**Columbia County Community Healthcare Consortium, Inc.**

**Minutes of the Governance Committee meeting of March 22, 2023**

**Participants**:

Board Members: Robin Andrews (Chair), Becky Polmateer, Casey O’Brien, John Thompson

Staff: Claire Parde, Ashling Kelly

*Meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m.*

**Discussion Summary**:

**Governance Meeting Schedule**

The group discussed changing the Governance Committee meeting day and time to better accommodate members’ schedules. Ashling will follow up with a doodle poll.

**Board Composition**

Robin reported that all members whose terms were ending agreed to renew those terms.

Claire updated the committee on three potential new Board members: Toni Carroll, Executive Director of Greene County YMCA; Amanda Pierro, Executive Director of Camphill Ghent; and, Marielle McKasky-Stagg, COO, Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood. Robin and Claire have already met with Toni and Amanda and will be meeting with Marielle later in the month.

The Greene County YMCA and Camphill Ghent are not currently network members; however, both organizations play important roles in the community, providing prevention activities in the case of the former and long-term care in the case of the latter. Therefore, Claire will be sending Toni and Amanda sample Network Member Agreements to see if they would like to commit their respective organizations to that role. Marielle would replace current network member representative Chelly Hegan, who has notified Claire that she will be stepping down due to a significant increase in work responsibilities. It was noted that Chelly’s departure will leave the Vice Presidency vacant.

Claire reported that she and Robin have revived the conversation about board membership with Tina Sharpe from Columbia Opportunities, a Network Member, which hasn’t had representation on the Board since the departure of Raina Cashdollar in the early part of 2022. A recommendation for a potential representative for that seat was received from Tina; Claire attempted to make contact but thus far, there has been no response. The Committee agreed that with the annual meeting fast approaching, it is unlikely that we will elect a representative from Columbia Opportunities at this time.

A member asked whether the Bylaws address board size, composition, and term limits. Claire explained that the bylaws provide for a large board because it is meant to be multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral in nature. She further explained that the Board consists of both network members – community organizations whose representatives are *ex officio* members of the Board, and community members who are not explicitly representing organizations. Network Members have signed agreements that pledge to provide representation on the Board, and therefore, Board meetings are a key way in which we promote relationships, information exchange, and collaboration between the Network Members. There are no limits on the number of consecutive terms either Network Members Representatives or community members may serve. Claire also explained that *ex officio* members who leave their positions with a Network Member are able to return to the Board as community members.

Claire reported that there are currently 16 Board members. Since Marielle will be replacing Chelly Hegan as the representative for Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood, only the additions of Amanda Pierro and Toni Carroll will increase the board size to 18.

The group discussed possible mentors for the incoming members as well as for Victoria McGahan, who recently became the Columbia County Department of Health’s Network Member Representative; Claire and Robin will follow up on the mentor suggestions. The group briefly discussed the new member orientation, which provides an opportunity for mentors and mentees to get to know each other, as well as an introduction to online resources such as the agency’s website and Board portal. The New Board Member Orientation will be scheduled for the month of June.

**Annual Recognition Event and Fundraiser**

Claire updated the Committee on the Annual Recognition Event and Fundraiser, reporting that she has enlisted a junior staff member, Victoria Juliano, to assist her and Ashling with event planning. Historically the Recognition event has been a formal wine and cheese gathering to recognize that year’s Friend of the Consortium Award recipient, who has usually been an immediate past Board member.

This year the event will honor the Consortium drivers; Claire will confer with CARTS Program Director, Jim Funk, to determine whether it will recognize all drivers, or just those who worked through the COVID-19 pandemic. The honorees influence the nature of the event; the drivers are likely to feel more comfortable in a relaxed and informal celebration. When discussed at the Executive Committee meeting, there was a consensus that the event should be held outdoors, so it is being planned as a picnic, running about three hours. The location will be the Greenport Town Park.

This year the event is also intended to serve as a CARTS fundraiser. There will be a ticket price of $30-$40 to cover costs; however, the drivers will attend at no cost. The agency will solicit sponsorships from vendors, healthcare providers to whom CARTS delivers clients, dealerships, mechanics and body shops, etc. to raise money, and at the event there will be a live auction to raise additional funds.

The group discussed possible dates in late May and mid-June; the event planners were encouraged to consider a weekday evening, rather than a weekend. Claire will send Robin and Becky, who have volunteered to assist with event planning, an update via email.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

**Next Meeting: TBD**