

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

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**  
*(September 12, 2024)*

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**I. BOARD NOTIFICATION & COMPLIANCE WITH SUNSHINE LAW:**

On September 2, 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, September 12, 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 6:10 p.m.

**III. ROLL CALL:**

Board Members Present:

- *Sue Hoover, President (Muskingum County)*
- *Leondra Davis, Vice President (Coshocton County)*
- *Sean Brady (Muskingum County)*
- *Abby Corder (Muskingum County)*
- *Dennis Hitchcock (Muskingum County)*
- *William Johnson (Coshocton County)*
- *Tony Mayle, Jr. (Morgan County)*
- *Dave Peoples (Guernsey County)*
- *Dr. Dan Scheerer (Muskingum County)*
- *Ben Taylor (Perry County)*
- *Bonnie Taylor (Muskingum County)*

Board Members Excused:

- *Reid Carpenter (Noble County)*
- *Randy Earnest (Guernsey County)*
- *Wendy Starlin (Perry County)*

There being eleven 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*
- *Roger Birch, Director of Youth & Family Services*
- *Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator*

**IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

- *Yolanda Taylor, CEO, Muskingum Behavioral Health – and Theresa Kane, Executive Director of Perry Behavioral Health Choices -- were present during individual portions of the Finance/Audit Committee and the first portion of the Regular Board Meeting*
- *Amanda Snellings was present during the Partners Workgroup Meeting to give a presentation about Ohio START*

**V. AGENDA:** It was agreed that the Special Allocation Requests from Muskingum Behavioral Health and Perry Behavioral Health Choices would be addressed at the top of the agenda. SEAN BRADY MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2024, BOARD MEETING AS AMENDED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LEONDRA DAVIS AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

**VI. MEETING MINUTES:** DENNIS HITCHCOCK MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 11, 2024, BOARD MEETING AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, ABSTAIN; ABBY CORDER, ABSTAIN; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED RECEIVING EIGHT POSITIVE VOTES AND TWO ABSTENTIONS.

**VII. SPECIAL FUNDING ISSUES:**

1. *Muskingum Behavioral Health:*

In the Finance/Audit Committee meeting, Yolanda Taylor, Muskingum Behavioral Health CEO, asked the MHRS Board for a special allocation of \$49,054.00 to support six months of expenses related to claims billing.

Committee members expressed concern about MuBH's overall uncertain funding status that was attributed to the loss of two LISW clinicians and lower productivity levels.

Finance/Audit Committee Chair Dr. Dan Scheerer, reported a recommendation to table the funding request until the October 10 board meeting, when a plan of action can be presented that would demonstrate a path toward a stronger fiscal position.

In the full board meeting, the request was further reviewed, following which DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO TABLE MUSKINGUM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH'S SPECIAL ALLOCATION REQUEST UNTIL THE OCTOBER 10 BOARD MEETING – WHEN CEO YOLANDA TAYLOR CAN PRESENT A PLAN OF ACTION THAT COULD MOVE THE ORGANIZATION FORWARD TO FINANCIAL RECOVERY. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY WILLIAM JOHNSON AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA; AND DAVE PEOPLES, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING TEN POSITIVE VOTES.

2. *Perry Behavioral Health Choices:*

In the Finance/Audit Committee meeting, Theresa Kane, Executive Director of Perry Behavioral Health Choices, requested a special allocation of \$100,000.00 to support expenses related to the separation of the Café Grounds Coffee Shop from PBHC. Director Kane reviewed a proforma revenue & expense forecast through 2026 that indicated the coffee shop will eventually become a self-supporting venture that will permit the shop to operate independently from PBHC and help those in recovery advance in their recovery.

Dan Scheerer reported the Finance/Audit Committee's recommendation to approve a special allocation of \$100,000.00 to PBHC as seed money for the independent operations of Café Grounds.

Following further full Board review, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE AN ALLOCATION OF \$100,000.00 TO PERRY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CHOICES TO PROVIDE SEED MONEY FOR THE INDEPENDENT OPERATIONS OF CAFÉ GROUNDS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, ABSTAIN; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA;

BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA; AND DAVE PEOPLES, YEA. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED RECEIVING NINE POSITIVE VOTES AND ONE ABSTENTION.

3. ***Updates – Guernsey Health Choices & Morgan Behavioral Health Choices:***

Theresa Kane provided updates about PBHC’s efforts to assist with the financial recovery of Guernsey Health Choices and Morgan BHC. It was noted that both agencies are moving in the right direction; however, it probably will be a few months before their crises are totally stabilized. PBHC’s work with these two agencies is closely tied to the work of MHRS Board consultant, ‘Open Minds,’ that is conducting some financial analyses of contract providers who are a part of that initiative.

**VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORTS:**

Director Cromwell’s August and September Board Reports were available to board members in the electronic meeting packet. Board member questioning brought forth the following information:

***SPECIAL PROJECT UPDATES:***

- ✓ ***Regional Youth Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU):*** The Village Network is hosting a CSU groundbreaking ceremony on October 9 in Bethesda, Ohio. This is a joint project with MHRS Boards in Jefferson County; Belmont-Harrison-Monroe Counties; and Washington County. It is anticipated that construction will begin next spring.
- ✓ ***Genesis Youth Crisis Stabilization Unit:*** State capital funds for this 10-bed unit were almost lost, but it appears things are back on track for addressing the bidding process and contract development. Required information must be submitted to OhioMHAS by September 30.
- ✓ ***Allwell’s Behavioral Health Urgent Care Facility – Guernsey County:*** A contractor has been identified and things are beginning to move forward.

***OPEN MINDS INITIATIVE:*** A detailed update about this initiative will be presented at the October 10, 2024, board meeting.

**IX. OTHER FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE ISSUES: (Dr. Dan Scheerer, Chair)**

**1. Financial Reports:**

Board members reviewed the following July and August 2024 financial reports: 1) Balance Sheets; 2) Dashboard Reports; 3) Monthly Reports of Network Funding Reserves; 4) ‘Year-to-Date’ Status Reports for the MHRS Board’s Operating Budget; 5) Contract Services Expenses; and 6) Reconciliation Reports.

► ***July 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 JULY 2024 RECONCILIATION REPORT AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING TEN POSITIVE VOTES.

► ***August 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 AUGUST 2024 RECONCILIATION REPORT AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LEONDRA DAVIS, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING TEN POSITIVE VOTES.

**2. Expense Appropriation Transfers – MHRS Board CY 2024 Budget:**

Finance Director Rhonda Hanes reviewed some ‘bookkeeping transfers’ needed in the CY 2024 Budget.

Following report of Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$2,509,251.96 FOM THE CONTINGENCIES LINE ITEM TO THE FOLLOWING EXPENSE AREAS: CONTRACT SERVICES, \$2,000,000.00; ARPA EXPENSES, \$500,000.00; AND SETTLEMENT DEDUCTION, \$9,251.96. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING TEN POSITIVE VOTES.

**3. Revenue Adjustments – MHRS BOARD CY 2024 Budget:**

Following report of Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO INCREASE CY 2024 REVENUE LINE ITEMS BY THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS: MENTAL HEALTH LEVY, \$294,589.65; FEDERAL GRANTS, \$383,705.82; OhioMHAS STATE, \$876,535.72; ARPA FUNDS, \$500,000.00; AND HOMESTEAD/ROLLBACK, \$57,191.20. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DENNIS HITCHCOCK, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING TEN POSITIVE VOTES.

**4. Certification of Tax Levies:**

After the report of Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO ACCEPT THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSIONS OF COSHOCTON, GUERNSEY, MORGAN, MUSKINGUM, NOBLE, AND PERRY COUNTIES — AND AUTHORIZE THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFY THEM TO THE APPLICABLE COUNTY AUDITORS:

Coshocton County	8/10 Mill	\$ 347,626.00
Guernsey County	1 Mill	\$ 915,000.00
Morgan County	8/10 Mill	\$ 194,272.00
Muskingum County	1 Mill	\$1,476,967.00
Noble County	7/10 Mill	\$ 389,000.00
Perry County	1 Mill	\$ 515,000.00

THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ABBY CORDER.

Dr. Scheerer explained that, per requirements of the Ohio Revised Code, MHRS Boards are

required (in September of each year) to accept the amounts and rates of the six tax levies in effect in our service area and authorize and certify them to the applicable County Auditors.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN ON THE ABOVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS:  
SEAN BRADY, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING TEN POSITIVE VOTES.

#### X. PARTNERS WORKGROUP:

1. **Recap of Kids' Summit:** The recent first-ever Ohio Statewide Kids' Summit was a significant event held in Columbus on September 5. The summit brought together leaders, families, and community partners to discuss and collaborate on ways to support children and families across the state. The breakout sessions were focused on ways to improve Family & Children First Councils' service plans for children and families – attempting to remove barriers and help individuals at their point of need.
2. **Update — Ohio START Program:** *(Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights.)*
3. **Annual Report – FY 2024 Major & Unusual Incidents (Jamie McGrew):**

The Ohio Revised Code establishes standards to ensure the prompt and accurate notification of certain prescribed incidents. It also requires agencies to review and analyze all incidents to identify and implement corrective measures designed to prevent recurrence and manage risk. The MHRS Board's service providers are required to forward each reportable MUI to the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (with a copy to the MHRS Board) within 24 hours of its discovery.

In FY 2024, the MHRS Board received 22 MUI reports, all of which were duly addressed. In Partners Workgroup, Jamie McGrew provided detailed background information about the various incidents.

#### XI. OLD BUSINESS:

1. **MHRS Board's Amber Alert Process:**

Fiscal Director Rhonda Hanes reviewed the MHRS Board's Amber Alert Process — a system that is used to quickly disseminate information about significant fiscal anomalies to relevant stakeholders. The report covers the areas of GOSH Billing, Cash Flow, Medicaid Income Comparisons, Payroll Comparisons, External Audit Findings, Compliance Audit Findings, Net Asset Reserve Ratio, Administrative Cost Percentages, Current Asset to Liability Ratio, and Revenue to Expense.

#### XII. NEW BUSINESS:

1. **"No Limit" Livestock Show – Noble County:** *(Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights.)*

#### XIII. COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- ▶ **Farmer Outreach @ County Fairs:** *(Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights.)*
- ▶ **Friend of Recovery Awards Ceremony:** Wednesday, September 25, 10:00 a.m. @ Chef Steve's Banquet Hall, 730 Putnam Avenue, Zanesville. This year, there are eight award recipients.

- XIV. **NEXT MEETING:** *Thursday, October 10, 2024, @ 6:00 pm* – 1500 Coal Run Road, Zanesville. (The Finance/Audit Committee and Partners Workgroup will meet from 5:00 to 6:00 pm.)

**XV. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

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**SIGNATURES**

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator

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Misty Cromwell, Executive Director

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Sue Hoover, Board President