

MINUTES
Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board
October 17, 2022

The Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Services (MHRS) Board met in a regular session on Monday, October 17, 2022, at 5:45 PM. This meeting was held in person with a Zoom option for the public. It was scheduled in advance at a special time to accommodate Board training.

Board President Mr. Matt Crawford called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. and asked for a roll call of members and staff in attendance.

Board Members in attendance: Mr. Matthew Crawford, Board President; Ms. Susan Deak, Board Secretary; Ms. Shonene McLaughlin; Ms. Deborah King; Mr. Alan Block; and Ms. Pat DuPuy.

The following Board Members were not in attendance: Mr. Jeff Wheeler; Rev. John Werner, Board Vice-President; Ms. Megan Brunarski; and Mr. Joe Loftus.

MHRS Board Staff in Attendance: Ms. Miriam Walton, Director; Ms. Bridget Sherman; Ms. Kaitie Park; Ms. Lisa Battaglioli; and Ms. Pat Wagner.

Visitors: Ms. Melissa Fields, Signature Health and Mr. Paul Bolino, Community Counseling Center; Mr. Michael Murphy, Lake Area Recovery Center; and Mr. Jesse Wodrig, Lake Area Recovery Center.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The Minutes of the August 2022 MHRS Board meeting were reviewed. After some review, Ms. Deak moved that the minutes be approved. Ms. King seconded the motion. Mr. Crawford called for a vote.

Four Yes; Zero No; Mr. Block and Rev. Werner Abstained. Motion passes.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

FISCAL REPORTS— Ms. Walton reviewed the August and September 2022 fiscal report. Ms. Deak asked about the \$200 payment to NAMI Ohio in August. Ms. Deak asked if this was the cost for the new website. Ms. Walton stated that it might be, but she was not sure. It could also be the Board's NAMI Ohio dues. Ms. Walton stated that she would check and let Board members know. After some further review Mr. Crawford called for a motion to approve.

Motion to Accept Financials:

Ms. Deak moved that the August and September 2022 Board financial reports be approved as submitted. Ms. McLaughlin seconded the motion. Mr. Crawford called for a vote.

Six Yes; Zero No; No Abstentions. Motion passes.

REPORTS:

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

1. Mr. Crawford stated that he had no report at this time.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. The Board had no specific questions regarding the Executive Director's written report.
2. Ms. Walton stated that she has visited three additional sites for office space since the last Board meeting. The last space has some promise so the Executive Committee will be visiting the site in the next week. Ms. Walton stated that once they visit the site, we will discuss it more at a Board meeting and give Board members the opportunity to see the site if they would like to visit. There needs to be some alterations but there is plenty of office space, storage space and windows. There is also a larger meeting room.
3. Ms. Walton discussed with the Board the bonuses that the County gave to County employees. This was done to address workforce retention and to thank staff for their hard work during the height of the pandemic. Mr. Walton requested that the Board also give Board staff a \$1,000 bonus. Ms. Walton stated that, although she oversees Board staff compensation, she felt strongly that any type of bonus would need to be approved by the Board. After some discussion, Ms. Deak moved that the Board staff be given a \$1,000 bonus. Ms. McLaughlin seconded the motion. Mr. Crawford called for a vote. Six yes; Zero No; No Abstentions. The motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. GRANT SEARCHES—Ms. Walton stated the rural counties and OU/PIRE were granted the Behavioral Health System Reform Grant. The system reform grant will allow us to look at discharge planning and hospital liaisons as well as advancing trauma informed care. This is a four-year grant. The Consortium is in the process of turning down the Stimulant Use Disorder grant.

B. QUARTERLY REPORTS—None

C. COALLITIONS:

1. **Suicide Prevention**—Ms. Sherman reported that the One Life Race had 70 participants and that the Hope in Artistry Art Show is set for the month of November with the Artist Reception on the evening of November 18th.
2. **Prevention Coalition**— Ms. Hart reported that we are in the middle of PART conference. Ms. King asked if the County would experience an influx of inpatient numbers due to the forecast of a colder/harsher winter. The Board then discussed the increase in individuals dealing with homelessness. Ms. Kind expressed a concern regarding housing in the County. Ms. Walton mentioned the increase in recovery housing, including the new recovery house that Lake Area Recovery Center recently opened. The Board is still taking referrals for Shelter Plus Care but actual apartments that can pass inspection are difficult to locate. There was discussion about churches having warming centers in the past. Mr. Block also mentioned the Sub-Zero Mission. Mr. Crawford shared their contact information with Ms. King. Ms. Walton also mentioned GO Ministries.
3. **Housing Continuum of Care**—No report.

D. CRISIS EXPANSION WORK— No Report.

E. CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAMS—Ms. Walton stated that the training was postponed. It will be rescheduled for February. There were 3 officers registered. Ms. Walton assured the Board that it is not because law enforcement does not want the training but there have been some unexpected shifts in staffing. Once these things are resolved we should be able to go forward as planned.

F. MULTI-SYSTEM ADULTS PROGRAM—No Report

G. QUICK RESPONSE TEAM—No Report

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. OHIO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES TRAINING PRESENTATION—**Ms. Cheri Walter and Liz Hendrick presented a training to the Board. Materials from the training are attached to the Board minutes. The Board will discuss at the November Board meeting how they want to proceed with technical assistance from the Board Association as they plan for the Board Executive Director's retirement.
- B. OTHER NEW BUSINESS—**Ms. Walton asked the Board how they wanted to manage the November Board meeting. The meeting is currently scheduled for the Monday before Thanksgiving. After some discussion Mr. Block moved the November Board meeting be moved to November 14th. Ms. McLaughlin seconded the motion. Mr. Crawford called for a vote. There were six yes; zero no and zero abstentions. The motion carried.

COMMUNICATION: None

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

Six Yes; Zero No; No Abstentions. Motion passes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is set for November 14, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Matthew Crawford, Board President



Minutes Prepared by Miriam Walton