

MINUTES

Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board January 23, 2023

The Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Services (MHRS) Board met in a regular session on Monday, January 23, 2023, at 6:30 PM. This meeting was held in person with a Zoom option for the public.

Acting Board President Rev. John Werner called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. and asked for a roll call of members and staff in attendance.

Board Members in attendance: Mr. Matthew Crawford, Board President on Leave; Ms. Susan Deak, Board Secretary; Mr. Alan Block; Rev. John Werner, Acting Board President; Mr. Jeff Wheeler; and Ms. Deborah King and Ms. Pat DuPuy.

The following Board Members were not in attendance: Ms. Shonene McLaughlin; Ms. Pat DuPuy; and Ms. Megan Brunarski joined via Zoom but did not count as part of the quorum and did not participate or vote.

MHRS Board Staff in Attendance: Ms. Miriam Walton, Director; Ms. Kaitie Park Hart; and Ms. Bridget Sherman. Board contractors Ms. Pat Wagner and Ms. Mary Ann Hill.

Visitors: Mr. Paul Bolino, Community Counseling Center; Mr. Gary Seech, Glenbeigh; and Angi Daugherty, Family Pride.

Announcement: Mr. Crawford announced to the Board that he would be stepping down from his role as Board President due to health issues. He stated that he needed time to take care of himself but that he would continue to participate on the Board and re-evaluate his ability to resume that role at a later date. Board members were very supportive of Mr. Crawford and wished him a speedy recovery.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The Minutes of the November 2022 MHRS Board meeting were reviewed. After some review, Ms. Deak moved that the minutes be approved as submitted. Ms. DuPuy seconded the motion. Rev. Werner called for a vote.

Seven Yes; Zero No; None Abstained. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

FISCAL REPORTS— Ms. Walton reviewed the November and December 2022 fiscal reports. Ms. Walton pointed out an error in the November report in the area of revenue for the Forensic Center that was corrected in the December report. The issue was an inverted number in the uncleared deposits that did not affect the November actual revenue reconciliation and was corrected in the December report at the time the funding was deposited at the County Treasurer's office. It had no effect on the reconciliation with the County Auditor's office records. Ms. Walton stated that she just wanted to mention it so Board members understood what happened if they saw the different amounts. After further discussion, Rev. Werner called for a motion to approve.

Motion to Accept Financials:

Ms. King moved that the November and December 2022 Board financial reports be approved as corrected. Mr. Block seconded the motion. Rev. Werner called for a vote.

Seven Yes; Zero No; No Abstentions. Motion passed.

REPORTS:

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

1. Rev. Werner had no report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. The Board had no specific questions regarding the Executive Director's written report.
 2. Ms. Walton informed the Board that Kent State has hired a Director for the Bachelor of Social Work program. This will go a long way to addressing the workforce needs in the county.
 3. Ms. Walton discussed the work with the specialized dockets. Ms. Walton told the Board that the Veteran's Court was able to secure funding through OhioMHAS. Also, the Board staff continue to work with Judge Iarocci as he prepares to submit his information to the Ohio Supreme Court for approval of his Renewal Court.
 4. Ms. Walton informed the Board that she placed \$1.00 from her Executive Director's budget into the Levy Account. This deposit was made to avoid dormant account fees at the bank. the Board's SAM account has been updated for the next year. Ms. Walton reminded Board members that the Board was one of the few entities who could use their own funds to execute a levy campaign.
 5. Ms. Walton told the Board that she is working with Frank Hickman, the Board's approved outside counsel, to review the Board's 120-Day notices. Ms. Walton reviewed that the 120-Day notice is required by ORC 340 and that each behavioral health contract provider will receive a notice of possible changes in their contracts. Ms. Waltn stated that she should have the notices for the Board to approve at the February Board meeting.
 6. Ms. Walton mentioned the screening tool that is on the Board's website. During calendar year 2022 there were a total of 144 screenings done through the site. The annual cost of the tool is \$1,000. Unless the Board wishes otherwise, we will continue to offer the screening tool on the website through MindWise.
 7. Ms. Walton updated the Board on the changes that will occur in 2024 around behavioral health services paid for by Medicare. Currently, the only BH professional that can provide counseling services to a Medicare patient is an Independently Licensed Social Worker. Beginning in 2024 the federal government will allow Independently Licensed Counselors provide those services as well. This change will go a long way to addressing the waiting lists that providers have for counseling services for those individuals who have Medicare as their coverage. The field has been asking for this change for a long time and the federal legislature has finally added this provision to statute.
- Ms. Walton asked the Board to approve the possible hiring of a clinical staff person. Ms. Walton stated that the Board has tried to hire one in the past but was not successful. Ms. Walton stated that she is not sure when she would look at doing this but that she would not

want to even consider it without Board approval. If the Board approves the position, Ms. Walton will weigh the need and try to time the actual decision based on the Board's search for a new Executive Director. Ms. Deak moved that the Board approve the addition of a clinical staff person was appropriate. Ms. King seconded the motion. Rev. Werner called for a vote.

Seven Yes; Zero No; No Abstentions. Motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. GRANT SEARCHES—Ms. Walton stated that there are some changes to the State Opiate and Stimulant Use Disorder Grant (SOS) budget. The Board is asking for funding for another ASAM Training, Zero Suicide Work, continued funding of Light House Recovery House and the Probation Behavioral Health Navigator. The Board will look at putting the peer support work at drug court and the expansion of recovery housing with Lake Area Recovery Center in the No Cost Extension (NCE). We are waiting for approval of SOS and then OhioMHAS will let the Board know how much we can request in the NCE. No cost extension will continue for expansion of Recovery Housing project

B. QUARTERLY REPORTS—Ms. Walton stated that quarterly reports will be sent to the Board in February.

C. COALITIONS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. **Suicide Prevention**—None.
2. **Prevention Coalition**—None.
3. **Housing Continuum of Care**—None.
4. **RAM**—Ms. Walton reminded the Board that the Remote Area Medical event is scheduled for April 1st and 2nd. The Board has already signed up for our table. Ms. Walton asked the Board if they would like to donate to the event again this year. \$500 gets the Board's name on the T-Shirt in small letters and \$1,000 gets it on the shirt in big letters. Rev. Werner suggested that we do the \$1,000 again this year. It is important for the Board to get more name recognition and the RAM event provides medical and other support services to community members free of charge and without looking at income levels. Mr. Wheeler agreed and moved that the Board donate \$1,000 to RAM for CY 2023. Mr. Crawford seconded the motion. Rev. Werner called for a vote. Seven Yes, Zero No, No Abstentions. Motion passed.

D. CRISIS EXPANSION WORK—Signature Health has hired additional staff and they are in training.

E. CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAMS—No Report

F. MULTI-SYSTEM ADULTS PROGRAM—No Report

G. QUICK RESPONSE TEAM—No Report

H. OFFICE SPACE—Ms. Walton stated that working to set up times with Executive Committee to view the next available space. Technically, our lease will be up next month. Ms. Walton will discuss this further with Mr. Bolino.

I. OACBHA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE—Ms. Walton reminded the Board that Ms. Walter and staff would be here for technical assistance at 5:30pm on January 30th. Please let Ms. Walton know if you will be attending as we will need a quorum for discussion and decisions about timeline, processes, etc. Ms. Walton stated that she will have a light meal here due to the early time and having presenters. Ms. King stated that she has a conflict with the meeting but may try to join by Zoom to stay up to date.

J. COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT AND PLAN—Ms. Walton walked the Board members

through the Community Plan Outcomes and Objectives. Mr. Block Alan complimented the staff on the work that went into the Needs Assessment. Ms. Walton stated that the vast majority of the work was done by Ms. Park Hart and Ms. Wagner. Their efforts assured that we met the tight timelines given to Board by OhioMHAS. Ms. Walton stated that, although the Board does collect outcomes measures for programming, we also spend a good deal of time looking at outputs. This plan will allow us to combine those and still pay attention to outputs of programs while really focusing on outcomes. Ms. Walton reviewed the objectives grid for the Community Assessment and Plan (CAP). We spend a lot of time collecting outputs, will be focusing more on outcomes as we move through the plan. Miriam reviewed the grid/document for the CAP. After some questions from Board members Mr. Wheeler moved that the Board approve the submission of the current CAP as presented to the Board. Ms. King seconded the motion. Rev. Werner called for a vote. Seven Yes. Zero No. No Abstentions. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **CY 2023 HEALTH OFFICERS**—Ms. Walton presented the current slate of trained health Officers from both Signature Health and Community Counseling Center. Ms. Walton explained what a Health Officer was and why these appointments are so important. Each health Officer also attends an annual training on the roles and responsibilities of a health Officer. Health Officers are designed in ORC 5122 as it pertains to the hospitalization of individuals with a mental illness. Signature Health Health Officers also help in facilitating hospitalization at the State Hospital for individuals who are deemed indigent. After reviewing the list, Ms. Deak made a motion to approve the calendar year 2023 Board Health Officers. Mr. Block seconded the motion. Rev. Werner called for a vote. Seven Yes. Zero No. No Abstentions. The motion passed.
- B. **BOARD MEMBER ANNUAL TRAINING:** Ms. Walton stated that the Board would need an annual training but that she would check with OACBHA to see if the technical assistance and training that they have been giving the Board would qualify or if we would need to arrange another training. If we do need to schedule another training, Ms. Walton asked the Board to be thinking about areas that would be helpful to the Board.

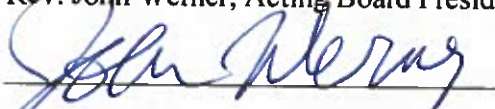
COMMUNICATION: None

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Wheeler moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Block seconded the motion. Rev. Werner called for a vote.

Seven Yes; Zero No; No Abstentions. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is set for February 13, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. The Board Special meeting is January 30, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.,.

Rev. John Werner, Acting Board President



Minutes Prepared by Miriam Walton