

Board Update

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

Regular Board Meeting
Highlights
August 12, 2021



MHRS Board Care Management Director Jamie McGrew shared information presented in the Partners Workgroup meeting by Deb Knaup (*Region 8 Director*) and Michelle Knowlton (*Region 8 Navigator*) about the work of OhioKAN — a program designed to support vulnerable children, youth, and their families.

Kinship Caregiver: A kinship caregiver takes over the full-time care of a child when the child’s parents are unable to meet their needs. Child welfare systems have increasingly come to value the role kinship caregivers have in achieving safety, well-being, and permanency for children. Placements with these caregivers can reduce trauma, increase stability, and support ongoing connections to family and culture.

What’s the Problem . . .

Access to Childcare: Access to childcare can really ‘make or break’ whether a kinship caregiver can take a child. And, childcare is expensive – not everyone can afford it. Respite care is also essential for caregivers of special needs populations.

Financial Support: Kinship caregivers do not receive as much financial support as foster parents, and the applications for assistance can be overwhelming to caregivers who are already overwhelmed with taking in a child.

General Support: OhioKAN wants to empower families to be able to handle issues as they come up, but they also want caregivers to know where to seek help before hitting that “crisis point,” either through the Region 8 office or by joining a caregiver peer support group.

Inclusive & Welcoming

OhioKAN’s Region 8 is 100% committed to making sure every kinship and adoption family who is looking for support will get it.

Contact Information

1-844-644-6526

<https://ohiokan.jfs.ohio.gov>

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Misty Cromwell

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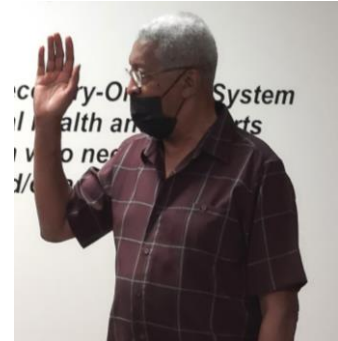
The mission of the MHRS Board is to facilitate a Recovery-Oriented System of Care that promotes mental health and supports the recovery of each person who needs services for mental illness and/or addiction.

Oath of Office

MHRS Board Associate Director Elaine Shuster administered the Oath of Office to three board members:

- ▶ **William Johnson** (representing Coshocton County) – Reappointed to a second 4-year term by the Coshocton County Commissioners.
- ▶ **Jon Black** (representing Guernsey County) – Newly appointed to the Board of Directors by the Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services.
- ▶ **Ben Taylor** (representing Perry County) – Newly appointed to the Board of Directors by the Perry County Commissioners.

All three members have voiced their commitments to helping facilitate a recovery-oriented system of care to help those struggling with mental illness and/or substance use disorders. Below (L to R) are Jon Black, Ben Taylor, and William Johnson.



Retirement of Steve Carrel



Steve Carrel, CEO of Muskingum Behavioral Health, recently celebrated his retirement after 40 years of service. While excited about his retirement, he noted that closing this chapter of his life brings up some moments and people he will miss dearly. The many people attending his retirement open house had nothing but kind words and well wishes for Steve.

Steve was among the few people who started Muskingum Behavioral Health in 1981 and has been the first and only CEO for the organization. Steve noted that — with Yolanda Taylor being the new CEO — he could retire peacefully, as he knows the organization is in good hands.

Open House – Guernsey Health Choices

An open house was recently held at the new office location for Guernsey Health Choices (GHC), 1009 Steubenville Avenue, Cambridge. GHC had outgrown their second-floor office space on Wheeling Avenue and needed a more easily-accessible building that would enable them to expand services and programs to better serve the community. GHC Director Karen Wiggins and all her employees were very happy to showcase their new space that includes administrative and counseling offices, a comfortable and welcoming waiting room, and an increased number of group therapy rooms. Congratulations to all at GHC!



FinancialMatters

Under the guidance of Finance/Audit Committee Chair Dr. Dan Scheerer, board members reviewed and approved the June and July 2021 Reconciliation Reports that showed deposits, checks written for MHRS Board operations, payments to in-network service providers and out-of-network community partners, and journal entries. Below is a breakdown of payments for the provision of mental health and addiction treatment and support services.

<i>Accounts Payable</i>	In-Network Providers	Out-of-Network Partners	TOTAL
June 8, 2021	\$136,425.92	\$23,801.96	\$160,227.88
June 22, 2021	\$280,846.37	\$113,216.20	\$394,062.57
July 6, 2021	\$193,416.90	\$6,318.07	\$199,734.97
	\$24,830.58	\$1,067.00	\$25,897.58
July 20, 2021	\$373,855.34	\$260,813.30	\$634,668.64
TOTAL	\$1,009,375.11	\$405,216.53	\$1,414,591.64

Other financial reports included: Contract Services Expenses; Balance Sheet as of July 31, 2021; and a Dashboard Report that provides a high-level overview of key fiscal indicators.

In other actions, board members:

- Approved the selection of SEO CPA Group, Ltd., as the auditing firm to conduct contract organizations' audits for the period FY 2022 – FY 2024.
- Approved the release of \$47,365.04 to Coshocton Behavioral Health Choices to help fund the organization's exterior building masonry maintenance.
- Accepted the MHRS Board's Calendar Year 2020 Audit Report prepared by the State Auditor's Office. State Auditors suggested the use of a less complex reporting format. MHRS Board staff submitted a Corrective Action Plan to address issues with the older/complex reporting format, and that plan has been accepted by the Auditors. There were no findings on Federal Awards.

Community Plan Update

Elaine Shuster shared an update about the MHRS Board's SFY 2021-2022 Community Plan, noting that most of the plan's goals have been addressed. However, it was pointed out that pandemic restrictions have definitely impacted the plan's progress, as many coalitions have halted their meetings, while others went to virtual meetings. School pandemic schedules have also impacted the completion of some goals.

Highlights included:

- **CISM:** A Critical Incident Stress Management Team has been established, with 24 team members having been trained. Since the team's launch in January of 2021, there have been seven official responses to groups and individuals impacted by intense crisis situations.
- **Maintenance of Services:** Network services to clients were maintained throughout the pandemic. Service providers were given additional financial resources, personal protection equipment, and access to additional grants.
- **Criminal Justice System:** ♦There is a plan in place to establish a Criminal Justice Collaborative in Coshocton County in FY 2022. Muskingum and Guernsey Counties already have CJ Collaboratives. ♦The MHRS Board has funded 1.5 positions in the Muskingum and Guernsey County Jails to provide counseling and assessment.

- **Evidence-Based Trainings:** The MHRS Board continually works with service providers to expand the number of evidence-based prevention and treatment trainings within the system. Thus far, 16 clinicians have completed Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (EMDR) training and are effectively using those skills to help clients. A Matrix Model training was also held, and a WISE training was provided for prevention staff.
- **Reduction of Out-of-Home Placements:** ♦Funding was provided for the hiring of a professional to implement Early Childhood Mental Health Services in Muskingum County to help children with serious emotional disturbances. ♦Home-Based Services have been added in Muskingum, Guernsey and Noble Counties. ♦A Parent Coach/Peer Mentor was employed (using State Opioid Response Grant Funds) to work with Muskingum County Children Services.
- **Health Equity & Disparities:** The goal of promoting health equity and reducing disparities across populations (e.g., racial, ethnic and linguistic minorities, LGBT) has been furthered through the provision of a Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate (CLAS) training and three Goundwater trainings. Also, a demographic inventory has been completed for service area providers and staff and clients, along with the MHRS Board of Directors and staff members.



MRSS Grant Awarded to MHRS Board

The Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services recently announced the awarding of a \$250,000 grant to the MHRS Board to support the development of Mobile Response & Stabilization Services (MRSS) for children and families in our six-county region. Allwell Behavioral Health Services is finalizing plans for making the MRSS Program a reality. Plans include the development of a Call Center for crisis situations, a Mobile Response Team, Intensive Home-Based Services, and a Support Center where families may temporarily separate from each other in order to move forward with de-escalation efforts. This Center will also be a safe place where families can take advantage of education, support, and a pathway to other needed resources.

Treatment Services for Multi-System Adults

The Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) is promoting a program to help Multi-System Adults — focusing on persons with significant mental illness, who interact with criminal justice, developmental disabilities, aging, homeless, and Veterans systems. The Department’s goal is not to re-invent any systems but to increase collaboration between existing systems. MHRS Boards will soon be submitting Multi-System Plans to OhioMHAS, outlining how funds will be spent, how collaborations will be improved, and how client input will be included in developing program strategy. Over the next two years, OhioMHAS has a total of \$11 million in GRF to fund this initiative.

Addiction Recovery Funds

♦ MHRS Director Misty Cromwell is scheduling several service area outreach meetings (both in-network and out-of-network) to discuss possible uses of anticipated new sources of addiction recovery funds (Ohio Opiate Settlement Funds, Federal Block Grants for Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorders, American Rescue Act Funds, etc.). From input received at these meetings, a plan will then be outlined for the most effective use of additional dollars to meet community needs.

Peer Recovery Support – Allwell Behavioral Health Services

Rebecca “Becky” Davis has been hired to provide Peer Addiction Recovery Support Services to Allwell clients. Those services may include offering hope, supporting the development of life skills, connecting to community resources, modeling personal responsibility for recovery, and teaching skills to navigate the healthcare system. Becky’s position is being funded through the use of State Opioid Response (SOR) grant dollars.

New Lexington City Schools – Community Youth Resiliency Project

New Lexington City Schools has submitted to the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) a capital youth resiliency grant for the establishment of a Workforce Development Center. The Center would train students in many workforce skills and create a space where parents can also come to better their family situations and learn some employability skills. The Center will also offer suicide prevention and awareness information, support groups, and peer support. The project will not require any funding from the MHRS Board; however, board members approved a resolution (required by OhioMHAS) to assure MHRS Board program support and monitoring to assure compliance with state requirements.



RecoveryOhio, the Addiction Policy Forum, and the Muskingum Area Mental Health & Recovery Services Board

enCompass

A Comprehensive Training on Navigating Addiction

A Free Training for the Community

October 18, 2021
9am - 5pm ET

This 8-hour training session is virtual and open to all adults who want to learn more about addiction and have the skills to respond. Attendees often include families, friends, caregivers, clergy, law enforcement, first responders, healthcare providers, employers, educators, community-based service providers, and anyone interested in learning how to respond to substance use/co-occurring disorders.

Like CPR, the course is designed to build the skills to support and respond to someone who needs help. The training will also help participants navigate the resources available in your own community.

enCompass participants will learn:

- How to identify the signs and symptoms of addiction;
- How to help an individual in need of support;
- The effects of stigma on individuals and families; and
- How to set healthy boundaries and principles of self-care.

RSVP at <https://bit.ly/3flztur>

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