MINUTES
Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board
March 18, 2019

The Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Services (MHRS) Board met in a regular scheduled session on Monday, March 18, 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 6:35 PM and asked for a roll call of those in attendance.

Board Members in attendance: Mr. Larrie Puraty, Board President; Rev. John Werner, Board Secretary; Mr. Richard Dana; Mr. Mathew Crawford, Board Vice-President; Ms. Shonene McLaughlin; Ms. Lisa Summers; Ms. Susan Deak; Ms. Megan Brunarski; Mr. Chris Raab and Ms. Pat DuPuy.

The following Board Members were not in attendance: Ms. Hattie Eisweirth;

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

Visitors: Ms. Mihaela Burtea, Signature Health; Mr. Matthew Butler, Community Counseling Center and Mr. Kevin Ellis, Lake Area Recovery Center.

SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBER: Mr. Dana conducted the swearing in of Mr. Chris Raab. Mr. Raab stated that he is happy to be joining the Board. Mr. Puraty and the other Board members welcomed Mr. Raab.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of the February 2019 MHRS Board Meeting were reviewed. Mr. Crawford moved that the minutes be approved with suggested changes. Mr. Dana 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. After review and discussion, Mr. Dana asked for clarification on the higher amounts located in the “other mental health” and the “other substance abuse” areas in the financial reports. Ms. Walton reviewed the changes in how Medicaid and Non-Medicaid services are categorized which led to more services hitting that category. Ms. Walton stated that she and Keelsra have been working to move most of these services into more appropriate categories. Mr. Dana stated that he would like to see this work completed before the Board approves the February report. Ms. Walton stated that this work may take a few months and that all of the expenses are reconciled but not in the correct service category. Mr. Dana stated that he would like to have them in the correct categories before the Board approves the reports. After some discussion Mr. Dana moved that the Board table the February financial report until the updates are completed. Ms. McLaughlin seconded the motion. Mr. Puraty
asked for a vote. All Board members presented voted yea with Mr. Crawford voting nay. The motion carried. Ms. Walton stated that some services will remain in the “other” categories but could be broken out into some various areas of “other” and asked if the Board would like that level of detail. Mr. Dana stated that he would like as much as possible broken into categories for clarity.

REPORTS:

A. BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Levy Campaign—Mr. Puraty discussed the need to begin planning for the levy campaign. Mr. Puraty stated that it was a good first discussion and there was a nice group at the table with a lot of good ideas. There was discussion concerning what other issues might be on the ballot. There was also talk about making sure the public knows what we do and that the new website should help in this process. There was consideration of whether the focus should be on mental health, substance abuse or both. There will be more discussion at the next meeting on April 10 at noon. Executive Committee Report—Mr. Puraty reported that the Executive Committee met prior to the Board meeting and this will be discussed later in the meeting. Other Updates—Mr. Puraty informed the Board that he had attended the PAX Tools training. Mr. Puraty reported on the training and his discussions with some of the professional that attended the training. Mr. Puraty recommended that other Board members sit in on the training if they get a chance. Ms. Walton stated that there is one more training in Conneaut at the Library on April 15th at 5 p.m. Several Board members expressed an interest in the training but the next Board meeting is also scheduled for the 15th. After some discussion it was agreed that the Board meeting will be moved to Monday, April 22nd so Board members could attend the training if they wanted to do so.

B. DIRECTOR:

1. Enterprise System Updates—None.
2. Technology Updates—Ms. Walton discussed the progress on the new copier.
3. Medicaid Redesign and Managed Care Updates—Mr. Dana asked if there was any way we could determine how the new work requirement might effect Ashtabula County residents on Medicaid that were also receiving BH services. Ms. Walton stated that she would check with Partner Solutions but that the answer may depend on the final rules and the amount of data we are able to receive from the Ohio Department of Medicaid. The Board members had additional discussions about the effects of changes in Medicaid might adversely affect the ability of residents to get the treatment services they need.
4. Additional State and Local Update—Ms. Walton reported on a variety of areas of interest:
   a. Ms. Walton reminded the Board about the upcoming RAM. If any Board members are interested in volunteering at the Board table please call Kaitie Park. Ms. Walton also informed the Board that she will be part of a WVIZ panel discussion on Friday night at the RAM. The discussion is on community health and access to services. The radio/TV show will be filmed at 4:30 Friday night and Board members are welcome to join the live audience.
b. Ms. Walton informed the Board that the trainings are moving forward for Boys’ Council, Girls’ Circle and Motivational Interviewing. Ashtabula County Juvenile Court is paying for the trainings and the Board is handling the other details. By partnering with Juvenile Court we are able to bring these evidence-based interventions to our agencies and the community.

c. Ms. Walton circulated a letter from one of the Ashtabula City School Principals letting us know how much they appreciate the investment the Board has made in PAX in the schools and how it has had a positive effect on the students and teachers.

d. Ms. Walton informed the Board that she was in Columbus to be a part of a grant presentation. It went very well and she will keep the Board updated when she is able to do so. Ms. Walton will also be part of a presentation at the Collective Impact conference.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. GRANT SEARCHES—
   1. Ms. Walton stated that the Board has submitted a $140,000 Recovery Housing grant the OHMAS on behalf of Community Counseling Center. The project would house up to 6 women in recovery and their children up to age 5.

B. GRANT REPORTS—NONE

C. PROGRAM UPDATES—NONE

D. COALITION REPORTS— Housing Coalition: No report at this time. Suicide Prevention Coalition: Ms. Sherman reported that the group continues to plan for the One Life Race and other annual prevention events. Prevention Coalition: Ms. Walton stated that we are still waiting for the DFC Grant to drop. Ms. Walton stated that she is planning to include the prevention work in the Board budget in case there is a delay or changes at the federal level. Board members agreed that we need to keep our prevention efforts moving forward.

E. SUBSTANCE ABUSE LEADERSHIP TEAM—Ms. Walton walked the Board through the SALT grid and discussed the accomplishments of the Board and the Leadership Team over the past 18 months.

F. 21st CENTURY CURES ACT FUNDING—Ms. Walton informed the Board that the CURES grant is ending the 30th of April. At the next Board meeting we will be discussing funding moving forward.

G. UPDATE ON CAPITAL PLAN FOR RECOVERY HOUSING—NONE.

H. CONNECTION (Day Report) CENTER and STATE OPIATE RESPONSE (SOR) FUNDING—Ms. Walton let the Board know that the Board received the grant for the Connection Center. The Board will be working with the Community Counseling Center and Adult Probation to get the program open and taking referrals.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION—At 7:45 p.m. Ms. Deak moved that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Ms. McLaughlin seconded the motion. Mr. Puraty called for a roll call vote. Ms. Walton called the roll: Ms. Deak, yes; Ms. Summers, yes; Mr. Raab, yes; Ms. McLaughlin, yes; Ms. Burnarski, yes; Ms. DuPuy, yes; Rev. Werner, yes; Mr. Puraty, yes; Mr. Crawford, yes. Mr. Dana had left the meeting early. The Board emerged from Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. Mr. Puraty stated that the Board discussed the Executive Director evaluation and are
pleased with the performance of the Director and find her skilled and professional. Mr. Puraty will review the evaluation with the Director at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS:
NONE

COMMUNICATION:
A. NONE

NEXT SCHEDULED MHRS BOARD MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Ashtabula County MHRS Board is scheduled for April 22, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the MHRS Board office.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Summers moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Deak seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

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