

Board Update

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

Regular Board Meeting
Highlights
June 13, 2024



Board Membership Updates:

Director Misty Cromwell noted that there are no members leaving the Board of Directors at the end of this fiscal year. She did reference, however, the devoted and caring service of Guernsey County representative Megan Gee, who passed away earlier this year. Misty noted, “I very much appreciated her particular passion in advocating for children and families who are struggling with behavioral health issues.”

Noble County representative Reid Carpenter has been reappointed to the Board of Directors, and the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services has appointed Cambridge Police Chief Dave Peoples to the Board to complete Megan Gee’s term.

Thank You!

Misty expressed her appreciation to all board members for their work in helping to keep the network of care whole during uncertain and fragile times, and she noted that she continues to be very impressed with the energy and careful thinking they devote to their board service.

Coshocton Behavioral Health Choices (CBHC):

Tyra Hixon and Jeanette Hall, Co-Directors of CBHC, updated board members about their agency’s recovery from a financial crisis which has enabled the organization to continue helping individuals and families find resiliency and strength as they face behavioral health challenges in life. They pointed to their dedicated staff members who played a huge role in getting CBHC back on a firmer financial footing. They also expressed appreciation to the MHRS Board for their support during the crisis.

The organization is continuing to explore evidence-based programming—like an autism treatment program that will soon be rolling out. A high percentage of clients under the age of 18 are struggling with autism.

Board members commended Tyra and Jeannette and their entire staff for working together to fulfill CBHC’s mission of “*Providing compassionate, person-centered, wrap-around behavioral health services to Coshocton County residents.*”

One MHRS Board member noted on their meeting evaluation form: “It is always

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.

Dave Peoples

Dan Scheerer, M.D.

Wendy Starlin

Ben Taylor

Bonnie Taylor

Board President

Sue Hoover

Board Vice President

Leondra Davis

The mission of the MHRS Board 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 services in our six-county region.

nice to hear about contract organizations who are overcoming their financial struggles — and to learn how MHRS Board funds have been used to strengthen the organization and help turn things around.”

ROX Program for Girls — “Ruling Our Experiences”:

Julie Wolfe, a Guidance Counselor from West Muskingum High School (WMHS), accompanied by a student participant, explained that the ROX Program aims to empower young girls by addressing various aspects of their lives. *(The MHRS Board allocated some funds to help establish the program at WMHS.)* Key components of the program are:



- **Confidence Building:** The program helps girls develop self-confidence and resilience. It provides tools and strategies to overcome self-doubt and build a positive self-image.
- **Friendship & Relationship Skills:** ROX teaches girls how to effectively navigate friendships and relationships. It covers topics like communication, conflict resolution, and healthy boundaries.
- **Preventing Sexual Violence:** The program empowers girls to protect themselves and others.
- **Future Planning:** ROX encourages girls to set goals and plan for their futures, emphasizing education, career aspirations, and financial independence.
- **Leadership Development:** Through workshops and activities, girls learn leadership skills, teamwork, and advocacy, and they are encouraged to be active participants in their communities.

The WMHS student expressed appreciation for having the opportunity to participate in the ROX Program that helped her and her classmates in so many ways.

For more information and data about ROX, visit their website at <https://rulingourexperiences.com>.

MHRS Board Leadership in Fiscal Year 2025

Board members re-elected officers for the period July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Pictured below are *Sue Hoover*, President, and *Leondra Davis*, Vice-President.



FinancialMatters

Under the guidance of Finance/Audit Committee Chair Dr. Dan Scheerer, board members reviewed and took action on the following financial matters:

- ✓ **Reconciliation Report:** Reviewed and approved the May 2024 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 other May 2024 Financial Reports that included: 1) Contract Services Expenses; 2) Balance Sheet as of May 31, 2024; 3) Network Funding Reserves; 4) a ‘Year-to-Date’ Status Report

for the MHRS Board’s CY 2024 Operating Budget; and 5) a Dashboard Report that provides a high-level overview of key fiscal indicators.

- ✓ **Guernsey County Renewal Levy:** Authorized the MHRS Board Executive Director to request the Guernsey County Commissioners to place a 1-mill, 10-year renewal levy on the November 5, 2024, ballot.
- ✓ **SmartCare Proposal:** Approved a SmartCare Proposal with Partner Solutions to provide services related to the MHRS Board network’s overall claiming system.
- ✓ **Workforce Incentive Grant:** Approved a \$10,000 Workforce Incentive Grant for Perry Behavioral Health Choices — in recognition of PBHC’s assistance in stabilizing the operations of Guernsey Health Choices and Morgan Behavioral Health Choices. This grant award process was established in 2023 to recognize contract organizations that help to resolve fiscal crises.
- ✓ **Rippling Consultants Contract:** Approved a proposal that would fund a one-year contract between Rippling Consultants and Perry Behavioral Health Choices. In addition to PBHC, this contract will benefit Guernsey Health Choices and Morgan Behavioral Health Choices by providing services in the following areas: payroll, time and attendance management, learning management system, benefits administration, and core performance management.



Warriors to Wilderness: Approved a \$20,000 funding request from “Warriors to Wilderness” for enhancing a program that will help empower Veterans on their paths to healing and renewal. W2W is a non-profit hunting therapy organization that is led by experienced guides and Veterans who understand the unique challenges of military service. This program offers a supportive and rejuvenating environment for Veterans to explore the healing powers of the wilderness. The \$20,000 will fund program participation for 10 Veterans (\$2,000 each) from the MHRS Board’s service area.

- ✓ **Guernsey Health Choices:** Approved a special allocation to Guernsey Health Choices of UP TO \$80,600 for nine months of salary support for two new clinicians. Once these clinicians’ caseloads are established, they will be able to cover the costs of their respective positions in Medicaid billable services.
- ✓ **Service Providers’ FY 2025 Contracts:** Approved FY 2025 contracts with service providers as follows: Allwell Behavioral Health Services, the Forensic Diagnostic Center of District 9, Coshocton Behavioral Health Choices, Guernsey Health Choices, Morgan Behavioral Health Choices, Muskingum Behavioral Health, Perry Behavioral Health Choices, Southeastern Ohio Counseling Services, and Oriana House.
- ✓ **Fiscal Policies:** Approved Fiscal Policy VI-A.03.P1 – Accounting Practices; Fiscal Policy VI-A.08 – County Fiscal Year and State Fiscal Year Financial Reports; and Revised Personnel Policy IV-N.01 – Vacation Leave.

Below is a breakdown of May 2024 payments for the provision of treatment and support services for persons with mental illness and/or addictions:

<i>Accounts Payable</i>	<i>In-Network Providers</i>	<i>Out-of-Network Partners</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>May 6, 2024</i>	<i>\$293,943.92</i>	<i>\$134,832.00</i>	<i>\$428,775.92</i>
<i>May 20, 2024</i>	<i>\$239,062.75</i>	<i>\$266,551.24</i>	<i>\$505,613.99</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$533,006.67</i>	<i>\$401,383.24</i>	<i>\$934,389.91</i>



Second Annual Color Waddle Raises Awareness



With some 1980's flair, the area's second annual Color Waddle awareness and fundraiser event was recently held at the Muskingum County Fairgrounds — with almost 300 people participating. The Muskingum County Suicide Prevention Coalition and Drug-Free Muskingum have a mission to provide awareness about two critical problems — deaths by suicide and drug overdoses. The event raised \$1,800 — which was divided between the two entities.

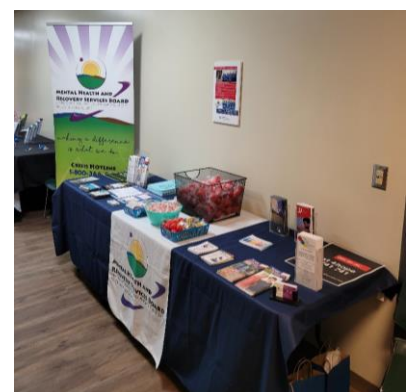
There were 17 color resource/blasting stations. Throughout the Color Waddle, each of these stations covered those who passed by with colorful powder.

Drug-Free Muskingum's Monica Batteiger and MHRS Board Care Management Director Jamie McGrew played big roles in facilitating the success of this event.

Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare's 150th Anniversary Celebration

Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare (ABH) recently hosted an open house to celebrate 150 years of serving the mental health needs of Southeastern Ohio. The event featured speakers, tours, resource tables manned by community partners, and a viewing of the Second Annual Recovery Art Exhibit. MHRS Board Crisis & Criminal Justice Coordinator Karl Hoop manned a resource table.

Attendees were able to tour the areas where patients are helped with earning their GEDs, some garden areas, and where music and art therapies are held. The hospital also hosted an exhibit featuring some of the patients' artworks that included machine-sewn quilts, drawings, and mosaics.



OhioMHAS Director LeAnne Cornyn said, "We look forward to continuing a celebration of the hospital's legacy of collaborative care and renewing our commitment to promoting treatment, recovery, and wellness for years to come."