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**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY  
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES BOARD**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Deanna Bayer, Voneka Bennett, Dr. William Carr, Altonia Garrett, Bradley Marshall, John O’Leary, Timothy Oshiki, Patrick Sowers

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Obediah Baker, Jr.

**BOARD MEMBER VACANCY:**

City of Manassas Park

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Lisa Madron, Betsy Strawderman, Melinda Bringham-Office of the Executive Director  
Division Managers: Sara Wheeler, Youth Adult and Family Services; Dr. Kanchan Clark, Medical Services; Elise Madison, Emergency Services; Sherry Bowman, Community Support Services; Mike Goodrich, Administrative Services  
Heather Baxter, Emergency Services Program Manager

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Friends of Horticulture Therapy: Brian Richard, JoAnn Rudy, and Brenda Gardziel

**PRESS PRESENT:**

None

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**OPENING:** The Regular Meeting of the Community Services Board was convened on December 16, 2021, at 6:35 p.m. in the Powell’s Creek Conference Room, James J. McCoart Government Center, 1 County Complex, Woodbridge, Virginia.



**CITIZENS TIME:**

None

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**STAFF TIME:**

**Sara Wheeler**-Youth, Adult & Family Division Manager: Ms. Wheeler announced that the medication drop-off boxes were placed on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and are located at the three district police stations. Ms. Wheeler shared a portion of a letter that was received applauding the installation from a community member and thanked Heather Martinsen for her dedication and hard work on the project.

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**PRESENTATION:** Friends of Horticulture Therapy (FOHT), Brian Richard, Brenda Gardziel, JoAnn Rudy

Mr. Brian Richard shared the CY2021 accomplishments with the CS Board which included their spring plant sale this past May and a successful craft sale and raffle. Mr. Richard also provided an overview of their continued plans to build a Horticultural Therapy Center at the Public Gardens at Shenandoah Park.

Mr. Richard presented their FY2022 work plan which included plans for outreach to the Prince William Board of County Supervisors to discuss possible inclusion of funds for HTC and the therapeutic public gardens in future bond referendums. FOHT is also planning on expanding their Board membership to develop functions such as marketing, grant writing, fundraising/development, and communications. Mr. Richard also mentioned that the current MOU does not address the relationships and responsibilities of parties during planning and construction of a new permanent facility. Once the funding has been secured, the MOU will need to be updated. Mr. Richard, JoAnn Rudy, and Brenda Gardziel thanked the CS Board for their support.

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**PRESENTATION:** Marcus Alert Update- Heather Baxter, ES Program Manager

Ms. Baxter updated the CS Board on the steps being taken by the Greater Prince William area on Marcus Alert. The Marcus Alert Implementation Workgroup consists of Community Services, Fire & Rescue, Police, PSAPS (Public Safety Communications) from all three jurisdictions along with Magistrates, Hospitals, Regional Mobile Crisis Response, and the Regional State Office. The group was tasked with designing the protocols and policies regarding behavioral health emergencies and have developed a Marcus Alert Behavioral Health Triage Process Map. The initial plan was submitted to the state of Virginia last October. Part of the reason that Greater Prince William was chosen to be the first to implement Marcus alert in Region 2 is the great relationships that CS has with all the different departments involved.

Ms. Baxter shared that Marcus Alert also requires the creation of community response teams/mobile crisis response teams, a voluntary database for all public safety and communication programs and the creation of Regional Crisis Call Centers (988). PWC already has implemented the Co-Responder Program that consists of 6 teams and will have an Outreach and Engagement Team going online soon with 3 clinicians for lower-level responses. This team will have the ability to take referrals from PWCPD and PWCFR. Their goal will be to follow up with persons that continue to cycle through the system and are not following up on their own with services and those that have recently been released from hospitals following a behavioral health emergency.

Ms. Baxter stated that all three jurisdictions in the Greater Prince William area have already implemented the voluntary data bases. Prince William County and the City of Manassas Park are using Smart911 and the City of Manassas is using Rapid SOS. On January 3, 2022, dispatch centers will begin to identify calls for service using 4-level triage. Outreach and Co-Responder Teams will be given priority for behavioral health calls and will also take the lead on lower risk level calls. She shared that in the Spring of 2022 they expect to have the Crisis Call Center operational which will allow 911 call takers to transfer lower risk calls to the Crisis Call Center. The Crisis Call Center will then have the ability to dispatch Regional Crisis Response when needed. It is expected that 988 will become operational on July 1, 2022, which will allow the community to call 988 for behavioral health concerns instead of 911.

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## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **RESOLUTION 21-12R1-01**

**MOTION:** O'Leary

**SECOND:** Garrett

The Prince William County Community Services Board does hereby approve the minutes of November 18, 2021.

**Vote:**

Ayes--Bayer, Bennett, Garrett, O'Leary, Oshiki, Sowers

Nays--0

Abstained--Carr

Absent During Vote--Marshall

Absent From Meeting--Baker

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**ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022**

**RESOLUTION 21-12R-02**

**MOTION:** O'Leary

**SECOND:** Bayer

**WHEREAS**, the following slate of officers for 2022 have been presented by the Nominating Committee:

Patrick Sowers-Chairman  
Timothy Oshiki-Vice Chairman  
John O'Leary-Secretary; and

**WHEREAS**, there were no nominations from the floor and;

**WHEREAS**, the majority of Board Members accepted the nominations as presented by the Nominating Committee;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Prince William County Community Services Board does hereby elect the following officers for 2022:

Patrick Sowers-Chairman  
Timothy Oshiki-Vice Chairman  
John O'Leary-Secretary

**Vote:**

Ayes--Bayer, Bennett, Carr, Garrett, O'Leary, Oshiki, Sowers

Nays--0

Abstained--0

Absent During Vote--Marshall

Absent From Meeting--Baker

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**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Appoint 2022 By-Laws Committee Members**

Dr. William Carr and Deanna Bayer have been appointed to the By-Laws Committee for 2022.

**Appoint 2022 Policy & Procedures Committee Members**

Ms. Voneka Bennett and Ms. Altonia Garrett have been appointed to the Policy & Procedures Committee for 2022.

## **Appoint 2022 Employee of the Quarter Committee Members**

Ms. Voneka Bennett, Mr. Bradley Marshall, and Mr. Timothy Oshiki have been appointed to the Employee of the Quarter Committee for 2022.

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### **OPEN ITEMS:**

None

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### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S TIME**

--Ms. Madron stated that the proposed Governor's Budget was released today and after a preliminary review that out of a budget of \$158 billion, only \$568 million is for behavioral health. There are some positives with the proposed budget but there are still many concerns. The VACSB is pushing for some changes and will be addressing those during the VACSB virtual Legislative Conference that is scheduled for January 18<sup>th</sup>. There will also be an opportunity to participate in a virtual public hearing on the budget on January 5<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Madron encouraged the members to attend and speak if they are able to attend and voice concerns on the workforce shortage, funding to fully implement STEP-VA, increase the number of DD waiver slots and increase funding to allow the expansion of CACs to CRCs.

--Ms. Madron shared that she was pleased to announce that three members of the CS Leadership Team graduated from the NACo High Performance Academy which were Sherry Bowman, Betsy Strawderman and Sara Wheeler.

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### **DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S TIME**

--Ms. Strawderman thanked the county for investing in Community Services leaders by supporting them and providing the opportunity to attend the NACo High Performance Academy.

--Ms. Strawderman shared that she attended the Employee of the Quarter award presentation this afternoon where four employees were recognized for their efforts in assisting a homeless client with schizophrenia and alcoholism who had no family supports finally accept ongoing treatment. He will be stepping down to a CSU then placed in supported housing. Ms. Strawderman praised the efforts of all of the staff involved stating that it was nothing short of transformational for this client.

--Ms. Strawderman announced that Evelyn Hatfield will be retiring after 33 years of service to Community Services.

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## **BOARD MEMBERS' TIME**

**DEANNA BAYER:** Mx. Bayer wished everyone a happy and safe holiday.

**VONEKA BENNETT:** Ms. Bennett thanked the staff for everything that they do, thanked FOHT for their presentation and shared that she is pleased that the program is still going strong, and thanked Heather Baxter for her presentation on Marcus Alert. Ms. Bennett wished everyone happy holidays.

**ALTONIA GARRETT:** Ms. Garrett wished everyone a very happy holiday and thanked Ms. Baxter and FOHT for their presentations this evening as she always learns a lot. Ms. Garrett also congratulated the graduates. Ms. Garrett shared that she is looking forward to participating in the Policy and Procedures Committee. She thanked Ms. Madron and Ms. Strawderman for their leadership over this past year and shared that she is looking forward to all the great things coming in 2022.

**JOHN O'LEARY:** Mr. O'Leary shared that the great presentations by FOHT and Heather Baxter on the Marcus Alert were a great way to end this year. Mr. O'Leary congratulated Mr. Elijah Johnson on becoming the Acting County Executive and remarked that he has always been a great advocate for Community Services.

**TIMOTHY OSHIKI:** Mr. Oshiki shared that the first presentation he sat through as a CS Board Member was by FOHT and that it reminds him of all the great things that CS is a part of. Mr. Oshiki stated that out of the many things that he has done in his life, without a doubt, being a part of the Community Service Board has been one of his proudest achievements. Mr. Oshiki thanked Brenda, JoAnne and Brian for their presentation this evening. Mr. Oshiki thanked Heather for her presentation on Marcus Alert and said that it was a pleasure to hear about all the great things that are happening. Mr. Oshiki shared that it is wonderful to hear the stories from the Employee of the Quarter and that all the success stories should be celebrated. Mr. Oshiki wished everyone a happy holiday.

**PATRICK SOWERS:** Chairman Sowers stated that he is impressed that over the past 2 years, CS clients have not gone without the services that they require even with all the constraints that we have had which is a testament of the passion that the staff has for the work that they do and that it is his honor to get to hear about it monthly. Chairman Sowers expressed his congratulations to Elijah Johnson for being named Acting County Executive and that he would love to see him in that role permanently. Chairman Sowers wished everyone a happy holiday.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**RESOLUTION 21-12R1-03**

**MOTION:** Baker

**SECOND:** Garrett

The Prince William County Community Services Board does hereby agree to adjourn the December 16, 2021, Regular Meeting at 8:09 p.m.

**Vote:**

Ayes-- Bayer, Bennett, Garrett, O'Leary, Oshiki, Sowers

Nays--0

Abstained--0

Absent During Vote--Carr, Marshall

Absent from Meeting--Baker

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