

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
May 9, 2024

FinancialMatters

Under the guidance of Finance Committee Chair Dr. Dan Scheerer, board members reviewed the following fiscal issues.

- **Reconciliation Report:** Board members reviewed and approved the April 2024 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 Financial Reports:** Board members also reviewed the following April 2024 fiscal reports: 1) Balance Sheet as of April 30, 2024; 2) Monthly Report of Funding Reserves; 3) a Year-to-Date Status Report for the MHRS Board's Operating Budget; 4) Contract Services Expenses; and 5) a Dashboard Report that provides a high-level overview of key fiscal indicators.
- **CY 2025 Budget for Entire Network:** This budget was approved in the amount of \$11,619,163. The budget combines the MHRS Board's CY 2025 Operating Budget with the CY 2025 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 treatment and support services for mental illness and substance use disorders.
- **CY 2022 State Financial Audit:** Board members officially accepted the CY 2022 Audit Report prepared by the State Examiner's Office. This was a 'clean' audit with no findings or Management Letter recommendations. The Auditors will soon be conducting the MHRS Board's CY 2023 audit.
- **Guernsey Health Choices (GHC):** Board members approved the continuation of gap funding for GHC (until December 31, 2024) up to a maximum of \$150,000.00 — to help the agency overcome its financial crisis. The organization's Board of Directors, staff members, and some special consultants are working to re-strengthen operations that will ultimately continue benefiting those seeking help for recovery from addictions.

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.

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.

- **Muskingum Valley Health Centers (MVHC)**: Board members approved gap funding to support (for one year) the salary and benefits for MVHC’s newly recruited psychiatrist – up to a maximum of \$137,888.00 – to be disbursed at agreed-upon intervals. Access to psychiatrists in our region is not adequate, and the addition of a psychiatrist at MVHC will help to expand access to mental health and substance use recovery services. This psychiatrist’s services are not limited to clients served by MVHC; services will be available to anyone seeking help. The new psychiatrist will begin his duties this fall.
- **April 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>April 8, 2024</i>	<i>\$421,862.23</i>	<i>\$289,090.44</i>	<i>\$710,952.67</i>
<i>April 22, 2024</i>	<i>\$222,523.76</i>	<i>\$206,411.88</i>	<i>\$428,935.64</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$644,385.99</i>	<i>\$495,502.32</i>	<i>\$1,139,888.31</i>

Use of Community Collaborative Funds

During FY 2023 and FY 2024, the MHRS Board has allocated Collaborative Funds to many service area entities — totaling \$332,074.66. The MHRS Board strongly supports the concept of bringing abilities and passions together to affect real change. Partners Workgroup Chair Randi Earnest reported on the use of Collaborative funding from two recipients — the Transitions Domestic Violence Shelter and Trulight Ministries:

- **Transitions**: Transitions offers aid to domestic violence victims – with an overall goal of eradicating domestic violence in the community. Transitions serves Muskingum, Perry and Morgan Counties and offers three basic services – operating as a shelter, offering court advocacy services, and taking crisis calls. Victim Advocate Dorothy Thomas helps victims with obtaining protection or restraining orders, understanding the court process, helping victims get their basic needs set up (copies of birth certificates and obtaining a SNAP card), and guiding them on how to proceed in their abusive situation. Ms. Thomas thanked the MHRS Board for their financial help.
- **Trulight Ministries**: This organization was founded in 2016 by Rev. Edward and Christina Swartz to help the homeless and low-income individuals. Homelessness is a big issue, and Trulight plays a role in seeing that homeless persons have evening shelter (particularly in the cold months), through transportation to other shelter sites in Duncan Falls and the Hallowed Halls Complex on East Pike in Zanesville. A big part of Trulight’s efforts over the last seven years has been to make inside and outside improvements to their building located on Putnam Avenue in Zanesville. Trulight offers a free hot breakfast from 8:00 to 9:30 am. Showers, laundry, and a lunch are offered from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, with Christ’s Table helping to provide the lunches. Space has also been dedicated to the provision of needed counseling services. Trulight is making plans for their next “*One Night in a Box*” fundraiser. More details to come.

Special Programming for Veterans

MHRS Board Executive Director Misty Cromwell reported on two current efforts to develop some special programs for Veterans:

- **Hoagland Project – Expanded Work Surrounding e-TMS (Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation):** Former State Senator Frank Hoagland and Perry Behavioral Health Executive Director Theresa Kane are leading this project that would include a ‘camp-like’ campus for providing convenient access to needed resources – including e-TMS. A consultant has been hired through Perry BHC to write grants and assist with project facilitation. A first step will be asking Ohio legislators to help fund the initiative. PBHC already provides e-TMS services specifically for Veterans, Law Enforcement Officers, and First Responders struggling with severe depression, PTSD, etc.
- **Warriors to Wilderness (located in Muskingum County):** The mission of Warriors to Wilderness is to provide therapeutic hunting experiences for Veterans, cultivating physical and mental healing, camaraderie, and empowerment. W2W aims to connect Veterans with the outdoors and promote their overall well-being by fostering a sense of community, personal growth, and a renewed sense of purpose. W2W offers hunting retreats, spiritual and mental health counseling, and Veteran resources and information. W2W CEO and Founder Jason Maxwell is a retired Navy Seabee and combat Veteran with multiple tours to Iraq and Afghanistan. For more information, go to www.warriors2wilderness.com.

Annual Suicide Awareness Banquet



The Annual Suicide Awareness Banquet was held on April 25 in Zanesville and was hosted by Suicide Prevention Coalitions in Coshocton, Guernsey/Noble, Morgan, Muskingum and Perry Counties. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of several “Heroes of Hope” awards to those pictured to the left: Jim Still-Pepper, Allwell Behavioral Health Services; Maureen Montgomery-Christian, Muskingum County Juvenile Detention Center; New Lexington Police Chief Doug

Gill; three Noble County Coffee Shops – Chapman’s, Positive Grounds, and Giddy Up and Joe that supported the “Brew Matter” campaign; and Sandra Harstine, Founder of the MHRS Board’s Suicide Prevention Coalitions.

Another feature of the evening was a presentation by Daniel Bennett, from Life Side Ohio, an organization that is working to make connections with gunowners and gun clubs solely for the purpose of providing suicide awareness information and stressing the importance of keeping guns out of the reach of those who may be contemplating suicide.

Bipartisan Safer Community Project

Through federal funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services is launching an initiative that will provide funds to enhance behavioral health system preparedness and response efforts. Funded projects will address the traumatic experiences and lingering consequences of tragedies such as natural disasters, mass shootings, and other large-scale events. The initiative will help to ensure that behavioral health providers and professionals have a coordinated rapid response plan to immediately deploy the essential behavioral health supports and resources in the aftermath of such tragedies. The MHRS Board is applying for BSCP funds.

Mental Health Awareness Month

Since its inception in 1949, Mental Health Awareness Month has been a cornerstone for addressing the challenges faced by millions of Americans living with mental illness. Throughout May, we are participating in this national movement dedicated to eradicating stigma, extending support, and fostering education.



Why Wear Green? On May 16, please join us in wearing green to call attention to this observance. Then take pictures and send them to Jamie McGrew (jamiem@mhrs.org) for posting on the MHRS Board's Facebook page. Green represents renewal, hope, and vitality and symbolizes unwavering support for mental health. Mental health is important and, by joining together, we are advocating for and supporting mental health.

Mental Health Month is a crucial time to focus on mental well-being. It encourages open conversations, challenges stigmas, and promotes seeking help.

Let's continue to support each other and prioritize mental health!

Please visit the MHRS Board's website – www.mhrs.org. to learn more about our system of care.

