MINUTES
Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board
April 22, 2019

The Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Services (MHRS) Board met in a regular scheduled session on Monday, April 22, 2019 at 6:30 PM at 4817 State Road, Suite 203, Ashtabula, Ohio.

MHRS Board President Mr. Larrie Puraty called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM and asked for a roll call of those in attendance.

Board Members in attendance: Mr. Larrie Puraty, Board President; Mr. Mathew Crawford, Board Vice-President; Ms. Shonene McLaughlin; Ms. Lisa Summers; Ms. Susan Deak; Mr. Chris Raab; Ms. Hattie Eisweirth and Ms. Pat DuPuy.

The following Board Members were not in attendance: Rev. John Werner, Board Secretary; Mr. Richard Dana; Ms. Megan Brunarski

MHRS Board Staff in Attendance: Ms. Miriam Walton, Director and Ms. Bridget Sherman, Program Director.

Visitors: Ms. Melissa Fields, Signature Health; Ms. Loretta Buell, Community Counseling Center and Mr. Jesse Woodrig, Lake Area Recovery Center; Alice Harden, Catholic Charities; Suzette Miller, Generations Behavioral Health.

ADOPTION OF REVISED AGENDA: Ms. Deak moved to adopt the revised agenda. Mr. Raab seconded the motion. Mr. Puraty called for a vote. The motion to adopt the revised agenda passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of the March 2019 MHRS Board Meeting were reviewed. Ms. Summers moved that the minutes be approved as submitted. Ms. DuPuy seconded the motion. Mr. Puraty called for a vote. The motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

A. FISCAL REPORTS—Ms. Walton reviewed the February 2019 fiscal reports that were tabled at the previous Board meeting and the March financial reports. Ms. Walton walked the Board through the updates that have been done to the reports. Ms. Walton explained she has been working with Mike from Keelsra to appropriately move services out of the “Other Mental Health” and “Other Substance Abuse” areas into the proper areas of the expenditure reports. This has been time consuming but well worth the effort to insure adequate oversight and a clearer picture of which services are being billed and paid for by the Board. Ms. Walton pointed out the changes between service names before Medicaid Redesign started in January 2019 and post Medicaid Redesign. Ms. Walton stated that there is about $120,000 more to reassign and that this will be an ongoing job until everything is exactly where we need it to be. After some discussion in regards to the restructuring of the reports Ms. Summers moved to approve the previously tabled February 2019 financial reports and the
March financial reports. Ms. Deak seconded the motion. Mr. Puraty called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Walton stated that the work will continue of the service category reassignment and will let the Board know when it is complete.

REPORTS:

A. BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Levy Campaign—Mr. Puraty stated that the levy meeting was cancelled and will need to be rescheduled. After some discussion the Board agreed to reschedule the Levy Committee meeting for May 15th at noon. Mr. Puraty suggested that also having positive messages like the one in the Star Beacon recently might also be good messaging for the levy campaign. Executive Director Evaluation—Mr. Puraty reported that the Executive Director evaluation is complete and that he met with Ms. Walton to review the final report. RAM—Mr. Puraty informed the Board that he and a few other Board members assisted Board staff and other volunteers at the Board table at the RAM. Mr. Puraty stated that it was a great experience and that they had the opportunity to talk to a lot of community members including first responders. OHMHAS Newsletter—Mr. Puraty thanked Ms. Walton for the OhioMHAS newsletter that she forwarded out to Board members. He found it very informative and asked if Ms. Walton could send these more often. Ms. Walton stated that she would be happy to do so but that she generally doesn’t send out the ones that have very little interesting information in them but will start sending them more often. Website and Videos—Mr. Puraty discussed the progress on the new Board website and the possibility of doing some videos to promote the work of the Board. Mr. Puraty mentioned that he and Ms. Walton met with a young man who produces and edits videos that could be uploaded onto the new Board website that would better tell the story of the Board. The young videographer will be getting a proposal to the Board for their review. Mr. Puraty also suggested that the Board office could benefit from a large screen to use for training and viewing of educational and informative videos during meetings. The Board requested that Ms. Walton look into the purchase and installation of a unit that is interactive with the internet. Other Discussions—Mr. Puraty started a discussion with the Board around other areas the Board would like to address such as more Board training, more outcomes reporting to the Board, community programs like those run by the YMCA and Kiwanis to develop community connectedness. Mr. Puraty mentioned the idea of a warm handoff linkages program and Ms. Eisweirth also stated that having crisis and peer support at the local hospitals focused on substance use crisis might also be a path to pursue.

B. DIRECTOR:

1. New Board Director’s Written Report—Ms. Walton asked if the report sent with the Board materials was helpful. Board members responded that they appreciated the report and would like it to continue.

2. Technology Updates—Ms. Walton stated that the new copier was on its way and that the Board staff would be getting new email addresses with the next week.

3. Medicaid Redesign and Managed Care Updates—In March Mr. Dana asked if there was any way we could determine how the new work requirement might affect Ashtabula Count residents on Medicaid that were also receiving BH services. Ms. Walton stated that she checked
with PartnerSolutions but that there is no way at this time to ascertain what effects the changes will have as they are dependent on members working and not on income or any other status we can easily pull from the data. PartnerSolutions will be keeping an eye on this to see what the final rules look like.

4. **Additional State and Local Update**—Ms. Walton reported on a variety of areas of interest:
   a. **MH Crisis Beds**—Ms. Walton informed the Board of the possibility of developing 2 mental health crisis beds at ALCMoh. The proposal will be going into the state and we will be awaiting their approval to move forward.
   b. **Board Training**—Ms. Walton gave the Board an overview of the Boardmanship training. Ms. Walton asked the Board how they wanted to handle scheduling the training. After some discussion, the Board decided to have the training on a non-Board meeting evening in order to focus on the training information and not be rushed. The Board would like to do this in September and October.
   c. **Week of Appreciation**—Ms. Walton stated that April 29 through May 5th was the Week of Appreciation for First Responders. To recognize the week the Board will be sending cookies, medication disposal bags and thank you notes to the 42 units around the county. Additionally, Ms. Walton is asking the County Commissioners to prepare a proclamation.
   d. **Managed Care**—Ms. Walton updated the Board on the progress of Medicaid and the Managed Care Organizations. Ms. Reported that the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Ohio Department of Medicaid have acknowledged that many agencies are having issues with cash flow due to a variety of issues surrounding Medicaid Redesign and the move to Managed Care. There are a few plans being set in place to address the issues. So far, we are not hearing from our agencies that they are in an emergency due to the problems.
   e. **HEALing Communities Grant**—Ms. Walton discussed the Healing Communities Grant with the Board. Ms. Walton explained her involvement in the site visit that helped to secure the funding for the state as well as the possible conflict between the HRSA grant the Board presently has with Ohio University and the Healing Communities grant. Ms. Walton will keep the Board updated as the information comes to her from Ohio University.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**A. GRANT SEARCHES—**
   1. **Adult Drug Court**—Ms. Walton stated that the Board and the Common Pleas Drug Court will be submitting the Bureau of Justice Assistance grant for the Drug Court in the next few days.
2. **Family Drug Court**—Additionally, the Board will be working with Juvenile Court on the Juvenile Justice federal grant for the Family Drug Court. This grant is due the end of May.

**B. GRANT AND PROGRAM UPDATES**

1. **OUTCOMES REPORTS**—Ms. Walton stated that Board staff will be working to review and update outcome reporting for the Board and phase in reports.

2. **21st CENTURY CURES ACT FUNDING**—Ms. Walton reminded the Board that they grant will be ending April 30th. In order to continue the Transitions Program the Board would be looking at about $8,400 per month for May and June. Presently that amount is already budgeted for Community Counseling Center and Ms. Walton stated that, unless the Board had objections, she would continue to work with the agency throughout State Fiscal Year 19 and begin planning for State Fiscal Year 2020. The Board members had no objections.

3. **ADULT COMMON PLEAS DRUG COURT**—Ms. Walton stated that there will be a complete report on the Drug Court outcomes next month but that currently the average daily population of the court is 50 and the court has served 85 participants during calendar year 2018.

4. **RESIDENTIAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT IN THE JAIL**—Outcomes report next month. The program changes have been implemented.

5. **CONNECTION CENTER SOR (STATE OPIATE REPONSE GRANT)**—Currently 30 in the program since mid-February. Four were enrolled in Medication Assisted Treatment and a Getting Ahead Class has been scheduled for July 2019.

6. **RECOVERY HOUSING SOR GRANT**—Ms. Walton let the Board know that the Board was awarded the $140,000 for the Community Counseling Center’s Women’s Recovery House in Geneva. The program will take women in recovery and their children under the age of 5 years.

7. **COLLECTIVE IMPACT GRANT**—The grant is winding down but after the conference Paul Bolino from Community Counseling Center, who also chairs the Family and Children First Council’s Building Resiliency Together Committee would like to have a THRIVE presentation for the committee. Mr. Bolino and Ms. Walton have a phone conference with Reuben Cantu from the Prevention Institute in California on Wednesday. Ms. Walton will keep the Board updated. Also, through the Collective Impact Implementation Grant we were able to purchase medication disposal bags, materials for the RAM and do 2 PAX Tools trainings. We made 380 contacts at RAM and trained around 120 individuals in PAX Tools (2 trainings in Ashtabula and 1 in Conneaut).

8. See SALT report

**C. COALITION REPORTS**

1. **SUBSTANCE ABUSE LEADERSHIP TEAM**—Ms. Walton informed the Board that the Board has received the HRSA planning grant ($50,000 over 2 years) for the Team and that we are currently working with Ohio University and the collaborative they have developed on the HRSA implementation grant ($245,000 over 3 years). This grant focuses on some of the same work we have been doing with the Collective Impact Grant but adds the workforce gaps analysis piece that we and the agencies are interested in moving forward.

2. **PREVENTION COALITION**—Still awaiting the Drug Free Communities Grant so planning to budget as if the grant is not available. Prevention Coalition
assisted with RAM as did Board members. Coalition is currently working on a grant for more mediation disposal bags, getting bags and information to seniors, growing the youth coalition and developing a medication disposal message for local radio targeting seniors.

3. **SUICIDE PREVENTION COALITION**—Ms. Sherman reported the number of 2018 suicide deaths, though the number may be adjusted with held up autopsy reports. The Coalition just received a donation of $3,773 from the Jimmy Jamz memorial rock fest. The organizers would like to make the event annual. Several of the coalition members were present when the organizers brought the check to the office. The Coalition wants to support the festival in the future however we can. With the donation, the coalition would like to bring more community trainings to the county, possible Dr. Frank Campbell or Kevin Hines again. The LOSS Team is planning another training for interested members, and the group is making plans for the One Life Race and the Art Show again this year.

**HOUSING COALITION**—The new grant has been received for the 16th year of the program. Currently the program is serving 62 individuals.

**D. UPDATE OF CAPITAL PLAN FOR RECOVERY HOUSING EXPANSION**—The plan is moving forward, based on a conversation with Lake Area Recovery Center, to have Lake Area Recovery Center take over Opal House soon. This will mean that the county will not lose the 16 women’s beds the house contains. Ms. Walton has communicated with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services regarding the communications and the news reports concerning the new men’s house that is under the capital project. The Board has met its obligation to the Department and the agreement we signed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **STATE FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET AND ALLOCATIONS (PROJECTED REVENUE)**—Ms. Walton reviewed the projected revenue document with the Board in preparation for budgeting and allocations at the May Board meeting. Ms. Walton stated that she was in the process of trying to develop a more program-oriented budget so that Board members have a clearer picture of the Board is purchasing for the community.

**COMMUNICATION:**

A. **NONE**

**NEXT SCHEDULED MHRS BOARD MEETING:** The next regular meeting of the Ashtabula County MHRS Board is scheduled for May 20, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the MHRS Board office.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Ms. DuPuy moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Deak seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Mr. Larrie Purat, Board President
Minutes Prepared by Miriam Walton