

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

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**  
*(April 14, 2022)*

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

On April 4, 2022, 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 14, 2022, at the MHRS Board Office — 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 7:10 p.m.

**III. ROLL CALL:**

Board Members present:

- *William Johnson, President (Coshocton County)*
- *Leondra Davis (Coshocton County)*
- *Randi Earnest (Guernsey County)*
- *Megan Gee (Muskingum County)*
- *Pamela Kirst (Muskingum County)*
- *Tony Mayle, Jr. (Morgan County)*
- *Dan Scheerer, M.D. (Muskingum County)*
- *Danielle Scott (Perry County)*
- *Ben Taylor (Perry County)*

Board Members excused:

- *Sue Hoover, Vice President (Muskingum County)*
- *Jon Black (Guernsey County)*
- *Jeff LeCocq (Muskingum 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*

Guests:

- *Keith Hager, Director of the Country Garden Manor and Liberty Manor Group Homes, was present for the Partners Workgroup Meeting*

**IV. OATH OF OFFICE:** MHRS Board Associate Director Elaine Shuster administered the Oath of Office to Leondra Davis who was recently appointed to the Board of Directors by the Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services. She is representing Coshocton County.

V. **AGENDA:** There being no changes to the agenda, LEONDRA DAVIS MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE APRIL 14, 2022, MEETING AGENDA AS MAILED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

VI. **MEETING MINUTES:** It was noted that the minutes from the March 10 board meeting were e-mailed to board members on March 15, 2022.

PAMELA KIRST MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 10, 2022, REGULAR BOARD MEETING AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DANIELLE SCOTT AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; MEGAN GEE, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; DANIELLE SCOTT, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING EIGHT POSITIVE VOTES.

VII. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

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

◆ **Youth & Community Resiliency Capital Project – New Lexington City Schools:** (Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)

◆ **Value of Allwell Behavioral Health's Guardianship Program:** (Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights.)

◆ **Homelessness in Zanesville:** At the request of the City of Zanesville, Director Cromwell has recently been involved in some problem-solving sessions to address issues with homeless encampments. She has been sharing information about network services for homeless persons who are struggling with mental illness and/or addiction. (It was noted that homelessness is also pervasive in other service area counties.)

◆ **State Opiate Conference:** The Opiate Conference will be held June 6-7, 2022, at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Columbus. Our MHRS Board has two free conference slots. Board members interested in attending were asked to contact Director Cromwell.

◆ **Behavioral Health Wellness Coordination Demonstration Project and Project AWARE:** (Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)

◆ **Appalachian Children's Coalition Legislative Day:** Director Cromwell recently joined a panel of experts to participate in the Appalachian Children's Coalition Legislative Advocacy Day before state legislators. Misty's topic was focused on the need for more crisis stabilization services (for both adults and children) in Appalachian Ohio.

◆ **Culture of Quality (COQ) Review:** MHRS Board staff have been preparing for the upcoming COQ On-Site Review that will take place on May 9-10. Reviewers will be looking at all of the MHRS Board's operations to ensure they meet statutory requirements and follow Recovery-Oriented System of Care practices.

◆ **Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) and Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS) Responses:** (Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights.)

◆ **Crisis Mobile Response & Stabilization Services (MRSS) for Youth:** Allwell continues to build its MRSS Program that will offer immediate crisis response to children, young adults, and their families. The MRSS Youth Respite Center's Open House will probably be held in May. The Center is being named "Linser's Landing" in honor of former Allwell clinician Jeff Linser.

◆ **Pearl House Update:** (Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights.)

VIII. **FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT:** (Dr. Dan Scheerer, Chair; and Board President William Johnson)

1. **March 2022 Financial Reports:**

Board members reviewed the MHRS Board's Financial Reports for March 2022 that included: 1) Reconciliation Report; 2) Contract Services Expense Reports; 3) Balance Sheet

as of March 31, 2022; 4) Dashboard Report; and 5) Monthly Report of Network Funding Reserves.

◆ ***March 2022 Reconciliation Report:***

After the report of Committee action, LORENDRA DAVIS MOVED THAT THE FULL BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE MARCH 2022 RECONCILIATION REPORT AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RANDI EARNEST.

Fiscal Operations Director Rhonda Hanes 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: LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; MEGAN GEE, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; DANIELLE SCOTT; YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING EIGHT POSITIVE VOTES.

**2. FY 2023 Tentative Allocations to Contract Organizations:**

After the report of Committee action, BEN TAYLOR MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE TENTATIVE FUNDING ALLOCATIONS TO CONTRACT ORGANIZATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 AS PRESENTED – TOTALING \$9,808,363.00. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DAN SCHEERER.

Fiscal Director Rhonda Hanes reviewed the tentative allocations that basically reflect flat-funding from the previous fiscal year—with the exception of some slight increases in a few contract service categories.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN ON THE ABOVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS: LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; MEGAN GEE, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; DANIELLE SCOTT; YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING EIGHT POSITIVE VOTES.

**3. Special Allocation Request – Guernsey County Sheriff:**

After the report of Committee action, RANDI EARNEST MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE ALLOCATION OF \$50,000.00 TO THE GUERNSEY COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE FOR THE PURCHASE OF A VEHICLE TO TRANSPORT NETWORK CLIENTS TO NEEDED STATE HOSPITAL OR OTHER HIGH-LEVEL INPATIENT CARE.

By transporting clients needing a more secure high-level of care, the Guernsey County Sheriff’s Office has been helping to cut transportation costs and assisting clients and family members in a timely manner. In FY 2021, the Sheriff’s Office transported a total of 97 persons to out-of-service area facilities. Sometimes transports involve long distances (i.e., Cleveland, Columbus, Youngstown, etc.).

It was noted that all Sheriff’s Office transporters should receive adequate training in how to help persons in a mental health crisis.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN ON THE ABOVE MOTION AS

FOLLOWS: LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; MEGAN GEE, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; TONY MAYLE, NAY; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; DANIELLE SCOTT, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED RECEIVING SEVEN POSITIVE VOTES AND ONE NEGATIVE VOTE.

**4. Special Allocation – MODO Media:**

After the report of Committee action, DANIELLE SCOTT MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE ALLOCATION OF \$30,000.00 TO MODO MEDIA FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A CONSISTENT PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ABOUT THE NETWORK'S SERVICES AND SUPPORTS FOR PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS AND/OR ADDICTIONS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LEONDRA DAVIS.

Under this proposal, MODO Media's work for the MHRS Board would be broad-based, consistently making service area residents aware of available services and supports. This would include work on special observances (Mental Health Awareness Month, Addiction Awareness Month, and specific campaigns to promote levy renewals).

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN ON THE ABOVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS: LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; MEGAN GEE, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; DANIELLE SCOTT, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING EIGHT POSITIVE VOTES.

**5. Special Allocation to Bioethical Services of Virginia, Inc.:**

(EXECUTIVE SESSION)

PAMELA KIRST MOVED THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACTUAL ISSUES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; MEGAN GEE, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; DANIELLE SCOTT, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING EIGHT POSITIVE VOTES.

(The Board of Directors recessed to Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. and returned to Open Session at 8:15 p.m.)

After the report of Committee action, LEONDRA DAVIS MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE ALLOCATION OF \$15,000.00 TO BIOETHICAL SERVICES OF VIRGINIA, INC. FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROPOSAL PREPARED BY DR. MICHAEL GILLETTE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN IMPROVED PROCESS FOR ALLOCATING DOLLARS TO SERVICE PROVIDERS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RANDI EARNEST, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; MEGAN GEE, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, 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:**

- 1. **State Operated Group Homes – Country Garden Manor and Liberty Manor:**  
*(Summary of report included in Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)*

**X. OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1. **Strategic Plan Update – Fiscal Years 2021-2023:**  
*(Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)*

**XI. NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. **Next Meeting:**  
 The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 12, 2022. Committee meetings will take place between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m.

**XII. COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

- ▶ ***SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE:*** MHRS Board staff will conduct a poll of all board members to see if they would like to skip the July board meeting.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**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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William Johnson, Board President