

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

OFFICIAL MINUTES
(November 14, 2024)

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

I. BOARD NOTIFICATION & COMPLIANCE WITH SUNSHINE LAW:

On November 5, 2024, 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, November 14, 2024, 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 Partners Workgroup; and 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting.

II. CALL TO ORDER: President Sue Hoover called the regular board meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

III. ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present:

- *Sue Hoover, President (Muskingum County)*
- *Leondra Davis, Vice President (Coshocton County)*
- *Abby Corder, (Muskingum County)*
- *Randi Earnest (Guernsey County)*
- *Dennis Hitchcock (Muskingum County)*
- *William Johnson (Coshocton County)*
- *Tony Mayle, Jr. (Morgan County)*
- *Dr. Dan Scheerer (Muskingum County)*
- *Wendy Starlin (Perry County)*
- *Ben Taylor (Perry County)*

Board Members Excused:

- *Sean Brady (Muskingum County)*
- *Reid Carpenter (Noble County)*
- *Dave Peoples (Guernsey County)*
- *Bonnie Taylor (Muskingum 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 & Administration*
- *Sarah Reed, Director of Compliance and Quality Improvement*
- *Jamie McGrew, Director of Community Outreach & Programming*
- *Karl Hoop, Director of Community Engagement & Crisis Services*
- *Roger Birch, Director of Youth & Family Services*
- *Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator*

IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

The following guests were present during the Partners Workgroup Meeting:

- *Brittney Tangeman (Pitt PERU)*
- *Dyrall Newlon (SCOPE Outreach Coordinator)*
- *Avarie Wellman, MHRS Board Student Intern*

The following guests were present during the Finance/Audit Committee Meeting:

- *Bishop David Parker, Ohio District Council*

Allwell Behavioral Health Reps:

- *James McDonald, CEO*
- *Sue Ellen Foraker, Outgoing CFO*
- *Donna Harris, Incoming CFO*

- *Tom Price, CIO*
- *Samantha Lanning, COO*

V. **AGENDA:** BOARD MEMBERS APPROVED THE AGENDA FOR THE NOVEMBER 14, 2024, BOARD MEETING AS MAILED.

VI. **MEETING MINUTES:** WILLIAM JOHNSON MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 10, 2024, BOARD MEETING AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LEONDRA DAVIS AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, ABSTAIN; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was approved receiving eight positive votes and one abstention.

VII. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Report of staff members' work as aligned with the MHRS Board's three strategic plan goals.

- ***Network's Behavioral Health Crisis Continuum:*** Misty reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that was created in response to a request for information included on an October 10 meeting evaluation form. (*Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights.*)

VIII. **FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT:**

1. ***Financial Reports:***

Board members reviewed the following October 2024 financial reports: 1) Balance Sheet as of October 31, 2024; 2) Dashboard Report; 3) Network Funding Reserves; 4) Year-to-Date Status for the MHRS Board's Operating Budget; 5) Contract Services Expenses; and 6) Reconciliation Report.

▶ ***October 2024 Reconciliation Report:***

Following the report of Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 2024 RECONCILIATION REPORT AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY WILLIAM JOHNSON AND A ROLL-CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving nine positive votes.

2. ***Appropriation Transfer – CY 2024 Budget:***

Following the report of Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE 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. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving nine positive votes.

Special Allocation Requests

3. ***Ohio District Council of Pentecostal Churches – Hallowed Hills:***

In the Finance/Audit Committee meeting, Bishop David Parker requested a special allocation of \$40,000.00 to help provide an Emergency Winter Shelter Program (at the Hallowed Hills Complex

in Zanesville) for the months of December 2024 and January and February 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. Trulight Ministries is partnering in the shelter project. (More than half of adults using supportive housing programs have a mental illness, a substance use disorder, or both.)

Following 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 THE OHIO DISTRICT COUNCIL – TO HELP SUPPORT MUSKINGUM COUNTY’S WINTER SHELTER PROGRAM FOR THE HOMELESS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY WILLIAM JOHNSON AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was approved receiving nine positive votes.

4. Special Allocation Request – Allwell Behavioral Health Services – EPIC Hardware:

In the Finance/Audit Committee meeting, James McDonald requested a special allocation of \$39,669.60 (Allwell’s cost-share for the purchase of computer hardware for the transition to the EPIC electronic health record system).

Without a Committee recommendation, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE A SPECIAL ALLOCATION OF \$39,669.60 TO ALLWELL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR EPIC ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD HARDWARE PURCHASES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LEONDRA DAVIS, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, NAY; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was approved receiving eight positive votes and one negative vote.

5. Special Allocation Request — Allwell Behavioral Health Services – Gap Funding:

In the Finance/Audit Committee meeting, James McDonald requested a special allocation of \$557,056.00 to cover a funding gap between Allwell’s cost to provide necessary services and the reimbursement currently provided by payors. He outlined reimbursement discrepancies. The MHRS Board was asked to reimburse Allwell at the unit cost, as opposed to Medicaid reimbursement rates. The allocation would be paid out as services are delivered over the course of FY 2025.

Board members had some questions and concerns about Allwell’s current financial situation, and it was decided to set up another Finance/Audit Committee meeting as soon as possible to have a continued focused discussion about the request. Board members will be reviewing Allwell’s plans and strategies for improving their financial position. MHRS Board Director Cromwell will be researching the funding practices of other MHRS Boards in the state, as well as costs per service in other MHRS Board areas.

IX. PARTNERS WORKGROUP:

The Partners Workgroup met with representatives from the University of Pittsburgh’s Program Evaluation and Research Unit (PERU) to discuss the status of the MHRS Board’s SCOPE (Strategies to Coordinate Overdose Prevention Efforts) Grant that involves Muskingum, Morgan & Coshocton Counties. *(Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights.)*

X. OLD BUSINESS: (None)

XI. NEW BUSINESS: (None)

XII. COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

2023 Ohio Unintentional Drug Overdose Report: Dr. Scheerer referenced this report that notes from 2022 to 2023, there was a 9% decrease in the number of Ohio unintentional drug overdose deaths. Board members reviewed an Ohio map that included Average Age-Adjusted Rates of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by County – 2020-2023. The map reported the MHRS Board’s service area counties’ rates as follows: Coshocton, 35.5; Guernsey, 44.3; Morgan, 37.3; Muskingum, 41.9; Noble, 30.4; and Perry, 52.9.

HB 527 – Virtual Meetings: OACBHA will continue to support the Ohio Legislature’s authorization of virtual meetings and hope for movement during the lame duck cycle.

Federal Funding to Fight Opioid Use: Dennis Hitchcock noted that Governor DeWine has announced the award of \$100 million in federal grant funding that will be used to fight opioid use disorder and prevent overdose deaths. This round of State Opioid and Stimulant Response (SOS.4) grant funds was received by OhioMHAS through SAMHSA and were subsequently awarded to organizations that offer prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and long-term recovery services. Recipients of funding in our service area are Muskingum Behavioral Health and Perry Behavioral Health Choices.

Legendary Adventure Zone: Sarah Reed referred to an initiative in Noble County to create a new playground (Legendary Adventure Zone) in Belle Valley. The playground will include ramps, communication boards, accessible swings and slides, and sensory play items. The Adventure Zone will be a playground where children of all abilities can come together. (More information will be provided at the December 12 board meeting.)

- XIII. NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be Thursday, December 12, 2024, @ the MHRS Board Office, 1500 Coal Run Road, Zanesville. (There will be no committee meetings.) The schedule will be 5:00 to 5:30 pm, Board Member Recognition; 5:30 to 6:00 pm, a “Making a Difference” presentation; and 6:00 pm, Regular board meeting.
- XIV. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

SIGNATURES

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator

Misty Cromwell, Executive Director

Sue Hoover, Board President