

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
(May 8, 2025)

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

I. BOARD NOTIFICATION & COMPLIANCE WITH SUNSHINE LAW:

On April 29, 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, May 8, 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: 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) – First Portion of Meeting*
- *Abby Corder (Muskingum County)*
- *Randi Earnest (Guernsey County)*
- *William Johnson (Coshocton County)*
- *Dan Scheerer, M.D. (Muskingum County) - Virtual*
- *Wendy Starlin (Perry County)*
- *Ben Taylor (Perry County)*
- *Bonnie Taylor (Muskingum County)*

Board Members Excused:

- *Dennis Hitchcock (Muskingum County)*
- *Lt. Dave Peoples (Guernsey County)*
- *Reid Carpenter (Noble County)*
- *Tony Mayle, Jr. (Morgan County)*

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

Staff Members Present:

- *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*

IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Present for Funding Request Reviews were:

- *Theresa Kane, Perry Behavioral Health Choices*
- *Yolanda Taylor, CEO, Muskingum Behavioral Health*

Present for the Program Committee meeting:

- *Kris Headley, Community Health Planner, Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department*

V. AGENDA: President Hoover noted a change to the pre-mailed agenda — the withdrawal of Item 6.d.5 (under Finance/Audit Committee report – Allwell Behavioral Health’s request for salary reimbursement for a Noble County Peer Supporter). BEN TAYLOR MOVED TO APPROVE

THE AGENDA FOR THE MAY 8, 2025, BOARD MEETING AS AMENDED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RANDI EARNEST AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

- VI. MEETING MINUTES:** WILLIAM JOHNSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 10, 2025, BOARD MEETING AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RANDI EARNEST AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, ABSTAIN; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, ABSTAIN. The motion was approved receiving six positive votes and two abstentions.

VII. RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

SEAN BRADY MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL ISSUE THAT WAS ADDRESSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON APRIL 22, 2025. 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; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved.

The governing board recessed to Executive Session at 6:27 p.m., and returned to Open Session at 6:45 p.m.

< Sean Brady had to leave the meeting after the Executive Session.>

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

1. April 2025 Financial Reports:

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

April 2025 Reconciliation Report:

Dr. Scheerer reviewed this 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.

Following report of Committee action, LEONDRA DAVIS MOVED TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE APRIL 2025 RECONCILIATION REPORT AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN ON THE ABOVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS: ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. CY 2026 Budget for Entire Network of Care:

Following report of Committee action, LEONDRA DAVIS MOVED TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE CY 2026 BUDGET FOR THE ENTIRE NETWORK OF CARE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,601,426. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY WILLIAM JOHNSON.

This budget is required by law and is prepared for the six sets of County Commissioners and County Auditors in the MHRS Board's service area. The budget combines the MHRS Board's CY 2026 Operating Budget with the CY 2026 Contract Service Provider Allocations, and some miscellaneous adjustments. The majority of the budget is for payments to contract organizations and community partners for the provision of mental illness and addiction recovery treatment and

support services.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN ON THE ABOVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS: ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Second Hearing – Funding Request from Perry Behavioral Health Choices:

PBHC Executive Director Theresa Kane requested assistance with getting caught up with some overdue bills (\$105,000) and a safety net allocation of \$100,000 for payroll in the event of a shortfall.

Following report of Committee action, ABBY CORDER MOVED TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE: 1) THE ALLOCATION OF \$1,000 FOR ACCOUNTANT HEATHER DOLAN'S HELP WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PBHC FISCAL RECOVERY PLAN; AND 2) AN EMERGENCY DISBURSEMENT OF PBHC'S REMAINING LEVY FUNDS TO BE APPLIED TO SOME OPERATING EXPENSES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY WILLIAM JOHNSON AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Allwell Behavioral Health – Maintenance Expenses at Residential Properties:

Allwell CEO James McDonald requested funding in the amount of \$27,145.67 to support maintenance expenses for six residential properties.

Following report of committee action, LEONDRA DAVIS MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO TABLE THIS REQUEST AND TO SEEK SOME ADDITIONAL EXPLANATIONS ABOUT THE EXPENSES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Allwell Behavioral Health – Architect Billing:

Allwell requested funding in the amount of \$37,128.31 for architectural expenses related to renovations at 831 Wheeling Avenue, Cambridge (future site for Allwell's Guernsey Counseling Center).

Following report of committee action, LEONDRA DAVIS MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR \$37,128.31 FOR ARCHITECTURAL EXPENSES RELATED TO RENOVATIONS AT 831 WHEELING AVENUE IN CAMBRIDGE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Allwell Behavioral Health – Security System for Relocated Guernsey Counseling Center:

Allwell requested funding in the amount of \$42,821.41 for the purchase of security devices for 831 Wheeling Avenue in Cambridge.

Following report of committee action, LEONDRA DAVIS MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR \$42,821.41 TO SUPPORT EXPENSES RELATED TO THE SECURITY SYSTEM FOR THE UPCOMING MOVE OF THE GUERNSEY COUNSELING CENTER TO 831 WHEELING AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED

BY RANDI EARNEST, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved.

7. Allwell Behavioral Health Services – Patient Transports:

Allwell requested \$46,275.00 for the reimbursement of payments to the Guernsey County Sheriff's Office for patient transports to psychiatric hospitals.

Following review of committee action, LEONDRA DAVIS MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE ALLOCATION OF \$46,275.00 TO ALLWELL BEHAVIOR HEALTH FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT OF PAYMENTS TO THE GUERNSEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR PATIENT TRANSPORTS TO PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY WILLIAM JOHNSON, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved.

8. Muskingum Behavioral Health:

Muskingum Behavioral Health requested funding in the amount of \$49,774.32 to support an additional six months of costs associated with Behavioral Health Billing Solutions and the organization's medical records system.

Following review of committee action, LEONDRA DAVIS MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO REQUEST MBH'S CEO TO WORK WITH MHRS BOARD FISCAL DIRECTOR RHONDA HANES ON MAPPING OUT A 3-MONTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE ORGANIZATION'S LSW NEW-HIRE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved.

IX. PROGRAM COMMITTEE: (*Randi Earnest, Program Committee Chair*)

1. ***Housing and Homelessness:*** Randi Earnest summarized a presentation given in the Program Committee meeting by Kris Headley, Community Planner for the Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department. (Summary included in 'Board Meeting Highlights' attached to the minutes.)

X. MHRS BOARD POLICIES:

The following policies will be acted upon at the June 12, 2025, annual meeting: 1) Introduction and Scope of Coverage; 2) Dissemination and Instruction; 3) Manual Receipt Form; 4) Advancement of Funds – Additional Payments; 5) Non-Medicaid Contract Request; 6) Purchasing – Expenditures of Public Funds for a Proper Public Purpose; 7) Use of MHRS Board Credit Cards and Charge Accounts; 8) Federal Funds – Sub-Recipient Monitoring; 9) Provider Closing – Records Disposition; 10) Provider Closing; 11) Fiscal Contingency Reporting; and 12) Sub-Recipient Monitoring Process. Policies are in the electronic meeting packet for board member review before the next meeting.

XI. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Slate of Nominees for FY 2026 Governing Board Officers:

The nominees for FY 2026 Governing Board officers are:

PRESIDENT: Leondra Davis

VICE-PRESIDENT: Ben Taylor

The election of officers will take place at the June 12, 2025, annual meeting, at which time further nominations may be made.\

XII. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Next Meeting:

The Board of Governors will next meet on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at the MHRS Board Office. This will be the organization's Annual Meeting – with no committee meetings being held.

SCHEDULE:

5:00 p.m. Board Member Recognition Dinner
5:30 p.m. "Making a Difference" Presentation
6:00 p.m. Regular Board Meeting

XIII. COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Thank You. Dr. Dan Scheerer thanked Board President Sue Hoover and Associate Director Rhonda Hanes for their unwavering commitment to the MHRS Board.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

SIGNATURES

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator

Sue Hoover, Board President

Rhonda Hanes, Associate Director