

# National Association for Behavioral Healthcare

Access. Care. Recovery.



Board of Trustees  
Thursday, Jan. 28, 2021  
Minutes

## Roll Call

Present: Members: Jameson Norton, Board Chair; Teena Ahuja, Stuart Archer, JP Christen, Jennifer Ziccardi-Colson, Pat Connell, Mark Covall, Frank Ghinassi, Gary Gilberti, Michele Gougeon, Pat Hammer, Jeff Hillis, John Hollinsworth, Eric Kim, Richard Kresch, Dwight Lacy, Eric Paul, Matt Peterson, Joe Pritchard, Patricia Rehmer, Ben Rucks, Fran Sauvageau, Dominic Sirianni, Philip Spencer, Blair Stam, Harsh Trivedi, Susan Wright, David Wyman

Staff: Shawn Coughlin, Kirsten Beronio, Maria Merlie, Julia Richardson, John Snook, Sarah Wattenberg, Emily Wilkins, Jessica Zigmond

Absent: John Boyd, Tom Kenny, Sean Walsh

Shawn Coughlin began the call at 4 p.m. ET and took attendance.

Shawn welcomed Teena Ahuja, Pat Connell, Richard Kresch, Dwight Lacy, Susan Wright, Joe Pritchard, and Patricia Rehmer as new members to the NABH Board of Trustees.

Shawn also thanked Pat Hammer for his service as NABH board chair for two years. He then welcomed Jameson Norton as NABH's 2021 board chair.

Jameson Norton reiterated Shawn's remarks about Pat Hammer's service and commitment to the board. Jameson also said he is humbled to lead the NABH board.

Shawn thanked the NABH Selection Committee for their work on the new slate of officers. The NABH Executive Committee includes: Matt Peterson as board chair elect, Pat Hammer as immediate past chair, John Hollinsworth as first vice chair, Tom Kenny as second vice chair, Dominic Sirianni as third vice chair, Frank Ghinassi as treasurer, Eric Kim as secretary, Mark Covall as executive vice chair.

Mark Covall said he thinks this is an excellent slate that reflects the diversity of the association's membership.

Jameson asked for a motion to approve the slate. A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate. All members voted unanimously to approve the slate.

Shawn said the role of treasurer and secretary are now two director roles in the education and research foundation. A move was made and seconded to adjust the education and research foundation bylaws. The board approved the adjustment unanimously.

Shawn then introduced the slate: Don Parker as president, Jim Shaheen as vice president, Mary Pawlikowski as secretary, Deni Carise as treasurer, and John Snook from the NABH team as director. Jameson added that this is a strong slate for this foundation and will do much to advance the

association's mission. He then asked for a motion to approve the slate. A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate of officers for the education and research foundation. All board members approved the slate unanimously.

**Legislative and Regulatory Update:**

Shawn said the new Biden administration is up and running and NABH has shared its priorities with both HHS and the Biden administration transition team. The most relevant executive order that President Biden issued recently is one to freeze regulations, which is common when new presidents take office.

One regulation that NABH is watching closely pertains to guidance that would exempt office-based physicians from certain requirements of the X waiver. HHS has removed the guidance from its website, and NABH will apprise members when it learns of any changes related to this policy.

HHS Acting Secy. Cochran said HHS expects to extend the public health emergency throughout 2021.

The Senate confirmation process has started for President Biden's cabinet. Former U.S. Rep. Xavier Becerra, who served most recently as California's attorney general, is expected to lead HHS.

Sens. McConnell and Schumer have agreed on a power-sharing agreement in the 50-50 Senate, which is modeled after the last time the Senate shared power equally.

The Biden administration introduced a \$1.9 trillion Covid relief package, and there is now talk about a budget reconciliation process for Democrats and Republicans to agree on a package. A reconciliation requires only 51 votes to pass (no filibuster). That process is expected to start the week of Feb. 1.

The call adjourned at 4:25 p.m.