

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

OFFICIAL MINUTES
(March 13, 2025)

ANNUAL BOARD MEMBER TRAINING

Prior to regular board meeting, MHRS Board Attorney David Moser presented the Annual Board Member Training — *Roles, Responsibilities, and Good Governance of Board Members Under the Law* — “*Seeing the Forest Through the Trees*,” covering: ▪ Board Member Responsibilities under ORC Chapter 340; ▪ Conflicts of Interest – Ohio’s Ethics Law and Related Statutes; ▪ Key Distinctions of Board Employees vs. Board Members; ▪ Board Meeting Processes; ▪ Ohio’s Sunshine Laws; ▪ Executive Sessions; and ▪ Balancing Personal Interests and Statutory Responsibilities.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

I. BOARD NOTIFICATION & COMPLIANCE WITH SUNSHINE LAW:

On March 3, 2025, board members, contract organization directors, service area news media, county boards of commissioners, and state legislators were notified that the Board of Directors would meet on Thursday, March 13, 2025, 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 6:25 p.m.

III. ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present:

- *Sue Hoover, President (Muskingum County)*
- *Abby Corder (Muskingum County)*
- *Randi Earnest (Guernsey County)*
- *William Johnson (Coshocton County)*
- *Lt. Dave Peoples (Guernsey 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)*
- *Sean Brady (Muskingum County)*
- *Reid Carpenter (Noble County)*
- *Dennis Hitchcock (Muskingum County)*
- *Tony Mayle, Jr. (Morgan County)*

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

Staff Members Present:

- *Misty Cromwell, Executive Director*
- *Rhonda Hanes, Associate Director – Director of Finance*
- *Jamie McGrew, Director of Community Outreach & Programming*
- *Sarah Reed, Director of Compliance and Quality Improvement*
- *Karl Hoop, Director of Community Engagement and Crisis Services*
- *Roger Birch, Director of Youth & Family Services*
- *Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator*

IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Present for Funding Application Reviews were:

- *Theresa Kane, Director, and Corinne Braglin, Assistant Director of Programming, Perry Behavioral Health Choices — PBHC is also overseeing the operations of Guernsey Health Choices & Morgan Behavioral Health Choices (Virtual)*
- *Mandy McGlumphy and Nicole Huey, Southeastern Ohio Counseling Center (Virtual)*

Present for the Open Minds Update were:

- *Rick Rowley, Kim Bond, and Ray Wolfe (Virtual)*

Student Interns from the Appalachian Children's Coalition:

- *Delainey Vaughn and Zoey Clark*

- V. **AGENDA:** President Hoover noted the addition of an item under the Finance Committee Report – 8a., Funding Request from Allwell Behavioral Health. ABBY CORDER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE MARCH 13, 2025, BOARD MEETING AS AMENDED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.
- VI. **MEETING MINUTES:** WILLIAM JOHNSON MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 3, 2025, BOARD MEETING AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DAVE PEOPLES AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: ABBY CORDER, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, ABSTAIN; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, ABSTAIN; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED RECEIVING SIX POSITIVE VOTES AND TWO ABSTENTIONS.
- VII. **HEARING REVIEWS – FY 2026 SERVICE PROVIDER FUNDING APPLICATIONS:**
Board members reviewed FY 2026 Funding Applications from Guernsey Health Choices, Morgan Behavioral Health Choices, and Perry Behavioral Health Choices; and the Southeastern Ohio Counseling Center. Action on RFA's will be made once all hearings have been conducted.
- VIII. **OPEN MINDS UPDATE:** Representatives from Open Minds shared their due diligence analysis and recommendations for moving forward with plans to improve the MHRS Board's network of care. Board members will be further reviewing the consultants' analysis and then hold a special meeting on Thursday, March 27, to act on their recommendations.
- 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. *(Some activity summaries are included in the Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)*
- X. **FINANCE/AUDIT ISSUES:** *(Dr. Dan Scheerer, Chair, Finance/Audit Committee)*
1. **Special Allocation Request – Allwell Behavioral Health – AI Research Contract with Eleos:**
James McDonald submitted a request to the MHRS Board to fund a contract with Eleos AI Research in the amount of \$45,000 per year for three years. Following extensive discussion about the AI capabilities of Allwell's EPIC electronic health record system, members decided to table this request until the MHRS Board's special board meeting on March 27.
 2. **February 2025 Financial Reports:**
Board members reviewed the following February 2025 fiscal reports: 1) Balance Sheet as of February 28, 2025; 2) Dashboard Report; 3) Monthly Report of Network Funding Reserves; 4) a 'Year-to-Date' Status Report for the MHRS Board's Operating Budget; and 5) Reconciliation Report.
February 2025 Reconciliation Report:
DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 2025

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: ABBY CORDER, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving eight positive votes.

3. MHRS Board Calendar Year 2026 Operations Budget:

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MHRS BOARD'S CALENDAR YEAR 2026 OPERATING BUDGET TOTALING \$1,203,446.90. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR.

Fiscal Director Rhonda Hanes reviewed various budget items and noted that the 2026 budget represents a 2.5% increase over the Calendar Year 2025 budget.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN ON THE ABOVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS: ABBY CORDER, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving eight positive votes.

4. Appropriation Transfer #1 – CY 2025 Budget:

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$134,199 FROM THE CONTINGENCIES LINE ITEM TO THE ARPA EXPENSES LINE ITEM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DAVE PEOPLES.

Rhonda Hanes noted this transfer will facilitate funding draw-downs for the ARPA projects that are currently underway – particularly as it relates to crisis services for youth and the development of a behavioral health urgent care facility.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN ON THE ABOVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS: ABBY CORDER, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving eight positive votes.

5. Appropriation Transfer #2 – CY 2025 Budget:

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$93,581 FROM THE CONTINGENCIES LINE ITEM TO THE PROFESSIONAL EXPENSES LINE ITEM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ABBY CORDER.

Rhonda Hanes noted this transfer will facilitate the payment of expenses related to the network's shift from the GOSH claims management system to SmartCare.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN ON THE ABOVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS: ABBY CORDER, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving eight positive votes.

6. Creation of Individual Revenue Levy Fund Accounts:

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE CREATION OF INDIVIDUAL LEVY REVENUE FUND ACCOUNTS FOR COSHOCTON COUNTY, GUERNSEY COUNTY, MORGAN COUNTY, NOBLE COUNTY, AND PERRY COUNTY.

THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR.

Rhonda Hanes noted that the individual accounts will allow for clearer tracking of how funds are allocated and spent.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN ON THE ABOVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS: ABBY CORDER, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving eight positive votes.

XI. **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Revised MHRS Board Bylaws:**

Director Cromwell noted that the MHRS Board's Executive Committee is reviewing some minor revisions to the organization's Bylaws that will be voted on at the April 10, 2025, board meeting. (*Copy of revised bylaws is included in the MHRS Board's electronic board meeting packet.*)

2. **Other Policies to be Reviewed & Acted Upon:**

The following policies will also be voted on at the April 10, 2025, board meeting (*copies in the MHRS Board's electronic board meeting packet.*): Budgetary Process, Modified Accrual Accounting, Financial Projections, Level of Reserves, Federal Funds – Internal Controls, Federal Funds – Procurement, Federal Funds – Cash Management, Federal Funds – Cost Principles, Assuring Privacy of Individual Protected Health Information (HIPAA), Contract Provider Audits, and Financial Expectations of Provider Organizations — as set forth in contract with the MHRS Board.

3. **Next Meeting:**

President Hoover noted that the Board would be meeting: 1) at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 27, to address some time sensitive issues; and 2) at 6:00 p.m. on April 10, 2025 (*the regular monthly board meeting*). The Finance/Audit Committee and Partners Workgroup will meet from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on April 10. Both of these meetings will take place at the MHRS Board Office, 1500 Coal Run Road, Zanesville.

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

1. **Fiscal Year-End (6/30/2025) Board Member Status:**

Misty Cromwell will be asking the following board members about their willingness to be reappointed to the Board of Directors at the end of the fiscal year: William Johnson, Leondra Davis, Randi Earnest, and Ben Taylor.

XIII. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

SIGNATURES

Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator

Misty Cromwell, Executive Director

Sue Hoover, Board President