

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
November 14, 2024

FinancialMatters

Under the guidance of Finance Committee Chair Dr. Dan Scheerer, board members addressed the following fiscal issues.

- **Reconciliation Report:** Board members reviewed and approved the October 2024 Reconciliation Report that showed deposits, checks written for MHRS Board operations, payments to in-network contract service providers and out-of-network community partners, and journal entries.
- **Other Financial Reports:** Board members also reviewed the following October 2024 fiscal reports: 1) Balance Sheet through October 31, 2024; 2) Monthly Report of Funding Reserves; 3) Year-to-Date Status Report for the MHRS Board's Operating Budget; 4) Contract Services Expenses; and 5) a Dashboard Report that provides a high-level overview of key fiscal indicators.
- **Appropriation Transfers – MHRS Board's CY 2024 Budget:** Board members approved the transfer of \$1,500,500.00 from the Contingencies Line Item to the following expense areas: Medicare, \$500.00; Contract Services, \$750,000.00; and ARPA Expenses, \$750,000.00.
- **October Payments for Services:** Below is a breakdown of payments for mental health and addiction recovery services for clients and families or for system improvements:

<i>Accounts Payable</i>	<i>In-Network Providers</i>	<i>Out-of-Network Partners</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>October 3, 2024</i>	<i>\$472,566.51</i>	<i>\$54,003.67</i>	<i>\$526,570.18</i>
<i>October 21, 2024</i>	<i>\$149,796.92</i>	<i>\$372,185.17</i>	<i>\$521,982.09</i>
<i>October 31, 2024</i>	<i>\$522,056.02</i>	<i>\$224,106.76</i>	<i>\$746,162.78</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$1,144,419.45</i>	<i>\$650,295.60</i>	<i>\$1,794,715.05</i>

SPECIAL ALLOCATION REQUESTS

- **Ohio District Council – Winter Shelter Program:** Allocated \$40,000.00 to the Ohio District Council to help support a Winter Shelter Program for the Homeless at the Hallowed Hills Complex in Zanesville. The shelter will be available during the months of December 2024 and January and February of 2025 when outdoor temperatures are expected to be the coldest. The shelter will be a welcoming center where unsheltered adults can spend the night and be safe from the environmental hazards of the street. Another key partner in this program is Trulight Ministries. (More than half of adults using supportive housing programs have a mental illness, a substance use disorder, or both.)
- **Allwell Behavioral Health Services (ABHS) – EPIC Hardware:** Allocated \$39,669.60 to ABHS for the purchase of computer hardware for transitioning to the EPIC electronic health record system. The allocation is Allwell's cost-share for computer hardware purchases; the other cost-sharer is the Genesis Healthcare System.
- **Allwell Behavioral Health Services – Gap Funding:** Board members reviewed a request from ABHS for a special allocation of \$557,056.00 — to cover a funding gap between Allwell's cost to provide

Executive Director
Misty Cromwell

Board of Directors

Sean Brady
Reid Carpenter
Abby Corder
Leondra Davis
Randi Earnest
Dennis Hitchcock
Sue Hoover
William Johnson
Tony Mayle, Jr.
Dave Peoples
Dan Scheerer, M.D.
Wendy Starlin
Ben Taylor
Bonnie Taylor

Board President
Sue Hoover

Board Vice President
Leondra Davis

Mission Statement

Our mission is to distribute federal, state, and local funding to community mental health providers in a way that facilitates the existence of (and access to) high-quality mental health and substance use recovery services in our six counties.

necessary services and the reimbursement currently provided by payors. The MHRS Board was asked to reimburse Allwell at the unit cost, as opposed to Medicaid reimbursement rates. This issue was tabled so that another meeting between Allwell and the MHRS Board's Finance Committee can be held to continue discussions about the request.

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Academy & Annual Training for Dispatchers



The CIT Academy for law enforcement officers was held October 21-24, 2024. Participants included nine Corrections Officers and fifteen Patrol Officers (total of 24). The course covered scene assessment and de-escalation skills, basic information about mental illnesses and addictions, and the importance of officer self-care. The group also had the opportunity to hear the perspectives of persons struggling with mental illness and/or addictions as well as some family members.



Four service area dispatchers were trained on October 25. Being the first line of connection for many behavioral health clients who are in crisis, this training is primarily focused on over-the-phone de-escalation skills. The training also included segments of Mental Illness 101 and Addiction 101, as well as some general behavioral health education and stigma reduction information.



We extend a BIG 'thank-you' to the many individuals who voted for our Guernsey County Renewal Levy! Your support will help to ensure that treatment and support services are available for those struggling with mental illness and/or addictions. Actions that successfully improve the overall mental health of those in need are accompanied by other important benefits to those individuals, our communities, and our society as a whole.



(SCOPE Grant Update)

The MHRS Board’s SCOPE Program enhances the capabilities of first responders in helping persons with substance use disorders (SUDs) during emergency situations. First responders play a vital role in the lives of individuals with SUD and can be an important intercept point in connecting them to recovery resources.

Randi Earnest, Chair of the Partners Workgroup, reported on a presentation by representatives from the University of Pittsburgh’s Program Evaluation and Research Unit (PERU) regarding the status of the SAMHSA-APPROVED SCOPE Grant that is designed to equip and empower first responders (EMS personnel and firefighters) to reduce the impact of opioid overdoses in their communities. Some key strategies are:

1. **Training First Responders:** Provides free continuing education to first responders about the opioid public health crisis and expanded services they can implement to better serve community members at risk of substance use disorder.
2. **Increasing Naloxone Administration:** Aims to increase the administration of Naloxone, a life-saving medication that can reverse opioid overdoses.
3. **Referring Patients to Treatment Services:** First responders provide an avenue (through the Outreach Coordinator) to refer patients to local drug and alcohol treatment services to ensure they receive the care they need.
4. **Community Engagement:** SCOPE involves community members and stakeholders in overdose prevention efforts to create a more comprehensive approach to tackling the opioid crisis.

— UPDATES —

Muskingum County:

- Ninety-six First Responders across five agencies in Muskingum County have received SCOPE training and Continuing Education Credit.
- Partners are in the early stages of data sharing.
- PERU will begin to evaluate data and report out insights related to program effectiveness and next steps.
- Naloxone leave-behind-bags have been distributed.
- In January of 2025, a Motivational Interviewing Training will be provided for the Zanesville Fire Department — as part of the second year programming.

Morgan County:

- Partners in Morgan County are beginning to make arrangements for Year 2 activities that includes developing a SCOPE training schedule. (This is Year 2 for the grant, but Year 1 for Morgan County.)

Coshocton County:

- In CY 2025, efforts will be made to officially launch the SCOPE Program in Coshocton County.

The MHRS Board is pleased to be working with community partners to eliminate overdose deaths and improve the overall health and safety of service area communities.

Behavioral Health Crisis Continuum

MHRS Board Director Misty Cromwell reviewed a listing of Crisis Continuum Elements in our six-county region, including:

- ***Crisis Center or Crisis Hub — Hidden Springs*** – Available to clients in all six service area counties.
- ***Call Center and Crisis Lines*** – Allwell’s Crisis Hotline – 1-800-344-5818 and the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.
- ***Deployed Crisis-Trained Police and First Responders*** – through Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trainings and the MHRS Board’s Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Program.
- ***Medical Triage and Screening*** – Allwell Behavioral Health Primary Care and Genesis Emergency Department.
- ***Mobile Crisis*** – Allwell Behavioral Health – currently limited to youth only.
- ***Behavioral Health Urgent Care*** – Allwell Behavioral Health – currently in development.
- ***Intensive Community-Based Crisis Intervention.***
- ***23-Hour and Extended Observation*** – Genesis Healthcare System.
- ***Residential Crisis Facility for Youth*** – formerly The Thompkins Center.
- ***Local Hospitals’ Roles in Crisis Services.***
- ***Transportation Services.***
- ***Outpatient Crisis Services*** – Allwell Behavioral Health.
- ***Regional Youth Crisis Stabilization*** – currently in development in Bethesda, Ohio.
- ***Genesis Youth Crisis Stabilization Unit*** – currently in development.

Stakeholder Meeting: MHRS Board staff and TBD Solutions consultants recently met with approximately 70 community partners, providers, and stakeholders from our six-county service area — to obtain feedback about the development of a community-led solution for addressing mobile crisis services in our region. Smaller groups of partners will be identified in future meetings — to review initial feedback, identify additional participants, and develop a plan.

Enhancement of Supportive Services for Individuals and Families

► **NAMI Six County:** A new NAMI Six County Executive Director (Breann Adams) has been hired, and she has been introducing herself to community service providers and partners. Over the next year, she hopes to establish a working board for the non-profit and create or expand support services for individuals and families coping with mental illness.

► **Recovery Community Organization:** Perry Behavioral Health Choices has created a Recovering Community Organization that is made up of people in recovery from addiction and mental illness, who are dedicating their time and talents to ensure persons in recovery are supported in their local communities. The group held their initial meeting on October 22 to explore the following: 1) the possibility of teaming up with NAMI Six County; and 2) the possibility of teaming up to explore some fund-raising opportunities.