

Board Update

Mental Health & Recovery Services (MHRS) Board
Serving Coshocton, Guemsey, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble & Perry Counties
1500 Coal Run Road, Zanesville, Ohio 43701
Phone: 740-454-8557

Regular Board Meeting
Highlights
February 12, 2026

FinancialMatters

Under the guidance of Finance/Audit Committee Chair Dr. Dan Scheerer, board members reviewed and acted upon the following issues:

- **Appropriation of Unencumbered Funds:** Approved the appropriation of unencumbered funds (\$13,036,929.95) from December 31, 2025, to the Calendar Year 2026 Budget in the Contingencies Line Item.
- **Appropriation Transfer – CY 2026 Budget:** Approved the transfer of \$130,000 from the Contingencies Line Item to the following line items: Advertising, \$20,000; and Professional Services - Contract Agencies, \$110,000.
- **Reconciliation Report:** Approved the January 2026 Reconciliation Report that showed deposits, checks written for MHRS Board operations, payments to in-network contract service providers and out-of-network community partners, and journal entries.
- **Other Financial Reports:** Reviewed the following January 2026 fiscal reports: 1) Balance Sheet through January 31, 2026; 2) Monthly Report of Funding Reserves; 3) Year-to-Date Status Report for the MHRS Board's Operating Budget; and 4) a Dashboard Report that provides a high-level overview of key fiscal indicators.
- **'Then and Now' Certificates for Specific Purchase Orders:** Approved 'Then and Now' Certificates for the following purchase orders: 1) Trulight Ministries, P.O.#12029, \$2,000; Perry County Job & Family Services, P.O.#120357, \$3,500; and Christi Bartman, Southeast Trauma-Informed Care Collaborative, P.O.#120373, \$200.
- **Substantial Changes in FY 2027 Contracts with Service Providers:** Approved a resolution related to FY 2027 agency-specific language to be included in the 120-day notices to contract organizations regarding substantial contract changes.
- **New Policy – Purchase Orders and 'Then and Now':** Approved Policy #VI.E.03 to align the MHRS Board's process related to Purchase Orders and 'Then and Now' with the policy of the Muskingum County Auditor's Office.
- **Noble County Transitional House:** Authorized Executive Director Misty Cromwell to sign a contract on a proposed Noble County property that could be used as a transitional house. **NOTE:** Transitional housing plays a pivotal role in in the recovery and long-term stability of people living with mental

Executive Director

Misty Cromwell

Board of Directors

Sean Brady

Reid Carpenter

Abby Corder

Leondra Davis

Randi Earnest

Dennis Hitchcock

Sue Hoover

William Johnson

Tony Mayle, Jr.

Cambridge Police Chief Dave

Peoples

Dan Scheerer, M.D.

Wendy Starlin

Ben Taylor

Bonnie Taylor

Board President

Leondra Davis

Board Vice President

Ben Taylor

Mission Statement

Our mission is to distribute federal, state, and local funding to community mental health providers in a way that facilitates the existence of (and access to) high-quality mental health and substance use recovery services in our six counties.

illness as they leave inpatient psychiatric care and they can fill the gap between acute treatment and the community structure needed to prevent re-admissions to psychiatric hospitals.

- **Creation of Maintenance Position:** Approved the creation of a position that would provide regular maintenance work for system facilities – with the MHRS Board’s share of the salary for this position being 25%. The other partners in this initiative are the Jefferson County Prevention & Recovery Board and the Eastern Alliance Council of Governments. **NOTE:** Regular maintenance in mental health group homes and residential facilities isn’t just about keeping buildings in good shape. It directly affects the safety, stability, and therapeutic environment that residents rely on.
- **Payments for Services:** Below is a breakdown of January payments for mental health and addiction recovery services.

<i>Accounts Payable</i>	<i>In-Network Providers</i>	<i>Out-of-Network Partners</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>January 8, 2026</i>	\$158,406.76		\$158,406.76
<i>January 22, 2026</i>	\$390,502.22 \$218,841.87		\$390,502.22 \$218,841.87
<i>TOTAL</i>	\$767,750.85		\$767,750.85

Prevention System Analysis

The MHRS Board recently received a “Prevention System Analysis” prepared by Prevention Consultant Jim Ryan. The goal of this analysis is to provide our MHRS Board with guidance to improve the implementation of prevention services in the six-county region.

Behavioral Health Services (prevention, treatment, and recovery) are not funded at levels sufficient to meet established need. Also, prevention services typically receive significantly less funding than treatment and recovery services in federal and state allocations, limiting the MHRS Board’s capacity to adequately fund prevention services at the local level.

Mr. Ryan’s report covered: 1) Provider Requirements and Expectations; 2) Relationship of Services to Population Needs; 3) Recommendations; and 4) Provider Capacity Analysis.

The staff of the MHRS Board and its contract organizations will be using this information to guide collaborative planning and enhance the effectiveness of our behavioral health prevention initiatives.

Significant Community Impact Perry County Legislative Breakfast

On January 29, thirty-two individuals met with State Senator Tim Schaffer and State Representative Kevin Miller to talk about issues being faced by Perry County adults and children/families. A key point made at the beginning of the meeting was a need to have effective interventions made earlier in the lives of persons at risk – AND – more often.

Some attendees helped to provide a community snapshot, stressing the importance of sustaining mental health and alcohol addiction services in Perry County, as well as addressing other crises that are being faced by community partners. Community Snapshot presenters included: Theresa Kane, Behavioral Health Choices; James McDonald, Allwell Behavioral Health Services; Amy Frame, Director of Perry County Job & Family Services; Doug Gill, Chief, New Lexington Police Department; Casey Coffey,

Superintendent, and David Rupe, Treasurer, New Lexington City School District; and Amanda Snellings, Peer Supporter and START Program Mentor.

Misty expressed concern about some proposed changes in the funding formula for recovery programming. She noted that, if fully implemented, the new formula could result in a loss of \$2.7 million in the MHRS Board's region. This concern is compounded further by the many conversations about eliminating property taxes.

Both Senator Schaffer and Representative Miller stressed that they welcome hearing about constituents' concerns and are willing to explore possible solutions available to them. They noted: "Your voice matters, and we would like to listen, learn, and advocate wherever we can."

Key Takeaways and Call to Action: Misty noted that conversations during the meeting made one thing unmistakably clear: mental illness and addictions are realities for our families, our neighbors, and our communities. The information shared and the data discussed remind us that behind every statistic is a person who deserves dignity, care, and a path to recovery. Misty encouraged attendees to contact her for further discussions about possible follow-up advocacy efforts.



*Front Row LtoR: James McDonald, Theresa Kane, Senator Schaffer, Amanda Snellings,
Judge Luann Cooperrider, Misty Cromwell
Back Row LtoR: Rep. Miller, New Lexington Police Chief Doug Gill, Casey Coffey, Superintendent
of New Lexington City Schools, Amy Frame, Director of Perry Job & Family Services, and
Dave Rupe, Treasurer, New Lexington City Schools*