

**LAKE SHORE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Special Meeting – February 7, 2023, 6:00 p.m.**

**This meeting was conducted as a public meeting and a Virtual meeting.**

**Present:** Brandon Beil, Chair  
Stephen M. Douglas, Vice-Chair

Lory Chancy – Secretary/Treasurer  
Don Kennedy, Trustee

**Absent:**

**Also**

**Present:** Dale Williams, Executive Director  
Bruce Robinson, Attorney  
Cynthia Watson, LSHA Staff  
Dwayne Cunningham, LSHA Staff  
Shelley Stroud  
Joe Chancy  
Don Savoie, Meridian Behavioral  
Healthcare  
Audre Washington-Ruise  
Dennis Roberts  
Jay Swisher  
Ricky Jernigan  
Glenel Bowden  
Stew Lilker

Sonja Markham, LSHA Staff  
Karl Plenge, NOC  
Richard Powell, Accountant  
Barbara Lemley  
Beth Raga  
Lauren Cohn, Meridian Behavioral  
Healthcare  
Chevella Young  
Ron Foreman  
Kelsey Thurman  
Richard Tompkins  
Chris Candler  
Joshua Garner

9 participants participated in the LSHA Virtual Regular Board Meeting.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Beil called the in person/virtual February 7, 2023, Special Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Chairman Beil called for additions/deletions to the Agenda. There were none. **Motion** by Mr. Don Kennedy to approve adoption of the Agenda. **Second** by Mr. Stephen Douglas. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

**INDIVIDUAL APPEARANCES**

Chevella Young, Barbara Lemley, Glenel Bowden, Vanessa George, Stew Lilker, and Chris Candler.

Letter from Ms. Denille Decker, The Blanche (attached)

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Discussion and possible action – the donation of the Lake Shore Hospital building to Meridian Behavioral Healthcare**

Comments by all of the LSHA Trustees on their individual thoughts/opinions re: Meridian Behavioral Healthcare. Discussion. **Motion** by Mr. Don Kennedy to allow staff, consisting of Mr. Williams, Mrs. Markham, Ms. Watson, Mr. Powell, Mr. Robinson and/or Mr. Kennon to give them the opportunity to sit down and develop a mutually agreeable and supportive agreement that collectively will provide for the citizens of Columbia County for the foreseeable future. **Second** by Mrs. Lory Chancy. All in favor. **Motion carried.** Mr. Kennedy requested a resolution by the April 10, 2023, meeting and asked each Trustee to meet with Mr. Williams regarding their concerns and what they would like to see as the teeth of the agreement with Meridian Behavioral Healthcare. Additional discussion. Roll call vote – Mr. Don Kenney – yes; Mrs. Lory Chancy – yes; Mr. Stephen Douglas – yes. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

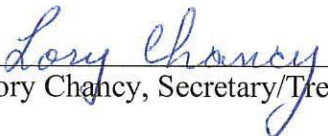
**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

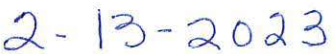
Comments Mrs. Lory Chancy and Mr. Don Kennedy.

Chairman Beil adjourned meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lory Chancy, Secretary/Treasurer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Approval

THE  
BLANCHE

February 7, 2023

Chairman Brandon Bell  
259 NE Franklin Street, Suite 102  
Lake City, FL 32055

Chairman Bell:

I am writing a letter of opposition on behalf of The Blanche regarding Meridian Behavioral Healthcare opening a psychiatric facility in the former Lake Shore Hospital building.

IDP Properties, the parent company of The Blanche, has invested over \$19 million dollars into the downtown community with the revitalization of the historic building. We house 22 residential apartments, 18 office suites, 14 hotel rooms, 10 retail businesses as well as a wedding and event venue. I feel it is important for you to understand all the facets of our business so you can fully understand why I am opposed to having Meridian downtown.

The Blanche goes to great lengths to market ourselves to surrounding areas as THE place to get married. We offer a beautiful facility, hotel rooms onsite, a quaint downtown and entertainment for your guests within walking distance. Roughly half of our total monthly revenue is dependent upon events and hotel guests utilizing our venue. I strongly believe that having a psychiatric treatment center in our central business district will adversely impact our wedding and hotel business. In today's world, a simple google maps search of the area you are looking to visit is quite often the deciding factor in whether someone will even take the first step and come tour your facility. Even more so with hotel guests. Simply put, when you are visiting out of town, given the choice, would you stay next to Longhorn Steakhouse or a mental health treatment center? Right or wrong, perception is reality.

While I understand expanded mental health services are desperately needed in our community, the placement of such within the heart of our downtown is inappropriate, undesirable, and reckless. I urge you to think of the businesses downtown when making a decision that will impact us all. Lake City's central business district is not the place for a mental health facility.

Sincerely,

*Dennille Decker*

Dennille Decker

CC: Mr. Dale Williams  
Mr. Stephen Douglas  
Mrs. Loretta Chancy  
Mr. Don Kennedy