MINUTES
Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board
October 21, 2019

The Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Services (MHRS) Board met in a regular scheduled session on Monday, October 21, 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 6:32 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. Lisa Summers; Mr. Chris Raab; Ms. Pat DuPuy; Ms. Susan Deak; Rev. John Werner, Board Secretary; Ms. Shonene McLaughlin; Ms. Carol Lovas and Ms. Deborah King.

The following Board Members were not in attendance: Ms. Camille Zalar and Ms. Megan Brunarski

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

Visitors: Ms. Mihaela Burtea, Signature Health; Mr. Paul Bolino, Community Counseling Center; Mr. Michael Murphy, Lake Area Recovery Center; Mr. Jesse Wodrig, Lake Area Recovery Center; Ms. Maria Meister, Cleveland Rape Crisis; and Ms. Kathryn Whittington, Ashtabula County Commissioner.

OATH OF OFFICE: Ms. Brunarski was not present to administer the oath of office to the new Board Member; Ms. Deborah King. Ms. King will take her oath of office at the November Board meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of the September 2019 MHRS Board Meeting were reviewed. Ms. Deak moved that the minutes be approved as submitted. Ms. Lovas seconded the motion. Mr. Puraty called for a vote. The motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously with Ms. King abstaining.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

A. FISCAL REPORTS—Ms. Walton reviewed the September financial reports and walked the Board members through the various documents for the benefit of all of the newer Board members. Ms. Walton reminded the Board of the newest report that gives detail of the monthly revenue. This report is to compensate for the fact that the QuickBooks report at times combines revenue received on the same day and does give the Board members adequate information to see all revenue received during the month. After a few questions from Board members regarding some of the line items, Mr. Raab moved that the financial reports be approved as presented. Mr. Crawford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Ms. King abstaining.
REPORTS:

A. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Website—Levy Committee—Mr. Puraty stated that the chase pieces are going out as absentee voting began today. As long as the daily pieces going out are more than 200 the mailing house will mail them using a bulk mailing permit. If they are under 200 then the Board volunteers will need to stamp, label and mail them. At this point the Levy Committee has stamped 500 and Mr. Puraty will be labeling them and mailing them. If more are needed, we will need volunteers to help stamp the cards for mailing. Executive Committee—Mr. Puraty stated that, beginning in November, the Executive Committee will begin to meet to do the work the Board requested around salary schedules and compensation. The Committee will meet at 5:30 prior to the Board meeting. The plan is to have something for the Board to vote on in February. By-Laws Committee—Mr. Puraty stated that a by-laws review was due and that an ad hoc committee would be needed to review the by-laws and prepare them for review by the County Prosecutor’s Office. Mr. Puraty also stated that he would like to task this committee with reviewing and updating the mission statement as well. Ms. Walton stated that she and Ms. Wagner were preparing updates of the by-laws as a starting place for the Board committee and that the committee can also take advantage of Ms. Wagner’s expertise to facilitate the mission statement revision if they wanted the assistance. Mr. Puraty asked for volunteers for the By-Laws Committee. Ms. Deak, Ms. Lovas, Ms. Summers and Ms. McLaughlin volunteered. The committee will begin meeting after the New Year holiday. Ms. Walton will email the committee members the By-Law revisions and the mission statement prior to the first committee 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 reported on the following:
   a. Ms. Walton informed the Board that the PART Conference had over 300 participants and 43 youth from around the county. The youth attended the Search Institute training and the feedback was extremely favorable. Board members who attended the conference stated that the conference was outstanding. Ms. Deak did state strongly that she was very upset by the lack of care towards those who attended the conference that have hearing limitations. Ms. Deak felt that the Board should take measures in the future to ensure that everyone in a training room is able to hear a presenter. Ms. Walton stated that the issue was already a big part of the conversation with Kent State for the next conference. The University was very responsive to the need for everyone to be able to hear and we will work to ensure that there are microphones in all of the training rooms in the future. Ms. Walton pointed out the new Board member orientation manual that has been developed as a part of the Board training in September. Board members received the manual by email and there is a hard copy in the Board materials. Any and all feedback to make it user friendly or add additional information Board
members feel would be helpful is appreciated. Ms. Walton asked Board members to review the County Appropriations document in their Board materials. Ms. Walton stated that the document follows closely the budget that the Board approved for state fiscal year 2020 with some minor changes to take into account that the appropriations document is based on a calendar year and our budget is on a state fiscal year, July-June. Ms. Lovas asked if this was the reason the salary line item is a bit larger than the approved budget. Ms. Walton stated yes. If the Board gives increases or if the Forensic Center does increases, we do not want to have to do an increase in the line item. If the funds are not expended, they remain in the budget. Mr. Puraty asked if the Board needed to approve the appropriations to the County Commissioners. Ms. Walton stated that she would like it approved as it is a document going to the Commissioners and to the County Auditor and she would like it also approved by the Board. Mr. Raab moved that the Expenditure Appropriations submitted to the County Commissioners be approved as presented. Ms. Lovas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Ms. King abstaining.

a. State Update—Ms. Walton reported that she and two staff from Signature Health and two staff from the Ashtabula County Medical Center would be attending the State Crisis Academy October 28th. The purpose of the Academy is to give Boards evidence-based practice around crisis and assist us in planning for addressing our local needs. This academy is also tied to the new crisis funds the Board will be receiving for state fiscal year 2020. Ms. Walton stated that she will keep the Board updated as the process progresses.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. GRANT SEARCHES—NONE
B. GRANT AND PROGRAM UPDATES
   1. Outcomes Reports—Next Meeting
   2. Adult Drug Court—Ms. Walton announced that the MHRS Board and the Court was successful in gaining the federal 3-year Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant for the Common Pleas Drug Court. The grant will continue support for the Coordinator and also allow the development and implementation of a mentoring program.
   3. Substance Abuse Leadership Team/HRSA Grant—The team is working on planning for the HRSA Implementation Grant. Additionally, they have completed the workforce needs assessment. Ms. Walton also passed around the HRSA Needs Assessment document that has been approved by HRSA and is now on the Ohio University grant website. Ms. Walton stated that the document was emailed with Board materials but anyone wanting a color hard copy should contact her at the Board office.
   4. Connection Center—Connection Center has been approved for a second year of State Opiate Response funding. The Center is now serving 51 individuals with 47% being individuals identified with an Opiate Use Disorder.
5. Recovery Housing—Community Counseling Center was able to occupy the recovery house before the 29th of September and thus was approved for another year of State Opiate Response funding. Three women are currently living in the home and another is moving in tomorrow. Board members asked about capacity. Ms. Walton stated that the capacity of the house is 6 women and their children. The agency will determine occupancy based on their occupancy permit.

C. COALITION REPORTS.

1. Substance Abuse Leadership Team/HRSA Grant—See Above
2. Prevention Coalition—Ms. Walton reminded Board members that this week through the middle of next week is Red Ribbon Week. The Prevention Coalition members will be reading to 1st graders “What Should Danny Do?” and leaving the book in the classrooms. There are also Red Ribbon buttons in the middle of the table for any Board member who wants one to wear. The books were purchased by the Board with special assistance from the Ashtabula District Library. Ms. Walton told the Board that we are still waiting to hear about the 6-10 Drug Free Communities grant and that the best date we have is November 15th.
3. Suicide Prevention Coalition—Ms. Sherman reported that the Hope in Artistry Art Show is coming up in November, and art can be submitted on Oct. 31st and November 1st. The show will run the month of November at the Ashtabula Arts Center, and a reception will be held November 15th. Mr. Crawford asked about videotaping the reception. Ms. Sherman will ask the Arts Center’s Visual Arts Coordinator if that would be possible.
4. Housing Coalition— Ms. Walton Informed the Board that the number of individuals housed through the program is higher than normal and thus, the program is not taking any new referrals. If the number in the program remains high the Board may overspend the grant for the first time in over a decade. Ms. Walton will keep the Board updated as the grant year progresses. Ms. Sherman stated that the Point-In-Time count for the homeless population is coming up in January again, and there is a regional training scheduled for centralized referrals.

NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

COMMUNICATION:

A. Rev. Werner passed out the levy flyers he developed for the more rural areas of the county. Board members commented on how nice the flyers looked.
B. Mr. Puraty mentioned that there was some concern among a few Board members about the sharing of the videos by individuals declared for political office. Ms. Summers stated that she was very concerned that the Board needed to do something specific to ensure that no one could share our videos on their political Facebook pages as these videos were the property of the Board and it was the Board's fiduciary responsibility to protect things owned by the Board from this kind of political sharing. Several of the Board members disagreed and believed that the Board has no duty to stop the sharing of our videos as that was the sole purpose of placing the videos on Facebook. A few other Board members felt that there may be a responsibility for the Board to at least place a statement on our videos that we do not endorse any political candidates. Ms. Walton stated that she does not believe that the Board can stop sharing of videos but that, until she has a direct answer, she had the website/Facebook developer stop the sharing to individual stories and that an opinion would be sought. Commissioner Whittington stated
that she had received a call about the issue and that she and the other Commissioners looked at the videos and the situation where it was shared. Commissioner Whittington stated that the Commissioners did not see anything wrong with what occurred and nothing inappropriate was done on the part of the Board. Ms. Summers disagreed with Commissioner Whittington and stated that she felt, in her legal opinion, that the Board should do something and that the videos should be copyrighted and then protected. Commissioner Whittington felt that the Board’s Council, the County Prosecutor, should be the one rendering the legal opinion for the Board and asked Ms. Walton to reach out to the Prosecutor as soon as possible for an official legal opinion. Ms. Walton confirmed that she would do so first thing in the morning. The Board agreed to have Ms. Walton contact the County Prosecutor and follow the advice rendered by the Prosecutor.

NEXT SCHEDULED MHRS BOARD MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Ashtabula County MHRS Board is scheduled for November 18, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the MHRS Board office.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Raab moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Deak seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

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