

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

OFFICIAL MINUTES – MEETING OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS
(July 10, 2025)

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

I. BOARD NOTIFICATION & COMPLIANCE WITH SUNSHINE LAW:

On July 2, 2025, board members, contract organization directors, service area news media, county boards of commissioners, and state legislators were notified that the Board of Governors would meet on Thursday, July 10, 2025, 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 Program Committee; and 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting.

II. CALL TO ORDER: Vice President Ben Taylor called the regular board meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

III. ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present:

- *Ben Taylor, Vice President (Perry County)*
- *Reid Carpenter (Noble County)*
- *Abby Corder (Muskingum County)*
- *Dennis Hitchcock (Muskingum County)*
- *Sue Hoover (Muskingum County)*
- *William Johnson (Coshocton County)*
- *Tony Mayle, Jr. (Morgan County)*
- *Dan Scheerer, M.D. (Muskingum County)*
- *Wendy Starlin (Perry County)*
- *Bonnie Taylor (Muskingum County)*

Board Members Excused:

- *Leondra Davis, President (Coshocton County)*
- *Randi Earnest (Guernsey County)*
- *Sean Brady (Muskingum County)*
- *Lt. Dave Peoples (Guernsey County)*

There being ten 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*
- *Jamie McGrew, Director of Community Outreach & Programming*
- *Sarah Reed, Director of Compliance and Quality Improvement*
- *Karl Hoop, Director of Community Engagement and Crisis Services*
- *Roger Birch, Director of Youth & Family Services*
- *Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator*
- *Terri France, Office Manager (1st Part of Meeting)*
- *Sophie Carder, Intern for Capstone Project*

IV. OATH OF OFFICE:

Terri France administered the Oath of Office to the following board members who were reappointed to 4-year terms effective 7/1/25 through 6/30/29:

- *Ben Taylor, Perry County, Appointing Authority, County Commissioners*
- *William Johnson, Coshocton County, Appointing Authority, Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services*

Two other reappointed board members, Leondra Davis (Coshocton County) and Randi Earnest (Guernsey County) will be sworn at the next meeting of the Board of Governors.

V. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Present for the Program Committee meeting was Travis Stevens, Chief Probation Officer, Guernsey County Juvenile Court.

VI. AGENDA: There being no changes to the pre-mailed agenda, ABBY CORDER MOVED THAT GOVERNING BOARD APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE JULY 10, 2025, BOARD MEETING AS MAILED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY WENDY STARLIN AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

VII. MEETING MINUTES:

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting Held June 12, 2025:

REID CARPENTER MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 12, 2025, REGULAR BOARD MEETING AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUE HOOVER AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion passed unanimously, receiving nine positive votes.

B. Minutes of Special Meeting Held June 24, 2025:

WILLIAM JOHNSON MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 24, 2025, SPECIAL BOARD MEETING AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DENNIS HITCHCOCK, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion passed unanimously, receiving nine positive votes.

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Misty Cromwell updates about some key issues that are in alignment with the MHRS Board's Strategic Plan, including: 1) Operations of the Liberty Manor Group Home; 2) Progress in Implementation the Agriculture Program; 3) Student Ambassador Program (headed up by Intern Sophie Carder); and 4) the Dedication of the Legendary Adventure Zone Park in Belle Valley, Ohio. These items are summarized in the Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.

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

1. June 2025 Financial Reports:

Board members reviewed the MHRS Board's financial reports for June 2025 that included: 1) Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2025; 2) Dashboard Report; 3) Reconciliation Report; 4) Monthly Report of Network Funding Reserves; and 5) a 'Year-to-Date' Status Report for the MHRS Board's CY 2025 Operating Budget.

► *June 2025 Reconciliation Report:*

Following report of committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING

BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE JUNE 2025 RECONCILIATION REPORT AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY WILLIAM JOHNSON.

Dr. Scheerer provided a specific review of this all-inclusive report that shows deposits, checks written for MHRS Board operations, payment to in-network and out-of-network service providers, and journal entries.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN ON THE ABOVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion passed unanimously, receiving nine positive votes.

2. **Funding Request – Muskingum Behavioral Health (MBH):**

Members reviewed a funding request in the amount of \$60,696.27 to support the hiring of a newly-accredited LSW who will be joining MBH’s clinical team. Following the report/discussion of committee action, DAN MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE ALLOCATION OF UP TO \$60,696.27 IN SEED MONEY TO MUSKINGUM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TO SUPPORT THE HIRING OF A NEWLY-ACCREDITED LSW WHO WILL BE JOINING MBH’S CLINICAL TEAM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DENNIS HITCHCOCK.

It was pointed out that MBH will be asked to provide monthly reports of the new employee’s productivity rates – following which the MHRS Board will support the difference between the employee’s initial productivity rates—until they reach expected levels.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN ON THE ABOVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion passed unanimously, receiving nine positive votes.

3. **Funding Requests – Coshocton County Juvenile Court (CCJC):**

- a. ***Community Resource Center:*** CCJC requested an allocation of \$15,862.68 to support a 1-year extension of the Resource Center’s lease agreement with the Coshocton Regional Medical Center.

Following report of committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE ALLOCATION OF \$15,862.68 TO COSHOCTON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT TO SUPPORT A 1-YEAR EXTENSION OF THE COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER’S LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE COSHOCTON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY REID CARPENTER.

This action will help the Resource Center’s continued work to provide early intervention services for Coshocton County youth and families. It was noted that, eventually, the Resource Center will be moving into another county building.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN ON THE ABOVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion passed unanimously, receiving nine positive votes.

- b. ***Dual Status Youth Initiative:*** CCJC requested an allocation of \$50,000 to support the

development of meaningful pathways for “dually-identified or dually-involved youth” — to prevent accelerated penetration into the juvenile justice and child welfare systems by incorporating a robust community partner collaboration. The \$50,000 will support the hiring of a Mental Health Assessor / Case Manager for the multi-disciplinary program.

Following report of committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE AN ALLOCATION OF \$50,000 IN SEED MONEY TO THE COSHOCTON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT TO SUPPORT THE HIRING OF A MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSOR / CASE MANAGER FOR THE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY DUAL STATUS YOUTH INITIATIVE AND THE GRADUAL DEVELOPMENT OF WAYS TO PREVENT ACCELERATED PENETRATION INTO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD WELFARE SYSTEMS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY REID CARPENTER AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion passed unanimously, receiving nine positive votes.

4. ***Appropriation Transfer – MHRS Board CY 2025 Budget:***

Following report of committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$110,691.00 FROM THE CONTINGENCIES LINE ITEM TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES LINE ITEM - (CA) – FOR FEES RELATED TO THE NEW SMARTCARE BILLING SYSTEM THAT IS REPLACING GOSH. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY WILLIAM JOHNSON, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion passed unanimously, receiving nine positive votes.

X. ***PROGRAM COMMITTEE – PARTNERSHIP WITH GUERNSEY COUNTY JUVENILE COURT:***

Travis Stevens, Chief Probation Officer for the Guernsey County Juvenile Court, provided an update about current trends in addressing the care, protection, and mental and physical development of children subject to the Court’s jurisdiction. In particular, he reported on the Court’s partnership with the MHRS Board to ensure uninterrupted counseling is available for youths while they are in detention. (Summary provided in Board Highlights attached to the minutes.)

XI. ***POLICY UPDATES: (Policies were in the Board Meeting Packet File for Review Prior to the Meeting)***

► ***Policy & Procedure Responsibilities:*** REID CARPENTER MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD APPROVE THE POLICY – *POLICY & PROCEDURE RESPONSIBILITIES* – AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BONNIE TAYLOR. THERE WERE NO OBJECTIONS TO THE MOTION.

► ***Open Meetings:*** ABBY CORDER MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD APPROVE THE POLICY – *OPEN MEETINGS* – AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DENNIS HITCHCOCK. THERE WERE NO OBJECTIONS TO THE MOTION.

► ***Removal of Executive Director:*** REID CARPENTER MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD APPROVE THE POLICY – *REMOVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR* – AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY WILLIAM JOHNSON. THERE WERE NO

OBJECTIONS TO THE MOTION.

▶ **Public Access to Board Records:** REID CARPENTER MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD APPROVE THE POLICY – *PUBLIC ACCESS TO BOARD RECORDS* – AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DENNIS HITCHCOCK. THERE WERE NO OBJECTIONS TO THE MOTION.

▶ **Records Retention Commission:** DENNIS HITCHCOCK MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD APPROVE THE POLICY – *RECORDS RETENTION COMMITTEE* – AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DAN SCHEERER. THERE WERE NO OBJECTIONS TO THE MOTION.

▶ **Conflict of Interest:** DENNIS HITCHCOCK MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD APPROVE THE POLICY – *CONFLICT OF INTEREST* – AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUE HOOVER. THERE WERE NO OBJECTIONS TO THE MOTION.

▶ **Virtual Meetings:** REID CARPENTER MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD APPROVE THE POLICY – *VIRTUAL MEETINGS* – AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DENNIS HITCHCOCK. THERE WERE NO OBJECTIONS TO THE MOTION.

▶ **Records Retention & Destruction:** This policy will be reviewed at the next meeting of the Governing Board – following further consultation with the MHRB Board’s Attorney.

NEXT MEETING: The Governing Board will next meet at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 11, 2025, @ the Office, 1500 Coal Run Road, Zanesville. Prior to regular board meeting, the Finance/Audit Committee and Program Committee will meet from 5:00 to 6:00 pm.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- ***Thank You!*** Board members expressed appreciation to Associate Director Rhonda Hanes for her outstanding leadership over the last few months.
- ***Advocacy – HB 96 – Biennial Budget Veto Override Votes:*** Board members were provided with a template e-mail message to share with Ohio House Members regarding HB 96 – urging them to vote against biennial budget veto override efforts on several extremely important issues that would improve the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness and/or addiction.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

SIGNATURES

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator

Misty Cromwell, Executive Director

Ben Taylor, MHRB Board Vice President