

MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY SERVICES (MHRS) BOARD
Serving Coshocton, Guernsey, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble & Perry Counties
 1500 Coal Run Road – Zanesville, OH, 43701

OFFICIAL MINUTES
(May 12, 2022)

I. BOARD NOTIFICATION & COMPLIANCE WITH SUNSHINE LAW:

On May 2, 2022, board members, contract organization directors, service area news media, county boards of commissioners, and state legislators were notified the Board of Directors would meet on Thursday, May 12, 2022, at the MHRS Board Office — with the schedule of activities to include: 6:00 p.m., Separate Meetings of the Finance/Audit Committee and Partners Workgroup; and 7:00 p.m., regular board meeting.

II. CALL TO ORDER: President William Johnson called the regular board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

III. ROLL CALL:

Board Members present:

- *William Johnson, President (Coshocton County)*
- *Sue Hoover, Vice-President (Muskingum County)*
- *Randi Earnest (Guernsey County)*
- *Pamela Kirst (Muskingum County)*
- *Jeff LeCocq (Muskingum County)*
- *Tony Mayle, Jr. (Morgan County)*
- *Dan Scheerer, M.D. (Muskingum County)*
- *Ben Taylor (Perry County)*

Board Members excused:

- *Leondra Davis (Coshocton County)*
- *Jon Black (Guernsey County)*
- *Megan Gee (Muskingum County)*
- *Danielle Scott (Perry County) – Resigned from Board of Directors Effective May 12, 2022 – Moving Out of State*

There being eight board members present, a quorum was constituted for conducting official business.

Staff Members present:

- *Misty Cromwell, Executive Director*
- *Elaine Shuster, Associate Director*
- *Jamie McGrew, Care Management Director*
- *Rhonda Hanes, Fiscal Operations Director*
- *Roger Birch, Youth & Family Services Coordinator*
- *Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator*

IV. AGENDA: There being no changes to the pre-mailed agenda, PAMELA KIRST MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MAY 12, 2022, MEETING AGENDA AS MAILED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

V. MEETING MINUTES: It was noted that the minutes from the April 14 board meeting were e-mailed to board members on April 20, 2022.

PAMELA KIRST MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL

14, 2022, REGULAR BOARD MEETING AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR.

Randi Earnest clarified a notation in the “Board Meeting Highlights,” pointing out that the Country Garden Manor and Liberty Manor state-operated group homes are not accredited by the Joint Commission.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: RANDI EARNEST, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; JEFF LeCOCQ, ABSTAIN; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR YEA. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED RECEIVING SIX POSITIVE VOTES AND ONE ABSTENTION.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Key issues from Misty Cromwell’s Director’s Report were:

◆ **Board Member Reappointments:** The Muskingum County Commissioners recently took action to reappoint Dr. Dan Scheerer, Pamela Kirst, and Sue Hoover to the MHRS Board of Directors to 4-year terms effective July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2026. The Morgan County Commissioners also took action to reappoint Tony Mayle, Jr. to a 4-year term effective July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2026.

◆ **Ohio Health Improvement Zone Grant – Ohio Department of Health:** Director Cromwell is partnering with the Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department on a grant that would eventually see special programming in the Putnam area of Zanesville and in the neighborhood of the Zanesville Community Center. If approved, the grant will support meaningful community engagement to change the dynamics between residents and public health and behavioral health systems. Those changes can include improvements in knowledge, skills and behaviors—in an effort to create opportunities for individuals to thrive. On May 5, 2022, Director Cromwell provided a letter of support for the grant.

◆ **Culture of Quality (COG) On-Site Re-Certification Survey:** *(Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes).*

◆ **Forensic Beds at State Hospitals:** Director Cromwell has initiated conversations with criminal justice entities to address the problem of insufficient numbers of open civil beds at State Hospitals. Our region’s State Hospital (Appalachian Behavioral Health Care – ABH), like other hospitals in the state, is primarily serving forensic patients who are admitted via local law enforcement and court systems. Problem-solving discussions are centering on other alternatives for adjudicating court-involved offenders (i.e., use of Ohio’s Senate Bill 2 that enables the diversion of misdemeanants from inpatient to outpatient care).

◆ **Close-Out of Noble Behavioral Health Choices:** All close-out paperwork has been filed with appropriate entities. The organization’s checking account has been closed, with the funds being transferred to the MHRS Board—earmarked for Noble County. NBHC’s final audit is expected to be received in June of 2022.

◆ **Local Recovery Summit 2022:** Planning continues for the local Recovery Summit celebration for service area clients and their families. The Summit will be held on Friday, September 23, at the Elizabeth Sugden Broughton Community Building in Marietta. The theme is “Remembering Recovery.” More details to come.

◆ **Mental Health Awareness Month – May 2022:** *(Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)*

VII. FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT: *(Dr. Dan Scheerer, Chair)*

1. April 2022 Financial Reports:

Board members reviewed the MHRS Board’s Financial Reports for April 2022 that included: 1) Reconciliation Report; 2) Contract Services Expense Reports; 3) Balance Sheet as of April 30, 2022; 4) Dashboard Report; and 5) Monthly Report of Network Funding Reserves. Board members paid particular attention to the Dashboard Report, reviewing status of contract providers’ budgets, system revenue and expenditures, and use of levy funds.

◆ **April 2022 Reconciliation Report:**

After the report of Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE FULL BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE APRIL 2022 RECONCILIATION REPORT AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RANDI EARNEST.

Dr. Scheerer provided a specific review of this all-inclusive report that shows deposits, checks written for MHRS Board operations, payments to in-network service providers and out-of-network community partners, and journal entries.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN ON THE ABOVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS: RANDI EARNEST, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; JEFF LeCOCQ, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING SEVEN POSITIVE VOTES.

2. Calendar Year 2023 Operating Budget for MHRS Board System:

The review of this agenda item was officially considered an ‘open budget hearing’ (*with notice of such hearing being published in The Times Recorder’s Legal Notice Section on May 1, 2022*).

After the report of Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023 BUDGET FOR THE ENTIRE NETWORK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,090,342.00. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JEFF LeCOCQ.

This budget is required by law and is prepared for the six sets of County Commissioners and County Auditors in the MHRS Board’s service area. It was explained that the expenditures in the budget combine the MHRS Board’s CY 2023 Operating Budget with the CY 2023 Contract Service Provider Allocations, and miscellaneous adjustments. The majority of the budget is for payments to contract organizations and community partners for the provision of mental illness and addiction recovery treatment and support services (totaling \$9,808,363.00).

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN ON THE ABOVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS: RANDI EARNEST, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; JEFF LeCOCQ, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA.

3. Funding Request – Zanesville City Schools – Dog Therapy Programs:

After the report of Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE A SPECIAL ALLOCATION OF \$40,000.00 TO ZANESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS TO SUPPORT DOG THERAPY PROGRAMS (\$10,000.00 EACH) AT THE ZANESVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL, JOHN McINTIRE ELEMENTARY, NATIONAL ROAD ELEMENTARY, AND ZANE GREY ELEMENTARY. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY PAMELA KIRST.

Each year, Zanesville City Schools are seeing more students with social and emotional challenges — including abuse, neglect, and separation and trauma — as well as students diagnosed with ADHD, anxiety and depression.

Having a non-judgmental therapy dog available to be with children will be a beneficial

and calming influence. Over the next several months, the schools' therapy dogs will be undergoing extensive training and hopefully will soon begin interacting with students at the beginning of 2023.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN ON THE ABOVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS: RANDI EARNEST, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; JEFF LeCOCQ, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING SEVEN POSITIVE VOTES.

4. Additional Funding Request – Muskingum Behavioral Health – Establishment of Case Manager Position @ Pearl House Zanesville:

After the report of Committee action, JEFF LeCOCQ MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE ALLOCATION OF \$24,135.00 TO MUSKINGUM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TO SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CASE MANAGER POSITION AT PEARL HOUSE ZANESVILLE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JEFF LeCOCQ.

This funding will facilitate the establishment of a full-time Case Manager position at the Pearl House Zanesville (PHZ) apartment complex. The funds will support the position for the first six months of FY 2023. The Case Manager will be on-site Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm and will support residents in working with treatment providers, courts, child welfare, and behavioral health programs. It is anticipated that PHZ will begin accepting tenants on July 1, 2022.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN ON THE ABOVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS: RANDI EARNEST, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; JEFF LeCOCQ, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING SEVEN POSITIVE VOTES.

VIII. PARTNERS WORKGROUP:

1. Network Outcomes Process:

(Summary of report included in Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)

IX. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:

2. Slate of Nominees – FY 2023 Officers for Board of Directors:

Nominating Committee Chair Pamela Kirst reported that the Board's current officers (William Johnson, President; and Sue Hoover, Vice-President) have agreed to continue providing leadership in FY 2023. The election of officers will take place at the June 9, 2022, board meeting—at which time additional nominations from the floor will be taken.

X. OLD BUSINESS: There was no Old Business.

XI. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on June 9, 2022, at the

MHRS Board Office — with the schedule being:

- 6:00 to 6:30 pm Annual Board Member Recognition Dinner
- 6:30 to 7:00 pm Special Program Report: “PAW-SOME” Reading Club –
Muskingum Behavioral Health (Kris Headley, MBH’s Chief
Prevention & Recovery Support Officer)
- 7:00 pm Regular Board Meeting

XII. COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

▶ **SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE:** Board members agreed they would not meet in July.

▶ **”MAKE MUSKINGUM HOME” PROGRAM:** Pamela Kirst noted that, in an effort to attract and retain talent in Muskingum County, the Straker Foundation and the Muskingum County Community Foundation have teamed up to start the “Make Muskingum Home” program. This initiative will support a direct payment of up to \$10,000.00 per year for up to five years for people who move to and work in Muskingum County. The funds are to be applied to student loans. The program is also available to people who have moved to the county fewer than three years ago. Applications will open this summer. The program is not directed at any specific educational level or type of degree and will include persons who have learned a trade or a skill.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

SIGNATURES

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator

Misty Cromwell, Executive Director

William Johnson, Board President