

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

OFFICIAL MINUTES
(May 9, 2024)

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

I. BOARD NOTIFICATION & COMPLIANCE WITH SUNSHINE LAW:

On April 29, 2024, board members, contract organization directors, service area news media, county boards of commissioners, and state legislators were notified the Board of Directors would meet on Thursday, May 9, 2024, 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 Partners Workgroup; and 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting.

II. CALL TO ORDER: President Sue Hoover called the regular board meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

III. ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present:

- *Sue Hoover, President (Muskingum County)*
- *Leondra Davis, Vice President (Coshocton County)*
- *Reid Carpenter (Noble County)*
- *Abby Corder (Muskingum County)*
- *Randi Earnest (Guernsey County)*
- *William Johnson (Coshocton County)*
- *Tony Mayle (Morgan County)*
- *Dr. Dan Scheerer (Muskingum County)*
- *Ben Taylor (Perry County)*
- *Bonnie Taylor (Muskingum County)*

Board Members Excused:

- *Dennis Hitchcock (Muskingum County)*
- *Sean Brady (Muskingum County)*
- *Wendy Starlin (Perry 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 / Fiscal Operations Director*
- *Sarah Reed, Director of Compliance and Quality Improvement*
- *Jamie McGrew, Care Management Director*
- *Karl Hoop, Criminal Justice & Crisis Services Coordinator*
- *Roger Birch, Youth & Family Services Coordinator*
- *Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator*

IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Guests present during the Finance/Audit Committee meeting were:

- *Dan Atkinson, CEO, Muskingum Valley Health Centers*
- *Burl Lemon, Executive Director, Forever Dads*
- *Ryan Sheppard, Assistant Director, Forever Dads*

Guests present for the Partners Workgroup meeting were:

- *Rev. Edward and Christina Swartz from Trulight Ministries*
- *Dorothy Thomas, Victim Advocate, Transitions Domestic Violence Shelter*

V. AGENDA: BEN TAYLOR MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE MAY 9, 2024, BOARD MEETING AS MAILED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ABBY CORDER AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

VI. **MEETING MINUTES:** BEN TAYLOR MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 11, 2024, BOARD MEETING AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RANDI EARNEST AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING NINE POSITIVE VOTES.

VII. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Director Misty Cromwell's May Report listed various activities, as staff members worked toward meeting the MHRS Board's Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives. | During April, staff worked on many projects to ensure availability of — and access to — quality services, including: 1) OneOhio Foundation Grants; 2) Appalachian Partners for Schools that THRIVE; 3) Continued Planning for ARPA Projects (Crisis Services Unit for Youth at Genesis, Urgent Care in Guernsey County; and a Regional Crisis Stabilization Unit for Youth). They also addressed goals to foster a healthy and coordinated field of provider organizations – including: 1) the work of the MHRS Board's Care Management Council; and 2) continued work related to contract organizations' financial health. (*Some activity summaries are included in the Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.*)

VIII. **FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE:** (*Dr. Dan Scheerer, Chair*)

1. **April 2024 Financial Reports:**

Board members reviewed the following April 2024 fiscal reports: 1) Balance Sheet as of April 30, 2024; 2) Dashboard Report; 3) Monthly Report of Network Funding Reserves; 4) a 'Year-to-Date' Status Report for the MHRS Board's Operating Budget; 5) Contract Services Expenses; and 6) Reconciliation Report.

April 2024 Reconciliation Report:

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE APRIL 2024 RECONCILIATION REPORT AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LEONDRA DAVIS.

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.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN ON THE ABOVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING NINE POSITIVE VOTES.

2. **CY 2025 Budget for Entire Network:**

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE CALENDAR YEAR 2025 BUDGET FOR THE ENTIRE NETWORK OF CARE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,619,163. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR.

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 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 mental illness and addiction recovery treatment and support services totaling \$10,377,129.00.

A ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE ABOVE MOTION WAS THEN TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER,

YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING NINE POSITIVE VOTES.

3. CY 2022 State Financial Audit:

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD OFFICIALLY ACCEPT THE MHRS BOARD'S CALENDAR YEAR 2022 AUDIT REPORT PREPARED BY THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY WILLIAM JOHNSON.

Fiscal Director Rhonda Hanes noted that the MHRS Board received a 'clean' CY 2022 audit with no findings or Management Letter recommendations. The State Examiners will now begin working on the MHRS Board audit for CY 2023.

A ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE ABOVE MOTION WAS THEN TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING NINE POSITIVE VOTES.

(The following Finance/Audit Committee agenda items included consideration of requests for gap funding from three entities — following which Committee recommendations were made to the full Board of Directors.)

4. Guernsey Health Choices:

Following report of Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE CONTINUATION OF GAP FUNDING FOR GUERNSEY HEALTH CHOICES *(between now and December 31, 2024)* UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$150,000.00 — TO HELP THE AGENCY OVERCOME ITS FINANCIAL CRISIS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RANDI EARNEST.

Misty Cromwell and Rhonda Hanes provided an update about efforts to strengthen the agency's financial position. A 6-month contract between Perry Behavioral Health Choices and Guernsey Health Choices has been established, and PBHC Executive Director Theresa Kane has begun meetings with GHC's board members and staff members. Other PBHC staff have begun on-site work beginning with a thorough policy review and efforts to alleviate issues with Insync. MHRS Board members also reviewed GHC's current cash flow status.

A ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE ABOVE MOTION WAS THEN TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, NAY; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED RECEIVING EIGHT POSITIVE VOTES AND ONE NEGATIVE VOTE.

The MHRS Board will reassess GHC's gap funding needs at the end of CY 2024.

5. Muskingum Valley Health Centers:

Following report of Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE GAP FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE SALARY AND BENEFITS FOR MVHC'S NEWLY RECRUITED PSYCHIATRIST (OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS) — UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$137,888.00 — TO BE DISBURSED AT INTERVALS DETERMINED BY MHRS BOARD FISCAL DIRECTOR RHONDA HANES AND MVHC CEO DAN ATKINSON. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LEONDRA DAVIS.

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 being served by MVHC's Centers; services will be available to anyone seeking help. MVHC's locations are in Zanesville, Malta, Cambridge and

Coshocton. The new psychiatrist will begin his duties @ MVHC this fall.

A ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE ABOVE MOTION WAS THEN TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING NINE POSITIVE VOTES.

6. Forever Dads:

Forever Dads requested gap funding in the amount of \$62,156 from the MHRS Board, with an ultimate goal of providing enhanced services. Forever Dad's mission is to encourage, educate, and equip men to develop positive relationships with their children, family and community. Following the presentation by Director Burl Lemon and Assistant Director Ryan Sheppard, board members agreed to table this funding request and seek additional information about the organization's financial position, numbers of dads served, and the demand for services that the organization is not able to meet.

IX. PARTNERS WORKGROUP: (*Randi Earnest, Chair*)

- 1. Use of Community Collaborative Funds:** During the period FY 2023 to FY 2024, the MHRS Board has allocated Community Collaborative Funds to many service area entities – totaling \$332,074.66. Workgroup members heard from two recipients (Transitions Domestic Violence Shelter and Trulight Ministries) about how their allocations were used to help community residents. (*Summary included in Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.*)

X. CY 2025 MHRS BOARD OFFICERS:

President Sue Hoover and Vice President Leondra Davis are eligible to serve another term as MHRS Board officers. The official Election of Officers will be held at the June 13, 2024, board meeting.

XI. OLD BUSINESS: None.

XII. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Revised By-Laws:

Members discussed proposed changes to the Bylaws for the Board of Directors, and several suggestions for other changes were submitted. The Bylaws will be acted upon at the June 13, 2024, board meeting.

XIII. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, June 13, 2024 – ANNUAL MEETING – 1500 Coal Run Road, Zanesville
(No Committee Meetings)

Schedule:

5:00 pm	Board Member Recognition
5:30 pm	'Making a Difference' Presentation
6:00 pm	Regular Board Meeting

XIV. COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Process for Determining Medicaid Eligibility: Director Cromwell reported that the Ohio Department of Medicaid has terminated MHRS Boards' ability to determine Medicaid eligibility for clients. The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities is attempting to bring the Ohio Department of Medicaid and the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services to the table so an attempt can be made to reinstate eligibility connections.

XV. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

SIGNATURE PAGE

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator

Misty Cromwell, Executive Director

Sue Hoover, Board President