

MINUTES
Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board
March 20, 2023

The Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Services (MHRS) Board met in a special session on Monday, March 20, 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 6:33 p.m. and asked for a roll call of members and staff in attendance.

Board Members in attendance: Rev. John Werner, Acting Board President; Ms. Susan Deak, Board Secretary; Mr. Alan Block; Ms. Pat DuPuy; Ms. Megan Brunarski; Ms. Shonene McLaughlin; and Mr. Joe Loftus.

The following Board Members were not in attendance: Mr. Matthew Crawford, Board President on Leave (on virtually); Mr. Jeff Wheeler; and Ms. Deborah King.

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

Visitors: Mr. Paul Bolino, Community Counseling Center (virtual) and Mr. Gary Seech, Glenbeigh (virtual).

APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA: Ms. McLaughlin moved to approve the amended agenda. Ms. Deak seconded the motion. Rev. Werner called for a vote. Seven, yes; Zero No; Zero Abstentions. Motion passes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Rev. Werner asked if the Board had an opportunity to review the minutes from the February 2023 Board meeting. Mr. Block stated that he believed that Mr. Bolino attended in person. Ms. Walton stated that she believes he is correct. Mr. Loftus moved that the minutes of the February 2023 Board meeting be approved as corrected. Ms. DuPuy seconded the motion. Rev. Werner called for a vote. Six, yes; Zero No; One Abstentions (Rev. Werner was absent at the February Board meeting). Motion passes.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Ms. Walton reviewed the final June 2022 financial report. Ms. Walton discussed the carryover amounts, the deficit spending and the level of expenditure of the Providers. Ms. Walton reviewed the February 2023 financial reports. There were no further questions.

MOTION TO APPROVAL FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Mr. Block moved to approve the June 2022 financial reports be approved as submitted. Ms. McLaughlin seconded the motion.

Rev. Werner called for a vote. Seven yes; Zero No; Zero Abstentions. Motion passes.

MOTION TO APPROVAL FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Mr. Block moved to approve the February 2023 financial reports be approved as submitted. Ms. Brunarski seconded the motion.

Rev. Werner called for a vote. Seven yes; Zero No; Zero Abstentions. Motion passes.

REPORTS:

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Rev. Werner reviewed the process to complete the Executive Director's evaluation. Ms. Brunarski asked when the evaluations are due to Ms. Wagner. Rev. Werner stated that they are due March 24th. Ms. Wagner will send reminders. Rev. Werner initiated the discussion around the possible change in the Board meeting time. Only 5 of the 10 Board members responded the Ms. Hart's Doodle Poll. The responses so far suggest the desire to change the time to 5 p.m. After some additional discussion, Ms. Brunarski moved that the Board By-Laws be amended to change the Board meeting time from 6:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Ms. McLaughlin seconded the motion. Rev. Werner called for a vote. Seven yes; Zero No; Zero Abstentions. Motion passes. Ms. Walton will update the Board By-Laws and email an updated version out to all Board members.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Ms. Walton reviewed her written report. There were no questions from the Board members.
- B. Ms. Walton stated that she continues to look at how or if the ending of the COVID-19 emergency measures would affect the individuals that we serve. Estimates range from 6% to 18% of the persons currently on Medicaid could lose their Medicaid upon redetermination of their benefits. There is no way to know if those percentages will be the same for the individuals who receive services in the public behavioral health system or not. Ms. Walton stated that she has had conversations with the Providers and the County Job and Family Services and will continue to monitor the outcome of the process.
- C. Ms. Walton passed out a flyer for the Opiate Summit in June. Ms. Walton reviewed the Summit and explained that the Board will cover the cost for Board members to attend. Ms. Walton will send out the full pamphlet to Board members tomorrow. Members will need to contact Ms. Walton with their details. The Summit is June 5th and 6th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. BOARD GRANTS: Ms. Walton stated that the No Cost Extension budget has been approved by OhioMHAS. Grant work continues with the Providers.

B. QUARTERLY AND COALITION REPORTS: Ms. Walton asked if Board members would be interested in staff doing short 5-minute presentations on various programs or projects funded by the Board. Board members said that they would appreciate this and look forward to

the process. Ms. Walton stated that it would just be a way to highlight the outcome information the Board gets in the quarterly reports. Ms. Park Hart reported on the work thus far on the PART conference scheduled again for October. Ms. Sherman reviewed the upcoming QPR that has been scheduled for April 13th at the Ashtabula City District Library from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. No quarterly reports this month.

C. CRISIS EXPANSION: Ms. Walton stated that we are moving forward with the amended contract for expanded mobile crisis as approved by the Board last month.

D. OFFICE SPACE: Ms. Walton stated that she has no update on the office space that the Executive Committee looked at last month. Ms. Walton stated that she did have a conversation with Mr. Bolino and that the current lease allows for a month-to-month continuation and at this time the Board is utilizing that option. Community Counseling Center has been exceptional in working through this process with the Board.

NEW BUSSINESS:

A. STATE FISCAL YEAR 2024 BOARD BUDGET PRELIMINARY

DISCUSSION: Ms. Walton reviewed the Process for the planning and presentation of the SFY 2024 Budget to the Board. Current timeline will be to present the Board with the draft Community Service budget in April prior to her going on vacation on April 6th. The plan is that Ms. Walton will have the Purchase of Service budget to the Board for initial review at the May meeting and have the entire budget approved by May but June at the latest. Although not ideal, the Board staff should be able to get contracts out by the end of June if the Board does not approve the budget until June. Ms. Walton will send the Board members copies of last year's budgets as examples tomorrow. Ms. Walton asked if anyone had any questions about the process.

COMMUNICATION: Ms. Deak announced that NAMI Ashtabula will be moving to an office in the Club House next to Community Counseling Center. At this point Community Counseling Center is not asking for any rent from NAMI Ashtabula for the small space. Rev. Werner asked about the NAMI Ashtabula website address. The address is www.namiashtabula.org.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Deak moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Loftus seconded the motion. Rev. Werner called for a vote. Seven, yes; Zero No; Zero Abstentions. Motion passes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is set for April 17, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Rev. John Werner, Acting Board President

Rev. Werner moved out of state and could not be reached for his signature.

Minutes Prepared by Miriam Walton

8/22/2023

