

# Board Update

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

Regular Board Meeting  
Highlights  
October 14, 2021

## Smart Choices . . . Strong Families



Members of the MHRS Board's Partners Workgroup heard from Carrie Williamson, R.N., about the Smart Choices . . . Strong Families program offered by the Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department.

The Department is helping women become successful mothers from the moment they learn they are pregnant. This is achieved through the caring support and guidance of a skilled nurse, or a member of the program's skilled team. The team

works with parents or caregivers within the household to give the family the best start possible — helping them to be happy and healthy in their environment.

Through home visits, team members help to connect families to community resources and other professionals at the Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department—such as WIC Nutrition, breastfeeding experts, and additional support from a social worker. On average, team members work with 20-25 moms each month.

**Who Is Eligible?** ♦ Any pregnant woman who may be struggling with drug or alcohol use or is currently in recovery. ♦ Any woman who has recently delivered up to one year postpartum.

**What Is Included in the Program?** ♦ Assessment and Goal-Setting. ♦ Tips to Keep Parents Healthy. ♦ Linkages to Community Transportation and Housing Options. ♦ Referral and Linkage to Recovery Resources (Medication-Assisted Treatment, Counseling, Intensive Outpatient Services, Residential Treatment). ♦ Education on Interventions for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome. ♦ General Support and Guidance. ♦ Answers to Common Pregnancy Questions.

**How Much Does it Cost?** All services are free. The program is funded by the Mental Health & Recovery Services Board and the Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department.

**Some 2020 Statistics:** ♦ 12 Clients graduated from the program; ♦ 29 deliveries (20 took baby home from the hospital). ♦ 14 women obtained a job; ♦ 9 women obtained stable housing; ♦ 6 women gained full custody of children from Child Protective Services.

**For More Information:** Call (740) 454-9741, Ext. 294.

### **Executive Director**

*Misty Cromwell*

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*Rev. Dr. Michael Bullock*

***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.***

# FinancialMatters

Under the guidance of Finance/Audit Committee Chair Dr. Dan Scheerer, board members reviewed and approved the September 2021 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>	<b>In-Network Providers</b>	<b>Out-of-Network Partners</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>September 13, 2021</b>	<b>\$248,384.59</b>	<b>\$58,341.45</b>	<b>\$306,726.04</b>
<b>September 27, 2021</b>	<b>\$175,510.59</b>	<b>\$101,358.74</b>	<b>\$276,869.33</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$423,895.18</b>	<b>\$159,700.19</b>	<b>\$583,595.37</b>

**Other Financial Reports:** Board members also reviewed: Contract Services Expenses; Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2021; and a Dashboard Report that provides a high-level overview of key fiscal indicators.

**Revised Policy – Level of Reserves:** Board members approved Revised Policy VI.A.06, Level of Reserves. The policy now notes: “Once the final payment for each fiscal year has been generated, the unspent levy funds allocated to each contract provider will be carried forward to a reserve fund. These reserve funds will be maintained for each individual county (Coshocton, Guernsey, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, and Perry) where they originated. The funds will be used for individual county endeavors rather than remaining allocated to individual contract providers in those counties.”

## Special Allocations

► **Muskingum Behavioral Health – Pearl House (\$113,818.00):** To pay for ‘streetscape’ development for Pearl House Zanesville. To keep this construction project moving, streetscape work needs to be done well before winter weather sets in. When the project is finished (hopefully in the spring of 2022), Pearl House will be a 34-unit, \$8 million facility for housing individuals and families in sober living apartments. Project Manager Steve Carrel notes: “For people to achieve a good quality recovery, they need support around them, human support, they need to have employment . . . but I learned a number of years ago, if you put people in safe housing, some of their problems disappear, and some of them become more manageable. The end-game of this whole thing is to help folks get into long-term recovery and to be contributing members of our community.”

► **Perry Behavioral Health Choices – Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Clinic (\$137,863.35):** To boost the operations of PBHC’s MAT Clinic. MAT is the use of medications, in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, to provide a “whole-patient” approach to the treatment of substance use disorders. Research shows that a combination of medication and therapy can successfully treat these disorders and, for some people struggling with addiction, MAT can help sustain recovery. MAT is also used to prevent or reduce opioid overdose. The ultimate goal of MAT is full recovery, including the ability to live a self-directed life.

► **Allwell Behavioral Health Services – Youth Resiliency Capital Project (\$217,905.00):** For use as matching funds for Allwell’s Youth Resiliency Capital Project. The capital funds being awarded to Allwell by the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services are being used to purchase a building for the organization’s Youth & Family Services Department. The building will house Allwell’s Mobile Response & Stabilization Services Support Center where families may temporarily separate from each other to move forward with crisis de-escalation efforts. The Center will be a safe place where families can take advantage of education, support, and a pathway to other needed services.



On September 29, 2021, the MHRS Board presented this year's Friends of Recovery awards. The Board annually recognizes individuals who promote recovery from mental illness and/or addictions. The recipients were:

- ▶ **ADELE MURPHY, DR. SAMANTA BODDAPATI, AND DR. GLENN THOMAS – Nationwide Children's Hospital:** For helping schools in Southeast Ohio (through the PAX Good Behavioral Game Program) reduce student impulsivity, improve classroom attention, and decrease aggressive and disruptive behaviors.
- ▶ **ALYSSA LOVE, Medical Manager, Perry Behavioral Health Choices:** For serving those struggling from mental illness and substance use disorders as a medical professional, a chemical dependency professional, and a compassionate and understanding advocate.
- ▶ **BILLY WHITE AND STAFF AT THE RED ROSE TATTOO PARLOR:** For helping to raise awareness about mental illness and addictions and compassionately helping those working to recover from those devastating diseases.
- ▶ **BRENDA SHEPHERD, Case Manager, State-Operated Group Home:** For her diligence in providing high-quality care for group home residents and following her personal 'Golden Rule' of treating residents as she would want her loved ones to be treated.
- ▶ **CORINNE BRAGLIN, Assistant Director of Programming, Perry Behavioral Health Choices:** For being a compassionate and understanding advocate for people in recovery.
- ▶ **CORY TAYLOR, Head of Maintenance, State-Operated Group Homes:** For going 'above and beyond' to ensure that residents, family members, and staff members are completely satisfied with the recovery environments at the Country Garden Manor and Liberty Manor Group Homes.
- ▶ **MORGAN COUNTY SHERIFF DOUGLAS McGRATH:** For being compellingly focused in advocating for those who are struggling with mental illness and/or addiction and their families.
- ▶ **FETCH DOG TRAINING:** For their obvious love and care for "Fetchy," Muskingum Behavioral Health's Chief Inspiration Officer—and the many positive impacts on the clients and staff members who have frequent interactions with Fetchy.
- ▶ **NOBLE COUNTY SHERIFF JASON MACKIE:** For helping to eliminate the stigma associated with addiction and providing additional supports for those striving for recovery.
- ▶ **JENNIFER REED, SARAH REED, AND MARGO LaSHELLE, Case Managers, State-Operated Group Homes:** For providing group home residents with the best supportive services available and, in particular, providing a week-long summer vacation for them within a safe camping environment.
- ▶ **JON ADAMS, Peer Recovery Supporter, Muskingum Behavioral Health:** For being a great peer recovery advocate and role model by supporting others and helping them sustain recovery.
- ▶ **JOSHUA JONES, Director of Employer Services, Genesis Healthcare System:** For partnering with Allwell Behavioral Health during the COVID pandemic, quickly paving the way for employee testing and conducting a clinic for employee vaccinations.

- ▶ **KRISTIN DAVIS, PA-C, Muskingum Valley Health Centers:** For their outstanding collaboration on the “Mental Health Monday” Videos Project and the “Community Conversations about Race” Project.
- ▶ **RENEA DODSON, Assistant Director of Operations, Perry Behavioral Health Choices:** For being an outstanding champion for people in recovery.
- ▶ **SWEET LIFE BAKING COMPANY:** For providing workforce skills designed to address barriers to employment experienced by women at the Naomi Recovery House who are dealing with recovery from substance use disorders.

*These individuals and entities are truly making positive differences in so many lives, and their selfless acts demonstrate the power and promise of recovery from mental illness and addiction AND the value of recovery to individuals, families and communities throughout the MHRS Board’s six-county service area.*

### *Muskingum Behavioral Health’s Chief Inspiration Officer*



Members of the Partners Workgroup had the opportunity to meet Fetch, Muskingum Behavioral Health’s Chief Inspiration Officer.

Fetch was trained for his important work by Fetch Dog Training, an organization that recently received a “Friend of Recovery” award from the MHRS Board (with the nominator being Kris Headley, Chief Prevention Officer at Muskingum Behavioral Health - MBH). Kris noted in her nomination that “Fetch puts smiles on so many faces each day. It’s heartwarming to see a smile from people who may have found it a miracle just to get up in the morning — much less to smile. Clients definitely are enjoying their interactions with Fetch.”

Kris also noted that Fetch is an MBH morale booster! She noted, “Laughter is the best medicine, and a therapy dog adds just the right amount of humor to boost employee morale and increase workplace productivity.” Researchers have found that: “Therapy dogs can have a positive impact on persons’ healing journeys in a multitude of ways, from providing comfort to increasing therapeutic alliances with service providers.”

### *Emerging State Initiatives Impacting Network Operations*

MHRS Board Executive Director Misty Cromwell reported on some important wide-ranging state initiatives that are currently being implemented:

- ▶ **Crisis Services Continuum:** The Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) and its partners are working to develop a supported quality crisis response system. They are partnering with Healthcare Perspectives to complete a Landscape Analysis related to Crisis Continuum Planning. The components to be included are: Law Enforcement Crisis Intervention Teams, Mobile Crisis Intervention, Behavioral Health Walk-In Urgent Care, Crisis Centers with Observation, Residential Crisis Services, Intensive Community-Based Crisis Intervention, and Acute Inpatient Psychiatric Care. Healthcare Perspectives has provided definitions for the above components and are requesting data about them from MHRS Boards.

► **988 Implementation:** By July of 2022, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline will transition to the 3-digit dialing code – 988. OhioMHAS’s Draft 988 Implementation Plan includes descriptions of eight core areas addressing issues related to coverage, funding streams, capacity, operational standards, convening an advisory coalition, resources/linkage listings, best practice follow-up, and marketing. The plan also outlines goals to be met, along with noteworthy highlights and concerns. OhioMHAS is federally-required to submit a finalized implementation plan by January of 2022. The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities has many concerns about the draft implementation plan, and members are working with OhioMHAS to help resolve issues.

► **OhioRISE (Resilience through Integrated Systems and Excellence):** OhioRISE aims to keep more kids and families together by creating new access to in-home and community-based services for children with the most complex behavioral health challenges. Managed care provider Aetna will partner with the Ohio Department of Medicaid, sister state agencies, providers, families, and other stakeholders to develop and implement new and enhanced services, including: Intensive Care Coordination, Intensive Home-Based Treatment, Psychiatric Residential Treatment, Mobile Response and Stabilization Services, and Behavioral Health Respite. These services are projected to begin July 1, 2022.

► **Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA):** FFPSA became effective on October 1, 2021. This is a national endeavor to implement child welfare finance reforms designed to advance prevention work and reduce the use of congregate living care. One of the primary workstreams of the initiative is a change in the way the Department of Job & Family Services will pay for residential treatment for children and adolescents. Residential providers must now be a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) to be in compliance with FFPSA standards for receiving Title IV-E funds. FFPSA also requires the completion of a Child & Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment within 30 days after a residential placement is made. There are three FFPSA prevention tracks: 1) Mental Health (OhioRISE); 2) Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (START); and 3) In-Home Skills-Based Programs for Parents (Help Me Grow). | In view of FFPSA, the MHRS Board is using SOR Grant funds to support a Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) training for eight contract organization clinicians (one per each contract agency). Triple P is one of the evidence-based programs that is eligible for reimbursement under FFPSA. Participants will be trained to provide parents with broadly-focused support and intervention on a one-to-one basis. The online training segments will take place in October and November.

► **Outpatient Competency Restoration Programs (OCRP):** In recent years, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of non-violent misdemeanor defendants found to require competency restoration. This has led to more and more state psychiatric beds set aside to serve this population and ever fewer beds available for those in psychiatric crisis who are not criminally-involved. Thus, Ohio is moving toward the establishment of regional OCRP’s. An OCRP will help people charged with a crime to restore forensic competency in a community-based setting as opposed to an inpatient restoration setting. OCRP services address the person’s barriers to competency that are identified in their competency evaluation and assessed upon admission to the program. OCRP is designed for people who are not considered a high risk to public safety and are likely to participate in community-based treatment. The Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services is working to finalize the establishment of OCRP’s in each of the state’s Forensic Center regions.



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The Mental Health & Recovery Services Board Will Next Meet (In Person) *at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 11, 2021*, at the MHRS Board Office — 1500 Coal Run Road, Zanesville.

*(The Finance/Audit Committee and Partners Workgroup will meet from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.)*