

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

OFFICIAL MINUTES
(March 14, 2024)

ANNUAL BOARD MEMBER TRAINING

Prior to regular board meeting, representatives from the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) conducted the Annual Board Member Training, covering: the Biennial Budget for the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (OhioMHAS); Priorities of OhioMHAS; Legislation of Interest; ARPA Investments; State Opioid and Stimulant Response Funds; the OneOhio Recovery Foundation; Marijuana in Ohio; Workforce Issues; and Considerations for the Future of Behavioral Health Services. The presenters from OACBHA were Cheri Walter, CEO, and Liz Henrich, Associate CEO.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

I. BOARD NOTIFICATION & COMPLIANCE WITH SUNSHINE LAW:

On March 4, 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, March 14, 2024, at the MHRS Board Office — with the schedule of activities to include: 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., Annual Board Member Training; 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. IN MEMORIAM: *“We mourn the recent loss of Guernsey County Representative **Megan Gee**. We very much appreciated her commitment to the work of the MHRS Board and will particularly miss her passion for helping struggling children and families.”*

IV. ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present:

- *Sue Hoover, President (Muskingum County)*
- *Sean Brady (Muskingum County)*
- *Abby Corder (Muskingum County)*
- *Randi Earnest (Guernsey County)*
- *Dennis Hitchcock (Muskingum County)*
- *William Johnson (Coshocton County)*
- *Dan Scheerer, M.D. (Muskingum County)*
- *Wendy Starlin (Perry County)*
- *Ben Taylor (Perry County)*
- *Bonnie Taylor (Muskingum County)*

Board Members Excused:

- *Leondra Davis, Vice President (Coshocton County)*
- *Reid Carpenter (Noble County)*
- *Tony Mayle, Jr. (Morgan County)*

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

Staff Members Present:

- *Misty Cromwell, Executive Director*
- *Jamie McGrew, Care Management Director*
- *Rhonda Hanes, Fiscal Operations Director*

- *Karl Hoop, Criminal Justice & Crisis Services Coordinator*
- *Roger Birch, Youth & Family Services Coordinator*
- *Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator*
- *Terri France, Office Manager*

V. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

Present for Funding Application Reviews were:

- *Jason Varney, Vice-President, and Deanna England, Clinical Director, Oriana House*
- *James McDonald, CEO, Allwell Behavioral Health Services, and Team Members Sue Ellen Foraker, Melissa Johnson, and Jim Still-Pepper*

Present for Review of a Special Allocation Request:

- *Theresa Kane, Executive Director, Perry Behavioral Health Choices*

VI. **AGENDA:** It was noted that Item 8a., Guernsey Health Choices, would not be an action item. WILLIAM JOHNSON MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE MARCH 14, 2024, BOARD MEETING AS AMENDED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SEAN BRADY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

VII. **MEETING MINUTES:** WENDY STARLIN MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 8, 2024, BOARD MEETING AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, ABSTAIN; ABBY CORDER, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED RECEIVING SEVEN POSITIVE VOTES AND ONE ABSTENTION. (*Dennis Hitchcock was not available for this roll call vote.*)

VIII. **HEARING REVIEWS – FY 2025 SERVICE PROVIDER FUNDING APPLICATIONS:**

MHRS Board staff and board members reviewed FY 2025 Funding Applications from Oriana House and Allwell Behavioral Health Services. The Q/A portions of the hearings were recorded, and those transcribed interactions will help to improve the RFA process and will be used to facilitate informed decision-making.

IX. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

Director Misty Cromwell’s March Report listed various activities, as staff members worked toward meeting the MHRS Board’s Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives. | During February considerable attention was given to Guernsey Health Choices and the financial health of contract service providers. | Staff traveled throughout the six-county area to meet with providers, community partners, and stakeholders to discuss opportunities, provide education, eliminate barriers, and explore collaborations. (*Some activity summaries are included in the Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.*)

X. **FINANCE/AUDIT ISSUES:** (*Dr. Dan Scherer, Chair, Finance/Audit Committee*)

1. **Special Allocation Request – Perry Behavioral Health Choices – Alternative Medicine Program:**

Theresa Kane, Executive Director of Perry Behavioral Health Choices, requested up to \$80,000 for adding a clinician with a doctorate in alternative medicine and the purchase of needed supplies. The addition of an alternative medicine/clinical provider would result in offering non-pharmacological supplements, comfort measures, behavioral modification, and clinical counseling. Director Kane pointed out that an Alternative Medicine component is necessary to better serve Medication-Assisted Clinic patients and ensure program continuation. PBHC plans to leverage the MHRS Board’s special allocation with funding from Ohio’s eTMS Pilot Project, offering alternative medicine and related clinical services to Veterans, First Responders, and Law

Enforcement Officers in the program.

Following extensive discussion, the following actions were taken in support of efforts to establish an Alternative Medicine Program at PBHC:

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE ALLOCATION OF \$10,000 TO PERRY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CHOICES FOR THE PURCHASE OF NEEDED SUPPLIES FOR THE ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE PROGRAM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SEAN BRADY, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING NINE POSITIVE VOTES.

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE A SPECIAL ALLOCATION OF UP TO \$50,000 TO SUPPORT THE SALARY OF AN ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE CLINICIAN THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024, FOLLOWING WHICH THE MHRS BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL REVIEW THE HISTORY OF PRODUCTIVITY FOR THIS POSITION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY WILLIAM JOHNSON, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING NINE POSITIVE VOTES.

2. February 2024 Financial Reports:

Board members reviewed the following February 2024 fiscal reports: 1) Balance Sheet as of February 29, 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.

February 2024 Reconciliation Report:

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 2024 RECONCILIATION REPORT AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY WILLIAM JOHNSON.

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: SEAN BRADY, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING NINE POSITIVE VOTES.

3. MHRS Board Calendar Year 2025 Operations Budget:

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MHRS BOARD'S CALENDAR YEAR 2025 OPERATING BUDGET TOTALING \$1,187,033.88. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SEAN BRADY.

Fiscal Director Rhonda Hanes reported that the 2025 budget represents a 4% increase over the Calendar Year 2024 budget.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN ON THE ABOVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING NINE POSITIVE VOTES.

**CAPITAL PROJECT RESOLUTIONS REQUIRED BY THE
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION SERVICES**

4. Renovations to the Jeffersonian Building in Cambridge (will become Allwell Behavioral Health's Guernsey Counseling Center):

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION: The Muskingum Area Mental Health & Recovery Services Board hereby resolves to support the capital renovation project at the former Jeffersonian Building in Cambridge — with an assurance to support applicant's program consistent with their capital application and, in addition, to annually monitor the programs and operations of the project to ensure compliance. The MHRS Board also authorizes its Executive Director to sign official documents related to the project. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ABBY CORDER, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING NINE POSITIVE VOTES.

5. Crisis Stabilization Unit for Youth at Genesis Behavioral Health (ARP-0006H):

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION: The Muskingum Area Mental Health & Recovery Services Board hereby resolves to support Project ARP-0006H for the youth crisis ward at Genesis — with an assurance to support applicant's program consistent with their capital application and, in addition, to annually monitor the programs and operations of the project to ensure compliance. The MHRS Board also authorizes its Executive Director to sign official documents related to the project. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY WILLIAM JOHNSON, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING NINE POSITIVE VOTES.

6. Eastern Alliance COG's Regional Youth Crisis Facility (ARP-0006I):

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION: The Muskingum Area Mental Health & Recovery Services Board hereby resolves to support Project ARP-0006I for the Eastern Alliance COG's Regional Youth Crisis Facility — with an assurance to support applicant's program consistent with their capital application and, in addition, to annually monitor the programs and operations of the project to ensure compliance. The MHRS Board also authorizes its Executive Director to sign official documents related to the project. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SEAN BRADY, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING NINE POSITIVE VOTES.

7. Contract Organizations' Future Audit and Electronic Health Record (EHR) Costs:

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE ENDING THE MHRS BOARD'S DIRECT REIMBURSEMENT OF PROVIDER AUDIT AND EHR COSTS AS OF JUNE 30, 2024. THE MHRS BOARD WILL CONTINUE TO ALLOW THESE EXPENSES AS ALLOWABLE COSTS AS PRESENTED ON A PROVIDER'S UNIFORM COST REPORT.

THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY WILLIAM JOHNSON, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING NINE POSITIVE VOTES.

8. Revised Policy IV.K.06 — Expense Reimbursement (as it relates to the mileage reimbursement rate):

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE REVISED POLICY IV.K.06 THAT NOW STATES BOARD MEMBERS' AND STAFF MEMBERS' MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENTS WILL BE AT THE CURRENT RATE DETERMINED BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SEAN BRADY, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING NINE POSITIVE VOTES.

XI. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Update — Financial Crisis — Guernsey Health Choices:

Fiscal Director Rhonda Hanes documented key points from the March Fiscal Monitoring Meeting with Guernsey Health Choices:

- GHC has received a CareSource Medicaid Contract, and they are waiting for a welcome letter and an effective date.
- Current Medicaid billings received this Calendar Year:
 - January 2024 \$18,446.57
 - February 2024 \$28,507.64
 - March (MTD) 2024 \$ 10,836.94
- Total indebtedness of GHC to MHR SB is **\$258,112.94:**
 - Initial Payroll Support - \$104,000.00
 - Additional Support (Thru 3/11/2024) \$ 86,112.94
 - Recovery House (in event of sale) \$ 68,000.00
- Three GHC employees resigned in Feb/March.
- FY23 Audit information is being pulled together – SEO CPA Group is reviewing.
- GHC has incurred penalties and interest fees for late filings of withholding taxes totaling \$3,412.43.
- From February Expense Sheet, Outstanding Expenses were \$74,954.06 – GHC Fiscal Director provided a March MTD sheet that shows outstanding expenses at \$63,823.75. These totals do not include money owed to MHR SB or payroll expenses.

GHC Corrective Action Plan Review:

- GHC Board was to establish Fiscal Committee and Human Resource Committee – Board Meeting minutes do not show that these committees are meeting. February GHC board meeting minutes have not been received.
- Productivity Rate to be 75-80%. Productivity information as of March 7 indicates one clinician at 80%, one at 49%, one at 47.25% and one at 38%.
- Resolution of Insync Issues: Have been mostly resolved. There are claims that need to be reviewed and possibly re-sent, but Insync is able to send and receive billing (as Medicaid totals demonstrate above). GHC Fiscal Director indicates that most of the GOSH billing has been submitted. MHR SB has \$41,000 in GOSH billings in process to be paid in the next 30 days.
- Recovery House – Misty, Rhonda and Sue Hoover attended the February GHC Board Meeting to discuss the MHR SB Board's position about the sale of the recovery house and provided additional clarification. We have not received an update on GHC's intentions concerning this program.
- Fiscal Director Job Description to be Re-written to Include HR - No indication of completion.
- Executive Director Collaborations with Other Contract Directors – In place and ongoing.

GHC Board of Directors asked to meet with MHR SB personnel to gain a better understanding of the organization's current fiscal situation. This meeting was held on March 7 without any GHC employees in attendance. The GHC Board of Directors requested some additional time to consider what their path forward may be.

XII. **NEXT MEETING:** The MHRS Board of Directors will next meet at *6:00 p.m. on April 11, 2024, at the MHRS Board Office. Committee meetings will take place from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.*

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

1. **Open Minds Consultation Proposal:**

This proposal has been uploaded to the board members' electronic folder and will be considered at the April board meeting.

2. **Concerns about Inadequate Crisis Responses for Persons Involved with the Criminal Justice System:**

Board members discussed some concerning feedback received about the need for more timely responses in addressing crises (*many of which involve suicidal ideation or threats*) that are being experienced by persons who come into contact with law enforcement and first responders.

Some suggestions for improving the situation:

- Include a question on RFA's – *'How are you serving someone brought in on a writ?'*
- Request formal data reports from county and city law enforcement departments about crisis responses by contract service providers and Genesis Behavioral Health. Some data might be available through the Ascend initiative or through Genesis. Need to know: *'What is the percentage of people released from the Genesis ER, following a suicidal gesture or attempt?'*
- Training for first responders on the processing of behavioral health crises.
- Criminal justice professionals could complete a referral form or questionnaire detailing a person's crisis situation – for follow-up by clinicians from Allwell Behavioral Health.
- Have MHRS Board Crisis & Criminal Justice Coordinator Karl Hoop give a presentation at a future meeting of the Board of Directors regarding System Gap Analysis.
- Ideally, a 'Crisis Receiving Center' is needed in the MHRS Board's service area.

XIV. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

SIGNATURES

Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator

Misty Cromwell, Executive Director

Sue Hoover, Board President