, but how does the MHFB pay for the administration part of the board. Dennis Gannon stated that maybe there is something in the original provisions on how the administrative functions are paid for.

Sue Curfman stated that she would like to see two separate boards with separately administrated. The perceptions are giving COMTREA a negative perception. Dennis Gannon spoke of how to work through the process. Sue Curfman would like to see what COMTREA can do today and going forward that will make sure COMTREA is the safety net and she believes a change needs to be made. Jerry Rogers asked Amy Rhodes if the two boards separate what would services would COMTREA be no longer able to provide. This would be $5-6M. Amy Rhodes stated that the school liaison program and ASP would be at the higher risk.

Dennis Gannon stated that it would be nice to have a way to resolve this so there is not further review. Beth Diveley stated that the contracts in place don't expire for a few years and that will have to be considered. Jerry Rogers stated that if it separates and programs are
eliminated the clients would be hurting. Dennis Gannon stated that the MHFB would have to decide to not renew the contract for the funding to stop.

Mark Mertens stated that it is not just a problem in this county and this is happening in others and it’s believed it’s an arm length transaction. Sue Curfman stated that MHFB that the money’s designated for certain programs stay in place and that funding stream stays uninterrupted. Dennis Gannon stated that there is no action to take now and work through the pros and cons and have someone a county contact. Jerry Rogers stated was that COMTREA and JCMH and the county meet to discuss. Amy Rhodes stated that the by laws need to be changed. Jerry Rogers asked who would do the administrator of the financials if this was separate. Amy Rhodes stated that COMTREA could still do that but is not stated. It was also stated by Amy Rhodes to have two separate boards and have representatives on the board. Mark Mertens asked if the county counselor could be available during this meeting and help with this.

3. By-Law Review

Beth Diveley went over the bylaws. 9 members of the board, 7 from the districts and 1 physician appointee and the county executive.

Josh Isaacson asked that a list be created of questions:

1. If the board changes to 2 separate boards:
   a. Where do they meet?
   b. Who does the financials?
   c. Who does the administration of the board? Paid for out of the MHFB
   d. Get own 501 3c and own bank account

2. What happens with funding if they don’t grant COMTREA funds.

3. Will the board have to meet more often?

4. Who goes off/on what board?
Mark Mertens suggested updating the Senator Wieland’s office on what will be done and allow them to respond in writing.

Josh Isaacson asked if something will be sent to the Senator’s office, Jerry Rogers suggested that Sue Curfman reach out, it was suggested that Dennis Gannon be asked to send a communication. Beth Diveley asked if the Senator is expecting a response. Josh Isaacson stated that it might be better for Sue Curfman to send the letter since the original communication was with Sue Curfman and then have Beth Diveley send a co-letter with Dannie Gannon cc’d on this.

Josh Isaacson stated that if this changes it could have huge implications and be a risk to COMTREA. Amy Rhodes agreed. This matter will be on the agenda for the meeting that is a week from Monday.

**Recommendations:** “I, Mark Mertens, make a motion that the separation of the COMTREA and JCCMFB Boards is pursued and work sessions set up to discuss a plan on how to achieve this.” Josh Isaacson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

4. Adjournment

With no other business to discuss.

**Recommendations:** “I, Jerry Rogers move to adjourn.” Mark Mertens seconded the motion. The motion carried.

☐ Minutes approved □ Date

(Signature of JCCMFB President)