

**CENTRAL COUNTIES SERVICES**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**August 27, 2024**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

The **August 27, 2024** meeting of the Board of Trustees for Central Counties Services (CCS) was held at the Temple Main facility on **August 27, 2024** in Temple, Texas at **6:08 PM**.

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

Board of Trustees Hybrid Meeting:

Mr. Ray Ashby – Present  
Mr. Steve Wick – Present  
Ms. Rita Kelley – Present  
Judge James Lively – Present  
Dr. Andrejs Avots-Avotins – Present  
Ms. Virgie Hardeman – Present  
Dr. Louella Tate – Present  
Ms. Felicia Inman - Present

Absent:

Sheriff Jesus Ramos – Absent

Guests:

Chris McCormack – VAP Program Update  
Whitney Onyango – CCS IDD

Center Attorney:

Mr. Jack Tarver – Present

Staff:

Johnnie Wardell, Executive Director - Present  
Kelli Sames, Director of Human Resources - Present  
DeWayne HaGans, Chief Financial Officer – Present  
James Arnold – Director of Behavioral Health - Present  
Julie Fielder, Director of Early Childhood Intervention Services – Present  
Rebecca Wagner – New Director of Early Childhood Intervention - Present  
Andrea Erskine, Director of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities – Present  
Darla Hogan, Director of Information Services - Present  
Barbara Theilen, Executive Assistant II – Present

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by Mr. Ray Ashby, Chairman of the Board of Trustees at 6:08 PM by a Regular Session.

**REGULAR SESSION**

**1) Introduction of Guests:**

Ray Ashby introduced Chris McCormack, and Whitney Onyango

**2) Review of Board Calendar**

No Comments from the Board

**3) Approval of July 23, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes**

*Dr. Louella Tate moved for approval of the July 23, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes as submitted, Rita Kelley seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.*

**4) Approval of Contract with MRB Group – Architectural Services for the Renovation of 1011 Wales Drive in Killeen, and 1012 North Drive in Copperas Cove**

Johnnie Wardell shared the memo to approve a contract with MRB Group for Architectural Services for the Renovation of 1011 Wales Drive in Killeen, and 1012 North Drive in Copperas Cove, and answered questions from the Board.

*Andrejs Avots-Avotins moved for approval of the Contract with MRB Group – Architectural Services for the Renovation of 1011 Wales Drive in Killeen, and 1012 North Drive in Copperas Cove as submitted, Dr. Louella Tate seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.*

**5) 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 – The Personnel Committee concluded their evaluation about the Executive Directors Employment, and will meet in Executive Session for approval.
3. Finance Committee - James Lively – We met to review the FY2025 Budget before regular session and will present the budget during the budget discussion.
4. Long Range Planning and Facility Committee - Steve Wick – The courtyard is looking nice. We will be meeting soon about Wales drive renovations. The fire suppression system at Kit Carson is going well.

**D. PERSONNEL MATTERS**

1. ACTION ITEMS:

None

2. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

Kelli Sames presented the FY2025 Personnel Schedule, and answered questions from the Board.

**E. FISCAL MATTERS**

1. ACTION ITEMS

**a. Approval of FY2025 Budget**

DeWayne Hagans presented the FY2025 Budget, and asked for approval from the Board.

*Andrejs Avots-Avotins moved for approval of the FY2025 Budget as submitted, Steve Wick seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.*

**b. Approval of FY2025 Reserve Fund Policy**

DeWayne Hagans presented the FY2025 Reserve Fund Policy, and asked for approval from the Board.

*Steve Wick moved for approval of FY2025 Reserve Fund Policy as submitted, Rita Kelley seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.*

2. NON-ACTION ITEMS

**a. Monthly Financial Statements (July 2024)**

DeWayne Hagans reviewed the financial statements ending July 30, 2024. No questions from the Board.

**F. SPECIAL REPORTS**

**a. Vocational Apprenticeship Program Update**

Chris McCormack presented the Vocational Apprenticeship Program update and answered questions from the Board.

**G. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Pursuant to Title V of the Government Code, Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated, Subtitle A, Chapter 551, Subchapter D, the Chairperson Calls an Executive Session of the Board of Trustees to discuss Section 551.074, Consultation with Attorney Concerning Personnel Matters.

**H. REQUIRED BOARD ACTION**

Approval of Johnnie Wardell's Employment as Executive Director for FY2025

*Steve Wick moved for approval of Johnnie Wardell's Employment as Executive Director for FY2025 as submitted, Rita Kelley seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.*

**I. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Johnnie Wardell thanked everyone for everything they do for the Center.

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

**Ray Ashby:** This was a good meeting and it was great to have everyone in person at the meeting. Thank you Johnnie for paving the way for all of us.

**Rita Kelley:** I enjoyed seeing everyone in person again. I am impressed with the Vocational Apprenticeship program report. That is a great program.

**Dr. Louella Tate:** Thank you so much for the wonderful reception for my retirement, and letting me share your journey. I will miss everyone.

**Virgie Hardeman:** This was a good meeting. Thank you Johnnie for everything you do. Congratulations to Dr. Tate and Julie Fielder on your retirement. I hope you both enjoy your next journey. I am glad to see the partnership with Milam County.

**Steve Wick:** This was a great meeting. Dr. Tate we will miss you. Thank you for your service on the Board.

**Andrejs Avots-Avotins:** Great meeting. Johnnie, we appreciate everything you have done. Julie, I will miss your smile and your reports. Dr. Tate, I will miss you and your demeanor. Thank you to both of you for your service.

**James Lively:** I will miss smiley Julie and Dr. Tate. Great budget for FY2025. Thank you everyone for all you do.

**Jack Tarver:** Between Julie Fielder and Dr. Tate, that is 60 years of service combined. Thank you both for your dedicated service. Thank you Johnnie for all you do and your service.

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further official business, Ray Ashby adjourned the meeting at 8:06 PM.

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Avotins', written over a horizontal line.

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.