

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

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**  
*(May 11, 2023)*

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**I. BOARD NOTIFICATION & COMPLIANCE WITH SUNSHINE LAW:**

On May 1, 2023, board members, contract organization directors, service area news media, county boards of commissioners, and state legislators were notified the Board of Directors would meet on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at the MHRS Board Office — with the schedule of activities to include: 6:00 p.m., Meetings of 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 7:15 p.m.

**III. ROLL CALL:**

Board Members present:

- *William Johnson, President (Coshocton County)*
- *Sue Hoover, Vice President (Muskingum County)*
- *Sean Brady (Muskingum County)*
- *Reid Carpenter (Noble County)*
- *Leondra Davis (Coshocton County)*
- *Randi Earnest (Guernsey County)*
- *Megan Gee (Guernsey County)*
- *Tony Mayle, Jr. (Morgan County)*
- *Dan Scheerer, M.D. (Muskingum County)*
- *Wendy Starlin (Perry County)*

Board Members excused:

- *Jennifer Hanson (Muskingum County)*
- *Larisa Harper (Muskingum County)*
- *Dennis Hitchcock (Muskingum County)*
- *Ben Taylor (Perry County)*

There being ten 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*

**IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Joe Frash, Director of Project Ready, was present for the Partners Workgroup meeting to update members about local community re-entry services.

**V. AGENDA:** President Johnson noted that the agenda item “*Second Consideration of a Special Allocation Request from Muskingum Valley Health Centers*” was removed, as the allocation request had been withdrawn. LEONDRA DAVIS MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MAY 11, 2023, MEETING AGENDA AS AMENDED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SEAN BRADY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

**VI. MEETING MINUTES:** Minutes from the April 13<sup>th</sup> board meeting were e-mailed to board members on April 18. REID CARPENTER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 13, 2023, MEETING AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RANDI EARNEST, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SUE HOOVER, YEA; SEAN BRADY, YEA; REID CARPENTER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; MEGAN GEE, ABSTAIN; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND WENDY STARLIN, YEA. The motion was approved receiving eight positive votes and one abstention.

## VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

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

- ◆ **Eastern Alliance Council of Governments:** MHRS Board Executive Directors and group home staff who are involved with the oversight of the two state-operated group homes (Country Garden Manor and Liberty Manor), recently met to discuss: 1) Updates to Contracts; 2) a pending operations meeting with OhioMHAS Director Lori Criss on May 17; 3) quarterly review of group home operations; 4) overview of Housing Grant Proposal to support renovations at both group homes; 5) the installation of a new generator at Liberty Manor; and 6) the design needs for possibly building a new home to replace Liberty Manor.
- ◆ **Muskingum County Center for Seniors:** Director Cromwell is discussing with Kate Paul, Director of the Muskingum County Center for Seniors, some options for: 1) supporting the work of a social worker or community health worker; 2) the current on-site hosting of the monthly NAMI Six County Family Support Group; and 3) potential for multi-generational mentorship or Adopt-a-Senior Pen Pal Program (a high priority for elderly shut-ins).
- ◆ **Oxford Recovery House Model:** Director Cromwell has received a proposed contract from Oxford House, Inc. for the potential development of some Oxford Recovery Houses in the MHRS Board's service area – to assist with the growing needs of the recovery population.
- ◆ **Ohio Network for Innovation (ONI) Guardianship Program:** At the request of Zanesville Municipal Court Judge Andrew Joseph, MHRS Board staff recently convened a meeting with other Muskingum County community legal and behavioral healthcare providers to explore a collective contract with ONI for guardianship services and supportive decision-making. A follow-up meeting is pending to determine levels of financial commitments.
- ◆ **State Biennium Budget:** (Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)
- ◆ **Jail Services and Additional Liaison Needs:** MHRS Board staff recently met with reps from Guernsey Health Choices, Muskingum Behavioral Health, and Allwell Behavioral Health to discuss the current status of jail liaison services and any unmet needs. Based on this feedback, the MHRS Board is considering supporting the addition of one liaison worker for Noble and Guernsey Counties, increasing hours in Muskingum County, and assessing needs in Coshocton County. The Muskingum County Juvenile Detention Center is also requesting a counselor at their facility.
- ◆ **Crisis Stabilization Unit for Youth:** MHRS Board partners are currently considering: 1) service area bed needs; 2) financial match requirements; and 3) seeking ARPA Funds through OhioMHAS. It is planned to proceed with an initiative for establishing a CSU in Belmont County – as well as establishing some beds in vacant space at the Genesis Behavioral Healthcare building.

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

### 1. April 2023 Financial Reports:

Board members reviewed the MHRS Board's Financial Reports for April 2023 that included: 1) Reconciliation Report; 2) Contract Services Expense Reports; 3) Balance Sheet as of April 30, 2023; 4) Dashboard Report; 5) Monthly Report of Network Funding Reserves; and 6) a 'Year-to-Date' Status Report for the MHRS Board's CY 2023 Operating Budget.

#### ◆ **April 2023 Reconciliation Report:**

After the report of Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE FULL BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE APRIL 2023 RECONCILIATION REPORT AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUE HOOVER.

Dr. Scheerer provided a thorough 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: SUE HOOVER, YEA; SEAN BRADY, YEA; REID CARPENTER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; MEGAN GEE, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND WENDY STARLIN, YEA. The motion was approved receiving nine positive votes.

**2. Calendar Year 2024 Budget for MHRS Board System:**

The review of this agenda item was considered an ‘open budget hearing.’

After the report of Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024 BUDGET FOR THE ENTIRE NETWORK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,241,678.00. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RANDI EARNEST.

This budget is required by law and is prepared for the six sets of County Commissioners and County Auditors in the MHRS Board’s service area. It was explained that the expenditures in the budget combine the MHRS Board’s CY 2024 Operating Budget with the CY 2024 Contract Service Provider Allocations, and some miscellaneous adjustments. The majority of the budget is for payments to contract organizations and community partners for the provision of mental illness and addiction recovery treatment and support services totaling \$9,978,008.00.

A ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE ABOVE MOTION WAS THEN TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SUE HOOVER, YEA; SEAN BRADY, YEA; REID CARPENTER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; MEGAN GEE, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND WENDY STARLIN, YEA. The motion was approved receiving nine positive votes.

**3. Special Allocation Request to Support the Community-Wide Behavioral Healthcare Collaborative – Guidehouse Consultant Fee:**

Dr. Scheerer noted that the Finance/Audit Committee had met on April 25, 2023, to discuss with other partners the payment of the remainder of Guidehouse Consulting’s fee for supporting the work of the Community-Wide Behavioral Health Collaborative.

After the report of Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE A SPECIAL ALLOCATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$223,549.20 TO GUIDEHOUSE CONSULTING FOR THE REMAINDER OF THEIR FEE FOR LEADING THE WORK OF THE COMMUNITY-WIDE BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE COLLABORATIVE (WITH MEMBERS BEING THE MHRS BOARD, MUSKINGUM VALLEY HEALTH CENTERS, GENESIS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, AND ALLWELL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH). THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LEONDRA DAVIS.

All partners expressed a commitment to improving the region’s Behavioral Healthcare Continuum and executing the blueprint that is developed through Guidehouse. The goal is to provide better care and sustainability and to achieve better outcomes at lower costs.

A ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE ABOVE MOTION WAS THEN TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SUE HOOVER, YEA; SEAN BRADY, YEA; REID CARPENTER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; MEGAN GEE, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND WENDY STARLIN, YEA. The motion was approved receiving nine positive votes.

Thus far, Guidehouse has compiled a Full Market Assessment and identified areas of

focus that include: 1) Expanded Access for Crisis Stabilization; 2) Youth Services; and 3) Integrated Behavioral Health/Primary Care Initiatives; and 4) Workforce Challenges. Next Steps: Identifying community leaders who might be able to participate in some specific workgroups (clinical, financial, and external).

**4. Special Allocation Request – Coshocton County Family Resource Center:**

After the report of Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE A SPECIAL ALLOCATION OF \$31,200.00 (\$15,600.00 PER YEAR FOR TWO YEARS) TO SUPPORT RENTAL EXPENSES FOR THE NEWLY-ESTABLISHED COSHOCTON COUNTY FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY REID CARPENTER.

It was noted that this rental support would allow for the reallocation of the remaining grant award to focus on staffing and equipment to adequately provide services to youth and their families. The rental space will be located at the Coshocton Regional Medical Center. Services will be focused on youth (ages 6-18) identified as being at-risk for delinquent behavior.

A ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE ABOVE MOTION WAS THEN TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SUE HOOVER, YEA; SEAN BRADY, YEA; REID CARPENTER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, ABSTAIN; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; MEGAN GEE, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND WENDY STARLIN, YEA. The motion was approved receiving eight positive votes and one abstention.

**5. Special Allocation Request – Allwell Behavioral Health Services – Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) ‘Look Alike’ Application:**

After the report of Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE A SPECIAL ALLOCATION OF \$75,000.00 TO ALLWELL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TO SUPPORT COSTS FOR ASSISTANCE WITH PREPARING AN FQHC ‘LOOK ALIKE’ APPLICATION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LEONDRA DAVIS.

The above allocation will be used to hire a consultant to assist in the application process to obtain FQHC ‘Look Alike’ status. Development of a primary care practice and agency designation as an FQHC ‘Look Alike’ will initially increase access to primary medical care and 340B pharmacy benefits and eventually will allow Allwell to enhance mental health services and become more competitive in the recruitment of clinical staff.

A ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE ABOVE MOTION WAS THEN TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SUE HOOVER, YEA; SEAN BRADY, YEA; REID CARPENTER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; MEGAN GEE, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND WENDY STARLIN, YEA. The motion was approved receiving nine positive votes.

**IX. PARTNERS WORKGROUP:**

**1. Project READY Re-Entry Program:**

*(Summary included in Board Meeting Highlights attached to the minutes.)*

**X. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**1. Slate of Nominees – FY 2024 Officers:**

William Johnson presented the following nominees to lead the Board of Directors in FY

2024: President – Sue Hoover; and Vice President – Leondra Davis. The election of officers will take place at the June 8, 2023, board meeting.

**XI. OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. Strategic ‘Refresh’ Plan – June 2023 Through May 2028:**

SEAN BRADY MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE ORGANIZATION’S FINALIZED STRATEGIC “REFRESH” PLAN FOR THE PERIOD JUNE OF 2023 TO MAY OF 2028. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY REID CARPENTER AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SUE HOOVER, YEA; SEAN BRADY, YEA; REID CARPENTER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; MEGAN GEE, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; AND WENDY STARLIN, YEA. The motion was approved receiving nine positive votes.

The next step toward implementing the plan is ongoing work with Consultant Dr. Michael Gillette. The fee for the next phase of work would be \$22,500 with three deliverables: 1) Aligning MHRS Board Roles and Structure; 2) Work Planning and Budgeting; and 3) Organizational Process and Design. Once permission is granted, Director Cromwell will sign the Letter of Agreement.

**XII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Revised By-Laws:**

Members were provided with a copy of the Revised By-Laws that reflect the new Mission Statement from the Strategic Refresh Plan. The Revised By-Laws will be voted on at the June 8, 2023, board meeting.

**2. Next Meeting:** The Board of Directors will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at the MHRS Board Office, 1500 Coal Run Road, Zanesville. (No committee meetings will be held.) The schedule will be: 6:00 to 6:30 pm, Board Member Recognition; 6:30 to 7:00 pm, Special Program Report – Allwell’s CORE Vocational Services; and 7:00 pm, Regular Board Meeting.

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

- **Systemwide Board Member Training:** Will be held from 5:00 to 7:00 pm on Monday, May 15, at 205 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, in the large upstairs conference room adjacent to the Muskingum County Children Services Office
- **Summer Meeting Schedule:** Board members agreed to not meet in August of 2023.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator

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Misty Cromwell, Executive Director

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William Johnson, Board President