Network180 Board Minutes  
Location: Virtual  
June 1, 2020

Network180 Board Present: Caroline Dellenbusch, Tom Dooley, Emily Helder, John Matias, Nessa McCasey, Donna Moore-Brown, Larry Oberst, Commissioner Stan Ponstein, Clyde Sims, and Commissioner Jim Talen

Network180 Board Absent: Shellie Cole-Mickens and Commissioner Stan Stek

Network180 Non-voting Board Members Present: None

Network180 Non-voting Board Members Absent: Sandy Dettmann

Network180 Staff Present: Clark Bowman, Joan Brown, Ross Buitendorp, Chris Frederick, Stacey O'Toole, Amy Rottman, Beverly Ryskamp, Kristin Spykerman, Brenda Visser, Bill Ward, Susan Webber and Ed Wilson

Others present: Attendees were not identified as meeting was held virtually and no sign in was required.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Talen called the meeting to order at 4:59 pm.

II. ROLL CALL was taken, and a quorum was reached.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved: Mr. Oberst  
Supported: Commissioner Ponstein

Motion carried.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of prior minutes
   i. Finance Committee – May 4, 2020
   ii. Board Meeting – May 4, 2020

b. Approval of April 2020 disbursements

Moved: Ms. Helder  
Supported: Commissioner Talen
Motion carried.

VI. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

None

VII. FINANCE COMMITTEE ITEMS CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

a. The Finance Committee recommends that the Network180 Board accept the September 30, 2019 audited financial statements.

Moved: Mr. Oberst  
Supported: Mr. Sims

Motion carried.


Moved: Mr. Oberst  
Supported: Commissioner Ponstein

Motion carried.

c. The Finance Committee recommends that the Network180 Board approve the April 2020 Financial Statements.

Moved: Mr. Oberst  
Supported: Mr. Matias

Motion carried.

d. The Finance and Human Resources Committee recommends that the Network180 Board adopt the attached resolution naming Corrine Rider as Trustee and Susan Webber as Alternate Trustee for the West Michigan Health Insurance Pool.

Moved: Commissioner Ponstein  
Supported: Ms. Helder

Motion carried.

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. Ward reviewed his report and was available for questions.

Mr. Matias asks how many clients have been served during the pandemic.

Mr. Ward states we will present some numbers at the work session.

Mr. Sims asks Mr. Ward for his opinion on the racism issues in the country.

Mr. Ward responds that he has sent a note to the staff to take care of themselves and our clients. He is at a loss for words. We really need to come together as Americans.
Mr. Matias believes that the board and executive director should make a statement as a public entity to see our citizens whole.

Mr. Ward will work on drafting a document.

Commissioner Ponstein adds that we all have a message that will be slightly different. It must be a statement that is consistent and agreed upon.

Commissioner Talen would like the statement to be signed by Commissioner Stek and Mr. Ward.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

X. BOARD COMMENT

Ms. Dellenbusch encourages the board members and especially the Program Committee members to come to the Program Committee Meeting on 6/15.

Ms. Helder – states that there is a renewed interest nationally to have a conversation about system racism and they need to move towards anti-racist policies and procedures at a systemic level. She believes drafting a statement from the board is a good idea. It should address the ways that Network180 is committed to antiracism within the mental health field and address disparities and the things that we are committed to. Also address how we can contribute to the conversation at a systemic level.

Mr. Matias – feels that we should be at the table to assist in making decisions for the county. In the hood, he is hearing that there a lot of people who are in such duress and they are able to lean on services through Network180’s provider network. It has been amazing that so many people are being served and how we meet the needs with our funding sources. Very appreciative of the staff that are making it happen.

Mr. Dooley – also feels it is important to have a public voice and contradict some of the fallacies. We also need to reassure people that we are there with our services and hearts.

Commissioner Ponstein – We need to make people aware of what we are doing. There are plenty of trainings at the Sheriff’s department, and also available to our employees to promote acceptance and diversity. We have to stand together and that we are going out of our way to include everyone in the conversation. He hopes that relationships that are being built now will become larger and more meaningful ways that we can address this and come out of this stronger.

Commissioner Talen – So little has changed from when he grew up in the suburbs of Chicago and what we are experiencing now. We can hope that incidents like what we have seen lately will hopefully help us recognize where we are and how far we need to go. He is glad to hear that Network180 has made the connection with the Hispanic Chamber to get services to their population. We need to keep that lens on and make sure that we are serving all of our community in all the different and distinct needs they have.
Mr. Sims – is encouraged. It is beautiful to know that we can come together as a board and address social issues. When we go back to our communities, we need to tell them exactly what is going on. He has realized since this thing has happened it is not black people out there rioting but communities are protesting. The point is for those of us that are in positions of making policy changes, law changes and have the voice of politicians and community leaders cannot be silent. We cannot keep saying it is ok. Anyone that is privileged is blessed beyond your comprehension, but they cannot go into denial that those among us and all ethnic groups are being left out. America has a heart problem. This is not going to go away until we realize that there has been some real damage done.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Talen adjourned the meeting at 5:52 pm.

WW/bv