

**CENTRAL COUNTIES SERVICES**  
**Board of Trustees**  
Minutes of Meeting  
**December 14, 2021**  
**Teams Meeting**

The **December 14, 2021** meeting of the Board of Trustees for Central Counties Services (CCS) was held at the Temple Main facility on **December 14, 2021** in Temple, Texas at **6:00 PM**.

The following members of the Board, CCS Staff and Guests were present:

Board of Trustees via Teams - Virtual Meeting:

Mr. Ray Ashby – Present  
Mr. Steven Wick - Present  
Ms. Felicia Inman - Present  
Ms. Virgie Hardeman – Present  
Rita Kelley – Present  
Dr. Andrejs Avots-Avotins  
Sheriff Jesus Ramos  
Dr. Louella Tate – Technology difficulties – On at 6:50 pm

Absent:

Judge James Lively  
Chris Ellis

Guests:

None

Center Attorney:

Mr. Jack Tarver –Present

Staff:

Johnnie Wardell, Executive Director - Present  
Keith Maxwell, Director of Quality/Utilization –Present  
Charla Chaney, Director of Human Resources-Present  
DeWayne HaGans, Chief Financial Officer-Present  
Darla Hogan, Director of Information Services – Present  
Julie Fielder, Director of Early Childhood Intervention Services - Present  
James Arnold, Director of Behavioral Health - Present  
Andrea Erskine, Director of Intellectual and Developmental Disability Services – Present  
Barbara Belcher, Executive Assistant II - Present

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by Ray Ashby, Chair of the Board of Trustees, at 6:00 PM by a Regular Session.

**REGULAR SESSION**

**1. Introduction of Guests**

No guests were present

**2. Review of Board Calendar**

No questions asked by the Board Members. Ray Ashby shared the rescheduling of the annual conference is in June 2022. Johnnie Wardell share that the January Board Meeting will be our annual audit meeting. We will have a finance committee meeting prior to the Board Meeting to review the FY 21 audit in detail.

**3. Approval of October 26, 2021 Regular Session Board Minutes**

*Rita Kelly moved for approval of the **October 26, 2021 Regular Board Meeting minutes as submitted. Dr. Avots-Avotins seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.***

**4. Executive Summary – Center Happenings – Johnnie Wardell**

Johnnie Wardell shared the State of the Center Executive Summary with the Board. Jack Tarver asked what the total amount was for the health insurance rebate that the Center gave back to employees. DeWayne Hagans confirmed it was \$370,000. Johnnie Wardell shared the Center also covered the taxes for the rebate which increased the total expense for the Center. Rita Kelly asked if the Sequential Intercept Mapping event is scheduled, and if Bell County Indigent Health is a participant. Johnnie Wardell answered with more details about the event on January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, and confirmed Bell County Indigent Health is on the participant list.

**B. Citizen Comments**

a) None

**C. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Medical Committee-Dr. Andrejs Avots - no report
2. Personnel Committee- Rita Kelley – no report
3. Finance Committee- James Lively – Absent
4. Long Range Planning and Facility Committee- Steven Wick- no report.  
Johnnie Wardell shared information regarding the Fire Suppression system installation at Temple Main building.

**D. PERSONNEL MATTERS**

**1. ACTION ITEMS:**

None

2. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

**a. COVID Update – Charla Chaney** shared that three employees have contracted COVID since the October board meeting. Two employees have recovered, but unfortunately, one did pass away. Dr. Avots-Avotins asked if we have been in contact with the family. Charla Chaney confirmed we are in close contact with the family, and are working with them to determine what is most meaningful to the family at this time. We will keep the board up to date on what the family needs.

E. **FISCAL MATTERS**  
ACTION ITEMS

**a. Form G – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial Statements and Certification Form**

DeWayne Hagans reviewed the Form G – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial Statements and Certification Form. Rita Kelly asked why there is a significant difference in the pharmaceutical costs. DeWayne Hagans responded that he is not sure why and referred to James Arnold. James Arnold confirmed we do have some variances, but we will do more research to find the cause. Johnnie Wardell confirmed the Center would share more information about the pharmaceutical costs in the January meeting. Steven Wick asked if the Capital Outlay costs are for construction costs, DeWayne Hagans confirmed they are due to the third floor renovation and the fire suppression system.

*Steven Wick moved for approval of the Form G – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial Statements and Certification Form as submitted. Dr. Avots-Avotins seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.*

**b. FY 2022 Budget Adjustment**

DeWayne Hagans shared the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Adjustment details. Rita Kelly asked if the rural response includes Bell County. Johnnie Wardell confirmed Bell County is not included, but it does cover the four rural counties outside of Bell County for crisis outreach services. Rita Kelly asked if the community mental health block grant also only covers rural counties. Johnnie Wardell confirmed the block grant covers the full catchment area to increase all adult services.

*Rita Kelly moved for approval of the FY 2022 Budget Adjustment as submitted. Virgie Hardeman seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.*

NON-ACTION ITEMS

**a. Monthly Financial Statements (October 2021 and November 2021)**

DeWayne Hagans shared the Monthly financial statements for October and November 2021. No questions or comments from the Board.

F. **SPECIAL REPORTS**

**a. Program Performance Reports ECI, MH, IDD**

**Julie Fielder, Director of ECI** shared the federal performance report for Early Childhood Intervention program. Dr. Avots-Avotins asked if the performance measures were met at the state level, but not at the federal level. Johnnie Wardell confirmed the state performance measure is an average of all ECI programs across the state, as opposed to the federal target that each program is accountable to. We are not being held

accountable at this time for any performance contract targets. In the future, we will have more complete and detailed information on the reports.

**Andrea Erskine, Director of IDD** shared results of her performance report and the service coordination staffing challenges the program has experienced during the last 6 months. No questions or comments from the Board.

**James Arnold, Director of Behavioral Health** shared the behavioral health performance data for September & October 2021. He responded to questions from the board providing more information on children's services, Temple Day Program, access to services and some process improvement initiatives. Rita Kelly suggested a collaboration with an organization on Ft. Hood that serves children. She will provide James more information on the organization.

**G. OLD BUSINESS**

a) None

**I. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Johnnie Wardell summarized from the comments on the program performance reports, we are certainly finding that it was easier to shut services down, rather than bring them back up to pre-COVID status. Our Netsmart/My Avatar is up and running and will allow us to monitor those services and targets more closely, and allow us to bring you more detailed and robust reports in March 2022.

Johnnie Wardell introduced Joanne Cospers as New Director of Information Services.

Johnnie Wardell announced she would like the Board Meeting to transition back to face-to-face meetings in January 2022, barring any significant change in the COVID environment. The virtual option will still be offered for those who are most comfortable with that option.

Ray Ashby replied that he prefers the in person meeting.

Johnnie Wardell wished everyone a Merry Christmas and hopes everyone has a blessed time with family.

**J. BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMENTS/MEETING EFFECTIVENESS FEEDBACK**

**Ray Ashby:** It is an honor to serve with all of you on the board. Thank you to everyone who works for CCS, and Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

**Dr. Louella Tate:** I am so happy to see everyone. Keep up the great work everyone.

**Virgie Hardeman:** Everyone is doing a great job. Congrats to Joanne. I like the face-to-face meetings better. I think we get more out of it this way. I will be glad to return to in person. Merry Christmas and hope everyone stays safe.

**Sheriff Ramos:** Very impressed with all that is going on and Merry Christmas to you all.

**Dr. Avots-Avotins:** Ever since Thanksgiving this year, I have been reflecting on this past year and hoping COVID would be gone by now, but it isn't. I am grateful to be a part of this group who has worked so hard for the vulnerable in our communities and endured so much. I am humbled and looking forward to our face-to-face meeting.

**Felicia Inman:** I do want to say Merry Christmas to everyone. Reflecting on all we have discussed today and seeing how the Center has persevered through everything is a big deal. Looking forward to the New Year and the growth especially for the children. Proud to be a part of the Center.

**Rita Kelley:** Merry Christmas to everyone. James, I really appreciate you sharing how you are trying to improve on services. Excited the day center is open again. I also want to go back to in person for meeting.

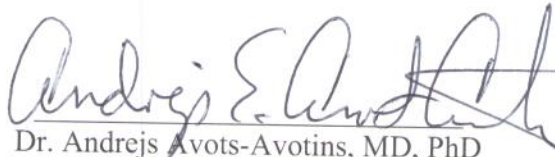
**Steven Wick:** I also want to express my appreciation for the performance reports. To continue to serve during those circumstances is admirable. Children's mental health is always a concern and appreciate Mr. Arnold's efforts to meet those young people's needs. KISD has been a concern of mine for over 30 years. Good Luck with your efforts and anything I can do to help with those needs please let me know. So sorry to hear about losing one of our family members at CCS and it sounds like you are doing a good job staying in touch with the family. Merry Christmas to you and your family. Great New Year coming up and hope Omicron will not hurt any of our progress.

**Jack Tarver:** Very impressed with the directors comments. They endured during strange and difficult times. I appreciate that and Merry Christmas to all.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further official business, Ray Ashby Adjourned the meeting at 7:21 PM.

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andrejs Avots-Avotins", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Andrejs Avots-Avotins, MD, PhD  
Secretary

Board of Trustees  
CCCMHMR

Recorded by:  
Barbara Belcher  
Executive Assistant II

**NOTE:** The reference material disseminated during the meeting will be archived with the official Minutes.