

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

OFFICIAL MINUTES
(February 10, 2022)

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

I. BOARD NOTIFICATION & COMPLIANCE WITH SUNSHINE LAW:

On January 31, 2022, 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, February 10, 2022 — 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 7:10 p.m.

III. ROLL CALL:

Board Members present:

- *William Johnson, President (Coshocton County)*
- *Sue Hoover, Vice President (Muskingum County)*
- *Jon Black (Guernsey County)*
- *Randi Earnest (Guernsey County)*
- *Megan Gee (Muskingum County)*
- *Pamela Kirst (Muskingum County)*
- *Dan Scheerer, M.D. (Muskingum County)*
- *Ben Taylor (Perry County)*

Board members excused:

- *Jeff LeCocq (Muskingum County)*
- *Tony Mayle, Jr. (Morgan County)*
- *Danielle Scott (Perry County)*

NOTE: *Muskingum County Representative Jennifer Hanson has resigned from the Board of Directors effective February 9, 2022.*

There being eight 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*

Guests: Jim Still-Pepper, Allwell Behavioral Health’s Director of Community-Based Clinical Services, and Allwell Therapist Heather Woodward, met with the Partners Workgroup to talk about Allwell’s Early Childhood Mental Health Program.

IV. OATH OF OFFICE: Associate Director Elaine Shuster administered the Oath of Office to two

newly-appointed board members: 1) Randi Earnest (Guernsey County) appointed by the Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services; and 2) Megan Gee (Muskingum County) appointed by the Muskingum County Commissioners.

- V. **AGENDA:** There being no changes to the pre-mailed agenda, BEN TAYLOR MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 10, 2022, MEETING AGENDA AS MAILED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUE HOOVER AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.
- VI. **MEETING MINUTES:** The minutes from the January 13 board meeting were e-mailed to board members on January 21, 2022.

PAMELA KIRST MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 13, 2022, REGULAR BOARD MEETING AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: JON BLACK, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; MEGAN GEE, ABSTAIN; SUE HOOVER, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED RECEIVING SIX POSITIVE VOTES AND ONE ABSTENTION

VII. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

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

- ◆ **Virtual Public Meetings:** The Ohio Senate has added an amendment to HB 51 that would allow for virtual public meetings through June 30, 2022. The language was passed out of the Senate with an emergency clause and received a concurrence vote in the House. The bill must be signed by Governor Voinovich before it is effective.
- ◆ **RU Recovery Program and Expansion Plans:** Director Cromwell recently attended an RU Recovery Meeting at the Chili Crossroads Church in Fresno. RU is a faith-based recovery program designed to help those struggling with addictions. The church's RU group gets together weekly, averaging 50-60 participants at each meeting. | The church is undertaking an expansion project to build a multi-purpose facility on US 36 in Coshocton to help meet three identified needs: 1) helping dyslexic kids to improve reading skills; 2) getting parents back to work by providing high-quality, low-cost childcare; and 3) getting people off drugs by expanding the RU Recovery Program. Director Cromwell has provided the church with two support letters for use in seeking funding from the Coshocton Foundation and Montgomery Foundation.
- ◆ **Network Crisis Survey Response:** (Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)
- ◆ **Data Consultation:** Toward the end of 2021, the MHRS Board consulted with Healthcare Perspectives for an analysis of the Board's data collection process. They noted the MHRS Board's current system is fairly strong amid a sound quality assurance and improvement framework and recognized the Board's strong provider network. Their report also included some recommended action steps in the areas of billing and auditing processes and strengthening the network's utilization management system.
- ◆ **Addition to MHRS Board Website (www.mhrs.org):** Care Management Director Jamie McGrew has added a Suicide Coalition Catch-up Section that includes Coalitions' meeting minutes and event announcements.
- ◆ **Mini-Documentary:** The Southeast Trauma-Informed Care Collaborative will be at the MHRS Board on February 16 to begin filming a mini-documentary about trauma-informed care expansion and why it is so important. Misty Cromwell and Jamie McGrew will be interviewed.
- ◆ **Collaboration with Big Brothers – Big Sisters:** Jamie McGrew is making plans to offer Mental Health First Aid, Youth Mental Health First Aid, and PAX Tools trainings to staff members and volunteers at BB/BS.
- ◆ **Transition – Drug and Alcohol Addiction Recovery Services in Noble County:** Noble Behavioral Health Choices ceased operations effective January 31, 2022. MHRS Board staff and NBHC's Office Manager are working to wrap up loose ends related to fiscal issues, client records, and making plans for the organization's final audit. Allwell Behavioral Health Services is now accepting former NBHC clients and others in the community who need help with addiction recovery, providing counseling and intensive outpatient programming. The MHRS Board continues to monitor the transition in service provision to ensure clients' needs are being met.

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

1. Appropriation of Unencumbered Funds from Calendar Year 2021:

After reporting Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE APPROPRIATION OF \$11,243,653.43 IN UNENCUMBERED FUNDS FROM DECEMBER 31, 2021, TO THE CALENDAR YEAR 2022 BUDGET IN THE CONTINGENCY FUNDS LINE ITEM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY PAMELA KIRST, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: JON BLACK, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; MEGAN GEE, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING SEVEN POSITIVE VOTES.

2. January 2022 Financial Reports:

Chairman Scheerer guided a thorough review of the MHRS Board's Financial Reports for January 2022 that included: 1) Reconciliation Report; 2) Contract Services Expense Report; 3) Balance Sheet as of January 31, 2022; 4) Dashboard Report; and 5) Monthly Report of Network Funding Reserves.

◆ January 2022 Reconciliation Report:

After reporting Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE FULL BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 2022 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; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; MEGAN GEE, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING SEVEN POSITIVE VOTES.

3. COVID RELIEF BLOCK GRANT SUB-AWARD:

After reporting Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE A COVID RELIEF BLOCK GRANT SUB-AWARD TO PERRY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CHOICES (PBHC) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$302,596.66 FOR EXPANSION OF PBHC's TRANSCRANIAL MAGNETIC STIMULATION PROGRAM — TO BETTER SERVE PERSONS WITH ALCOHOL USE DISORDERS.

Dr. Scheerer noted that PBHC has already been providing TMS services to Veterans; this new federal grant will target Veterans, Law Enforcement, and First Responders who are struggling with alcohol addiction. Initially, the expanded TMS service will be primarily provided at PBHC in New Lexington; however, it is hoped to eventually offer the service in the other five counties in the MHRS Board's catchment area.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS THEN TAKEN ON THE ABOVE MOTION AS FOLLOWS: JON BLACK, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; MEGAN GEE, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING SEVEN

POSITIVE VOTES.

4. Special Allocation Request – Coshocton Behavioral Health Choices (CBHC):

Dr. Scheerer reported that the Finance/Audit Committee had met with CBHC Executive Director Beth Cormack to discuss a request for the allocation of \$60,000.00 for renovating the organization’s current recovery housing space to provide family apartments for recovering clients who are attempting to regain custody of their children.

Committee members decided to table action on this request until the March 10, 2022, board meeting, so they would have an opportunity to more closely review pictures of the current layout and building, the floor plans for the renovated space, the construction contractor’s estimates, and a summary of how electrical needs will be addressed.

5. Special Allocation – Allwell Behavioral Health Services:

After reporting Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE A SPECIAL ALLOCATION OF \$165,000.00 TO ALLWELL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE PURCHASE OF A TRANSITIONAL LIVING HOUSE IN GUERNSEY COUNTY THAT COULD BE USED FOR PERSONS WITH SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS WHO ARE WORKING ON RESTORATION OF COMPETENCY. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY PAMELA KIRST.

With the recent development of outpatient competency restoration, Dr. Scheerer noted that clients needing this unique service must have an ‘address’ before they can begin working toward that goal. In light of this, the MHRS Board, Allwell Behavioral Health Services, the Cambridge Municipal Court, and the Forensic Diagnostic Center have been looking for opportunities to remove the ‘no address’ barrier to accommodate seriously mentally ill clients who are appropriate for outpatient restoration. A potential house has been found and a purchase price has been agreed upon. Dr. Scheerer pointed out that the MHRS Board would also need to assist Allwell with the operating costs for the transitional living project.

A ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE ABOVE MOTION WAS THEN TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: JON BLACK, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; MEGAN GEE, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING SEVEN POSITIVE VOTES.

6. Special Allocation Request – Trulight Ministries:

After reporting Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE A SPECIAL ALLOCATION OF \$74,700.00 TO TRULIGHT MINISTRIES FOR FACILITY RENOVATIONS AND THE PURCHASE OF FURNITURE AND SECURITY EQUIPMENT FOR ACCOMMODATING PERSONS STRUGGLING WITH ADDICTIONS, HOMELESSNESS, AND HUNGER—CONTINGENT UPON TRULIGHT LEADERS MAKING AN INFORMATIONAL VISIT TO ‘VERTICAL 196’ IN NEWARK, OHIO. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MEGAN GEE.

The special allocation funds will be used to renovate Trulight’s kitchen and dining room, provide confidential office space for visitors needing help with behavioral health or primary healthcare needs, and space for a thrift store. It was noted that Trulight provides

a place of security, comfort and services to vulnerable individuals, many of whom are struggling with mental illness and/or addiction. Dr. Scheerer pointed out this is a good opportunity to help folks in need “where they are,” as many are reluctant to seek out assistance by going to a service provider’s office.

A ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE ABOVE MOTION WAS THEN TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: JON BLACK, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; MEGAN GEE, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING SEVEN POSITIVE VOTES.

IX. PARTNERS WORKGROUP:

1. Early Childhood Mental Health Program:

The Partners Workgroup heard a presentation about the Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) Program at Allwell Behavioral Health Services. The presenters were: Jim Still-Pepper, Director of Community-Based Clinical Services, and Heather Woodward, ECMH therapist. *(Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)*

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

PAMELA KIRST MOVED THAT THE BOARD RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING A PERSONNEL MATTER. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RANDI EARNEST AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: RANDI EARNEST, YEA; MEGAN GEE, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED RECEIVING SIX POSITIVE VOTES. *(Jon Black was not available for the vote on this motion.)*

The Board of Directors recessed to Executive Session at 8:10 p.m.

BEN TAYLOR MOVED THAT THE BOARD RETURN TO OPEN SESSION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY PAMELA KIRST AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:35 p.m.

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION AND SETTING OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S SALARY FOR FY 2023:

PAMELA KIRST MOVED THAT THE BOARD ACCEPT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION AND APPROVE THE DIRECTOR’S SALARY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 (effective July 1, 2022) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,247.85, REPRESENTING AN 8% INCREASE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DAN SCHEERER.

Dr. Scheerer reported that the Executive Committee had jointly evaluated Director Cromwell’s performance, noting: *“Misty keeps the MHRS Board’s mission at the forefront of all she does. Her professional background and her consistent interaction with agencies and constituents ensure that she understands needs in the six-county service area. Misty devotes well above the expected time and energy to her role. She is data-informed, collaborative, and thoughtful in all of her decision-making.”*

Salary Determination: Dr. Scheerer noted: 1) the nation’s Cost of Living Adjustment is at 5.9%; 2) Misty oversees the largest geographical MHRS Board area in the state and manages the state’s 13th largest budget; and 3) over the last few years, the Executive Committee has been striving to

bring Misty’s salary more in line with her fellow MHRS Board Directors (last year, her salary was 30% below other similar MHRS Board areas).

A ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE ABOVE MOTION WAS THEN TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: JON BLACK, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; MEGAN GEE, YEA; SUE HOOVER, YEA; PAMELA KIRST, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND BEN TAYLOR, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING SEVEN POSITIVE VOTES.

XII. OLD BUSINESS: There was no Old Business.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, March 10, 2022. No committee meetings will be held. The evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a 1-hour training on the Contracting Process. The presenter will be the MHRS Board’s new attorney, David Moser. Regular board meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

XIV. COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

► **COVID UPDATE:** Dr. Scheerer noted that recent COVID stats indicate a down-turn in the pandemic. However, he still encouraged getting vaccinated and boosted, as this will be the best line of defense in maintaining the downward trend and staying safe.

► **BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS:** Jamie noted that she is scheduling monthly board member ‘spotlights’ by using a lottery system. Board members will be contacted when their ‘number’ comes up.

XV. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

SIGNATURES

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator

Misty Cromwell, Executive Director

William Johnson, Board President