CENTRAL COUNTIES SERVICES
Board of Trustees
Minutes of Meeting
August 26, 2026
Hybrid Meeting

The **August 26, 2026** meeting of the Board of Trustees for Central Counties Services (CCS) was held at 304 South 22nd Street in Temple, Texas on **August 26, 2026 at 11:34am**.

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

Board of Trustees Hybrid Meeting:
Mr. Ray Ashby – Present
Judge David Blackburn – Present
Sheriff Bill Cooke - Present
Ms. Virgie Hardeman – Present
Ms. Anne Jackson – Present
Mr. Steve Wick – Present
Ms. Felicia Inman – Present
Deputy Sam Ferguson – Present
Ms. Jane Jeffries – Absent
Judge James Lively – Absent

Guests:
Michelle Aguayo – PNAC Member
Susie Marek – PNAC Member

Center Attorney:
Mr. Jack Tarver – Present

Staff:
Johnnie Wardell, Executive Director – Present
Joanne Cosper – Deputy Director - Present
Kelli Sames, Director of human Resources – Present
Leigh Miller – Chief Financial Officer – Present
Zachary Harrison – Chief Accountant 6 - Present
Rebecca Wagner, Director of Early Childhood Intervention – Present
Andrea Erskine, Director of Intellectual and Developmental Delays – Present
James Arnold, Director of Behavioral Health - Present
Darla Hogan, Director of Information Services – Present
Doug Wells, Quality Management Manager – 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 11:34 AM by a Regular Session.

REGULAR SESSION

1) **Introduction of Guests:**
Johnnie Wardell introduced Zachary Harrison as the new Chief Accountant.

2) **Swearing in of reappointed Board Members**
Jack Tarver presented the Oath of Office to Ray Ashby and Judge David Blackburn. They accepted their Oath of Office for another two years and reappointed. Jack Tarver shared that he spoke to Judge James Lively over the phone prior to the Board Meeting and he accepted his Oath of Office for another two years.

3) **Review of Board Calendar – Meeting Schedule**
Discussed the current meeting cadence and scheduling needs. A new meeting cadence survey will be distributed tomorrow to gather feedback and determine the schedule that best accommodates all Board Members. Johnnie Wardell mentioned that a special session might be needed in September to ask for approval of time sensitive items.

4) **Approval of July 22, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes**

> ***Virgie Hardeman*** *moved for approval of the* **July 22, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes** *as submitted,* ***David Blackburn*** *seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.*

5) **Approval of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Policies**
Doug Wells shared details of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Policies. No questions from the Board.

> ***Steve Wick*** *moved for approval of* **Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Policies** *as submitted,* ***Virgie Hardeman*** *seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried*

6) **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. Personnel Committee- James Lively – Absent
2. Finance Committee – Ray Ashby – The finance committee meet on August 24 to discuss the Budget for FY27, which is slated for approval in Fiscal Matters.
3. Long Range Planning and Facility Committee – No Report

D. PERSONNEL MATTERS

1. ACTION ITEMS:
None

2. NON-ACTION ITEMS:
Kelli Sames shared details of the FY2027 Personnel Schedule and answered questions form the Board.

E. FISCAL MATTERS

1. ACTION ITEMS
a. Approval of FY2027 Budget
Joanne Cosper presented the FY2027 Budget and answered questions from the Board.

Steve Wick *moved for approval of the* **FY2027 Budget** *as submitted,* ***Felicia Inman*** *seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried.*

2. NON-ACTION ITEMS
a. Monthly Financial Statement – July 2026
Leigh Miller presented the financial statement ending July 30, 2026. No questions from the Board.

F. SPECIAL REPORTS

1. Behavioral Health Contract Monitoring FY2026
Doug Wells shared the Behavioral Health Contract Monitoring report. No questions from the Board.

G. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Johnnie Wardell thanked the Board for their support of the Budget and the finance committee for the robust conversation. Our team has done a great job on the budget. We are working on strategies to ensure there are funds for private psychiatric beds for the entire year. I appreciate all that you do and for supporting us.

H. BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMENTS/MEETING EFFECTIVENESS FEEDBACK

Bill Cooke: Thank you everyone.

Steve Wick: The staff are doing a marvelous job, and I appreciate that.

Anne Jackson: A thoughtful and thorough presentation on the budget. Thank you.

David Blackburn: I appreciate the work on the budget.

Virgie Hardeman: Good meeting. You all are doing a great job.

Felicia Inman: I know putting the budget together is not easy, but the presentation of it was awesome to hear. I like the growth that we have. I want to make sure staff are also taken care for their mental health to stay health as well. I am proud of you all.

Jack Tarver: Joanne did a wonderful job on the budge presentation.

Sam Ferguson: I retire November 1st. Our co-responder is working out very well and completing her training.

Ray Ashby: Thank you Joanne for the great presentation. Thank you to the ELT team for the work that you are doing.

I. ADJOURNEMENT:

There being no further official business, Ray Ashby adjourned the meeting at 12:49 pm.

S U B M I T E D B Y:

E-SIGNED by Virgie Hardeman
on 2026-10-28 20:11:57 GMT

Miss Virgie Hardeman
Secretary

Board of Trustees
Central Counties Services
Recorded by:
Barbara Theilen
Executive Assistant II

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