The Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Services (MHRS) Board met in a regular scheduled session on Monday, July 8, 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 6:34 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; Mr. Chris Raab; Ms. Pat DuPuy; Ms. Susan Deak; Rev. John Werner, Board Secretary; and Ms. Megan Brunarski

**The following Board Members were not in attendance:** Ms. Shonene McLaughlin

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

**Visitors:** Ms. Melissa Fields, Signature Health; Mr. Paul Bolino, Community Counseling Center; Mr. Dave Thomas, County Auditor; Mr. Michael Murphy, Lake Area Recovery Center; Mr. Jesse Wodrig, Lake Area Recovery Center and Commissioner J.P. Ducro, IV, County Commissioners.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Minutes of the May 2019 MHRS Board Meeting were reviewed. A typo was corrected by a Board member. Ms. Deak moved that the minutes be approved as corrected. Ms. Brunarski seconded the motion. Mr. Puraty called for a vote. The motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously with Rev. Werner abstaining.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

A. **FISCAL REPORTS**—Ms. Walton reviewed the May 2019 fiscal reports. Ms. Walton stated that there was nothing outstanding beyond the usual expenses at this time. After some discussion. Ms. Brunarski moved that the May 2019 financial reports be approved as submitted. Mr. Raab seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**REPORTS:**

A. **BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** Website—State Opiate Summit-Mr. Puraty reported on the State Opiate Summit. He stated that many of the trainings and conversations were an affirmation that the Board is moving in the right direction with our programs and initiatives. Mr. Puraty especially highlighted the presentations of Ryan Hampton and Jerry Moe. Mr. Puraty mentioned that he attended a Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) breakout session that emphasized that MAT is the standard of care for opiate addiction treatment. Mr. Puraty also discussed the importance of Peer Supporters in the process, something the Board has been championing for the last several years. Other Board members that attended the conference stated that it was very beneficial.
Board President Duties—Mr. Puraty informed the Board members that he has continued to look at the duties and responsibilities of the Board President and reached out to Board members for input and feedback. Mr. Puraty stated that he hopes that he is meeting member expectations and addressing Board member concerns and listening to members.

Public Awareness—Board is working on new website and Facebook page. Should have the site up by the next Board meeting. Facebook assistance from the web master will cost the Board around $150. Also working on getting a large screen TV for trainings and presentations, etc. Levy Committee—Mr. Puraty stated that Commissioner Ducro was here to discuss the Commissioners decision to delay the Board levy until the March election. Mr. Puraty explained the reasons the Board has concerns about the delay until March. Commissioner Ducro addressed the Board and stated that the Commissioners' decision is in no way a reflection on the great work being done at the Board. In fact, in their opinion the MHRS Board is playing a vital role in the community. Commissioner Ducro explained that they are trying to balance the number of levies on the ballot in November and hold back those that they feel have the best opportunity in passing until the March ballot. Commissioner Ducro stated that they are expecting to also place the County Jail sales tax issue on the ballot in November. After some additional questions by Board members and discussion with Commissioner Ducro, the Board looked at possibly attending the next Commissioners' meeting to discuss the situation further. Commissioner Ducro stated that the Commissioners would be happy to have members attend their next meeting.

B. DIRECTOR:

1. New Board Director's Written Report—Ms. Walton presented this month's Director's Report. There were no questions.

2. Local Updates—Ms. Walton stated that she continues to meet with ACMC about the development of a crisis bed. The hold up is the approval from OhioMHAS of the Hospital Collaborative rollover request and getting the contract from Cuyahoga County. St. John's school has approached the Board staff about getting their teachers PAX trained. Since they are a private school Ms. Walton wanted the Board to be informed of the request. The training would be done inside the current budget we have for PAX training. The Board members discussed the precedent it would set as well as the Board legal ability to provide training to a private school. Ms. Walton stated that the school is, for the most part, serving Ashtabula County residents. The Board agreed to have Ms. Walton request a legal opinion from the County Prosecutor's Office and proceed based on his information.

3. State Update—Ms. Walton reported on a variety of areas of interest:
   a. Ms. Walton informed the Board that there is still no state budget. The State Legislature has until the 17th to agree on a budget based on the continuation bill they passed in June.
   b. Ms. Walton stated that she has completed the Board application for allocations but that nothing will be processed until the budget is passed, treasurer for the levy committee. The process has changed since last time and we need an official resolution by the Board to change the person from Ms. Lane to Ms. Deak. Ms. DuPuy moved that the Levy Treasurer be changed from Ms. Lane to Ms. Deak. Mr. Raab seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. GRANT SEARCHES—
   1. Justice Assistance Grant—Ms. Walton informed the Board that Board staff and Common Pleas Court staff worked together to complete the application for the Common Pleas Mental Health Court. Ms. Walton let the Board know that the Board is written into the grant for evaluation but that no Board funds are obligated for any match at this time.
   2. Drug Free Communities Grant—Ms. Walton informed the Board that the grant is submitted.

B. GRANT AND PROGRAM UPDATES
   1. Outcomes Reports—Mental Health—Ms. Walton and Ms. Sherman reviewed the mental health outcomes report with the Board. Some suggestions and requests include adding funding amounts wherever possible to better inform the Board. Board members like the format and look forward seeing the reports on a regular basis.
   2. Adult Drug Court—No update this month.
   3. Residential Substance Abuse Jail Treatment—Lake Area Recovery Center let the Board know that the Jail Treatment therapist is leaving the agency in the middle of the month. Since the program ends in September the decision was made to continue working in the jail but look for alternative ways to achieve the goals of getting individuals in the jail into substance abuse treatment.
   4. Connection Center—Currently growing and serving 63. 52% with opiate use disorder.
   5. Recovery Housing (SOR)—Delays continue but still moving ahead.
   6. HRSA Grant—Ms. Walton state that the work on this grant. The sub-committee of the SALT has been meeting and very active in the planning grant process. The needs assessment process has also helped inform our Community Plan work

C. COALITION REPORTS—
   1. SUBSTANCE ABUSE LEADERSHIP TEAM—HRSA work as above.
   2. PREVENTION COALITION—Conference work moving forward. Conference will be held at Kent State this year. Working on getting Jerry Moe as a keynote speaker. Our Board Association is assisting but he is very expensive for a 1-hour presentation.
   3. SUICIDE PREVENTION COALITION—Ms. Sherman reported that the Coalition continues to plan for the One Life Race on September 7th, as well as a training with Dr. Frank Campbell on August 6th. Further, Ms. Sherman discussed the progress made in plans for a mural in Ashtabula, explaining that the mural needs to be approved through Ashtabula’s City Council in order to proceed.
   4. HOUSING COALITION—The HUD for the Shelter Plus Care program is currently serving 72 individuals. We will be adding this program to the Mental Health Outcomes report going forward.

NEW BUSINESS:
A. STATE FISCAL YEAR 2020 COMMUNITY PLAN—Ms. Walton presented the needs assessment documents included in the Board materials and previously sent. Ms. Walton walked the Board through the areas of interest and answered any questions. The needs assessment information is what will inform our decisions around our Community
Plan priorities for SFY 2020 and 2021. Ms. Walton reported to the Board that we will be reviewing, discussing and approving the Board’s Community Plan at the August Board meeting as Ms. Walton obtained an extension on the August 1st deadline.

COMMUNICATION:
A. NONE

NEXT SCHEDULED MHRS BOARD MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Ashtabula County MHRS Board is scheduled for August 19, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the MHRS Board office.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Deak moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. DuPuy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

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