

**CENTRAL COUNTIES SERVICES**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**July 22, 2025**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

The **July 22, 2025** meeting of the Board of Trustees for Central Counties Services (CCS) was held at the Temple Main facility on **July 22, 2025** in Temple, Texas at **5:31 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  
Ms. Felicia Inman – Present  
Judge James Lively – Present  
Dr. Andrejs Avots-Avotins – Present  
Judge David Blackburn – Present  
Ms. Virgie Hardeman – Present  
Chris Ellis - Present

Absent:

Jesus Ramos – Absent

Guests:

Dale Treadway – Council Member, Place 5 – City of Copperas Cove, Texas

Center Attorney:

Mr. Jack Tarver – Present

Staff:

Johnnie Wardell, Executive Director – Present  
Joanne Cosper, Deputy Director - Present  
Leigh Miller, Chief Accountant/Interim Chief Financial Officer – Present  
Andrea Erskine – Director of Intellectual and Developmental Delays - Present  
James Arnold, Director of Behavioral Health - Present  
Rebecca Wagner, Director of Early Childhood Intervention - Present  
Darla Hogan, Director of Information Services – Present  
Jon Baker – Maintenance Supervisor - 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 5:31 PM by a Regular Session.

**REGULAR SESSION**

**1) Introduction of Guests:**

Ray Ashby introduced Dale Treadway from the City of Copperas Cove.

**2) Review of Board Calendar**

No comments.

**3) Approval of May 27, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes**

*Steve Wick moved for approval of the May 27, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes as submitted, Virgie Hardeman seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.*

**4) Approval of FY2025 Auditor Engagement Letter**

Johnnie Wardell requested approval of Forvis Mazars as the FY2025 Auditor firm, and answered questions from the Board.

*Rita Kelley moved for approval of FY2025 Auditor Engagement Letter as submitted, James Lively seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.*

**5) Approval to Negotiate the Contract for Temple Community Services Center Renovation Project**

Johnnie Wardell requested approval to negotiate the Contract, for the renovation of 2420 South 37<sup>th</sup> Street by RM Rodriguez Construction, and answered questions from the Board.

*Andrejs Avots-Avotins moved for approval to Negotiate the Contract for Temple Community Services Center Renovation Project as submitted, Steve Wick seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.*

**6) Approval of Engagement Letter for Financial Consultant Melissa Lynch, CPA, PLCC – TABLED until August Board Meeting**

**7) Executive Summary – Center Happenings**

Johnnie Wardell shared the Executive Summary, and answered questions from the Board.

**B. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

None

**C. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Medical Committee-Dr. Andrejs Avots-Avotins – No Report
2. Personnel Committee- Rita Kelley – Rita shared that the committee met regarding the ED Evaluation process and that will be decided in Executive Session.
3. Finance Committee - James Lively – No Report
4. Long Range Planning and Facility Committee - Steve Wick – Deferred to Executive Summary

**D. PERSONNEL MATTERS**

1. ACTION ITEMS:

None

2. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

None

**E. FISCAL MATTERS**

1. ACTION ITEMS

**a. Approval of FY25, Qtr. 3 Financial Reports – Form G**

Leigh Miller presented the FY25, Qtr. 3 Financial Reports. No questions.

*David Blackburn moved for approval of the FY25, Qtr. 3 Financial Reports – Form G, as submitted, Steve Wick seconded. All were in favor. The Motion carried.*

**b. Approval of FY25, Qtr. 3 Investment Report**

Leigh Miller presented the FY25, Qtr. 3 Investment Report, and answered questions from the Board.

*Steve Wick moved for approval of the FY25, Qtr. 3 Investment Report, as submitted, Andrejs Avots-Avotins seconded. All were in favor. The Motion carried.*

**c. Approval of Budget Adjustments:**

**To Include:**

1. ECI Additional \$7,366
2. BH – Additional \$750,000 for Mental Health Grant for Justice Involved Individuals

Leigh Miller presented the Budget Adjustments, and answered questions from the Board.

*Rita Kelley moved for approval of the Budget Adjustments as submitted, Steve Wick seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.*

2. NON-ACTION ITEMS

**a. Monthly Financial Statement – June 2025**

Leigh Miller reviewed the financial statements ending June 30, 2025. No questions from the Board.

**F. SPECIAL REPORTS**

**Program Performance Summary Reports:**

Johnnie Wardell shared that the programs are doing well with no significant changes, except Behavioral Health has experienced significant growth in the Children's mental health enrollment. Johnnie also let the Board know the PNAC report is in the packet for review.

James Arnold shared the FY25, Qtr. 3 Behavioral Health Program Performance Summary has experienced significant growth in enrollments, including the growth in children's services.

**G. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board entered into Executive Session to discuss Section 551.074, Consultation with Attorney Concerning Personnel Matter at 6:36PM.

The Executive Session Adjourned at 7:00PM

**H. REQUIRED BOARD ACTION**

Approval to continue Johnnie Wardell's employment as Executive Director for FY2026

*Andrejs Avots-Avotins moved for approval to Continue Johnnie Wardell's Employment as Executive Director for FY2026 as submitted, Steve Wick seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.*

**I. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Johnnie Wardell thanked all of the Board Members for their continued support to the Center and the staff with appreciation and gratitude for their efforts.

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

**James Lively:** Great Meeting. Johnnie, I am so happy to have you on board for another year. We appreciate you very much.

**Felicia Inman:** Johnnie, we are grateful for all you do, and the level of leadership, passion, and competence you bring. This has been a great meeting, and I am very pleased to hear about the partnerships.

**David Blackburn:** Thank you everyone, and to Johnnie for your service as a leader.

**Rita Kelley:** Thank you Johnnie. It has been a pleasure working with you, and thank you to the staff for all they do.

**Virgie Hardeman:** Congratulations Johnnie. You do a great job.

**Jack Tarver:** Johnnie, after working with this center for over 55 years, you are the best executive director. You make my job as attorney very easy, and I appreciate that very much.

**Steve Wick:** My appreciation and congratulations to Johnnie for another year. I am pleased to hear about the co-responder program for Temple and Killeen. I am also happy to hear about the children's services increasing, and the work with juvenile probation.

**Andrejs Avots-Avotins:** Congratulations Johnnie. I am impressed with the community collaborations. I appreciate your work in the community.

**Ray Ashby:** Johnnie, thank you for another year, and I appreciate all the help you give to me. I am looking forward to this next year. Congratulations to Miss Miller on her position as chief financial officer, and congratulations to James on children's mental health improvements.

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further official business, Ray Ashby adjourned the meeting at 7:18 PM.

SUBMITTED BY:



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.