

**HILL COUNTRY MHDD CENTERS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES**

WHEN: Tuesday, March 2, 2021
Start: 10:02 AM
End: 11:48 AM

WHERE: Hill Country MHDD Centers Administrative Headquarters
819 Water Street, Suite 300
Kerrville, TX 78028

ATTENDEES:

Board of Trustees

Judge Rob Kelly, Chair, Kerr County

Judge Souli Shanklin, Vice-Chair, Edwards, Kimble, Mason, Menard, Schleicher and Sutton Counties

Judge Tully Shahan, Secretary, Kinney, Real, and Uvalde Counties

Judge Chris Schuchart, Medina County

Commissioner Donna Eccleston, Comal County

Mr. Wallace Whitworth, Bandera and Kendall Counties

Judge Brett Bray, Blanco, Gillespie and Llano Counties

Sheriff Al Auxier, Kendall County

Mr. Charles Campise, Hays County

Judge Lewis Owens, Val Verde County

Sheriff-Elect Joe Lancaster, Mason County

Hill Country MHDD Staff

Ross C. Robinson, Executive Director

Landon Sturdivant, Chief Operating Officer

Charles "Chuck" Rittenhouse, Chief Financial Officer

James Barnes, Director of Accounting

Kristie Tupling, DSRIP Director

Maria Baskett, Executive Assistant/Board Liaison

GUESTS:

Carvan Adkins – Taylor, Olson, Adkins, Sralla, & Elam, LLP

Dan Barrett – Taylor, Olson, Adkins, Sralla, & Elam, LLP

ABSENT:

None

Agenda Item #1: Meeting Called to Order

Judge Rob Kelly, Board Chair, called the meeting of the Hill Country MHDD Centers Board of Trustees to order at 10:02 AM on Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

Agenda Item #2: Roll Call

Member roll was called by Maria Baskett, Board Liaison, and a quorum was present.

Agenda Item #3: Invocation

Judge Tully Shahan gave the invocation.

Agenda Item #4: Approval of Minutes

The Board of Trustees reviewed minutes from the January 19, 2021 Board meeting. Judge Chris Schuchart, having been unable to participate in the January 19 meeting, noted that there was no indication in the January minutes that the Executive Director's job description had been discussed, and asked if there were any updates. Executive Director Ross Robinson advised the Board that Kristie Tupling, who is a member of the Executive Director Selection Committee, has been conducting research and revising the job description, which Mr. Robinson hopes to send to the Selection Committee this afternoon. A Selection Committee meeting will then be scheduled, possibly for the week of March 8-12, 2021.

Judge Souli Shanklin made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Charles Campise seconded the motion, and the minutes dated January 19, 2021 were approved without changes.

Agenda Item #5: Citizens' Comments

There were no comments.

Agenda Item #6: Introductions/Announcements

Executive Director Ross Robinson announced that Mr. Carvan Adkins of Taylor, Olson, Adkins, Sralla, & Elam, LLP, who is temporarily serving as HCMHDDC's General Counsel, would be joining the meeting at 10:15 AM, along with Mr. Dan Barrett of Taylor, Olson, Adkins, Sralla, & Elam, LLP. Judge Rob Kelly advised the Trustees that the Board would retire into Executive Session at that time instead of just prior to adjournment as listed on the meeting agenda.

Mr. Charles Campise announced that Hays County Judge Ruben Becerra has formed a mental health task force to conduct research for and determine the feasibility of constructing a psychiatric hospital in Hays County. Judge Becerra has appointed Mr. Campise to serve on this task force, which will meet in the near future, and Mr. Campise plans to provide updates to HCMHDDC Trustees during Board meetings.

Agenda Item #7: Board Training: Directed Payment Program/Charity Care for Behavioral Health

Chief Financial Officer Chuck Rittenhouse and DSRIP Director Kristie Tupling provided information on the Directed Payment Program/Charity Care for Behavioral Health, which is designed to be a replacement for the 1115 Waiver program. This item was for informational purposes only, and no action was taken.

Agenda Item #8: Executive Director's Report

A comprehensive written report including details of 10 percent holdback measures, CSU occupancy, utilization of private psychiatric beds, IDD and Service Coordination updates, and COVID-19 updates was included in the Board packet. Executive Director Ross Robinson advised

the Board that all HCMHDDC operations – aside from IDD residential services and the Crisis Stabilization Unit – closed for an entire week during “Snowmageddon/SNOVID”. A nurse working in IDD residential services in Kerrville has been terminated and reported to the State Board of Nursing Examiners. HCMHDDC headquarters self-reported the serious issues around the nurse’s termination to the Health and Human Services Commission and an unannounced review was initiated soon afterward. Director of IDD Provider Services Jennifer Eckols has resigned for unrelated reasons, stating that the demands of managing this 24/7 program have negatively impacted her health and taken time away from her family. Chief Operating Officer Landon Sturdivant advised the Board that a CCBHC grant application was sent to SAMHSHA on March 1, requesting \$1.8 million over the next two years. Other grants are being pursued for Mental Health First Aid, technology, and capital improvements. Chief Financial Officer Chuck Rittenhouse provided the Board with mid-period financial highlights, stating that Hill Country MHDD Centers now owns One Schreiner Center and Two Schreiner Center (Kerr County Mental Health) outright, in addition to the abutment along the Guadalupe River. Mr. Robinson advised the Board that Judge Souli Shanklin would like to retire from the Board of Trustees and has spoken with Schleicher County Judge Charlie Bradley about taking his place on the Board; however, this may create a vacancy on the Executive Director Selection Committee. Haven Health in Fort Worth has contacted Uvalde officials about opening a psychiatric hospital in Uvalde, with the backing of Congressman Tony Gonzales. Ross and Landon plan to return to Uvalde in the near future to provide updates and possibly begin active fundraising.

Agenda Item #9: Executive Session

The Board of Trustees entered Executive Session at 10:12 AM to deliberate on matters in accordance with Sections 551.071 and 551.072 to receive updates from General Counsel concerning legal claims and the potential sale of a parcel of land between Kerr County Mental Health and One Schreiner Center. In addition to the Board members, Executive Director Ross Robinson, Mr. Carvan Adkins, and Mr. Dan Barrett were present. No action was taken during Executive Session.

Agenda Item #10: Action Item(s) Resulting from Executive Session

The Board of Trustees reconvened in open session at 10:47 AM. No actions were taken as a result of information discussed during Executive Session.

Adjourn

The Board of Trustees meeting was adjourned at 11:48 AM by Judge Rob Kelly, Board Chair.

Next Meeting

Hill Country MHDD Centers’ next Board of Trustees Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 10:00 AM at Hill Country MHDD Centers’ Administrative Headquarters, 819 Water Street, Suite 300 in Kerrville, Texas.



Judge Rob Kelly, Chair



Judge Tully Shahan, Secretary

