

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

OFFICIAL MINUTES  
*(Regular Board Meeting – Teleconference – May 13, 2021)*

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**I. BOARD NOTIFICATION & COMPLIANCE WITH SUNSHINE LAW:**

On May 3, 2021, board members, contract organization directors, service area news media, county boards of commissioners, and state legislators were notified the Board of Directors would virtually meet in regular session on Thursday, May 13, 2021 — with the schedule of activities to include: 6:00 p.m., separate meetings of the Finance/Audit Committee and Partners Workgroup; and 7:00 p.m., regular board meeting.. All parties were provided with meeting access information.

**II. CALL TO ORDER:** President Jeff LeCocq called the regular board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**III. ROLL CALL:**

Board Members Participating:

- *Jeff LeCocq, President (Muskingum County)*
- *William Johnson, Vice-President (Coshocton County)*
- *Michael Bullock (Muskingum County)*
- *Jennifer Hanson (Muskingum County)*
- *Pamela Kirst (Muskingum County)*
- *Kelly Lynch (Guernsey County) – First Portion of Meeting*
- *Dan Scheerer, M.D. (Muskingum County)*
- *Danielle Scott (Perry County)*
- *Bev Steinbrecher (Morgan County)*

Board members excused:

- *Sherile Beardmore (Guernsey County)*
- *Sue Hoover (Muskingum County)*
- *Mindy Lowe (Noble County)*

There being 9 board members in the regular meeting, a quorum was constituted for conducting official business.

Staff Members Participating:

- *Misty Cromwell, Executive Director*
- *Elaine Shuster, Associate Director / Systems Manager*
- *Jamie McGrew, Care Management Director*
- *Rhonda Hanes, Fiscal Operations Director*
- *Roger Birch, Youth & Family Services Coordinator*
- *Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator*

**IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Three guests from Allwell Behavioral Health Services were present for special presentations in meetings of the Finance/Audit Committee and Partners Workgroup:

- *James McDonald, President/CEO, Allwell BHS*
- *Jill Riley, Case Management Director, Allwell BHS*
- *Dan Carpenetti, Chief Operating Officer, Allwell BHS*

V. **AGENDA:** President Jeff LeCocq noted an addition to the agenda under Finance/Audit Report – “*Additional Funding Request from Allwell Behavioral Health Services.*” Mr. LeCocq noted that this issue had been changed from an ‘action item’ during regular board meeting to an ‘information only’ item for the Finance/Audit Committee. WILLIAM JOHNSON MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MAY 13, 2021, MEETING AGENDA AS AMENDED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY PAMELA KIRST AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

VI. **MEETING MINUTES:** It was noted that a copy of the minutes from the April 8 board meeting were mailed to board members on April 12, 2021.

BEV STEINBRECHER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 8, 2021, REGULAR BOARD MEETING AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY WILLIAM JOHNSON AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: MICHAEL BULLOCK, YEA; JENNIFER HANSON, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; KELLY LYNCH, ABSTAIN; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; DANIELLE SCOTT, ABSTAIN; AND BEV STEINBRECHER, YEA. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED RECEIVING SIX POSITIVE VOTES AND TWO ABSTENTIONS.

VII. **MOBILE RESPONSE & STABILIZATION SERVICES (MRSS):**

James McDonald and Jill Riley provided information about Allwell Behavioral Health’s efforts to establish Mobile Response & Stabilization Services for children and families in crisis. (*Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.*)

VIII. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

Key issues from Misty Cromwell’s Director’s Report (Exhibit A) were:

◆ **Youth Resiliency Funding:** Director Cromwell recently received confirmation from the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) that Allwell Behavioral Health’s Youth Resiliency Capital Project application has been initially approved to move forward and will receive final approval pending meeting all other project requirements (i.e., criteria, guidelines, documentation, etc.).

◆ **Proposed Changes to Governing Board Appointments:** Emails were recently sent to local and state leaders about proposed reductions in Board membership size and composition. The communications noted: “The proposed changes to ORC 340.02 in Am. Sub. HB110 would limit community input on the many decisions to be made regarding mental health and addiction recovery services. At a time when we are seeing an increased demand for care, we should not be decreasing community participation in how decisions are being made on behalf of taxpayers and the public.”

◆ **Forensic Diagnostic Center Recognizes MHRS Board for its Support:** (Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)

◆ **Behavioral Health Services for Veterans:** Director Cromwell has been involved in meetings with State Representative Adam Holmes and State Senator Frank Hoagland regarding gaps in behavioral health services for Veterans and possible ways to fill those gaps.

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

1. **April 2021 Financial Reports: (Exhibit B)**

Chairman Scheerer guided a thorough review of the MHRS Board’s Financial Reports for the month of April 2021 that included: 1) a Reconciliation Report; 2) Contract Services Expenses; 3) Balance Sheet as of April 30, 2021; and 4) a Dashboard Report.

◆ **April 2021 Reconciliation Report:**

Committee Recommendation: Kelly Lynch moved that the Finance/Audit Committee

*recommend to the full Board approval of the April 2021 Reconciliation Report as submitted. The motion was seconded by Pamela Kirst and unanimously approved.*

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE FULL BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE APRIL 2021 RECONCILIATION REPORT AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY PAMELA KIRST.

Dr. Scheerer provided a specific review of this all-inclusive 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: MICHAEL BULLOCK, YEA; JENNIFER HANSON, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; DANIELLE SCOTT, YEA; AND BEV STEINBRECHER, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING SEVEN POSITIVE VOTES. *(Kelly Lynch was not present for this vote.)*

**2. Calendar Year 2022 Operating Budget for MHRS Board System: (Exhibit C)**

The review of this agenda item was officially considered an ‘open budget hearing’ *(with notice of such hearing being published in The Times Recorder’s Legal Notice Section on May 2, 2021).*

*Committee Recommendation:* *Pamela Kirst moved that the Finance/Audit Committee recommend to the full Board approval of the CY 2022 Budget for the entire network in the amount of \$9,650,160. The motion was seconded by Kelly Lynch and unanimously approved.*

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE CY 2022 BUDGET FOR THE ENTIRE NETWORK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,650,160. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY WILLIAM JOHNSON.

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. It was explained that the expenditures in the budget combine the MHRS Board’s CY 2022 Operating Budget with the CY 2022 Contract Service Provider Allocations and miscellaneous adjustments. It was noted that the majority of the budget is for payments to contract organization directors and community partners for the provision of mental illness and addiction recovery treatment and support services (totaling \$8,547,444).

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN ON THE ABOVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS: MICHAEL BULLOCK, YEA; JENNIFER HANSON, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; DANIELLE SCOTT, YEA; AND BEV STEINBRECHER, YEA. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED RECEIVING SEVEN POSITIVE VOTES. *(Kelly Lynch was not present for this vote.)*

**3. Status of Funding – Allwell Behavioral Health Services:**

James McDonald, President/CEO of Allwell Behavioral Health Services, met with the Finance/Audit Committee to discuss the status of funding at the organization following a challenging year of adapting to operations during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as some crucial capital improvements that are being considered in the near future and the start-up of some additional programming to fill gaps in services.

Once all FY 2021 revenue and expenses have been determined (probably in August of 2021), Mr. McDonald will be presenting a request for assistance to address an anticipated funding deficit.

**X. PARTNERS WORKGROUP:**

**1. Transitional Living for Young Adults:**

Dan Carpenetti, Chief Operating Officer for Allwell Behavioral Health Services, provided information about the operations of Llewellyn Suites, a transitional living facility operated by Allwell Behavioral Health and also reviewed the current lack of adequate transitional living services for persons making the shift from adolescence into adulthood. *(Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)*

**XI. OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. Strategic Plan Update:** *(Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)*

**XII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Policy Revision - #VI-A-07 – Non-Medicaid Contract Requests:**

PAMELA KIRST MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE POLICY #VI-A-07, NON-MEDICAID CONTRACT SERVICES, AS REVISED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DANIELLE SCOTT.

Associate Director Elaine Shuster noted that the only change (highlighted below) to the policy was under #5 of Section C. specifying what contract proposals should include: #5, was revised as follows: “A copy of a 501C3 letter from the Internal Revenue Service, **if applicable.**”

A ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE ABOVE MOTION WAS THEN TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: MICHAEL BULLOCK, YEA; JENNIFER HANSON, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; DANIELLE SCOTT, YEA; AND BEV STEINBRECHER, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING SEVEN POSITIVE VOTES. *(Kelly Lynch was not present for this vote.)*

**2. Slate of MHRS Board Officers – Fiscal Year 2022:**

President Lecoq presented the following slate of officers for FY 2022:

PRESIDENT: WILLIAM JOHNSON

VICE PRESIDENT: REV. DR. MICHAEL BULLOCK

The Election of Officers will take place at the June 10, 2021, board meeting.

**3. Next Meeting:**

The MHRS Board will meet *(in-person at the MHRS Board Office)* on Thursday, June 10, 2021, with the schedule to be as follows:

- No Committee Meetings
- 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. Dinner & Board Member Recognition
- 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Annual Board Member Training (covering the Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC), State-of-the-State, and Health Equity, Diversion and Inclusion.
- 7:30 p.m. Regular Board Meeting

**XIII. COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

◆ **COVID-19:** Dr. Scheerer noted that Governor DeWine has announced the lifting of the state’s mask mandate and other coronavirus health orders on June 2 (except those for nursing homes and assisted living facilities). This decision was made following four weeks of declining coronavirus infections and hospitalizations. Board members were urged to pay attention to the latest COVID-19 updates and numbers and adequately protect themselves if a surge should recur. Everyone was encouraged to get vaccinated.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

**SIGNATURES**

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator

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Misty Cromwell, Executive Director

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Jeff LeCocq, Board President