

North Metro Community Services Board Meeting

March 27, 2025 6:00 PM

Board Room, Second Floor 1001 W. 124th Ave.

Minutes

Call to Order

Dr. Bertagnoli called the meeting to order at 6 pm. He then requested a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting, approved the Board Minutes from the February 2025 meeting, and excuse Hanna Martinez, Venesa Bremer, and John Coates from tonight's meeting.

Motion: 1st: Brian Kraft / 2nd: Doug Shepherd / Motion Carries

Dr. Bertagnolli then thanked Randy Brodersen for all his years of service and shared that Randy has made him a better person for having worked with him. Dr. Bertagnolli also let the Board know that next Thursday, April 3rd is Randy's Retirement Party from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., here at North Metro in the Atrium. Appetizers and drinks will be served. The last announcement was that the Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 22nd (in place of the Board Meeting). Dinner starts at 5:00 p.m. and the awards presentations will begin at 6:00 p.m. This year, the ceremony will be held here at North Metro in the Atrium. Finance Committee will still be held on that day at 4:00 p.m. in George's office.

Finance Committee Report

Doug presented February Financials to the Board.

February 2025 Financial Statements

Statement of Activities

In the month of February 2025 net revenue of \$78,205 was earned. The loss for the month was \$44,851 worse than budget. The performance for the month varied by department.

Year to date net revenue is \$254,648 and we remain ahead of budget by a total of \$79,096 year to date.

Administration

- In January, the Administration Department earned net revenues of \$31,321 which was \$3,900 better than what was budgeted for the month of February.
- Total help fund expenditures were \$25,153 which are less than the budgeted \$30,000 for the month. There were a number of approved grant requests approved in February that were not paid due to delay in receiving required documentation.
- Grant fund expenditures are \$45,341 less than we budgeted year to date. This will allow the grant committee to be more generous in funding some of the high dollar requests we receive.
- Interest revenue in February was \$32,498 which is nearly \$8,000 less than budgeted. In addition to the slow collection of state receivables our interest rate continues to go down. The current rate of 4.6% is still above the market rate but has dropped a full percentage point in the last 18 months.

Day Program

- Day Program had a net loss of \$43,208 in February. The loss in February was \$2,297 less than the expected budget amount.
- Day Program has recorded a year to date net loss of \$485,526 and remains ahead of budget by \$107,000.
- Despite the nearly half million dollar loss in day program the performance has been encouraging as we have controlled the losses in that area. The spring months in Day Program tend to be good financially and the expectation is that this spring will be no different.
- Day Program has been operating with short staff. We have had staff turnover and other staff on medical leave.
- Total attendance improved in February to 91.11% of maximum. The improvement will continue as we move into the warmer months and hitting our target of 95% attendance will be probable.

Supported Services

- Support Services continues to struggle and recorded a net loss of \$9,882 and is short of budget \$27,024.
- Year to date supported living has lost \$16,931 and is short of budget \$124,203.

- Revenue in Supported Living is \$108,012 for the month and was \$26,496 less than budget which highlights why we are struggling in the program. Staff continue to pursue opportunities but it will be a slow process to regain the lost revenue.
- Additional salary expense was recorded in February from paying a severance package to a long term staff that we were forced to layoff.

Residential

- The Residential Department earned net revenue of \$98,325 which is strong financial performance with February being a short month.
- In residential we have net revenues of \$441,668 and are under budget for the year by \$23,670.
- Total revenue of \$1,195,828 is \$41,960 more than budget. This reflects growth in placements in residential with more placements still expected. Our residential department has a strong reputation for the services they provide which helps recruitment.
- Salaries are running over budget based on the growth in the FCG program. The variances are offset by lower host home expenses and higher revenue.

Early Intervention

- The Early Intervention program had net revenues of \$1,648 in the month of February which was \$21,006 less than budget.
- Year to date net revenue is \$94,165 and is \$81,750 better than budget for the year.
- The Early Intervention budget crisis has mostly been averted for the current contract year. The Colorado Joint Budget Committee approved supplemental funding of \$2 Million and El Colorado will pull back an additional \$2 Million from unexpended funding to cover the 4-million-dollar shortfall this year.
- Despite the bulk of the planned cuts being rescinded there may be some items cut and budget reductions in evaluations that we may absorb from the current year's net revenues.
- Things look uncertain for next year, but we are somewhat optimistic that changes at the state level will have a positive impact on the valuable services this program provides.

Statement of Financial Position

- As of February 28, 2025, our cash balance is \$9,945,642. The cash balance reflects
increase of \$449,164 from the prior month.
- Accounts receivable total \$3,171,364 and have decreased by \$573,419 since the end
of January.
 - Medicaid receivables minimally decreased from prior months.
 - State receivables improved significantly with a decrease of \$489,345.
- Liabilities total \$2,568,720 and have decreased by \$253,788 since the end of
January.

Capital Update

There were no capital expenditures in February 2025.

ARPA Funding

Health Care Policy and Financing has unexpended American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund that need to be expended by March 31, 2025. As part of this plan, the State of Colorado will be making one-time payments to IDD providers. This payment is expected to be more than \$400,000 for NMCS. The payment is based on a 4.5% increase for all Medicaid services between July 2024 and December 2024. The plan would be to propose a one-time staff bonus to utilize a sizable portion of this funding as a part of planning for what could be an extremely tight budget for 2025/2026. Staff will plan on presenting its proposal once we receive this additional funding.

Motion: 1st: Brian Kraft / 2nd: Bill Hawthorne / Motion Carries

Executive Committee Report

There was no Executive Committee report.

Dr. Bertagnoli asked Randy if he would address the Board regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

Randy reported that the unused ARPA funds had been designated for distribution to providers. The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) had already collected the ARPA funding prior to the new administration taking office. We will be receiving funds retroactive back to 7/1/2024 totaling \$425,000 and mainly use the funds for staff bonuses. Randy went on to say that the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) stated we were

the last target for cuts, and we expected to get them. In the end, there were no cuts, and we received an increase of 1.6% which gives us an increase of \$300,000 for the next fiscal year.

Dr. Bertagnoli then turned the floor over to George Montoya. George thanked the Board for offering him the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) position. He did say that next month will be the first post-Randy meeting, and he will not come and ask for increased expenditures! We expect an increase in health premiums, which will use a large portion of the ARPA monies we will be receiving. He stated his intention of giving staff bonuses, including host home providers and support services staff, using these funds but does not have any figures yet. If the ARPA money had not come in, it would have been difficult to keep up morale. In May, he will start looking at next year's budget.

With George's move to CEO, the Chief Financial Officer (CFO), and Chief Operations Officer (COO), in which George held both titles, was posted as 2 separate positions. He was happy to announce that Margarito Gandarilla, currently Director of Finance, was chosen to be the new CFO. Margarito has been with NMCS for 12 years. Robert Hunter, currently Director of Day Services and has been with NMCS for 25 years, was hired as the new COO. George stated that we have been able to fill these jobs internally and that our current group of directors has 97 years of experience between them. He is very proud of his group of directors. Official changes of titles will occur on April 11th. One more change is that Jen O'Shea, Director of Human Resources, will perform co-deputy duties along with Robert, and her title will change to Chief of Human Resources.

George updated the Board on the North Metro Home Health Program. We have enrolled 8 patients so far and need to enroll 2 more so we have 10 patients for the upcoming accreditation survey. A mock survey will be conducted and the actual survey with full accreditation should be secured by the end of April from the Community Health and Accreditation Partner (CHAP).

Executive Directors Report

Randy reported on last month's Early Intervention shortfall. Luckily, the JBC came up with a plan to provide the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) with 4 million dollars to keep kids receiving services through 6/30/2025. However, CDEC did not tell the JBC that come July 1st, they would be in the same financial position and have to end up making cuts then. The JBC realized this and was able to come up with another 12 million

dollars so the CDEC would have funding through June 30, 2026. Randy pointed out that Senator Jeff Bridges (D), and Senator Barbara Kirkmeyer (R) were true advocates for us. Senator Kirkmeyer was the keynote speaker at the last Alliance Colorado conference. The JBC asked the Alliance for recommendations on how the CDEC program could be run more effectively. They have also asked us to join them in reviewing the recommendations once they receive them. George has also already submitted a report. Randy reiterated that the EI program is the most effective program we offer.

The Board of County Commissioners held a public hearing on March 11, 2025, and our contract was on the agenda. We received a \$300,000 increase for the next fiscal year. Commissioner Julie Duran Mullica and Commissioner Kathy Henson are the newer commissioners on the Board, and they jumped right in to support what we are doing. Randy also introduced George to that group in Adams County.

New Bills – Randy said there have not been many new bills introduced this year but did report that the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), drafted a bill that was totally unrealistic. It included increasing day program staff hourly wage to \$25 per hour. A counterproposal has been submitted and we're waiting for a response from the SEIU.

Randy invited the Board members to his retirement party on April 3rd, 2025. He thanked the Board members for their support throughout the years and said it has been great working them. He feels that together, we have done well for Adams County.

New Business

There was a motion to ratify Dr. Bertagnolli's signature on Adams County Contract.

Motion: 1st: Bill Hawthorne / 2nd: Cheryl Candelaria / Motion Carries

Kelly Montoya, EI Director and Lynne Craig, EI Evaluation Coordinator, gave a presentation to the Board on EI.

Kelly has been with North Metro Community Services (NMCS) for 27 years and 20 of those years have been in EI. The program has seen a lot of growth, and we are currently serving over 1,000 families. We did inherit the Adams County portion of Aurora also. Due to this growth, EI added an additional Associate Director (AD) and 4 additional Service Coordinators (SCs). The entire team consists of 41 employees; 11 of which are on the Evaluation Team and 30 are SCs.

The EI Team has really embraced the public awareness role over the past couple of years. They have been talking to the community, family members and getting kids started in services. They started a group called Adams County Resource Collaboration that consists of the Arc of Adams County, local school districts, 2 provider agencies, Rocky Mountain Human Services (RMHS), Growing Home, Adams County Department of Human Services (ACDHS), and Hope House. These agencies get together every other month and help each other connect with people in the community. EI also sends out a quarterly newsletter called EI Advisor. It is filled with all kinds of resources including food, services, upcoming events, and features a new EI family every month. The EI Team has also participated in 6 fairs this year and have 3 more scheduled to attend.

Lynne Craig then gave the Board a brief overview of the Evaluation Team. She said that our team is one of the few teams who actually do evaluations on site. They use a state-mandated assessment tool and also check hearing & vision, and make referrals as necessary. The team works up to a 36-hour work week, including Fridays, when NMCS is closed. The team was getting so many referrals that they had to add another day to do evaluations. This is the 3rd year conducting evaluations for kids in Adams County. The evaluations are scheduled through the State and then added to our team's calendar. In 2024, there were 1,450 evaluations scheduled. This averaged out to 120 evaluations per month and a total of 1,186 completed evaluations that year. In 2023, there were 1,212 scheduled, an average of 101 per month and a total of 972 completed evaluations. Lynne also said it has been very challenging to find interpreters to help the team conduct the evaluations and communicate with families. They have had 13 different languages interpreted. Families can choose to do the evaluations virtually or in person. She said that 7 to 8 percent of the children evaluated do not qualify for EI services, but the team is sure to provide families with ways they can help their children. The team also partners with Northern Colorado and the University of Colorado Denver so students can earn their observation hours with us for their certification.

Once the evaluation has been completed and the child qualifies for EI services, Kelley said that is when the program side takes over. There are 8 services offered under EI: assistive technology, audiology, developmental intervention, occupational therapy, physical therapy, social/emotional, speech therapy, and vision therapy. The EI program contracts with 116 providers all services are provided at home. Services have to be provided in a natural environment including grandma's house, day care, and also telehealth.

An Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) is developed by the SC, family and therapist(s), to best meet the needs of the child. Working with a family and supporting them is the role of the provider. The sessions are based on the needs of the child. The SC works to support

the family with the child's needs. We do serve families that live in Strasburg and Bennet, and we do offer the providers extra mileage for those longer distances. Telehealth is also offered to families.

The IFSP is reviewed by the SC's every 6 months to identify new needs. The SC's also work with the local school district if the child needs special education services. In EI, new services can be added to the IFSP without having to get State approval. Currently, our SC caseloads are at 55 kids. EI also partners with our Resource Facilitators, who do a great job in supporting families who are transitioning out of EI and getting them connected with Rocky Mountain Human Services (RMHS). They help families take the next step in getting their child needed services and hold monthly webinars to help these families. SC's also send our Resource Facilitators "high needs referrals" which are children who need extra support. The Resource Facilitator's also join EI at their public awareness events.

After EI, some kids go on to the school districts and get their needs met by developing an Individual Educational Plan (IEP). Children with more significant delays also are connected with RMHS so they can apply for a waiver such as Children's Extensive Services (CES) for additional support.

The last item Kelley shared with Board about EI is that the first "EI Holiday Drive" was held this past December. They collected books & diapers here at NMCS and at several community partners offices such as the Arc of Adams County. EI was also able to provide \$50 King Sooper gift cards for families as well. In total, they gave 118 families gift baskets with gift cards and donated items. EI had posted a sign-up sheet for these baskets and that filled up within ½ an hour of being posted.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Board member, Lori Freyta shared that one of our individuals passed away and she attended the funeral. This person grew up on a farm and loved riding farm equipment. She shared that the coffin was John Deere motif.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on April 24th, 2025, in the NMCS Board Room.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Motion: 1st: Edie Wallace / 2nd: Christian Van Dyle / Motion Carries