

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

OFFICIAL MINUTES
(October 18, 2022)

I. BOARD NOTIFICATION & COMPLIANCE WITH SUNSHINE LAW:

On October 18, 2022, it was posted on the MHRS Board’s website and Facebook Page that the Board of Directors would be meeting in special emergency session at 5:00 p.m. that evening at the MHRS Board Office.

II. CALL TO ORDER: President William Johnson called the board meeting to order at 5:00 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)*
- *Larisa Harper (Muskingum County)*
- *Dennis Hitchcock (Muskingum County)*
- *Dan Scheerer, M.D. (Muskingum County)*

Board Members excused:

- *Jennifer Hanson (Muskingum County)*
- *Ben Taylor (Perry County)*
- *Tony Mayle, Jr. (Morgan County)*
- *Megan Gee (Guernsey County)*
- *Wendy Starlin (Perry County)*

There being nine board members present, a quorum was constituted for conducting official business.

Staff Members present:

- *Misty Cromwell, Executive Director*
- *Jamie McGrew, Care Management Director*
- *Rhonda Hanes, Fiscal Operations Director*
- *Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator*

IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: No guests were present.

V. EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR COSHOCTON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CHOICES:

On October 13, 2022, the MHRS Board of Directors had approved a special allocation in the amount of \$133,848.73 to reimburse CBHC for their purchase of a building to house the organization’s “Flight School” for children and families. It was understood that this allocation would be used for general day-to-day operations. There were four contingencies attached to that approval, requiring CBHC to: 1) provide broader fiscal transparency; 2) meet monthly with applicable MHRS Board staff to achieve improved fiscal stability; 3) have the CBHC Board of Directors meet with MHRS Board Director Misty Cromwell; and 4) when seeking special allocations, follow existing application processes.

After the October 13 board meeting, some concerning fiscal practices came to light and, eventually, Misty Cromwell and Rhonda Hanes were asked to meet with CBHC's Board of Directors on October 17. At that meeting, Rhonda presented several financial reports that clearly showed the organization's steady decline in revenue and CBHC's current unstable fiscal position. It was learned that CBHC's Board of Directors had not been kept aware of the excessive spending that had taken place without having revenue to support those costs. This resulted in some significant negative consequences in CBHC's operations. (Rhonda will check into the status of some revenue CBHC has received from local community foundations.)

A recent audit conducted by the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) had also identified several concerns (some being significant) about CBHC's operations. CBHC Executive Director Beth Cormack was to have submitted to OhioMHAS a "Corrective Action Plan;" however, the deadline for submission was missed. OhioMHAS has given the organization a deadline extension for submitting the Corrective Action Plan.

CBHC now intends to sell the "Flight School" building – with funds from that sale going back into the general day-to-day operations of the organization.

The fiscal discussions at CBHC on October 17 ended with Director Beth Cormack choosing to resign. CBHC's Clinical Director, Tyra Hixson, and Director of Prevention Programming, Jeanette Hall, were then designated as co-leaders of CBHC's day-to-day operations.

Rhonda Hanes spent the majority of October 18 at CBHC, assessing fiscal issues, and it was determined that an emergency funding allocation from the MHRS Board would set the organization on the road to fiscal recovery. It was pointed out that, with the ending of excessive spending and the expected generation of revenue from the provision of clinical and prevention services, the agency should be able to turn things around. Rhonda will continue helping the organization with their fiscal recovery efforts. (The MHRS Board's annual CBHC fiscal audit is in the works.)

DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE AN EMERGENCY FUNDING GRANT TO COSHOCTON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CHOICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000.00, TO INCLUDE THE FOUR CONTINGENCIES THAT WERE ESTABLISHED ON OCTOBER 13. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LEONDRA DAVIS.

This grant would support CBHC's day-to-day operations.

Members discussed ways to establish some safeguards at the MHRS Board that would make it easier to identify red flags for fiscal weaknesses within the network's contract organizations, i.e., establishing a policy detailing actions to be taken at the MHRS Board level for becoming involved in identified fiscal crises. It was also suggested that board trainings for contract organization board members would be helpful.

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; LARISA HARPER, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; AND DAN SCHEERER, YEA. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RECEIVING EIGHT POSITIVE VOTES.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

SIGNATURE PAGE

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator

Misty Cromwell, Executive Director

William Johnson, Board President