

## MINUTES

Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board  
June 27, 2022

The Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Services (MHRS) Board met in a rescheduled session on Monday, June 27, 2022, at 6:30 PM. This meeting was held over the Zoom platform and in person.

Board President Mr. Crawford called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and asked for a roll call of members and staff in attendance. Meeting held in person with a Zoom option for Board members and members of the public who chose to attend through Zoom.

**Board Members in attendance:** Mr. Matthew Crawford, Board President; Ms. Susan Deak, Board Secretary (Virtual); Ms. Shonene McLaughlin (Virtual); Mr. Jeff Wheeler (Virtual); Ms. Deborah King (Virtual but was not connected); Mr. Alan Block (Virtual); Rev. John Werner, Board Vice-President (Virtual); Mr. Joe Loftus; and Ms. Pat DuPuy.

**The following Board Members were not in attendance:** Ms. Megan Brunarski.

**MHRS Board Staff in Attendance:** Ms. Miriam Walton, Director; Ms. Bridget Sherman; Ms. Kaitie Park; Ms. Lisa Battaglioli; Ms. Mary Ann Hill (Webmaster).

**Visitors:** Ms. Melissa Fields, Signature Health and Mr. Paul Bolino, Community Counseling Center.

**AMENDED AGENDA:** Ms. Walton pointed out that there was an amended agenda since she sent it out to the Board members and the public. Mr. Crawford asked for a motion to approve the amended agenda. Ms. Deak moved to accept the amended agenda. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion. Mr. Crawford asked for a roll call vote.

Mr. Crawford, yes; Ms. Deak, yes; Ms. McLaughlin, yes; Mr. Wheeler, yes; Rev. Werner, yes; Mr. Block, yes; Ms. DuPuy, yes; and Mr. Loftus, yes. Motion passes.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The Minutes of the May 2022 MHRS Board meeting were reviewed. Ms. McLaughlin moved that the minutes be approved. Mr. Block seconded the motion. Mr. Crawford called for a vote.

Mr. Crawford, yes; Ms. Deak, yes; Ms. McLaughlin, yes; Mr. Wheeler, yes; Rev. Werner, yes; Mr. Block, yes; Ms. DuPuy, yes; and Mr. Loftus, yes. Motion passes.

### FINANCIAL REPORTS:

**FISCAL REPORTS—** Ms. Walton reviewed the May 2022 fiscal report. Ms. Walton pointed out that most of the Providers have billed out between 60%-70% of their contract overall totals. Ms. Walton stated that the Board has received its final drawdowns. Ms. Walton learned that HUD is having issues with their online system, and they are working on it. Once it is repaired, the Board should be able to go into the system and complete drawdowns for the first few months of the grant. Ms. Walton and Ms. Casto are working on the 040-budget required by OhioMHAS. Ms. Walton mentioned that there will be some changes to the financial reports

beginning soon after the start of the state fiscal year. Ms. Battaglioli added that the financials will be a bit longer because categories are longer in GFMS. Board members had no questions.

**Motion to Accept Financials:**

After some discussion, Ms. Deak moved that the May 2022 Board financial reports be approved as submitted. Ms. McLaughlin seconded the motion. Mr. Crawford called for a vote.

Mr. Crawford, yes; Ms. Deak, yes; Ms. McLaughlin, yes; Mr. Wheeler, yes; Rev. Werner, yes; Mr. Block, yes; Ms. DuPuy, yes; and Mr. Loftus, yes. Motion passes.

**REPORTS:**

**BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

1. Mr. Crawford stated that the Board Executive Committee met and reviewed Ms. Walton's evaluation. Mr. Crawford called for the Board to go into Executive Session to discuss Ms. Walton's evaluation. Ms. Deak moved that the Board enter Executive Session to discuss the job performance evaluation of the Executive Director. Ms. McLaughlin seconded the motion. Mr. Crawford called for a roll call vote.

Mr. Crawford, yes; Ms. Deak, yes; Ms. McLaughlin, yes; Mr. Wheeler, yes; Rev. Werner, yes; Mr. Block, yes; Ms. DuPuy, yes; and Mr. Loftus, yes. Motion passes.

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:47 p.m.

Board returned to regular session at 7:05. Mr. Crawford stated that the evaluations were all very favorable and that Board members are quite satisfied with Ms. Walton's performance. The Board would like to give Ms. Walton a 4% increase to complete the process of bringing her to a comparable salary with her peers. Ms. Deak moved that the Board increase Ms. Walton's salary by 4% beginning July 1, 2022. Ms. McLaughlin seconded the motion. Mr. Crawford called for a roll call vote.

Mr. Crawford, yes; Ms. Deak, yes; Ms. McLaughlin, yes; Mr. Wheeler, yes; Rev. Werner, yes; Mr. Block, yes; Ms. DuPuy, yes; and Mr. Loftus, yes. Motion passes.

2. Mr. Crawford reported out on the sessions he attended at the Opiate Summit. Mr. Crawford stated that the Board should be proud of Ms. Park and the presenters for HRSA on the Stigma Survey work. Ms. Park stated that the stigma data is here, and the MH data just came in last week. Mr. Block asked if they received any feedback during the presentation. Ms. Park stated that the audience had a lot of questions, especially surrounding what we will do with the data. Ms. Park told the Board that it is interesting looking at the results of general community vs. those who have received treatment. Mr. Crawford also mentioned the presentation on Veterans services. Ms. Deak shared the suicide prevention presentation and Appalachian communities trafficked breakout sessions.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR's REPORT**

1. The Board had no specific questions regarding the Executive Director's written report. Ms. Walton reported that she is working on contracts and special allocations.
2. Ms. Walton reported that she had a meeting with the Commissioners regarding NaloxBoxes at the courthouses. The Commissioners have approved placing the boxes besides the current AEDs.
3. Ms. Walton stated that there is no update about an office space. Still collaborating with the Commissioners. Ms. Walton reminded the Board that the lease runs through February of 2023. Mr. Bolino reassured the Board that Community Counseling Center we will not ask the Board to leave prematurely, but construction will begin at some point soon. The Board then had a brief discussion about the process, and what it would mean if the Board looked independently (would have to go through bidding process). Board members asked Ms. Walton to continue conversations with the County Commissioners.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**A. GRANT SEARCHES**—Nothing new pending. Ms. Walton stated we are still awaiting information from OU/PIRE on the HRSA RCORP Behavioral Health System Reform grant.

**B. QUARTERLY REPORTS**—None.

#### **C. COALLITIONS**

**a Suicide Prevention**—Ms. Sherman informed the Board that the Board table at PRIDE went well. Ms. Sherman also completed a Question, Persuade and Refer training with the Conneaut Seniors at the Senior Center. The Coalition also needs to schedule a LOSS Team training and plans are moving forward for the annual race in September. Ms. McLaughlin mentioned the number of young people at Pride, and Rev. Werner announced that he picked up his naloxone from Pride. Rev. Werner stated that they estimated that over 3,000 people attended the event.

**b Prevention Coalition**— Ms. Park stated that they are working on their action plan for SFY 2023 and that they are almost done with HEALing Communities grant. Ms. Park will present the grant accomplishments for August meeting.

**c Housing Continuum of Care**—No report.

**D. CRISIS EXPANSION WORK**— Ms. Walton stated that the expansion has been going well and Signature Health is ready to begin the process of staffing the next part of the expansion plan.

**E. CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAMS**—Ms. Walton stated that the training is scheduled for the week of October 17<sup>th</sup>. Dispatcher training will come later. Ms. McLaughlin asked if many officers were interested. Ms. Walton stated that she believes many are just waiting for the training. Ms. Stated that we are hoping to fill the class with around 20 officers.

**F. MULTI-SYSTEM ADULTS PROGRAM**—Ms. Sherman stated that referrals are coming in. Ms. Sherman shared that homelessness continues to be the main concern for most of the individuals referred. Ms. Walton mentioned an increase in funding expected for SFY 2023. Ms. Walton also told the Board that the plan was to formalize the process and complete some basic policies and procedures.

**G. QUICK RESPONSE TEAM**—Ms. Walton stated the county is still waiting to hear if the County received the grant. The Team continues to go out and reports continue to come

to the Board. Once the changes are official the process will flow slightly differently but most of the process will remain the same.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. CATHOLIC CHARITIES FUNDING REQUEST**—Ms. Walton stated that Catholic Charities has overspent in areas of guardianship and payee. Consequently, they are requesting that the Board increase their SFY 2022 allocation. The Provider is also asking that the Board consider an increase for SFY 2023. The issue is that the Provider is serving more people in payees and guardianships. The entire adjustment would be an increase of \$38,719.23 for this SFY 2022 and an increase of \$34,565 for SFY 2023. Mr. Crawford asked for a motion.

Ms. McLaughlin moved that the Board increase Catholic Charities SFY 2022 allocation by \$38,719.23 for SFY 2022 to meet the guardianship and payee needs and by \$34,565 for SFY 2023 for the same programs. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion. Mr. Crawford called for a roll call vote

Mr. Crawford, yes; Ms. Deak, yes; Ms. McLaughlin, yes; Mr. Wheeler, yes; Rev. Werner, yes; Mr. Block, yes; Ms. DuPuy, yes; and Mr. Loftus, yes. Motion passes.

- B. SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 523** – Ms. Walton asked the Board members to review the information on the bill that was sent with the Board materials. Ms. Walton then reviewed the summary. The areas that would affect our Board the most were in the Board composition. If this bill passes the Board would consist of 50% family members and individuals with lived experience. At this time, Ms. Walton stated that the Ashtabula Board is at 50%. No one would leave the Board; the change would happen by attrition. Also, by resolution, the County Commissioners and the Board could adjust the number of Board members. Board appointments would affect our Board as 1/3 of the members would be appointed by state, 2/3 appointed by Commissioners. The contracting section will affect us, as we do the 120-day notices. Ms. Walton also reviewed reporting and certification changes. Ms. Walton also pointed out that the data changes are also vital to our Board having the information that we need for true community service planning. This would allow the Board to get more complete and accurate Medicaid data. Ms. Walton stated that this was the bill that she gave proponent testimony on in Columbus, and she stated that our Board Association is asking Boards to also pass resolutions stating that the passage of this bill will allow us to better serve our communities. After reviewing the sample resolution with the Board members, Ms. Walton asked if the Board would like to pass the resolution in support of the bill. Ms. Walton stated that it is entirely up to the Board and that not passing the resolution will not change our relationship with the Association. This is an individual Board decision. If adopted, it will be placed in materials that will be distributed to the Ohio State House of Representatives. After some discussion Mr. Block moved that the Board adopt the resolution as presented to the Board. Ms. Deak seconded the motion. Mr. Crawford asked for a roll call vote.

Mr. Crawford, yes; Ms. Deak, yes; Ms. McLaughlin, yes; Mr. Wheeler, yes; Rev. Werner, yes; Mr. Block, yes; Ms. DuPuy, yes; and Mr. Loftus, yes. Motion passes.

Resolution is adopted and will be forwarded to the Board Association.

- C. reviewed the proposed changes to the Board's Personnel Policies. These changes will bring us more in line with the changes made by the County Commissioners. The update pertains to the amount of vacation time staff may be paid for upon leaving the Board and adds a promotion policy in the employment section. After review Ms. McLaughlin moved that the changes be approved. Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion. Mr. Crawford called for a roll call vote.

Mr. Crawford, yes; Ms. Deak, yes; Ms. McLaughlin, yes; Mr. Wheeler, yes; Rev. Werner, yes; Ms. King, yes; Mr. Block, yes; Ms. DuPuy, yes.

Ayes were eight. Nays were zero. Motion carried.

**D. OTHER NEW BUSINESS—**

- a. Rev. Werner made a motion that the July 2022 Board meeting be cancelled unless business arises that needs to be addressed by the Board. Mr. Block seconded the motion. Mr. Crawford called for a roll call vote.

Mr. Crawford, yes; Ms. Deak, yes; Ms. McLaughlin, yes; Mr. Wheeler, yes; Rev. Werner, yes; Mr. Block, yes; Ms. DuPuy, yes; and Mr. Loftus, yes. Motion passes.

- b. Ms. Walton reminded Board members that the Zoom option will only be available to the public beginning with the August 2022 meeting. The emergency order will expire on June 30, 2022. Board members may use the Zoom link but if they join by Zoom, they will not be counted as part of the quorum and will not be able to deliberate or vote on issues.

**COMMUNICATION: None**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Block moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. McLaughlin seconded the motion. Mr. Crawford called for a vote.

Mr. Crawford, yes; Ms. Deak, yes; Ms. McLaughlin, yes; Mr. Wheeler, yes; Rev. Werner, yes; Mr. Block, yes; Ms. DuPuy, yes; and Mr. Loftus, yes. Motion passes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is set for August 15, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Matthew Crawford, Board President



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Minutes Prepared by Miriam Walton