

Board Update

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

Regular Board Meeting
Highlights
September 11, 2025

FinancialMatters

Under the guidance of Finance/Audit Committee Chair Dr. Dan Scheerer, board members took action on the following matters:

- **Reconciliation Reports:** Reviewed and approved the July and August 2025 Reconciliation Reports that showed deposits, checks written for MHRS Board operations, payments to in-network contract service providers and out-of-network community partners, and journal entries.
- **Other Financial Reports:** Reviewed the following July and August 2025 fiscal reports: 1) Balance Sheets through August 31, 2025; 2) Monthly Reports of Funding Reserves; 3) Year-to-Date Status Reports for the MHRS Board's Operating Budget; and 4) Dashboard Reports that provide a high-level overview of key fiscal indicators.
- **Allwell Behavioral Health Properties:** Approved mortgage transfers for two properties – 917 Beatty Avenue and 2500 John Glenn Highway, located in Cambridge. The balances of existing capital assistance mortgages on these properties are being transferred to a capital assistance mortgage for Allwell's property at 1515 Maple Avenue, Zanesville. (Allwell intends to sell the properties in Cambridge, Ohio.) | Allwell has also decided to phase out its Boys' Residential Home service line by December 31, 2025.
- **Oxford House Contract:** Approved the renewal of a contract with Oxford House in the amount of \$128,000.00 for the continued expansion and oversight of Oxford Houses located in the MHRS Board's service area. An Oxford House is a shared residence where people in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction can live together and support each other in a drug and alcohol-free environment. Residents share house responsibilities and pay their share of expenses. (Two Oxford Houses—one for women and one for men—are already established in Guernsey County, and expansion of programming is now planned for Coshocton and Muskingum Counties.)
- **Appropriation Transfer in CY 2025 Budget:** Approved the transfer of \$23,000 from the Contingencies line item to the Employee Salaries line item—to close out the retirement of Janet Hill, the Board's former Director of Business Operations and Claims Management.
- **Special Allocation Request – Muskingum Behavioral Health:** Approved two

Executive Director

Misty Cromwell

Board of Directors

Sean Brady

Reid Carpenter

Abby Corder

Leondra Davis

Randi Earnest

Dennis Hitchcock

Sue Hoover

William Johnson

Tony Mayle, Jr.

Lt. Dave Peoples

Dan Scheerer, M.D.

Wendy Starlin

Ben Taylor

Bonnie Taylor

Board President

Leondra Davis

Board Vice President

Ben Taylor

Mission Statement

Our mission is to distribute federal, state, and local funding to community mental health providers in a way that facilitates the existence of (and access to) high-quality mental health and substance use recovery services in our six counties.

merger-related motions as follows: 1) Capital Request – the allocation of \$450,000 to help with the pay-off of the organization’s mortgage; and 2) Salary Support Request – the allocation of up to \$100,000 in salary support.

- Special Allocation Request – Guernsey Health Choices (GHC): Approved another merger-related motion that allocated \$130,000 for the pay-off of GHC’s mortgage.

- July and August 2025 Payments for Services: Below is a breakdown of payments for mental health and addiction recovery services for clients and families or for system improvements.

<i>Accounts Payable</i>	<i>In-Network Providers</i>	<i>Out-of-Network Partners</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>July 10, 2025</i>	<i>\$127,864.99</i>	<i>\$24,735.98</i>	<i>\$152,600.97</i>
<i>July 24, 2025</i>	<i>\$82,476.08</i>	<i>\$168,638.55</i>	<i>\$251,114.63</i>
<i>August 7, 2025</i>	<i>\$29,931.84</i>	<i>\$29,372.63</i>	<i>\$59,304.47</i>
<i>August 21, 2025</i>	<i>\$126,213.86</i>	<i>\$496,448.24</i>	<i>\$622,662.10</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$366, 4886.77</i>	<i>\$719,195.40</i>	<i>\$1,085,682.17</i>



- Annual Report – FY 2025 Major & Unusual Incidents: In FY 2025, the MHRS Board received a total of 18 incident reports—all of which were duly addressed. In the Program Committee, Jamie McGrew, the MHRS Board’s Director of Community Outreach and Programming, provided detailed background information about the various incidents.

- Culture of Quality (COQ) Certification Renewal: MHRS Board staff are preparing for an upcoming review related to the renewal of our Culture of Quality Certification. COQ is a peer-review process of the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) and MHRS Boards, affirming that they meet statutory requirements for quality, accountability, and responsiveness in their local behavioral health services. The survey is scheduled for November 17-18 and will consist of a review of 140 standards that include: Public Affairs, Education, Community Relations, Policy, Advocacy, Risk Management and Insurance, Board Health & Safety, Human Resources, Mission and Program, Governance, Board Financial Operations, and Ethics.

- Policy Updates: Members reviewed and approved the following policies: 1) **GOVERNANCE SECTION** – *Hiring of the Executive Director*; 2) **HEALTH & SAFETY SECTION** – *Board Health & Safety; Smoke-Free Workplace; Concealed Carry; Workstation Use and Security; Systemwide Response to Disasters; and Use of Personal Cell Phones*; 3) **HUMAN RESOURCES SECTION** — *Definitions; Administration; Management Rights; Employment Status, Affirmative Action; Whistleblowing; Recruitment & Selection of Staff; Probationary Period; Outside Employment; Media – Public Relations; New Employee Orientation; Solicitation & Distribution; and Training*; 4) **MISSION & PROGRAM SECTION** – *Indemnification Against Liability for Board Members and Employees*; **CARRYOVER POLICY FROM 7/10/25** – *Records Retention & Destruction*.



988 Vehicle Decals: As a part of Jamie McGrew's collaborative work in Perry County, the MHRS Board recently awarded the Junction City Police Department a \$3,000 grant to cover the cost of decals for police vehicles. Junction City Police Chief Amy English notes: *"These decals proudly display the message of suicide prevention—an issue that deeply affects families, friends, and communities. We are proud to partner with you in spreading awareness and connecting people with the resources they need. Your support has helped us turn these vehicles into a moving reminder of hope, awareness, and the importance of mental health. Your '988' message—displayed on three sides of each cruiser—aids in breaking down the stigma surrounding mental health challenges and encouraging those in need to seek help."*

MOBILE RESPONSE & STABILIZATION SERVICES FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES

(Success Story Prepared by MRSS Team Member)

When we first became involved with this youth, it was shortly after her release from the hospital following a suicide attempt. Up until that point, the only behavioral health services she had ever received were during her brief stays on the psychiatric unit. Her school counselor was the one who recognized the need for extra support and made the referral.

In the beginning, she was unsure of what we could really do for her. While completing her safety plan, she told me, "I know this is your job, but you aren't going to help me." Even though she felt that way, she stayed engaged and, after her closure with MRSS, she transitioned into traditional case management.

Not long after, she ended up back in the hospital after making concerning statements at school. This time when she was released, she was connected to outpatient counseling and a medication assessment. With those services in place, she began both counseling and medication management. Since then, she has not required another hospitalization.

One of the biggest turning points came when, instead of engaging in self-harming behaviors like she normally would have, she reached out and called the Crisis Hotline. That moment showed her growth and ability to use the tools and supports around her.

Now, after nearly two years, the progress she has made is incredible. She has gained independence, learned how to regulate herself better, and uses her coping skills when she needs them. She has often told me how thankful she is for the support she has received, and it's clear how much she has grown.

She is truly one of my greatest success stories. What started with doubt and fear has turned into trust, stability, and growth. She continues to move forward, showing how ongoing support, the right resources, and her own resilience can change the course of her life.



"No Limits" Livestock Show: Once again, the Mental Health & Recovery Services Board and the Noble County Board of Developmental Disabilities teamed up to offer a free opportunity for children over the age of eight, and/or adults who have developmental disabilities or receive mental health services — to show rabbits, sheep, goats, or feeder calves at the Noble County Fair. All animals were provided, and the 'No Limits' participants were paired with 4-H or FFA members, who mentored them in preparing for the event and supporting them at the show. Noble County Commissioner Alan Fraley

served as emcee for the night, and Kiersten Helckle was the judge. Spectators filled the show arena, and a great time was had by all.

Agriculture Navigator: The MHRS Board's Agriculture Navigator was very visible at the Noble County Fair where she assisted 106 members of the farming community to complete a survey about their behavioral health needs. She also held daily programming for kids and distributed information to local farmers about available resources. Survey data will be used to develop programs and services for the local agricultural community.

September is National Suicide Awareness Month, a time to remember the lives lost to suicide, acknowledge those who have experienced suicidal thoughts, and the many individuals, families, and communities that have been impacted by suicide.



During September and throughout the year, we can care about suicide prevention, connect to communities, and collaborate with others to address this public health problem.

For information about the MHRS Board's service area Suicide Prevention Coalitions, please contact Jamie McGrew at 740-454-8557 or jamiem@mhrrs.org.



The Governing Board of Directors will next meet at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 9, at the MHRS Board Office, 1500 Coal Run Road, Zanesville. Prior to the regular board meeting, the Finance/Audit Committee and Program Committee will meet from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.