

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
March 13, 2025

FinancialMatters

- **Reconciliation Report:** Under the guidance of Finance/Audit Committee Chair Dr. Dan Scheerer, board members reviewed and approved the February 2025 Reconciliation Report 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 February Financial Reports:** Board members also reviewed the following February 2025 fiscal reports: 1) Balance Sheet as of February 28, 2025; 2) Monthly Report of Funding Reserves; 3) a Year-to-Date Status Report for the MHRS Board's Operating Budget; and 4) a Dashboard Report that provides a high-level overview of key fiscal indicators.
- **MHRS Board's Calendar Year 2026 Operations Budget:** Board members approved the MHRS Board's CY 2026 Operating Budget totaling \$1,203,446.90, representing a 2.5% increase over the CY 2025 Operating Budget.
- **Appropriation Transfers – CY 2025 Budget:** 1) Approved the transfer of \$134,199 from the Contingencies Line Item to the ARPA Expenses Line Item to facilitate funding draw-downs for the ARPA projects that are currently underway—particularly as it relates to the development of crisis services for youth and a behavioral health urgent care facility; and 2) approved the transfer of \$93,581 from the Contingencies Line Item to the Professional Expenses Line Item to facilitate the payment of expenses related to the network's shift from the GOSH Claims Management System to SmartCare.
- **Creation of Individual Levy Revenue Accounts:** Approved the creation of individual levy revenue accounts for Coshocton County, Guernsey County, Morgan County, Noble County, and Perry County. This action will allow for clearer tracking of how funds are allocated and spent.
- **Payments for Mental Health & Addiction Recovery Treatment and Support:** Below is a breakdown of February payments for actual services or system improvements:

Accounts Payable	In-Network Providers	Out-of-Network Partners	TOTAL
Feb. 6, 2025	\$214,713.05	\$348,966.68	\$563,679.73
Feb. 20, 2025	\$322,528.93	\$938,030.55	\$1,260,559.48
TOTAL	\$537,241.98	\$1,286,997.23	\$1,824,239.21

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
Sue Hoover

Board Vice President
Leondra Davis

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.

Annual Board Member Training

Prior to regular board meeting, MHRS Board Attorney David Moser presented the Annual Board Member Training – *Roles, Responsibilities, and Good Governance of Board Members Under the Law — “Seeing the Forest Through the Trees,”* covering:

- Board Member Responsibilities under ORC Chapter 340
- Conflicts of Interest
- Ohio’s Ethics Law and Related Statutes
- Key Distinctions of Board Employees vs. Board Members
- Board Meeting Processes
- Ohio’s Sunshine Laws
- Executive Sessions
- Balancing Personal Interests and Statutory Responsibilities

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”
(Margaret Mead)

Updates from Director Misty Cromwell’s Board Report

- ***Mobile Crisis Strategy:*** In 2024, the MHRS Board contracted with TBD Solutions to provide an assessment of current network crisis services, engage community stakeholders in conversations about mobile crisis services, and develop a mobile crisis strategy. To assess the crisis system, TBD facilitated stakeholder meetings, conducted structured interviews, analyzed available crisis system data, and engaged best practice research on mobile crisis teams – including rural considerations and adaptations. Based on this assessment, TBD has offered the following recommendations: 1) Partner with the current crisis provider; 2) implement a co-responder model; 3) develop a pilot mobile crisis program; 4) collect and monitor data; 5) convene monthly crisis stakeholder meetings; and 6) strengthen MHRS Board oversight and engagement.
- ***Development of Community Crisis/Disaster Response Team:*** MHRS Board staff are developing a Crisis/Disaster Response Team to address mental health needs in the aftermath of traumatic events and natural disasters in our communities. The planning group—that includes reps from the EMA and first responder providers—is currently evaluating strengths and weaknesses as they work toward integrating behavioral health organizations within disaster responses. For more information, contact Jamie McGrew (jamiem@mhrs.org), the MHRS Board’s Director of Community Outreach and Programming.
- ***Crisis Notifications:*** Ascend Consulting was recently awarded funding from One Ohio on behalf of our region to implement ‘crisis notification’ alerts to the appropriate outreach team of a patient that experiences an emergency visit at a hospital near our six-county service area. This initiative will generate real-time secure notifications of patients’ health and contact information that can be used to mobilize outreach efforts to minimize the risk of further overdoses, suicide attempts, and other behavioral health crises. Expected outcomes:
 - Improved and expedited care coordination for outpatient treatment and other support services for patients experiencing a behavioral health crisis in the emergency room.
 - An increase in individuals having outpatient care or other behavioral health service appointments post-discharge from the hospital.

- A reduction in the number of days from hospital patient discharge to engagement in outpatient treatment or other behavioral healthcare.



Budget Priorities — Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services

- ***Building Resilient Ohioans — Prevention Services:*** By identifying risk factors early, we can address behavioral health concerns before they escalate into crises that lead to costly hospitalization, incarceration, or long-term care.
- ***Increase Criminal Justice and Recovery Services:*** By sustaining and elevating our criminal justice partnerships, we can alleviate the strain on the system and prevent traumatic cycling through the system for persons experiencing behavioral challenges.
- ***Crisis Services:*** By increasing the availability of timely, community-based crisis services across the state for individuals of all ages, we reduce trauma, expedite recovery, and prevent strain on law enforcement, criminal justice, and hospital emergency rooms.
- ***Improving Quality and Data-Driven Decisions:*** Promoting access to high-quality behavioral healthcare reduces stigma, improves outcomes, and ensures effective use of state resources.
- ***Growing the Behavioral Health Workforce:*** There is a need to grow and retain a sustainable and highly-trained behavioral health workforce that meets needs now and in the years to come.

Advocacy

Currently, there are many concerning legislative proposals for budget cuts that could negatively impact our network's clients and families. This is a critical time for our voices to be heard amid the decision-making process. Below is some contact information for our service area's state lawmakers:

THE OHIO SENATE

The Honorable Brian Chavez (Noble-Morgan-Guernsey Counties)

chavez@ohiosenate.gov

The Honorable Tim Schaffer (Perry County)

schaffer@ohiosenate.gov

The Honorable Al Landis (Muskingum-Guernsey Counties)

landis@ohiosenate.gov

Andrew Brenner (Coshocton County)

brenner@ohiosenate.gov

THE OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Honorable Adam Holmes (Muskingum-Guernsey Counties)

Rep97@ohiohouse.com

The Honorable Kevin Miller (Perry County)

Rep69@ohiohouse.gov

The Honorable Don Jones (Guernsey-Morgan-Noble Counties)

Rep95@ohiohouse.gov

The Honorable Mark Johnson (Perry County)

Rep92@ohiohouse.gov

The Honorable Mark Hiner (Coshocton County)

Rep98@ohiohouse.gov