

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

**GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS – REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
***(January 8, 2026)***

**I. BOARD NOTIFICATION & COMPLIANCE WITH SUNSHINE LAW:**

On December 29, 2025, board members, contract organization directors, service area news media, county boards of commissioners, and state legislators were notified that the Governing Board of Directors would meet on Thursday, January 8, 2026, at the MHRS Board Office — with the schedule of activities to include: 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., meetings of Finance/Audit Committee and Program Committee; and 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting.

**II. CALL TO ORDER:** President Leondra Davis called the regular board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**III. ROLL CALL:**

Board Members Present:

- *Leondra Davis, President (Coshocton County)*
- *Ben Taylor, Vice President (Perry County)*
- *Reid Carpenter (Noble County)*
- *Abby Corder (Muskingum County)*
- *Randi Earnest (Guernsey County)*
- *Dennis Hitchcock (Muskingum County)*
- *Sue Hoover (Muskingum County)*
- *William Johnson (Coshocton County)*
- *Dr. Dan Scheerer (Muskingum County)*
- *Bonnie Taylor (Muskingum County)*

Board Members Excused:

- *Sean Brady (Muskingum County)*
- *Tony Mayle, Jr. (Morgan County)*
- *Lt. Dave Peoples (Guernsey County)*
- *Wendy Starlin (Perry County)*

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

Staff Members Present:

- *Misty Cromwell, Executive Director*
- *Rhonda Hanes, Associate Director / Director of Finance*
- *Jamie McGrew, Director of Community Outreach & Programming*
- *Roger Birch, Director of Youth & Family Services*
- *Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator*

**IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** (No guests were present.)

**V. AGENDA:** President Davis noted one addition to the pre-mailed January 8, 2026, agenda under the Finance/Audit Committee Report: ***6c. Acceptance of State Audit Report for Calendar Year 2024.*** DENNIS HITCHCOCK MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE JANUARY 8, 2026, BOARD MEETING AS AMENDED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

**VI. MEETING MINUTES:** REID CARPENTER MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 11, 2025, BOARD MEETING AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DENNIS HITCHCOCK AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR,

ABSTAIN. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED RECEIVING EIGHT POSITIVE VOTES AND ONE ABSTENTION.

## VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- ***Plans for Service Area Legislative Breakfasts:*** (Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights.)
- ***Significant Community Impact – CIT Training for Service Area Dispatchers:*** (Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights.)

## VIII. FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT: (Dr. Dan Scheerer, Chair)

### 1. **Financial Reports:**

Board members reviewed the following December 2025 financial reports: 1) Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2025; 2) Dashboard Report; 3) Report of Network Funding Reserves; 4) Year-to-Date Status Report for the MHRS Board's Operating Budget; and 5) Reconciliation Report.

#### ▶ ***December 2025 Reconciliation Report:***

Following the report of Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 2025 RECONCILIATION REPORT AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY WILLIAM JOHNSON, AND A ROLL-CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING NINE POSITIVE VOTES.

### 2. **Authorization to Pay 2025 Bills in 2026:**

Following the report of Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

IT HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY THE FISCAL DEPARTMENT TO PAY 2025 BILLS IN 2026. THIS WOULD INCLUDE ANY UNKNOWN INVOICES DATED 2025 THAT ARE PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT IN 2026. ANY KNOWN 2025 EXPENSES HAVE BEEN DOCUMENTED AS A CARRYOVER EXPENSE. IT IS RESOLVED THAT 2025 INVOICES PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT IN 2026 ARE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT.

THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DENNIS HITCHCOCK AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING NINE POSITIVE VOTES.

### 3. **CY 2024 State Audit Report:**

Dr. Scheerer commended Misty Cromwell, Fiscal Director Rhonda Hanes, and all other fiscal department staff members for receiving a clean audit report from the State Auditor's Office for Calendar Year 2024.

Following the report of committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO ACCEPT THE MHRS BOARD'S CY 2024 AUDIT REPORT PREPARED BY THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY WILLIAM JOHNSON AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; DENNIS

HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING NINE POSITIVE VOTES.

Rhonda Hanes noted that: 1) in accordance with the State's Auditor's Management Letter, MHRS Board fiscal staff will be tightening up their purchase order processes, particularly in the area of residential services for children; and 2) they will also be considering setting up revenue/expense accounts for each service area county to help with the management of any upcoming capital projects.

**4. Ohio Network for Innovation (ONI) Guardianship Contract:**

Director Cromwell noted the CY 2026 Contract with ONI was approved at the November 13, 2025, board meeting. She shared some additional financial information from ONI regarding our MHRS Board's cost details: 1) MHRS Board Guardianships, 42; 2) Guardianship Cost: \$117,852.00; and 3) Guardianship Estate Fees as needed.

**IX. PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT: (Randi Earnest, Chair)**

**1. Community Assessment and Plan (CAP) – for 2026-2028:**

Committee Chair Randi Earnest noted that the 2026-2028 CAP had been posted to the board meeting portal for review. She reported that the Program Committee had thoroughly reviewed the plan that documents the behavioral health needs of our communities and outlines how the MHRS Board will address them. *(Summary included in the Board Meeting Highlights.)*

Following review of committee action, RANDI EARNEST MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE SUBMISSION OF THE MHRS BOARD'S 2026-2028 COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT AND PLAN TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUE HOOVER AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING NINE POSITIVE VOTES.

**X. NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Perry County Renewal Levy:**

Following discussion about requesting the Perry County Commissioners to place a renewal levy on the May 5, 2026, ballot, REID CARPENTER MOVED THAT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION: TO AUTHORIZE THE MHRS BOARD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO REQUEST THE PERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO PLACE A 1-MILL, 10-YEAR TAX LEVY RENEWAL ON THE MAY 5, 2026, PRIMARY BALLOT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUE HOOVER AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING NINE POSITIVE VOTES.

**XI. NEXT MEETING:** The Board of Governors will next meet at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at the MHRS Board Office, 1500 Coal Run Road, Zanesville. Committees will meet from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

**SIGNATURE PAGE**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

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**Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator**

**APPROVED BY:**

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**Misty Cromwell, Executive Director**

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**Leondra Davis, Board President**