

Nueces Center for Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
January 28, 2026

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held January 28, 2026, at 8:30 a.m., 3733 S. Port, Corpus Christi, Texas in person and by telephonic conference via Microsoft Teams, pursuant to due notice to all members of the Board and public notices posted at the Nueces County Courthouse and Corpus Christi City Hall.

Presiding Officer: Linda Fallwell-Stover

Members Present: Jane Haas, Nancy Lechner, Jackie Caldwell, Aaron Diaz, Dr. Carol Houston

Members Present by Microsoft Teams: Tracy Jackson

Members Absent: N/A

Ex-Officio: Debbie Dumesnil (Teams)

Staff Present: Mike Davis, Rene Mendiola, Andrea Kovarik, Gina Pena, Natalie Salas, Vic Gustafson, Russell Weir, Annette Mayne

Staff Present by Microsoft Teams: N/A

General Counsel: Not present

Guest/Citizen: Lexi Buquet, D'Anne Buquet, Pam Atherton (via teams), Jennifer Hollingsworth, Jane Heinemann

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** L. Fallwell-Stover called the meeting to order at 8:29 a.m. and a quorum was present.
2. **Citizen Comment:** None
3. **Your WHY Brought You Here and Sharing It Can Inspire Others:** J. Haas introduced Lexi and D'Anne Buquet with Bucket Works Advertising, Inc. who were asked to this meeting to engage with board members as to their "*Why Brought You Here and Sharing Their Story Can Inspire Other*". Lexi Buquet introduced Pam Atherton, (radio host, motivational speaker, etc.) who attended the meeting virtually, engaged with board members with the goal of equipping them with the tools they need to confidently share and understand the importance of doing so on social media.
4. **Mission Moment:** Jennifer Hollingsworth, Case Manager, introduced Jane Heinemann, a client of the center. Ms. Heinemann expressed gratitude for the support received – particularly from caseworker Jennifer, who has been instrumental during crisis. The client also shared that her daughter will be seeking services due and emphasized the value of MHID's programs, noting the need for more staff like Ms. Hollingsworth.
5. **Planning and Network Advisory Committee (PNAC) Report:** A. Kovarik reviewed the October 14, 2025, PNAC report that was included in the board packet. A. Kovarik stated that Daniel Davila presented on the Jail Continuity of Care (JLCO) Pilot Program, one of five in Texas, aimed at reducing recidivism by identifying individuals within 24 hours of incarceration and ensuring coordinated mental health care during and after release. Nearly 1,000 individuals were served in under a year. NAMI shared updates on its new 501(c)(3) status and programming. The Transition Support Team reviewed its work supporting individuals with IDD. Mental Health and IDD updates covered performance targets, service transitions, and conference participation. The Center was re-certified as a CCBHC with a 96% score, and trauma-informed board training was completed.

Dr. Houston was interested in participating in PNAC and L. Fallwell-Stover stated that A. Diaz currently serves on the PNAC Committee as well. A. Kovarik stated that she would have Amalia Bustamante, Administrative Assistant for the Center send Dr. Houston some information to attend the next meeting.

6. **Discussion and possible action to approve the Planning and Network Advisory Committee minutes of October 14, 2025.**

A. Diaz made a **MOTION** to approve the Planning and Network Advisory Committee minutes of October 14, 2025, as presented. Dr. Houston **SECONDED**. All were in favor, motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

7. **Discussion and possible action to approve Resolution for Employees Years of Service.** R. Mendiola requested the approval of the Resolution recognizing years of services for the employees identified on the list that was provided in the packet. Appreciation was shared for recognizing years of service, including a 15-year honoree, A. Kovarik. The annual celebration will be held in April at Brewster's with a Cinco de Mayo theme.

J. Haas made a **MOTION** to approve the Resolution for Employees Years of Service as presented. N. Lechner **SECONDED**. All were in favor, motion carried

8. **Discussion and possible action to approve Board of Trustee's By-Laws 0.1.** M. Davis stated that a revision to the board bylaws presented today were made due to the statute that is required to have a veteran serve on the board. M. Davis informed the board that we currently have a veteran serving on the board and that would be Mr. Aaron Diaz. The only change made to the bylaws presented today was adding the verbiage regarding a veteran serving and is being presented today for approval. M. Davis stated that any additional revisions discussed today and voted on will be revised and presented to the board chair for signature at the next board meeting.

T. Jackson asked how he could bring suggestions or recommendations to the Bylaws. L. Fallwell-Stover stated that he could bring any suggestions at this time or anytime. T. Jackson made no suggestions or recommendations.

N. Lechner made a **MOTION** to approve the Board of Trustee's By-Laws 0.1 as presented. J. Caldwell **SECONDED**. All were in favor, motion carried.

L. Fallwell asked for any recommendations or suggestions regarding the Board of Trustees By-Laws that would codify the current historical practice of the Board Chairs' authority to appoint members to committees, conference engagements and other appointments. J. Haas moved to clarify the structure of the bylaws by giving the Board Chair the authority to appoint board trustees to represent the organization at conferences, meetings, and other external functions. The Board of Trustees By-Laws will be revised as stated above and will be signed by the Board Chair at the next board meeting.

J. Haas made a **MOTION** to amend the Board of Trustee's By-Laws 0.1 as recommended above. Dr. Houston **SECONDED**. Motion carried, 6-1 (Jackson opposed).

CONSENT AGENDA

9. Discussion and possible action to ratify Chief Executive Officer's execution of the Revised Signal Security Contract.
10. Discussion and possible action to ratify Chief Executive Officer's execution of the HHSC Community Services/Special Projects Amendment – Contract No. HHS001511000001 Employment Navigator Pilot Amendment No 3.
11. Discussion and possible action to ratify Chief Executive Officer's execution of the Amendment to Health and Human Services Contract No. HHS001586900027, Local Intellectual and Development Disability Authority (LIDDA) Grant Program, Amendment No. 1.
12. Discussion and possible action to approve Secretary's report of regular meeting of November 5, 2025.

T. Jackson had a question regarding item #9 and therefore was pulled for further discussion.

A Diaz made a **MOTION** to approve items 10, 11, and 12, as presented, Dr. C. Houston **SECONDED**. All were in

favor, motion carried.

T. Jackson inquired as to why there was an increase in the contract. M. Hendrix reported that the Level One-armed officer position previously worked in coordination with the Center's Health Safety Associate Department but was unfortunately included in the recent reduction in force. Due to the ongoing challenges, staffing armed offices through Signal, the company amended its contract to replace the Level One Officer (\$70,800 annually) with two Level Two Officers who have similar training and physical response capabilities but do not carry firearms. Signal is better able to consistently staff Level Two positions, increasing on-site coverage from one to two officers. The change results in an estimated annual cost increase of approximately \$47,000.00.

T. Jackson further asked if law enforcement charges for being present and M. Hendrix answered yes at a rate of \$55.00 per hour and the Center has nine to eleven officers, and not all of them are 40 hours a week, 365 days. Cost is approximately \$170,000 a year.

N. Lechner made a **MOTION** to approve item 9 as presented. Dr. C. Houston **SECONDED**. All were in favor, motion carried.

OPERATIONS REPORT

13. **Discussion and possible action to approve the Treasurer's Reports for October and November 2025.**

M. Hendrix presented the Treasurer's Report regarding the Center's cash position and overall net position. At month-end, cash and cash equivalents totaled approximately \$1,394,985, with total investments of \$2,470,115, resulting in a total operating cash balance of \$3,865,100. This represents a 5.6% increase from the previous reporting period. For the period ending in November, it was reported that the Center received its first quarter payment from HHSC. As a result, total operating cash increased to \$5,659,392, reflecting a total net percentage change of 13.86% for the period. The Board was further advised that each financial report includes a summary of the Center's total net position, which considers the value of its properties, total cash balances, and investments.

M. Hendrix explained that fluctuations in operating cash balances are primarily due to the timing of major expenditures and reimbursements. State contracts operate on a cost-reimbursement basis, resulting in expenses being incurred before reimbursement is received. This timing difference contributed to the increase in operating cash balances from \$3,865,000 at the end of October to \$5,336,000 at the end of November.

T. Jackson inquired about the single audit and the board chair informed him that the single audit was discussed at the last board meeting. T. Jackson asked when the next audit was due. M. Hendrix stated that the next audit is currently being conducted. T. Jackson inquired if the Center received any penalties for submitting it late and M. Hendrix informed him that no sanctions were received.

Dr. Houston made a **MOTION** to approve the Treasurer's Reports for October and November 2025 as presented, N. Lechner **SECONDED**. All were in favor, motion carried.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

14. **Discussion regarding the upcoming April Employee Recognition Ceremony.**

R. Mendiola stated that the event will again be held at the same venue as in previous years and was selected based on cost efficiency, increased employee interaction and more open and relaxed environment. Since moving to that venue, there has been greater staff participation. Last year there were challenges related to self-serve food running out, more attendees than expected, and individuals bringing guests without notifying organizers. R. Mendiola stated that this year, RSVP will be mandatory. It was suggested to add board members to the invitation to add importance and visibility.

15. **Coastal Bend Day of Giving (CBDG) update: total amount raised \$66,747.00.**
M. Davis stated that with the money raised, the Center was able to purchase two new Honda Accords from Bravo Honda in Victoria, Texas. Two bids were received, and the third dealership wanted to know what the other dealerships were bidding and stated they would underbid the lowest bid, and we took that as a no bid. The center has roughly \$3,800.00 left over that needs to be spent by April. That money will go towards purchasing an item(s) for the diversion center.

BOARD TRAINING TOPICS

16. **Laserfiche** Carlos Cavazos
C. Cavazos reviewed the power point presentation that was provided in the board packet.
17. **Diversion Center** Mark Hendrix
M. Hendrix reviewed the power point presentation that was provided in the board packet.
18. **Utilization Management** Eileen Barker
E. Barker reviewed the power point presentation that was provided in the board packet.
19. **Substance Use Disorder** Yolanda Sosa
Y. Sosa reviewed the power point presentation that was provided in the board packet.
20. **OIG** Natalie Salas
N. Salas reviewed the power point presentation that was provided in the board packet.
21. **Veteran Services** JP Welsh
JP Welsh reviewed the power point presentation that was provided in the board packet.
22. **Financials** Dean Brewer
This item was tabled for the next meeting due to D. Brewer being unable to attend.
23. **Annual Board Training** Pam Beach
P. Beach, General Counsel for the Texas Council Risk Management Fund, provided training on the Roles and Responsibilities of Trustees that were provided in the board packet. Members were asked to sign an Affidavit and a Certificate of Training. A make-up session will be held later with T. Webber for members that were unable to attend today's training. T. Jackson asked if he could record meetings virtually. P. Beach stated that if a person can record in person, they could certainly record virtually.
- D. Dumesnil, Ex-officio informed the Board that she will be retiring in April.
24. **Community Collaborative status update**
25. **Meeting Adjourned** The meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Carol A. Houston
Secretary

3-25-2021
Date