

Board Update

Mental Health & Recovery Services (MHRS) Board
Serving Coshocton, Guemsey, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble & Perry Counties
1500 Coal Run Road, Zanesville, Ohio 43701
Phone: 740-454-8557

Regular Board Meeting
Highlights
February 9, 2023

Update - Allwell's Guardianship Program

Partners Workgroup Chair Randi Earnest shared with the full Board of Directors information about Allwell Behavioral Health's Guardianship Program that was presented by Pam Easterly and Vicky Stevens during the Partners Workgroup meeting. This program is for persons whose severe mental illness impairs their ability to make decisions. Guardianship is a legal process where an individual is appointed by a court to make decisions for a client (Ward) — with those decisions being made in the best interest of the individual (least intrusive and restrictive and most normalizing). The two main reasons for guardianship are: 1) an adult has become mentally incapacitated or incompetent; 2) an adult is functioning with diminished capacity in some area.

Allwell's first guardian (Pam Easterly) began working on November 11, 2021, and a second guardian (Vicky Stevens) was hired on November 29, 2022.

Responsibilities/Duties of a Guardian:

- Must report in writing to the court any allegations of abuse, neglect or exploitation. Local law enforcement must also be notified.
- Notifies the court about residence changes.
- Must meet with a Ward quarterly and at least one meeting should be unscheduled. To make decisions in the best interest of the person, it is important to get to know Wards — their past history, preferences, values and traditions.
- Offer person-centered planning, making sure individual's needs are met.

ABHS Guardianship Admission Criteria:

- Person is an active client at Allwell Behavioral Health.
- Client meets the criteria for Adult Community Psychiatric Support (case management services) and agrees to receive those services.
- Patient is incapable of managing his/her personal affairs as deemed by the Probate Court.
- Patient does not have family members or friends able to serve as a guardian.

MHRS Board Director Misty Cromwell noted that guardianship services are a key component of care, and the needs in this area are continuing to grow.

The overall goal of Allwell's Guardianship Program is to support and improve client safety, well-being and quality of life.

Executive Director
Misty Cromwell

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The mission of the MHRS Board is to facilitate a Recovery-Oriented System of Care that promotes mental health and supports the recovery of each person who needs services for mental illness and/or addiction.

FinancialMatters

Under the guidance of Finance/Audit Committee Chair Dr. Dan Scheerer, board members reviewed and approved the January 2023 Reconciliation Report that shows deposits, checks written for MHRS Board operations, payments to in-network contract service providers and out-of-network community partners, and journal entries.

Below is a breakdown of January payments for the provision of treatment and support services for persons with mental illness and/or addictions:

<i>Accounts Payable</i>	<i>In-Network Providers</i>	<i>Out-of-Network Partners</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
January 5, 2023	\$300,548.15	\$31,552.49	\$332,100.64
January 17, 2023	\$310,805.89	\$275,715.87	\$586,521.76
January 30, 2023	\$170,993.14	\$58,630.37	\$229,623.51
TOTAL	\$782,347.18	\$365,898.73	\$1,148,245.91

Other Actions:

► **Appropriation of Unencumbered Funds:** Board members approved the appropriation of \$11,336,418.26 in unencumbered funds from December 31, 2022, to the Calendar Year 2023 Budget in the Contingency Funds Line Item.

► **Other Financial Reports:** Board members reviewed the MHRS Board’s other January Finance Reports that included: 1) Contract Service Expenses; 2) Balance Sheet as of January 31, 2023; 3) Network Funding Reserves; 4) a ‘Year-to-Date’ Status Report for the MHRS Board’s CY 2023 Operating Budget; and 5) a Dashboard Report that provides a high-level overview of key fiscal indicators.

► **Renewal Levy Resolutions:** Board members took action to authorize Director Misty Cromwell to request applicable County Boards of Commissioners to place the following levy renewals on November 7, 2023, ballots: 1) Coshocton County, 10-Year, 8/10 Mill; 2) Morgan County, 10-year, 8/10 Mill; and 3) Noble County, 10-year, 7/10 Mill.

► **Community-Wide Behavioral Health Collaborative:** Director Misty Cromwell updated board members about the collaborative project for conducting a comprehensive assessment of the region’s crisis continuum and then developing a plan for enhancing and sustaining behavioral health crisis services. In addition to the MHRS Board, the other current partners are the Genesis Healthcare System, Muskingum Valley Health Centers, and Allwell Behavioral Health. The Collaborative has been collecting project consultant proposals and will soon make the final selection.

► **Purchase of Van for Zanesville Civic League:** Board members approved the purchase of a used van from Coshocton Behavioral Health Choices in the amount of \$20,000.00, with the vehicle then being given to the Zanesville Civic League.

► **Ascend Data Solutions Contract:** Board members approved a contract with Ascend Data Solutions in the amount of \$41,624.00 to support: 1) Acquisition and Engagement, \$21,700; and 2) the Community Assessment Plan Dashboard, \$19,924. Dr. Scheerer noted this contract service would assist the MHRS Board in making better data-informed decisions.

► **Substantial Changes in FY 2024 Contracts – 120-Day Notice:** Board members took action to approve individual resolutions, endorsing the State Fiscal Year 2024 agency-specific language that is included in the 120-day notices to the following contract organizations: Allwell Behavioral Health Services, Coshocton Behavioral Health Choices, Guernsey Health Choices, Morgan Behavioral Health Choices, Muskingum Behavioral Health, Perry Behavioral Health Choices, and the Forensic Diagnostic Center of District 9.

MHRS Board Mini-Grants

The MHRS Board has approved the following 2023 Mini-Grants:

- ◆ ***Ohio District Council of Pentecostal Churches, Inc. (\$5,000.00)*** — Will help to support the use of the Hallowed Hills Campground on the East Pike in Zanesville for overnight sleeping accommodations during the winter months for Muskingum County residents who are coping with homelessness, addiction and/or mental illness.
- ◆ ***Zanesville Civic League (\$5,000.00)*** — To offer a variety of programs that will address the social and emotional needs of the community – through appropriate books/supplies, learning opportunities, providing backpacks to help children/families to grow and develop across the life span. Will also provide opportunities throughout the year for equine therapy, music lessons, art therapy, and swimming lessons.
- ◆ ***Transitions Domestic Violence Shelter – Zanesville (\$5,000.00)*** — To provide a portion of a salary for a court advocate, who will assist individuals in obtaining protection orders and restraining orders, as well as providing general navigation guidance.
- ◆ ***Haven of Hope Domestic Violence Shelter – Cambridge (\$5,000.00)*** — Will serve as matching funds for the Shelter’s Victims of Crime Act federal grant. This will result in the shelter receiving \$61,603.00 in total VOCA funds. Those dollars will support two full-time victim advocates.
- ◆ ***Children’s Advocacy Center of Guernsey County (\$5,000.00)*** — To sustain the provision of direct services to child sexual abuse victims and their families.
- ◆ ***Bethel Community Center – Zanesville (\$4,054.00)*** — To fund the creation of a quiet space at the Center to be used by students in the after-school program. Will help address children’s anxiety and anger management, as well as promote mindfulness activities.

Community Assessment and Plan for 2023-2025

The MHRS Board’s program staff recently submitted our service area’s Community Assessment Plan to the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services. The plan: 1) identifies underserved priority populations; 2) presents the strategy for addressing gaps; and 3) lists the outcomes to be reached.

Mandated Continuum of Care service areas are: Prevention, Mental Health Treatment, Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment, Medication-Assisted Treatment, Crisis Services, Harm Reduction, and Recovery Supports. Two priority special populations to be served are: Pregnant Women with SUD and Parents with SUD who have Dependent Children.

Equity Grounded Leadership (EGL) Cohort Completed



A few weeks ago, the inaugural cohort of the EGL Fellow Program, completed an 11-month process, demonstrating a commitment to ongoing learning, growth, and personal/professional development. The College for Behavioral Health Leadership congratulated participants for their willingness to share their experiences, expertise, and wisdom. MHRs Board Director Misty Cromwell joined 21 other participants from across the country to address the EGL's four core components: 1) Curriculum; 2) Facilitation; 3) Membership; and 4) Collaboration.

State Opioid and Stimulant Response Funds

The MHRs Board was recently awarded \$745,302.00 in SOS/SOR funds. These funds have been allocated to Allwell Behavioral Health Services, Coshocton Behavioral Health Choices, Guernsey Health Choices, Muskingum Behavioral Health, Perry Behavioral Health Choices, Muskingum Valley Health Centers, Zanesville Treatment Center, and the Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department. These dollars are being used to support Treatment Navigation, Parent Mentoring, Community Health Planning, Transportation, and Medication-Assisted Treatment for those who are uninsured or underinsured.

Annual Performance Review – Executive Director

As prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code, the MHRs Board of Directors annually conducts an evaluation of the Executive Director's performance and sets the Director's salary for the coming fiscal year. Board members accepted the Executive Committee's evaluation report and set Director Cromwell's FY 2024 salary (effective July 1, 2023) at \$105,268.80. *(Board members completing the evaluation were President William Johnson, Vice President Sue Hoover, and Committee Chairs Randi Earnest and Dr. Dan Scheerer.)*

The Executive Committee expressed appreciation for Ms. Cromwell's leadership, noting: *"Misty maintains the MHRs Board's mission through her consistent interactions with collaborative agencies, constituents, and network service providers. She does an excellent job of keeping our mission the focus of all MHRs Board operations. She has been in the field of mental health and addiction services for 28 years and understands firsthand the needs of those she serves."*

Development of Coshocton County Resource Center

Doug Schonauer, Administrator for the Coshocton County Probate/Juvenile Court, applied for funding through the Ohio Department of Youth Services and was awarded a 2-year \$125,000 grant to fund the creation of a Community Resource Center in Coshocton. MHRs Board Criminal Justice/Crisis Services Coordinator Karl Hoop is helping to make plans for the development of this important initiative. Another key planner is MHRs Board Coshocton County Board Representative Leondra Davis. Planners are trying to find a location for the Center and are beginning to map out the program's operations. Leondra noted that the ultimate goal of the Center is the strengthening of youth and families and connecting people to resources.