

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
February 10, 2022

Landscape Analysis of Network Crisis Services

There is growing recognition that behavioral health crisis programming needs special attention to ensure appropriate responses for persons seeking crisis care. Therefore, as a part of an initiative developed by the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), MHRS Board Executive Director Misty Cromwell and her employees recently conducted a survey of current crisis programming in the six-county network of care. Other partners in the survey (through OhioMHAS) were ZiaPartners, Inc. and Healthcare Perspectives. Data collected included:

- ◆ Behavioral Health 911 Calls – June 1, 2020, through October 31, 2021
- ◆ Number of Behavioral Health Clients Presenting at Service Area Medical Emergency Rooms
- ◆ Arrest Data
- ◆ Call Centers and Warmlines
- ◆ Mobile Crisis Interventions
- ◆ Residential Crisis Services (Mental Health & Alcohol/Drug Addiction)
- ◆ Intensive Community-Based Crisis Intervention
- ◆ Acute Inpatient Psychiatric Care

The numbers of behavioral health clients reaching out to the above entities are significant, and the MHRS Board recognizes a need for improved coordination of crisis care.

The MHRS Board will continue to address the development of meaningful crisis programming that can make a difference for people in need, as well as the difference it can make in how community resources are used. Plans for the coming year include continuation or expansion in the following areas:

- ◆ Call Centers and Warmlines
- ◆ First Responder Crisis Intervention Team
- ◆ Mobile Crisis Intervention
- ◆ Behavioral Health Walk-In Urgent Care
- ◆ Crisis Center with Observation
- ◆ Residential Crisis Services
- ◆ Intensive Outpatient Services
- ◆ Crisis Transportation
- ◆ Behavioral Health Services for Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities
- ◆ Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team

The MHRS Board's end goal is to improve behavioral health crisis services, so individuals and families in crisis can more easily receive the help they need — and deserve — wherever, whenever, and for however long they need it. Coordination of care includes programs where clients in crisis can make connections, receive appropriate responses to their crisis situations, receive help with crisis stabilization, and receive support as they transition throughout and beyond the crisis continuum.

Executive Director
Misty Cromwell

Board of Directors

Jon Black
Randi Earnest
Megan Gee
Sue Hoover
William Johnson
Pamela Kirst
Jeff LeCocq
Tony Mayle, Jr.
Dan Scheerer, M.D.
Danielle Scott
Ben Taylor

Board President

William Johnson

Board Vice President

Sue Hoover

The mission of the MHRS Board is to facilitate a Recovery-Oriented System of Care that promotes mental health and supports the recovery of each person who needs services for mental illness and/or addiction.



Jim Still-Pepper, Director of Community-Based Clinical Services at Allwell Behavioral Health, and Heather Woodward, Allwell's ECMH Therapist, met with the MHRS Board's Partners Workgroup to review special programming being provided to fill a gap in mental health services for children ages 3-5. This service is currently being provided in Muskingum, Guernsey and Noble Counties, as well as a portion of Monroe County. Primary partners in this initiative are Help Me Grow and Head Start programs.

Early relationships and experiences at home and in other environments set the stage for how a child learns to manage his/her emotions. ECMH services help to equip parents and other caregivers of young children with the skills to help their children develop into mentally healthy people. ECMH focuses on ensuring young children thrive by building protective factors into their lives and increasing competencies and skills of parents and early childhood providers.

The MHRS Board is funding Heather's position, and some program funds come from Medicaid billings and a contract with Head Start. It is hoped to soon expand these important services.

Board Member Spotlight



Tony Mayle, Jr. has taught at Ohio University, Hocking College, and Zane State College, and he is now the Associate Dean of Students and Director of Diversity and Inclusion at Marietta College. Tony has also been involved in local and regional diversity efforts. Tony resides in Morgan County and is actively involved in non-profit organizations, such as the Multicultural Genealogical Center in Chesterhill (Morgan County) and the Nelson T. Gant Foundation (Muskingum County).

Tony shares his many talents and extensive knowledge by guiding and mentoring others, holding community lectures and discussions, and writing to educate others about African American culture and heritage. He does all this with the goal of creating an environment of equality and significance in life — aimed at liberating minds.

The Morgan County Commissioners appointed Tony to the Mental Health & Recovery Services (MHRS) Board of Directors in September of 2021, and he brings to our team a vast array of knowledge in the fields of behavioral health and diversity. The MHRS Board's staff members are excited to have Tony alongside them as they work to create healthier communities for all.



Under the guidance of Finance/Audit Committee Chair Dr. Dan Scheerer, board members reviewed and approved the January 2022 Reconciliation Report that showed deposits, checks written for MHRS Board operations, payments to in-network service providers and out-of-network community partners, and journal entries. Below is a breakdown of payments for the provision of treatment and support services for persons with mental illness and/or addiction.

<i>Accounts Payable</i>	In-Network Providers	Out-of-Network Partners	TOTAL
January 6, 2022	\$290,296.38	\$17,835.95	\$308,132.33
January 17, 2022	\$288,311.88	\$287,697.70	\$576,009.58
January 31, 2022	\$272,680.54	\$82,687.84	\$355,368.38
TOTAL	\$851,288.80	\$388,221.49	\$1,239,510.29

► **Other Financial Reports:** Board members also reviewed: Contract Services Expenses; Balance Sheet as of January 31, 2022; and a Dashboard Report that provides a high-level overview of key fiscal indicators.

► **Unencumbered Funds:** Board members approved the appropriation of \$11,243,653.43 in unencumbered funds from December 31, 2021, to the Calendar Year 2022 Budget in the Contingency Funds line item.

► **COVID Relief Block Grant Sub-Award:** Board members approved a COVID Relief Block Grant Sub-Award to Perry Behavioral Health Choices (PBHC) in the amount of \$302,596.66 for the expansion of PBHC’s Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) Program. Dr. Scheerer noted that PBHC has already been providing TMS services to Veterans dealing with PTSD; this new federal grant will target Veterans, Law Enforcement, and First Responders who are struggling with alcohol addiction.

Special Allocations

► **Allwell Behavioral Health (ABH) Services:** Board members allocated \$165,000.00 to ABH for the purchase of a transitional living home in Guernsey County that could be used for persons with severe mental illness and those who are working on the restoration of competency on an outpatient basis, rather than in a hospital setting.

► **Trulight Ministries:** Board members allocated \$74,700.00 to Trulight Ministries in Zanesville for facility renovations and the purchase of furniture and security equipment for accommodating persons struggling with addictions, homelessness, and hunger. The funds will be used to renovate Trulight’s kitchen and dining room, provide confidential office space for visitors needing help with behavioral health or primary healthcare needs, and space for a thrift store. Trulight provides a place of security, comfort and services to vulnerable individuals, many of whom are struggling with mental illness and/or addiction. Dr. Scheerer pointed out this is a good opportunity to help folks in need “where they are,” as many are reluctant to seek assistance by going to a service provider’s office.

Annual Performance Review – Executive Director

As prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code, the MHRS Board of Directors annually conducts an evaluation of the Executive Director’s performance and sets the Director’s salary for the coming fiscal year. Board members accepted the Executive Committee’s evaluation report and set Director Cromwell’s FY 2023 salary (effective July 1, 2022) at \$100,247.85. *(Board members completing the evaluation were William Johnson, Jeff LeCocq, Pamela Kirst, and Dr. Dan Scheerer.)*

Board members expressed appreciation for Ms. Cromwell’s leadership, noting: *“Misty keeps the MHRS Board’s mission at the forefront of all she does. Her professional background and her consistent interaction with agencies and constituents ensure that she understands needs in the six-county service area. Misty devotes well above the expected time and energy to her role. She is data-informed, collaborative, and thoughtful in all of her decision-making.”*

Masonic Temple Crisis Response

In the aftermath of the devastating fire that gutted Zanesville’s Masonic Temple building, the MHRS Board recognized that the folks who used the building regularly will be dealing with stress, depression, grief, etc. Therefore, Director Misty Cromwell reached out to those who lost their businesses (art studios, boutiques, classrooms, etc.), offering to cover assessment and brief therapy counseling for those struggling to cope with their losses. Each person who presents for help will be eligible for no-cost assessments and two counseling sessions. The MHRS Board will also entertain additional free visits for those needing more therapy.

New Board Members

Associate Director Elaine Shuster administered the Oath of Office to two new board members, Megan Gee and Randi Earnest. Megan (*pictured on the left*) was appointed by the Muskingum County Commissioners to represent Muskingum County, and Randi (*pictured on the right*) was appointed by the Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to represent Guernsey County.

