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

GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS – REGULAR BOARD MEETING
(October 9, 2025)

I. BOARD NOTIFICATION & COMPLIANCE WITH SUNSHINE LAW:

On September 29, 2025, board members, contract organization directors, service area news media, county boards of commissioners, and state legislators were notified that the Governing Board of Directors would meet on Thursday, October 9, 2025, at the MHRS Board Office — with the schedule of activities to include: 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., meetings of Finance/Audit Committee and Program Committee; and 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting.

II. CALL TO ORDER: Vice President Ben Taylor called the regular board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

III. ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present:
- ***Ben Taylor, Vice President (Perry County)***
- ***Reid Carpenter (Noble County)***
- ***Abby Corder (Muskingum County)***
- ***Randi Earnest (Guernsey County)***
- ***Sue Hoover (Muskingum County)***
- ***William Johnson (Coshocton County)***
- ***Lt. Dave Peoples (Guernsey County)***
- ***Dr. Dan Scheerer (Muskingum County) — Virtual***

Board Members Excused:
- ***Leondra Davis, President (Coshocton County)***
- ***Tony Mayle, Jr. (Morgan County)***
- ***Wendy Starlin (Perry County)***
- ***Bonnie Taylor (Muskingum County)***
- ***Sean Brady (Muskingum County)***
- ***Dennis Hitchcock (Muskingum County)***

There being eight 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***
- ***Sarah Reed, Director of Compliance and Quality Improvement***
- ***Jamie McGrew, Director of Community Outreach & Programming***
- ***Karl Hoop, Director of Community Engagement and Crisis Services***
- ***Roger Birch, Director of Youth & Family Services***
- ***Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator***

IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

The following virtual guest was present during the Program Committee Meeting:
- Britney Tangeman, MS, Pitt PERU

V. AGENDA:

AGENDA: Vice President Taylor noted there were no changes in the October 9 meeting agenda that was mailed to board members. REID CARPENTER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE OCTOBER 9, 2025, BOARD MEETING AS MAILED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ABBY CORDER AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

VI. MEETING MINUTES:

MEETING MINUTES: DAVE PEOPLES MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2025, BOARD MEETING AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUE HOOVER AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; SUE HOOVER,

YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, YEA; AND DAN SCHEERER, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING SEVEN POSITIVE VOTES.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Misty noted she had reformatted her monthly board report (that is based on the MHRS Board's Strategic Plan Goals) to enhance its clarity, impact, and usefulness.

Additional information requested by board members:

- ***Perry County Levy Renewal:*** The renewal levy is tentatively scheduled to be on the Spring 2026 ballot, and planning committee meetings will begin after the first of the year.
- ***Property Tax Changes @ State Level:*** Misty Cromwell reviewed legislative debates regarding major property tax reforms with new bills aiming to reduce burdens and improve transparency. She also referred to the Governor's Property Tax Workgroup's efforts and a proposed ballot initiative to eliminate property taxes entirely. | Statewide Coalitions are uniting to develop a strategy for countering legislation that would result in the loss a large amount of revenue for many organizations that help a great number of vulnerable Ohioans.
- ***Closure of Allwell Behavioral Health's Residential Home for Boys in Cambridge:*** Sarah Reed reported that Allwell plans to close this residential facility by December 31, 2025. Allwell is in conversations with a community entity that would like to see the continuation of this service – under a different operator.
- ***Mobile Response & Stabilization Services:*** Earlier this year, the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health (formerly OhioMHAS) expanded its initiative for the provision of MRSS for kids. The Department is now looking at establishing similar MRSS programs for adults; however, there are concerns about the sustainment of such programming in today's economic environment.
- ***Significant Changes at the former Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services:*** (Summarized in "Board Meeting Highlights.)
- ***Implementation of Ohio SB 138:*** Took effect on September 30, 2025, with certain provisions becoming active on March 26, 2026. The bill modifies laws related to alcohol and drug addiction services, mental health, and Medicaid. One of the modifications eliminates the requirement for MHRS Boards to provide 120-Notice letters to contract providers regarding significant changes to their established agreement with MHRS Boards. The 120-Notice letters will probably be sent in 2026, due to the delayed enforcement of the legislation until March 30, 2026.

VIII. FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT: *(William Johnson, Interim Chair)*

1. ***Financial Reports:***

Board members reviewed the following September 2025 financial reports: 1) Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2025; 2) Dashboard Report; 3) Report of Network Funding Reserves; 4) Year-to-Date Status Report for the MHRS Board's Operating Budget; and 5) Reconciliation Report.

►***September 2025 Reconciliation Report:***

Following the report of Committee action, WILLIAM JOHNSON MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 2025 RECONCILIATION REPORT AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY REID CARPENTER AND A ROLL-CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, YEA; AND DAN SCHEERER, YEA. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED RECEIVING SEVEN POSITIVE VOTES.

2. ***Special Allocation Request – Ohio District Council – Continued Support for Winter Warming Shelter:***

Following the report of Committee action, WILLIAM JOHNSON MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE AN ALLOCATION OF $42,000 TO THE OHIO DISTRICT COUNCIL TO PROVIDE CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR A WINTER SHELTER PROGRAM AT HALLOWED HILLS IN ZANESVILLE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY REID CARPENTER AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, YEA; AND DAN SCHEERER, YEA. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED RECEIVING SEVEN POSITIVE VOTES.

IX. PROGRAM COMMITTEE: *(Randi Earnest, Chair)*

►ANNUAL SCOPE INITIATIVE UPDATE: Britney Tangeman, MS, from Pitt PERU provided an 2025 about the MHRS Board's SCOPE Initiative ("Strategies to Coordinate Overdose Prevention Efforts"). A summary of this update is included in the "Board Meeting Highlights."

►POLICY UPDATES: (Policies were in the Electronic Board Meeting Packet for Review Prior to the Meeting)

♦HUMAN RESOURCES SECTION:

Following the report of committee review, DAVE PEOPLES MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING HUMAN RESOURCES POLICIES: ***Payroll Deductions; Staffing Pattern; Performance Evaluations; Personnel Files; Exit Interview; Ethics—Confidentiality; Supplied Equipment—Telephone Communications Systems; Electronic Mail Policy; Discipline; Sick Leave; and Home-Based Work Policy.*** THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ABBY CORDER. THERE WERE NO OBJECTIONS TO THIS MOTION.

♦MISSION & PROGRAM SECTION:

Following the report of committee review, WILLIAM JOHNSON MOVED THAT THE GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING MISSION & PROGRAM POLICIES: ***Client Rights; Consumer Complaints and Grievances; Quality Improvement; and Client Abuse and Neglect.*** THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DAVE PEOPLES. THERE WERE NO OBJECTIONS TO THIS MOTION.

X. OLD BUSINESS: (None)

XI. NEW BUSINESS: (None)

XII. COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- ***Liberty Manor Grand Re-Opening October 8, 2025:*** A summary of this event is included in the "Board Meeting Highlights."

XIII. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Governing Board of Directors will be ***Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. @ the MHRS Board Office, 1500 Coal Run Road, Zanesville.*** (The Finance & Audit Committee and the Program Committee will meet from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.)

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

SIGNATURE PAGE

SUBMITTED BY:	**APPROVED BY:**
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Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator	**Misty Cromwell, Executive Director**
	______________________________
	Ben Taylor, Board Vice President