

MINUTES
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
JANUARY 22, 2002

The Board of Commissioners (“the Board”) of the County of Chatham, North Carolina, met in the Henry H. Dunlap, Jr. Building Classroom, located in Pittsboro, North Carolina, at 4:00 PM on January 22, 2002.

Present: Chairman Gary Phillips; Vice Chair Margaret Pollard; Commissioners Bob Atwater, Rick Givens and Carl Outz; County Manager, Charlie Horne; County Attorney, Robert L. Gunn; Assistant County Manager, Paul Spruill; Finance Officer, Vicki McConnell; and Clerk to the Board, Sandra B. Sublett

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:33 PM.

Work Session Agenda

1. Changes in Mental Health System

MENTAL HEALTH REFORM

Tom Maynard, Orange-Person-Chatham Mental Health Director, gave an overview of the State 2001 Mental Health Plan stating that the new plan fundamentally changes the system; that the new system is community based; that area programs will be reduced from thirty-nine to twenty; that area programs will become local management entities (LME’s); that a LME must cover 200,000 people or five counties; that county commissioners must determine the LME and submit a business plan; that a LME will provide core services and build a provider network; that services will be provided to target populations; that there will be a statewide uniform portal for system access; that utilization management will be contracted to an outside provider; that LME’s may not provide services except as allowed by State criteria and approval; that case management must be contracted out for LME provided services; that MR Centers will reduce census by 50%; that the State will close 700 inpatient hospital beds by July 1, 2006; that House Bill #381 created a \$47.5 million trust fund to expand community capacity, assist in hospital downsizing and reward local consolidation; that child system of care models are to be implemented statewide; that an updated business plan will be required every three years; that there will be a local advisory committee with 100% consumer and family membership to advise the LME regarding the local planning process; that an advisory committee will submit to the State an independent report on the local business plan; and that the State plan develops a competency based system for qualified providers to achieve measurable outcomes and raise quality.

He explained that a LME is an administrative body that develops, implements, oversees, monitors, and evaluates system services; that the LME is responsible for core functions including planning, provider network development, service management, financial management and accountability, service monitoring and oversight, evaluation, collaboration, and access. He stated that providing services to individuals with the

most severe disabilities is the primary focus of the redesigned system; that urgency and intensity of need will drive the system; that a structured process will be used to prioritize services and/or manage wait-lists; that it target populations as follows:

- 1) Adult Mental Health - Severe and persistent mental illness
 - Persons with multiple diagnoses
 - Homeless mentally ill
 - Mentally ill in criminal justice system
 - Elderly persons
 - Deaf persons with mental illness
- 2) Child Mental Health - Severe emotional problems
 - At-risk of out-of-home placement
 - In need of services from more than one agency

He discussed target populations of developmental disability and substance abusers and presented a timeline for program implementation. He reminded the Board of the questions which would need to be answered: 1) Are all three counties staying together? 2) Do we want to consider any form of consolidation? 3) By what process do we want to mount our business plan? 4) Do we want to be a pilot?

The Chairman asked the County Manager if the staff had a recommendation on the process.

The County Manager explained that there are certain core items that, regardless of what the Board selects, will have to be done. He stated that in the process that Mr. Maynard outlined if the County chose to do its own County program, it would be counted toward developing the business plan; that in light of the work done and lack of staff to take care of it on a full-time basis, he would recommend working with OPC.

OPC Steering Committee for Mental Health Reform:

By consensus, the Board unanimously endorsed Commissioner Pollard to serve on the Orange-Person-Chatham Steering Committee for Mental Health Reform.

Fiscal Impact Analysis of Briar Chapel:

The County Manager informed the Board that Paul Spruill and Renee Dickson's names have shown up on the "chat list" several times in the past week with regard to the fiscal impact analysis of Briar Chapel. He stated that in some cases, the information pointed toward further legitimizing the numbers; that it is a misleading thought; that it may come up at the night's Board meeting; that staff has advised the group with regard to what they know is there but they can not categorically say that they have covered every potential expenditure that will be part of the process.

Six-Month Additional Communication Towers Moratorium:

The County Attorney stated that he and his partner had reviewed David LeGrys' proposal; that they have made changes; that the Planning Director is trying to get an electronic copy to send to him for correction; and that at that time, he will return a draft to the Planning Director within three days.

Joshua Kricker Letter:

The Chairman stated that he had received a letter from Joshua Kricker requesting that the Board hold

a special meeting of the Zoning Board of Adjustment due to the amount of information that he wanted to give to the Board on his appeal from the action of the zoning enforcement officer. He stated that he felt that this could be done as part of the regular meeting process. This was the consensus of the Board.

Briar Chapel Sewage Plant Acreage:

Commissioner Outz expressed concern with regard to the 110 acres that were purchased for the Briar Chapel sewage plant. He stated that it is his understanding that the people located adjacent to the property were misled; that they thought the land was going to be used for another housing complex; and that he doesn't think that there was an environmental study done.

NACo Conference:

Registration and reservation forms were distributed to the Board for the March NACo Conference. The Chairman stated that he would like to participate in joint meetings with Congressmen David Price and Bob Etheridge and Senators John Edwards and Jesse Helms. He stated that he would like to have a meal with all the Board members while in Washington to discuss important issues.

RECESS

Commissioner Givens moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard, that the meeting be recessed. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting was recessed at 6:26 PM.

A discussion ensued regarding Commissioner reimbursements.

RECONVENING OF WORK SESSION

Commissioner Givens moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard, to reconvene the Work Session. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the Work Session was reconvened at 6:30 PM.

Commissioner Reimbursements:

Chairman Phillips questioned Commissioner reimbursements, stating that it was his understanding that Board members were to be reimbursed \$100 per month for mileage.

After considerable discussion, Chairman Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Givens, that Board members may elect to accept a \$100 per month allocation or receive reimbursement for actual mileage, as is currently being done, effective January 1, 2002. Notification of the preferred method is to be submitted to the Finance Officer in writing noting any changes during the annual budget process. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0).

RECESS

Commissioner Atwater moved, seconded by Commissioner Pollard, that the meeting be recessed to the regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners' meeting in the Superior Courtroom. The motion carried five (5) to zero (0), and the meeting was recessed at 6:45 PM.

Gary Phillips, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sandra B. Sublett, Clerk to the Board
Chatham County Board of Commissioners