

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

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**  
*(November 11, 2021)*

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

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

On November 1, 2021, board members, contract organization directors, service area news media, county boards of commissioners, and state legislators were notified the Board of Directors would meet in person on Thursday, November 11, 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.

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

**III. ROLL CALL:**

Board Members present:

- *William Johnson, President (Coshocton County)*
- *Jon Black (Guernsey County)*
- *Jeff LeCocq (Muskingum County)*
- *Tony Mayle, Jr. (Morgan County)*
- *Dan Scheerer, M.D. (Muskingum County)*
- *Ben Taylor (Perry County)*

Board members excused:

- *Michael Bullock, Vice President (Muskingum County)*
- *Jennifer Hanson (Muskingum County)*
- *Sue Hoover (Muskingum County)*
- *Pamela Kirst (Muskingum County)*
- *Danielle Scott (Perry County)*

There being six board members present, a quorum was constituted for conducting official business.

Staff Members present:

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

Guest Presenter:

- *Nick Williams, Office Manager, Forensic Diagnostic Center of District Nine*

**IV. AGENDA:** There being no changes to the pre-mailed agenda, BEN TAYLOR MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 11, 2021, MEETING AGENDA AS MAILED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JEFF LeCOCQ AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

**V. MEETING MINUTES:** It was noted that the minutes from the October 14 board meeting were e-

mailed to board members on October 20, 2021.

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 14, 2021, REGULAR BOARD MEETING AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: JON BLACK, ABSTAIN; JEFF LeCOCQ, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED RECEIVING FOUR POSITIVE VOTES AND ONE ABSTENTION.

- VI. “FOCUS ON FORENSICS”:** Nick Williams, Office Manager for the Forensic Diagnostic Center of District Nine, provided an update about the operations of the organization – including a newly-added program for Outpatient Competency Restorations. *(Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)*

**VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

Key issues from Misty Cromwell’s Director’s Report were:

◆ **Annual Meeting of the MHRS Board’s Muskingum County Criminal Justice Collaborative:** *(Recap included in Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)*

◆ **Contract Organization Deficits:** Some contract organizations are currently operating at deficit levels, as the COVID-19 pandemic has drastically affected the generation of revenue for in-person prevention programming, alcohol/drug residential programs, and general outpatient counseling services. Director Cromwell and her fiscal staff are working to come up with ways to increase reimbursements to contract organizations for prevention and treatment services..

◆ **Legislative Meeting:** Director Cromwell recently met in Columbus with State Representative Adam Holmes to discuss alcohol/drug prevention programming, the status of the Pearl House Project, PAX Programming in local schools, and the need for state-level legislation authorizing MHRS Boards to have the option of board members’ virtual participation/voting.

◆ **Needs Assessment Planning:** Misty reviewed plans being made for the completion of a service area needs assessment. It is estimated this work will begin in January or February of 2022, with the final survey reporting being ready by late May or early June of 2022. The survey will be conducted by reps from Ohio University. Misty shared the survey questions that have been developed and encouraged board members to let her know of any specific queries they would like included.

◆ **Leadership Transition – Noble Behavioral Health Choices:** Noble BHC is contracting with Allwell Behavioral Health for the services of an Interim Director to oversee administrative and clinical operations. Allwell’s Director of Dual Diagnosis Care, Rainy Oliver, has been named Interim Director, and she is working 12-16 hours per week at Noble BHC. Director Cromwell will continue working with Noble BHC’s Board of Directors to continue looking at ways to strengthen the organization’s operations.

◆ **Pain Management Service Provider Disruption:** Charges were recently lodged against Dr. Michael Sayegh, and he was court-ordered not to prescribe Controlled Substances as a part of bond. He practices at two locations—one in Reynoldsburg and the other in Cambridge. A significant number of patients will be impacted by the closure of these facilities. The MHRS Board has posted a facility closure notice at the Cambridge site, listing other options for primary care and behavioral health services and where they can obtain naloxone.

◆ **Landscape Analysis for Crisis Continuum Development:** MHRS Board staff are working to collect local data for the completion of a state Crisis Task Force Survey. The survey covers residential, crisis stabilization, mobile response, and quick response teams – as well as crisis services provided at ER’s and psychiatric inpatient facilities.

◆ **State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant – 2022:** Elaine Shuster’s report about the 2022 SOR Grant initiative is summarized in the Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.

◆ **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Academy:** *(Recap included in Board meeting highlights attached to the minutes.)*

◆ **OhioRISE Managed Care Coordination Initiative:** Misty gave a brief overview of the Ohio Department of Medicaid's OhioRISE Initiative that will become effective on July 1, 2022. OhioRISE is to serve youth with complex needs requiring involvement with multiple child-serving systems. (Recap included in Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)

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

### 1. October 2021 Financial Reports:

Chairman Scheerer guided a thorough review of the MHRS Board's Financial Reports for October 2021 that included: 1) A Reconciliation Report; 2) Contract Services Expense Reports; 3) Balance Sheet as of October 31, 2021; 4) Dashboard Report; and 5) Monthly Report of Network Funding Reserves.

#### ◆ **October 2021 Reconciliation Report:**

*Committee Recommendation:* Jeff LeCocq moved that the Finance/Audit Committee recommend to the full Board approval of the October 2021 Reconciliation Report as submitted. The motion was seconded by Jon Black and unanimously approved.

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

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: JON BLACK, YEA; JEFF LeCOCQ, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING FIVE POSITIVE VOTES.

### 2. Transfer of Appropriations – Calendar Year 2021:

*Committee Recommendation:* William Johnson moved that the Finance/Audit Committee recommend to the full Board approval of the transfer of \$628,500.00 from the Contingencies Line Item to the following expense areas: Employee Salaries, \$26,000.00; Medicare, \$500.00; Public Employees Retirement System, \$2,000.00; and Contract Services, \$600,000.00. The motion was seconded by Jeff LeCocq and unanimously approved.

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING LINE ITEM TRANSFERS IN THE MHRS BOARD'S CY 2021 BUDGET:

Expense Code	Description	Amount
852-584-511400	Contingencies	<\$628,500.00>
852-584-501002	Employee Salaries	\$26,000.00
852-584-502001	Medicare	\$500.00
852-584-502003	PERS	\$2,000.00
852-584-511100	Contract Services	\$600,000.00

THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR.

Dr. Scheerer noted that these transfers reflect staffing changes at the MHRS Board and the need to put more money in the Contract Services Line Item to cover unexpected expenses that were not included in the initial CY 2021 Budget.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN ON THE ABOVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS: JON BLACK, YEA; JEFF LeCOCQ, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING FIVE POSITIVE VOTES.

**3. CHESS Health’s “Connections App”:**

*Committee Recommendation: William Johnson moved that the Finance/Audit Committee recommend to the full Board approval of funding in the amount of \$80,400.00 for a one-year subscription to CHESS Health’s E-RECOVERY and E-INTERVENTION apps. The motion was seconded by Jon Black and unanimously approved.*

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$80,400.00 FOR A ONE-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION TO CHESS HEALTH’S E-RECOVERY AND E-INTERVENTION APPS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JEFF LeCOCQ.

Dr, Scheerer explained that the \$80,400.00 for this subscription was coming from carryover 421 Funds, and it was noted that network contract organization directors have indicated these apps will strengthen their abilities to meet the needs of clients, particularly in the area of peer recovery support. Discussion of this issue also brought out the fact that southeastern Appalachian Ohio continues to be in dire need of broadband services.

A ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE ABOVE MOTION WAS THEN TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: JON BLACK, YEA; JEFF LeCOCQ, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING FIVE VOTES.

**IX. PARTNERS WORKGROUP:**

- ◆ Nick Williams’s Forensic Update was presented to the full Board at the top of the meeting.
- ◆ Partners Workgroup Member Tony Mayle reported that the committee had briefly discussed the shortage of counselors in our region. He noted this could be partially attributed to the abundance of choices that counselors currently have available to them.

**X. OLD BUSINESS:** There was no Old Business.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, December 9, 2021, at the MHRS Board office. No Committee meetings will be held. SCHEDULE:

6:00 p.m.	Board Member Appreciation Dinner
6:30 p.m.	“All About EMDR” (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing)
7:00 p.m.	Regular Board Meeting

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

▶ **COVID-19:** Dr. Scheerer encouraged everyone to continue being careful and obtain vaccinations that will help stem the growth of the pandemic.

▶ **CIT ACADEMY:** Misty commended Captain Jeff LeCocq and Dispatcher Stacy Fleegle for once again very capably planning for the annual CIT Academy, coordinating the daily training segments, and presenting the segments on Scene Assessment and De-Escalation Skills.

▶ **BOARD VACANCIES:** Misty continues to seek candidates for filling three vacancies on the Board of Directors for Coshocton County, Guernsey County, and Noble County.

▶ **KUDOS TO MHRs BOARD STAFF:** President Johnson expressed pleasure at learning from Nick Williams how much he appreciates the excellent working relationship that exists between the Forensic Center and Executive Director Cromwell, Fiscal Operations Director Rhonda Hanes, and Business Manager Janet Hill.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 8:30 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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William Johnson, Board President