



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING  
January 5, 2016**

**Health District Office Building  
120 Bristlecone Drive, Fort Collins**

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bernard J. Birnbaum, MD, President (via telephone)  
Tess Heffernan, M.Ed., Vice President (via telephone)  
Michael D. Liggett, Esq., Secretary  
Tracy L. Nelson, Ph.D., Treasurer (via telephone)  
Steven J. Thorson, MD, Liaison to PVHS Board

**STAFF PRESENT:** Carol Plock, Executive Director  
Lorraine Haywood, Finance Director  
Nancy Stirling, Assistant to Executive Director  
Lin Wilder, Community Impact Director

**CALL TO ORDER; APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

President Bernard Birnbaum called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

**MOTION:** To approve the agenda as presented.  
*Motion/Seconded/Carried Unanimously*

**DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS**

**Expenditure of Reserves for MH/SA Partner Agency Projects line item**

On December 15, SummitStone Health Partners CEO Randy Ratliff officially announced that SummitStone would need to make a \$1.8 million reduction in their annual budget, which will necessitate multiple reductions in operations, salary and benefits, as well as programs and positions. This situation appears to be a result of a “perfect storm” of reasons: a 16% reduction in their Medicaid rates; changes to this region’s Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) processes; increased utilization, and therefore expense, of their External Provider Network; and the Medicaid expansion and what services are “billable.”

Of the \$1.8 million reduction, \$1,000,000 will be coming directly from the reduction or elimination of programs and staffing. This action will impact two programs the Health District has close partnerships with SummitStone: Connections and the CDDT (Community Dual Disorders Treatment) program. With regard to Connections, SummitStone, while not able to continue to fund their usual 1 FTE staffing for the program, recognizes that Connections allows staff from both organizations to share planning and information in a way that is critical to clients, and therefore have made a commitment to fund .5 for that position in 2016. As for the CDDT

program, SummitStone has determined that they do not have enough funding to continue the program as it currently exists. However, they are willing to commit to incorporating at least half of the CDDT clients (10) into the Assertive Community Services (ACT) program (with a CDDT emphasis), which they receive some state funding for and has similar objectives as CDDT, if they can find the funding for a full FTE staff person. Since it is not possible to operate either CDDT or ACT without a team for backup and shared resources, this incorporation is critical in order for CDDT to continue at all.

In light of these situations, Health District staff is asking the Board to consider approving funding in the amount sufficient to cover 1 FTE for a CDDT staff person and .5 FTE for Connections, which funding is not to exceed \$100,600, to provide “bridge” staffing for one year (2016), allowing SummitStone some time to develop other options for these positions and programs. There is funding already set aside for this purpose in Reserves Special Project funds. (See Memo, “Expenditure of Reserves for MH/SA Partner Agency Projects”, for full details.)

**MOTION: To approve funding, not to exceed \$100,600, for the purpose of providing “bridge” staffing for one year (2016), including 1 FTE for the CDDT program and .5 FTE for Mental Health Connections.**  
*Motion/Seconded/*

Board Discussion: The Board expressed their support for this request. They recognize, however, that this is just a temporary solution and requested a sustainability plan to understand the plan for how the services will continue in the future, since it is currently unclear what role might need to be undertaken by SummitStone or the Health District in the future. The Board noted that one of the challenges of partnerships is that organizations make decisions that impact the other partners, and asked whether we would want to continue the services even if other partners were not involved. While it is too early to tell, staff noted that in this case, the partnership has been essential because neither organization had the resources to take on the full project, and communication, joint staffing, and information-sharing were essential components, partly because of the team aspect of these services.

SummitStone is also going to be experiencing a leadership change when Mr. Ratliff retires later this year. The Board asked if the Health District might be able to have a role in helping with the search for his replacement in some way; staff will check that out. A consulting group has been contracted with to help locate a new Executive Director who has demonstrated success in the field of mental health.

**MOTION: To approve funding, not to exceed \$100,600, for the purpose of providing “bridge” staffing for one year (2016), including 1 FTE for the CDDT program and .5 FTE for Mental Health Connections.**  
*Motion/Seconded/Carried Unanimously*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- January 26, 5:30 pm – Regular Board of Directors Meeting

## ADJOURN

**MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.**  
*Moved/Seconded/Carried Unanimously*

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

---

Nancy L. Stirling, Assistant Secretary

---

Bernard J. Birnbaum, M.D., President

---

Tess Heffernan, M.Ed., Vice President

---

Michael D. Liggett, Esq., Secretary

---

Tracy L. Nelson, Ph.D., Treasurer

---

Steven J. Thorson, M.D., UCHealth-North (PVHS) Board Liaison