

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

OFFICIAL MINUTES
(October 14, 2021)

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

I. BOARD NOTIFICATION & COMPLIANCE WITH SUNSHINE LAW:

On October 4, 2021, board members, contract organization directors, service area news media, county boards of commissioners, and state legislators were notified the Board of Directors would meet in person on Thursday, October 14, 2021 — with the schedule of activities to include: 6:00 p.m., separate meetings of the 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 7:05 p.m.

III. ROLL CALL:

Board Members present:

- *William Johnson, President (Coshocton County)*
- *Jennifer Hanson (Muskingum County)*
- *Sue Hoover (Muskingum County)*
- *Pamela Kirst (Muskingum County)*
- *Jeff LeCocq (Muskingum County)*
- *Tony Mayle, Jr. (Morgan County)*
- *Dan Scheerer, M.D. (Muskingum County)*
- *Danielle Scott (Perry County)*
- *Ben Taylor (Perry County)*

Board members excused:

- *Michael Bullock, Vice President (Muskingum County)*
- *Jon Black (Guernsey County)*
- *Erin Heard (Coshocton County)*

There being nine board members present, a quorum was constituted for conducting official business.

Staff Members present:

- *Misty Cromwell, Executive Director*
- *Elaine Shuster, Associate Director*
- *Jamie McGrew, Care Management Director*
- *Rhonda Hanes, Fiscal Operations Director*
- *Roger Birch, Youth & Family Services Coordinator*
- *Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator*

Presenters during committee meetings and full board meeting:

- *Carrie Williamson, R.N., Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department*
- *Kris Headley, Chief Clinical Officer; Fetch, Chief Inspiration Officer; and Yolanda Taylor, CEO; Muskingum Behavioral Health*
- *Stuart Hammond, Vice President (and clinical colleague) – CHES Health*

IV. AGENDA: President William Johnson noted one change to the pre-mailed agenda: Item 8e.

under the Finance/Audit Committee Report was changed to “*Systemwide Needs Assessment*” and was labeled as an ‘information only’ agenda item. PAMELA KIRST MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE OCTOBER 14, 2021, MEETING AGENDA AS AMENDED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

- V. **MEETING MINUTES:** It was noted that the minutes from the September 9 board meeting were e-mailed to board members on September 14, 2021.

JEFF LeCOCQ MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2021, REGULAR BOARD MEETING AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUE HOOVER AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: JENNIFER HANSON, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; JEFF LeCOCQ, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; DANIELLE SCOTT, ABSTAIN; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED RECEIVING SEVEN POSITIVE VOTES AND ONE ABSTENTION.

- VI. **CHESS HEALTH “CONNECTIONS APP” DEMO:** Stuart Hammond, Vice President of CHES Health, and a clinical expert presented information about CHES’s ultimate goal of delivering evidence-based technology to address the individual, family, and societal crises associated with substance use disorders (SUDs) — spanning prevention, harm reduction, intervention, treatment and recovery. The focus of the presentation was on the organization’s “Connections App” that features: Digital Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for SUD’s, Sobriety Tracking, Appointment and Medication Reminders, a ‘Recovery Help’ Button, Support Meetings, and a Social Determinants of Health Directory. There was a discussion of costs and data regarding the use of the app and its effectiveness. The app will be further discussed at the next meeting of the MHRS Board’s Care Management Council.

VII. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

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

- ◆ **Friend of Recovery” Awards:** (Recap included in Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)
- ◆ **State Initiatives Impacting Network Operations (Crisis Services Continuum, 988 Implementation, OhioRISE, Family First Prevention Services Act, and Outpatient Competency Restoration):** (Summaries included in Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)
- ◆ **Leadership Changes:** ◆ Misty announced that Terry Ray has been appointed as Executive Director of Morgan Behavioral Health Choices, following the resignation of former director Blake Kimes. ◆ Noble Behavioral Health Choices Director Melissa Fitzgerald has tendered her resignation, opting to step into a full-time counselor’s position. The directorship of this organization is still being deliberated..
- ◆ **Data Management:** The State Board Association recently discussed with Ohio Department of Medicaid officials the Association’s ‘white paper’ on *Sharing Data to Improve Care for Ohio Citizens with Behavioral Health Conditions*. The paper proposes that MHRS Boards be provided access to all available data for shared members (clients who are having services reimbursed by both Medicaid and MHRS Boards). These clients are often high users of services (including crisis situations), require residential care, and are those that frequently “fall through the cracks.”

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

1. **September 2021 Financial Reports:**

Chairman Scheerer guided a thorough review of the MHRS Board’s Financial Reports for September 2021 that included: 1) A Reconciliation Report; 2) Profit & Loss YTD for the first quarter of FY 2022; 3) Contract Services Expense Reports; 4) Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2021; 5) Dashboard Report; and 6) Monthly Report of Network Funding Reserves.

◆ **September 2021 Reconciliation Report:**

Committee Recommendation: Jeff LeCocq moved that the Finance/Audit Committee recommend to the full Board approval of the September 2021 Reconciliation Report as submitted. The motion was seconded by Pamela Kirst and unanimously approved.

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE FULL BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 2021 RECONCILIATION REPORT AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DANIELLE SCOTT.

Dr. Scheerer provided a specific 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: JENNIFER HANSON, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; JEFF LeCOCQ, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; DANIELLE SCOTT, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING EIGHT POSITIVE VOTES.

2. **Funding Allocation Request – Muskingum Behavioral Health (Pearl House):**

Committee Recommendation: Jeff LeCocq moved that the Finance/Audit Committee recommend to the full Board approval of an allocation from MHRS Board Reserves to Muskingum Behavioral Health in the amount of \$113,818.00 for an unanticipated expense related to the Pearl House Project. The motion was seconded by Pamela Kirst and unanimously approved.

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE AN ALLOCATION FROM MHRS BOARD RESERVES TO MUSKINGUM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN THE AMOUNT OF \$113,818.00. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY PAMELA KIRST.

Dr. Scheerer explained that it was recently determined that the “streetscape” work on this project was the financial responsibility of Muskingum Behavioral Health, and he noted this work needs to be completed as quickly as possible so that the construction project can move forward according to the established timelines.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN ON THE ABOVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS: JENNIFER HANSON, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; JEFF LeCOCQ, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; DANIELLE SCOTT, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING EIGHT POSITIVE VOTES.

(A full explanation of this important housing development is included in the Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)

3. **Funding Allocation Request – Perry Behavioral Health Choices (Medication-Assisted Treatment Clinic Operations):**

Committee Recommendation: Jeff LeCocq moved that the Finance/Audit Committee recommend to the full Board approval of an allocation from MHRS Board Reserves to Perry Behavioral Health Choices in the amount of \$137,863.35 for the operations of the organization’s medication-assisted treatment clinic. The motion was seconded by William Johnson and unanimously approved.

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE AN ALLOCATION FROM MHRS BOARD RESERVES TO PERRY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CHOICES IN THE

AMOUNT OF \$137,863.35. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JEFF LeCOCQ.

Dr. Scheerer explained that this allocation would fund the services of a physician one day per week and a nurse practitioner five days a week and basically represents ‘seed funding’ until caseloads can be established for providing these much-needed services to clients in recovery from addiction.

A ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE ABOVE MOTION WAS THEN TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: JENNIFER HANSON, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; JEFF LeCOCQ, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; DANIELLE SCOTT, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING EIGHT POSITIVE VOTES.

(More information about the MAT Clinic’s operations is included in the Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)

4. Funding Allocation Request – Allwell Behavioral Health Services (Match Funding for Youth Department Capital Project):

Committee Recommendation: Pamela Kirst moved that the Finance/Audit Committee recommend to the full Board approval of an allocation from MHRS Board Reserves to Allwell Behavioral Health Services in the amount of \$217,905.00 — as capital grant matching funds for the organization’s Youth Department Building. The motion was seconded by Jeff LeCocq and unanimously approved.

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE AN ALLOCATION FROM MHRS BOARD RESERVES TO ALLWELL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$217,905.00 AS CAPITAL GRANT MATCHING FUNDS FOR THE ORGANIZATION’S YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT BUILDING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JEFF LeCOCQ.

Dr. Scheerer explained that this allocation represents the 25% required matching funds for this vital capital project.

A ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE ABOVE MOTION WAS THEN TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: JENNIFER HANSON, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; JEFF LeCOCQ, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; DANIELLE SCOTT, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING EIGHT POSITIVE VOTES.

(A full explanation of this project and its importance to service area youth and their families is included in the Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)

5. Systemwide Needs Assessment:

Director Cromwell reported that, thanks to the support of the Appalachian Children’s Coalition, she has recently been in talks with representatives from Ohio University about the completion of a systemwide needs assessment. The costs for this service will be very minimal. More details to come.

6. Revised Policy – Level of Funding Reserves:

Committee Recommendation: William Johnson moved that the Finance/Audit Committee recommend to the full Board approval of Revised MHRS Board policy VI.A.06 – Level of Funding Reserves – as presented. The motion was seconded by Jeff LeCocq and unanimously approved.

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION

OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE REVISED MHRS BOARD POLICY VI.A.06 – LEVEL OF FUNDING RESERVES – AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JEFF LeCOCQ.

Dr. Scheerer noted that this issue had been discussed at the Committee’s September 9 meeting, when members asked MHRS Board staff to revise the policy. The revision was pursued from the viewpoint of service area taxpayers, who approve ‘county’ levies, rather than specific support of contract organizations. Under the revised policy, at fiscal year-end unspent levy funds allocated to contract providers will be carried forward to a reserve fund that will be maintained for the individual county where the funds were originated. It was emphasized that service providers will still have the opportunity of requesting ‘county’ levy fund reserves for specific projects that will benefit the provision of needed services to those struggling with mental illness and/or addictions.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN ON THE ABOVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS: JENNIFER HANSON, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; JEFF LeCOCQ, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; DANIELLE SCOTT, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING EIGHT POSITIVE VOTES.

IX. PARTNERS WORKGROUP: (*Jamie McGrew, Care Management Director, and Workgroup Member Sue Hoover*)

Jamie and Sue reported that the workgroup had heard two reports about some important services: 1) *the Muskingum County Smart Choices. . .Strong Families Program*; and 2) *an Update about Muskingum Behavioral Health – Including an Introduction to the Organization’s Chief Inspiration Officer. (Summaries of these reports are included in the Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)*

X. OLD BUSINESS: There was no Old Business.

XI. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 11, 2021, at the MHRS Board office.

Director Cromwell will be posting some information in the October electronic meeting packet about some ‘talking points’ for discussions with state lawmakers about the need for legislation that would authorize MHRS Boards to hold meetings completely virtually or as a combination of in-person and virtual.

XII. COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

► ***MHRS Board Website:*** Dr. Scheerer commended MHRS Board staff on the design of the organization’s website, noting it is very informative and easy to navigate.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

PAMELA KIRST MOVED THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JEFF LeCOCQ AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

SIGNATURES

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator

Misty Cromwell, Executive Director

William Johnson, Board President