

**CENTRAL COUNTIES SERVICES**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**January 24, 2023**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

The **January 24, 2023** meeting of the Board of Trustees for Central Counties Services (CCS) was held at the Temple Main facility on **January 24, 2023** in Temple, Texas at **6:00 PM**.

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

Board of Trustees Hybrid Meeting:

Mr. Ray Ashby – Present  
Ms. Rita Kelley – Present  
Ms. Virgie Hardeman – Present  
Dr. Louella Tate – Present  
Dr. Andrejs Avots-Avotins- Present  
Sheriff Jesus Ramos - Present  
Mr. Steven Wick - Present  
Ms. Felicia Inman - Present

Absent:

Judge James Lively

Guests:

None

Center Attorney:

Mr. Jack Tarver –Present

Staff:

Johnnie Wardell, Executive Director - Present  
Kelli Sames, Director of Human Resources - Present  
Joanne Cosper, Director of Information Services - Present  
DeWayne HaGans, Chief Financial Officer - Present  
Julie Fielder, Director of Early Childhood Intervention Services - Present  
James Arnold, Director of Behavioral Health – Present  
Laurie Seremetis – Medical Director - Present  
Douglas Wells – QM Manager – Present  
Darla Hogan – Director of Information Technology - Present  
Andrea Erskine – Director of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities - Present  
Barbara Theilen, Executive Assistant II – Present

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by Ray Ashby, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, at 6:01 PM by a Regular Session.

**REGULAR SESSION**

**1. Introduction of Guests**

No Guests

**2. Review of Board Calendar**

No Comments

**3. Approval of December 13, 2022 Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes**

*Dr. Andrejs Avots-Avotins moved for approval of the December 13, 2022 Regular Board Meeting minutes as submitted Virgie Hardeman seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.*

**4. Executive Summary- Center Happenings**

Johnnie Wardell shared the Executive Summary - Center Happenings and answered questions from the Board.

**B. Citizen Comments**

a. None

**C. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Medical Committee-Dr. Andrejs Avots-Avotins – No report

2. Personnel Committee- Rita Kelley – No Report

3. Finance Committee- No report

4. Long Range Planning and Facility Committee- No Report

**D. PERSONNEL MATTERS**

1. ACTION ITEMS:

a. None

2. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

a. None

**E. FISCAL MATTERS**

1. ACTION ITEMS

a. FY 23, Qtr. 1 Financial Report – Form G

*Dr. Andrejs Avots-Avotins moved for approval of the FY 23, Qtr. 1 Financial Report – Form G as submitted Virgie Hardeman seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.*

b. FY 23 Budget Adjustment for Out-Patient Capacity Expansion

*Dr. Andrejs Avots-Avotins moved for approval of the FY23 Budget Adjustment for Out-Patient Capacity Expansion as submitted Rita Kelley seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.*

2. NON-ACTION ITEMS

a. **Monthly Financial Statements (December 2022)**

DeWayne Hagans reviewed the financial statements for December 2022 and answered questions from the Board.

**F. SPECIAL REPORTS**

**Early Childhood Intervention Performance Reports**

Julie Fielder presented the FY 23, Qtr. 1 ECI Program Performance Measures and answered questions from the board.

**Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Performance Reports**

Andrea Erskine presented the FY23, Qtr. 1 IDD Program Performance Measures. No questions from the board.

**Behavioral Health Performance Reports**

Johnnie Wardell let the Board know we are unable to access the information needed to compose a performance report for Behavioral Health and will share this information in the February Board meeting.

**G. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**H. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Johnnie Wardell informed the board that Dennis Edwards, Medical Services Director, retired earlier this month and we are evaluating the programmatic and organizational needs prior to filling the position in order to recruit for the right knowledge, skills and abilities. The 88<sup>th</sup> Legislature began on January 10 and you recently received the Texas Council document, “What Every Board Member Should be Talking About” that highlights the legislative priorities for our system of care. On January 18 the initial house

and senate budgets were published. This initial budget has a significant increase, in both the house and senate versions, for mental health. Both versions of the budget include matching funding levels for mental health, no increased funding for IDD and an increase for ECI that only accounts for the increase in the number of children being served, the funding per child stays flat. We anticipate exceptional items to be filed to address the IDD and ECI shortfalls.

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

**Virgie Hardeman:** I think it is a good idea to move forward with the Copperas Cove building and I would like to be included in the Milam County meetings in February.

**Dr. Andrejs Avots-Avotins:** Great meeting today. Thank you for sending the legislative priorities. I think this will be the year we can all work together to get all services back on track and overcome the workforce problems. Mental Health First Aid for youth was last Friday and was well attended. Great potential for collaboration going forward.

**Steve Wick:** Thank you for the executive session and I think we made the right choices. I want to let everyone know about an article I just found concerning the rising suicide rates in rural communities. There has been a 46% increase in rural American resident's suicide rates and rural residents visit the ER 5 times more than the general population for self-harm.

**Sheriff Jess Ramos:** I appreciate Steve bringing that up about the suicide rate because we have had an increase in suicide rates that started last year. Thank you all for your work.

**Dr. Louella Tate:** I am happy. Thank you.

**Rita Kelley:** Good meeting. Appreciate the opportunity to discuss the building. Thank to everyone for your efforts on that. Appreciate the legislative report. I would love to be included in the list serve of the upcoming reports.

**Felicia Inman:** Thank you Mr. Wick for sharing the suicide information. I am excited about Coryell County and upcoming things for all our locations.

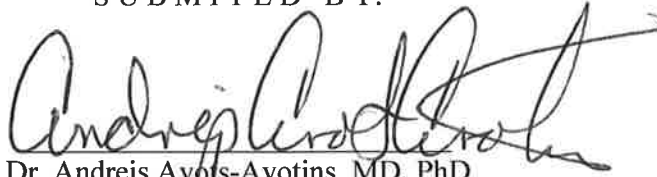
**Jack Tarver:** I appreciate the Boards participation about the building in Copperas Cove. I hope we can put that to good use.

**Ray Ashby:** Thank you Johnnie and thank you the leadership. Thank you to the Board.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further official business, Ray Ashby adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrejs Avots-Avotins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Andrejs Avots-Avotins, MD, PhD  
Secretary

Board of Trustees  
CCCMHMR  
Recorded by:  
Barbara Theilen  
Executive Assistant II

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