



TO: County Clerks  
FROM: Partners Behavioral Health Management  
DATE: June 1, 2020  
RE: Board of Director Appointments

The following clarifies: (1) changes resulting from the amendments to the bylaws of Partners Behavioral Health Management (Partners) approved by its Board of Directors on March 19, 2020; and (2) new members for Partners Board of Directors for fiscal year 2020-21 (FY21).<sup>1</sup>

### **1. Bylaws Amendments Regarding Board Appointments**

***Representation on Partners' Board of Directors (BOD) for each county in the catchment area remains in place with appointments still approved by each appointee's Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).*** Specifically, each of the nine (9) counties in Partners' catchment area continue to have a commissioner or designee for a 3-year term, at which time the commissioner/designee becomes eligible for reappointment to a second 3-year term (or their end of their term as a commissioner, whichever is earlier). Board terms are aligned with Partners' fiscal year which runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>. Each county also continues to have additional representation on Partners' BOD based on the needs of Partners and applicable law. The terms of the 21 members representing nine counties are staggered.

The main bylaws change has been to no longer restrict the number of appointments/seats for each county by the population of each county. This allows for greater flexibility when filling vacancies to accommodate the complex set of thirteen different categories required by NCGS 122C-118.1 for LME/MCO Board compilation. It also helps Partners acquire the expertise it needs during Medicaid Transformation from anywhere and everywhere among our nine counties. Perhaps as importantly, the change reflects the unique culture developed by Partners and its BOD of representing all citizens in need in all of Partners' catchment area, with county of residence being only an incidental consideration. ***Counties retain ultimate control over Partners' BOD appointments, since each BOD member remains appointed by the BOCC of the specific county in which that member resides.*** This change does mean that the number of BOD seats filled by any one county can fluctuate from year to year, but that no county will ever be unrepresented.

### **2. Appointment Process and FY21 BOD Membership**

As occurs each fiscal year, Partners for FY21 has BOD members rolling off effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, creating vacancies needing to be filled — generally about seven (7) each year. The statutory areas of expertise to be met by these replacement BOD members this coming FY21 currently include:

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<sup>1</sup> Partners has given the County Clerks copies of the current bylaws and Board of Directors.

- Healthcare: Healthcare expertise and experience in the fields of mental health (MH), substance use disorder (SUD) (aka substance abuse or "SA") and intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD) services;
- Insurance: Experience in insurance, preferably related to managed care; and
- Hospital: Experience in hospital administration where MH/IDD/SA emergency services are provided.

In addition, recommendations from the Consumer and Family Advisory Council (CFAC) to fill vacancies as of July 1, 2020 currently include:

- An openly declared consumer representing SUD; or
- A family member of a consumer who is diagnosed with SUD.

Partners BOD via Committee recommends to BOCCs potential new BOD members to fill these vacancies. Partners presents the slate of nominees for approval to the full Partners BOD at their June meeting.

Partners needs and invites county participation. To this end, Partners notifies County Clerks of the BOD's approval so the respective BOCCs can make appointments effective July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. To facilitate this process, Partners tries to provide County Clerks with an early list of which BOD members' terms will expire at the end of the coming fiscal year, plus the related area of required expertise to fill each vacancy. Partners seeks to improve this dialogue with County Clerks earlier going forward, especially seeking proposals and recommendations from each county to take to Partners' BOD.

Partners is proud of and appreciates the collaboration it has with its counties and their BOCCs. If there are any questions on this or other matter, please contact:

- Tammy Pyles, Clerk to the Board - [tpyles@partnersbhm.org](mailto:tpyles@partnersbhm.org) 704-884-2625;
- Tara Conrad, Community Engagement Director – [tconrad@partnersbhm.org](mailto:tconrad@partnersbhm.org) 828-323-8093;
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- Katie Varnadoe, Regional director of Community Operations – [kvarnadoe@partnersbhm.org](mailto:kvarnadoe@partnersbhm.org) 704-842-6349.