

Board Update

Mental Health & Recovery Services (MHRS) Board
Serving Coshocton, Guernsey, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble & Perry Counties
1500 Coal Run Road, Zanesville, Ohio 43701
Phone: 740-454-8557

Regular Board Meeting
Highlights
June 9, 2022



The last half of Fiscal Year 2022 saw the resignations of some highly-valued board members: *Jennifer Hanson*, Muskingum County; *Danielle Scott*, Perry County; and *Jon Black*, Guernsey County. Misty Cromwell expressed appreciation for their service and noted they had been very helpful in addressing policy and service delivery issues related to recovery from mental illness and addictions.



Muskingum County Representative Captain Jeff LeCocq is leaving the Board of Directors on June 30, 2022, after seven years of dedicated service. The Muskingum County Commissioners appointed Jeff to the Board of Directors on July 1, 2015, and he brought to the table a much-needed perspective of the law enforcement community. From July 2019 to June 2021, he provided outstanding leadership as Board President, and he also served some time on each of the Board's committees — the Partners Workgroup and the Finance/Audit Committee.

Since 2005, Jeff has been the leader for the service area's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Academy, having helped to train (to date) almost 250 officers in ways to help persons in crisis who come into contact with them while on patrol. CIT offers tools to facilitate more positive/safe outcomes for persons in crisis and the law enforcement officers who are attempting to help them.

Director Cromwell also expressed thanks to ALL the members of the Board of Directors for their work in helping to keep the network of care whole during uncertain and fragile times. She noted, "I continue to be very impressed with the time, energy, and careful thinking you devote to your board service!"

Board members were given "You Matter" t-shirts, emphasizing how much they DO matter in helping to ensure people have access to mental health and addiction recovery treatment and supports.

Executive Director

Misty Cromwell

Board of Directors

Lorendra Davis

Randi Earnest

Megan Gee

Sue Hoover

William Johnson

Pamela Kirst

Jeff LeCocq

Tony Mayle, Jr.

Dan Scheerer, M.D.

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.

'Pawsome' Programming at Muskingum Behavioral Health

Kris Headley presented a special report about Muskingum Behavioral Health's PAWSOME programming that began with the completion of special training for "Fetch," the organization's Chief Inspiration Officer. Kris is MBH's Chief Prevention & Recovery Support Officer. *(Kris & Fetch are pictured to the right).*



► **Pawsome Reading Club:** Improving children's reading skills is the major benefit of this program. But, there are many more positives that arise from this activity in local schools — including the joy children experience from being around a dog as they sit by, read to, and pat a calm and gentle dog. Fetch and other trained dogs help children with building confidence and coping with social and emotional issues.

► **Other Pawsome Efforts:** Fetch goes to his job at MBH four days a week, where he interacts with clients in Intensive Outpatient Groups, women and children at the Naomi Recovery House, and individuals involved in the W.I.S.E. Program. W.I.S.E. is a wellness and prevention program designed to help older adults celebrate healthy aging, make healthy lifestyle choices, and avoid substance abuse. Another important group at MBH that also benefits from interactions with Fetch are the hard-working employees whose daily workflows have become increasingly stressful during the pandemic and the continued drug epidemic that has seen increasing numbers of drug overdose deaths.

► **Grant Award:** MBH was recently awarded a grant for over \$1 million to collaborate with Zanesville City Schools *(the co-writer of the grant)*, in continuing projects for after-school and summer school programming — bringing social and emotional support and a lot of activities that build self-esteem and important coping skills. Headley noted, *"We hope our reading club and all the after-school and summer school programs will help students, their families, and teachers in making school feel like a safe place to be."*

MHRS Board Leadership in Fiscal Year 2023

Board members elected officers for the period July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. Pictured below are **William Johnson**, President, and **Sue Hoover**, Vice-President.



FinancialMatters

Under the guidance of Finance/Audit Committee Chair Dr. Dan Scheerer, board members reviewed and approved the May 2022 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.

Board members also:

- ☆ Reviewed Contract Services Expenses; Balance Sheet as of May 31, 2022; and a Dashboard Report that provides a high-level overview of key fiscal indicators.
- ☆ Approved a Calendar Year 2022 budget appropriation transfer of \$46,320.26 from the Contingencies Line Item to the Salaries Line Item – to cover expenses in the last half of CY 2022 for the MHRS Board’s newly-hired Director of Crisis and Criminal Justice Services (effective July 1, 2022).

Below is a breakdown of MHRS Board payments approved for the provision of treatment and support services for persons with mental illness and/or addiction.

<i>Accounts Payable</i>	<i>In-Network Providers</i>	<i>Out-of-Network Partners</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
May 9, 2022	\$368,184.41	\$73,601.86	\$441,786.27
May 23, 2022	\$495,112.82	\$35,216.57	\$530,329.39
TOTAL	\$863,297.23	\$108,818.43	\$972,115.66

SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS OF STATE CRISIS FLEX FUNDING

Board members approved several special allocations to help support crisis programming in some local organizations whose work is very important to many individuals, children and families:

▶ **Sensory Rooms at Coshocton County Schools:** Approved allocations of **\$5,000.00 each** to Coshocton Elementary School, Conesville Elementary, Keene Elementary, Warsaw Elementary, and Sacred Heart Elementary — for the creation of sensory rooms to help students manage their troubled feelings and behaviors.

▶ **Domestic Violence Shelters:** Approved allocations of **\$5,000.00 each** to the Transitions Domestic Violence Shelter in Zanesville; the Haven of Hope Domestic Violence Shelter in Cambridge; and the First Step Domestic Violence Shelter in Coshocton — to help support crisis assistance for victims of domestic violence.

▶ **Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Zanesville:** Approved the allocation of **\$5,000.00** to Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Zanesville — to help support their mentoring and crisis work with the “littles” participating in the program.

▶ **Zanesville YMCA:** Approved the allocation of **\$2,000.00** to the Zanesville YMCA — for the creation of a sensory corner to provide a calming environment for those in the program who may experience stress or anxiety.

- ▶ **Guernsey County Children’s Advocacy Center:** Approved the allocation of **\$5,000.00** to the Guernsey County Children’s Advocacy Center — to help support their crisis programming for children who have been sexually assaulted.
- ▶ **Perry Behavioral Health Choices:** Approved the allocation of **\$50,000.00 in ‘Draw-Down’ Funds** to Perry Behavioral Health Choices — to help support their crisis programming.
- ▶ **Allwell Behavioral Health Services:** Approved the allocation of **\$50,000.00 in ‘Draw-Down’ Funds** to Allwell Behavioral Health Services — to help support their crisis programming.

MHRS Board Attains Third ‘Culture of Quality’ Certification

The MHRS Board was recently awarded its third Culture of Quality (COQ) certification from the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA). The COQ Program has been developed by OACBHA and its member Boards to improve the quality of the statutorily-mandated functions in administering local mental illness and addiction recovery services. The program is designed to promote community confidence through increased accountability.



To attain certification, the MHRS Board demonstrated that it met or exceeded performance in 142 standards developed after careful review of pertinent federal and state laws, rules and regulations.

Pictured above L to R: Penny Dehner, Paint Valley MHRS Board Director and a member of the COQ Certification Board; and MHRS Board Executive Director Misty Cromwell.

Ohio National Guard Family Day

MHRS Board Care Management Director Jamie McGrew recently participated in the Ohio National Guard’s “Family Day” at their McConnellsville site. She noted, *“Providing resources and support for our service members and their families is an honor.”*



Resolution in Support of HB 523 – Proposed Changes to ORC 340

Board members passed a resolution in support of House Bill 523 that includes some recommended changes to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 340:

WHEREAS, the members of our MHRS Board are committed to facilitating a Recovery-Oriented System of Care that promotes mental health and supports the recovery of each person who needs services for mental illness and addiction; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Chapter 340 is the authorizing statute that empowers Ohio's MHRS Boards to assess, plan, develop, fund, administer, and evaluate the local system of mental health and addiction services, ensuring the provision of high-quality, cost-effective, and culturally-appropriate services and supports; and

WHEREAS local MHRS Boards, who do not provide services, have a statutory requirement to ensure a local continuum of care through contracts with agencies; and

WHEREAS, Ohio is experiencing an increasing incidence of overdose and suicide deaths and the demand for treatment and support services continues to grow, we have determined that there is a critical need for modernization of Chapter 340; and

WHEREAS, MHRS Boards are uniquely positioned to rapidly identify changing community needs, respond to crisis situations, and serve as a catalyst for change; and

WHEREAS, HB 523 will modernize governing board appointments, revise MHRS Board's contracting authority, allow for the exchange of Medicaid recipient data, and provide for consideration of additional information related to the certification of providers

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of our Board of Directors respectfully request that the Ohio General Assembly support Ohioans impacted by mental illness and substance use disorders by expeditiously passing House Bill 523 to modernize Chapter 340 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Board Member Spotlight



This month's board member spotlight is on Muskingum County Representative **PAMELA KIRST**. Through family members' struggles, Pam has experienced the challenges of mental health and the possibilities for recovery firsthand.

The Muskingum County Commissioners appointed Pam to the Board of Directors on July 1, 2015. Throughout her Board service, Pam has provided outstanding leadership — holding the offices of Vice President and President, serving on the Board's Finance/Audit Committee, and helping to craft the organization's strategic plans.

Pam graduated from the State University of New York, with bachelor's and master's degrees in English and additional graduate work in education. Her husband, Mark Zanghi, pursued a law degree after a career in engineering sales, and they moved to Ohio in 2003.

Most of Pam's career has been spent in education; she retired from Zane State College in 2018. Now, she enjoys working in philanthropy as the program director at the J.W. & M.H. Straker Charitable Foundation. Her life has been enriched by the opportunity to parent her stepson, Matthew, a native of Jamestown, New York, and her son, James, who lives in Zanesville.

As an MHRS Board Facebook visitor aptly noted, *"Pam is one of the most gifted and gentle spirits you would ever want to meet. The MHRS Board is blessed to have such a wise and compassionate board member."*