

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

OFFICIAL MINUTES
(April 13, 2023)

I. BOARD NOTIFICATION & COMPLIANCE WITH SUNSHINE LAW:

On April 3, 2023, 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, April 13, 2023, at the MHRS Board Office — with the schedule of activities to include: 6:00 p.m., Meetings of 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 7:10 p.m.

III. ROLL CALL:

Board Members present:

- *William Johnson, President (Coshocton County)*
- *Sue Hoover, Vice President (Muskingum County)*
- *Reid Carpenter (Noble County)*
- *Leondra Davis (Coshocton County)*
- *Randi Earnest (Guernsey County)*
- *Tony Mayle, Jr. (Morgan County)*
- *Dan Scheerer, M.D. (Muskingum County)*
- *Ben Taylor (Perry County)*

Board Members excused:

- *Sean Brady (Muskingum County)*
- *Megan Gee (Guernsey County)*
- *Jennifer Hanson (Muskingum County)*
- *Larisa Harper (Muskingum County)*
- *Dennis Hitchcock (Muskingum County)*
- *Wendy Starlin (Perry County)*

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*
- *Karl Hoop, Crisis/Criminal Justice Coordinator*
- *Jamie McGrew, Care Management Director*
- *Rhonda Hanes, Fiscal Operations Director*
- *Roger Birch, Youth & Family Services Coordinator*
- *Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator*

IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Erin Omen, Assistant Principal at John McIntire Elementary School, was present for the Partners Workgroup meeting to update members about the positive impacts that therapy dog ‘Blu’ is making at her school.

V. AGENDA: President Johnson noted the following changes to the pre-mailed agenda: Items 6c., 6e., and 6f. under the Finance/Audit Committee were changed to ‘Information Only’ items; and an addition (9a. Under New Business): *State Audit – Fraud Risk Questionnaire*. LEONDRA DAVIS MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE APRIL 13, 2023, MEETING AGENDA AS AMENDED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RANDI EARNEST AND UNANIMOUSLY

APPROVED.

- VI. MEETING MINUTES:** Minutes from the March 9th board meeting were e-mailed to board members on March 15. LEONDRA DAVIS MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 9, 2023, MEETING AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RANDI EARNEST, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SUE HOOVER, YEA; REID CARPENTER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving seven positive votes.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

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

◆ **Eastern Alliance Council of Governments:** This entity is currently addressing some capital projects: 1) Renovations to, or Rebuild of, the Liberty Manor State-Operated Group Home; and 2) the development of a Crisis Stabilization Unit for Kids.

◆ **Oxford Recovery House Model:** OhioMHAS is advocating for the expanded development of recovery houses using the Oxford Model. Oxford House, Inc. (OHI) is the nonprofit umbrella for a network of more than 3,400 self-run, self-supported rented recovery homes throughout the United States. Oxford House™ has the authority to charter an individual recovery house and conditions the charter on adherence to three requirements: 1) the group must be self-run by residents using the OHI disciplined system of democratic operations; 2) the group must be financially self-supported; and 3) the group must immediately expel any resident who returns to using alcohol or illegal drugs. Hired outreach workers help to find suitable housing, obtain the required charter, and recruit/teach residents the standard system of operations.

◆ **Delivery of Naloxone Lock Boxes in Service Area School Buildings:** (Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)

◆ **Annual Legislative Day:** (Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)

◆ **Ohio’s 2023 Opiate and Other Drugs Conference:** Conference (*Leading the Way Together!*) will be held June 5-6, 2023, at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus. Each MHRS Board in the state is receiving two complimentary registrations. Board members interested in attending should let Director Cromwell know, and she will help get them registered.

◆ **Special Network Board Member Training:** Arrangements have been made for a network training to be held from 5:00 to 7:00 pm on May 15 in the first floor conference room at the Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department, 205 N. Seventh Street, Zanesville. In addition to some MHRS Board Representatives, presenters will be: Cheri Walter and Liz Henrich from the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities, and Heather Dolen, CPA, Partner – SEO CPA, Inc.

◆ **‘May Is Mental Health Month’ Awareness Activities:** (Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)

◆ **First Meeting of the Coshocton County Criminal Justice Collaborative:** (Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)

◆ **Board Member Spotlight on PERRY COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE WENDY STARLIN:** (Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)

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

1. March 2023 Financial Reports:

Board members reviewed the MHRS Board’s Financial Reports for March 2023 that included: 1) Reconciliation Report; 2) Contract Services Expense Reports; 3) Balance Sheet as of March 31, 2023; 4) Dashboard Report; 5) Monthly Report of Network Funding Reserves; and 6) a ‘Year-to-Date’ Status Report for the MHRS Board’s CY 2023 Operating Budget.

◆ **March 2023 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 MARCH 2023 RECONCILIATION REPORT AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR.

Dr. Scheerer provided a thorough 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: SUE HOOVER, YEA; REID CARPENTER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving seven positive votes.

2. Tentative FY 2024 Funding Allocations for Contract Organizations:

After the report of Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE TENTATIVE FY 2024 FUNDING ALLOCATIONS FOR CONTRACT ORGANIZATIONS AS PRESENTED – TOTALING \$9,978,008. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY REID CARPENTER.

Fiscal Director Rhonda Hanes reviewed the allocations that basically reflect flat funding from the previous fiscal year. It was noted that for FY 2025 the network will be shifting to a ‘funding application’ process.

A ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE ABOVE MOTION WAS THEN TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SUE HOOVER, YEA; REID CARPENTER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving seven positive votes.

3. Special Allocation Request – Foodworks Alliance:

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 REQUEST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$39,020.00 TO THE FOODWORKS ALLIANCE TO SUPPORT THE OPERATIONS OF A SPECIAL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR WOMEN IN RECOVERY. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RANDI EARNEST.

These funds would be used to help support some personnel and non-personnel costs associated with the “Recovery with a Purpose” program that offers training in food preparation and the management of a food operation. This program gives women a more confident outlook on their capabilities and positively impacts their recovery journeys. (More information included in Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)

A ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE ABOVE MOTION WAS THEN TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SUE HOOVER, YEA; REID CARPENTER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving seven positive votes.

4. Special Allocation Request – Muskingum Valley Health Centers:

Dr. Scheerer reported the Committee’s recommendation to table this request for funding to help support the transporting of clients for medication-assisted treatment. Upon receipt of some further clarifications, the issue will be addressed at the May 11, 2023, board meeting.

Acting on the above recommendation, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO

TABLE THE SPECIAL ALLOCATION REQUEST FROM MUSKINGUM VALLEY HEALTH CENTERS UNTIL THE MAY 11, 2023, BOARD MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY REID CARPENTER, AND A ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SUE HOOVER, ABSTAIN; REID CARPENTER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was approved receiving six positive votes and one abstention.

5. Special Allocation Request – Noble County Sheriff’s Department:

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 \$50,000.00 TO THE NOBLE COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE TO HELP SUPPORT THE PURCHASE OF A CRUISER TO ASSIST WITH CLIENT TRANSPORTATION TO NEEDED INTENSIVE INPATIENT CARE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RANDI EARNEST.

The Sheriff’s Department will be purchasing a replacement cruiser to continue their practice of helping to transport Noble County persons with severe mental illness to inpatient facilities for more secure and intensive treatment.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN ON THE ABOVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS: SUE HOOVER, YEA; REID CARPENTER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving seven positive votes.

(EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S APPROVAL OF SPECIAL ALLOCATION REQUESTS UNDER \$20,000)

6. Special Allocation Request – Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center:

Director Cromwell approved a special allocation of \$5,000.00 to the Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center for the training of a therapy dog that will be based at the ALPHA School in Perry County.

7. Special Allocation Request – Zanesville City Schools: Director Cromwell approved a special allocation of \$10,000.00 to Zanesville City Schools for the purchase/training of a therapy dog to be based at Zanesville High School.

8. Special Allocation Request – New Lexington Police Department: Director Cromwell approved a special allocation of \$4,050.00 to the New Lexington Police Department to help support an equine-assisted learning program.

IX. PARTNERS WORKGROUP:

1. Therapy Dog Update – John McIntire Elementary School:

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

X. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Strategic Refresh – June 2023 Through May 2028: Director Cromwell noted that Dr. Michael Gillette and Rachel Piscette are beginning to address the next phases of the strategic plan initiative; i.e., defining roles and responsibilities and formulating a monitoring plan.

XI. NEW BUSINESS:

1. **State Audit – Fraud Risk Questionnaire:** As part of the MHRS Board’s CY 2022 State Audit, board members are required to complete/submit a questionnaire related to fraud risk. Fiscal Director Rhonda Hanes reviewed the questionnaire and provided some general guidance about its completion. An email will be sent to board members related to this shared information, along with the attachment of some applicable policies that would reference fraud risk.
2. **Next Meeting:** The Board of Directors will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at the MHRS Board Office, 1500 Coal Run Road, Zanesville. (Committee meetings will be held from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.)

XII. COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- **Health Equity Moment:** *“Isn’t kindness enough? You can be kind and still uphold systems of oppression. You can be kind and still think someone lacks intelligence because of how they speak. You can be kind and pass on a qualified minority candidate because of “culture fit.” You can be kind and pay women less pay for equal work. You can be kind and still think a disabled person is less valuable because of their disability. So no, kindness is not enough. Kindness should be the bare minimum we expect from each other. If we as a society are striving for kindness, rather than equity, then we are in a sad state of affairs. We should be kind, but kindness does not move us to change the systems that disadvantage some people. Kindness is personally mitigated — disparities and inequities are structural issues. Be more than kind.”* ► Board member’s comment on meeting evaluation form: “This ‘kinder-reminder’ that kindness is not enough was great to read. It makes you think and be very intentional with how you treat others. Thank you for the reflection.”
- **Thank-You from Zanesville Civic League:** Staff and children at the Zanesville Civic League sent a ‘thank-you’ card to the MHRS Board for their assistance with a van purchase, sponsoring a daddy/daughter dance, and funding some innovative summer camp activities.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

SIGNATURES

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

 Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator

 Misty Cromwell, Executive Director

 William Johnson, Board President