

MINUTES
Ashtabula County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board
March 18, 2024

The Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board met in a regular session on Monday March 18, 2024 at 5:00pm. This meeting was held in person with a zoom option available for the public.

Board President, Ms. Brunarski called the meeting to order at 5:04pm and asked for a roll call of members and staff in attendance.

Board Members in Attendance: Ms. Susan Deak, Ms. Deborah King (Vice President), Mr. Alan Block (Secretary), Ms. Pat Dupuy, Mr. Joseph Loftus, Ms. Megan Brunarski (President).

The following Board Member was not in attendance: Mr. Joseph Owens

MHRS Board Staff in Attendance: Ms. Miriam Walton, Ms. Bridget Sherman, Ms. Kaitie Hart

Visitors: Mr. Paul Bolino, Mr. Steve Keats, Ms. Angi Dougherty, Guest from ANEW, Ms. Kathryn Whittington.

Approval of February Minutes: The Minutes of the February 26th meeting were reviewed. Mr. Blocked moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Ms. DuPuy seconded the motion. Ms. Brunarski called for a vote:

Six Yes, Zero No. Motion Passed.

Financial Reports:

Fiscal Reports- Ms. Hart and Ms. Walton briefly reviewed the February Financials.

Ms. Deak moved to accept the February Financials as submitted, Ms. King seconded. Ms. Brunarski called for a vote.

Six Yes, Zero No. Motion Passed

Board President Report

Ms. Brunarski had nothing to report, except Congratulations to Miriam on her retirement.

Executive Director Report

Mr. Hart briefly reviewed activities she has been working on over the last 2 weeks:

- Coordinated walkthroughs of new office location with potential vendors: Greatwave, Megabyte, , Painters, Security Technologies...
- Continue training Christy Fisher and attend Subcommittee meetings.
- Started weekly meetings with Denise Casto (CPA) to learn more about the financials.
- Monitor regularly scheduled meetings with OhRISE on Transitional Aged Youth Concerns.
- Attend Monthly Provider Meetings: began contract discussions.
- Other meetings this month include Partner Solutions Steering Committee Meetings, and Probate Court Hearings/investigations.
- Coordinated meetings with Mary Ann (web designer/facebook manager) to discuss expansion of social media presence.

Mr. Block suggested using other sources of social media since not everyone is on facebook. Board discussed tiktok, YouTube, Instagram, etc...

Unfinished Business

- A. Pending Grants:** Ms. Hart explained she submitted an email of interest for a Landlord Incentive Grant, due earlier this month, trying to increase the number of landlords willing to rent to those individuals coming out of jail or the hospital by providing incentives (up to \$2000/individual) for a variety of areas, such as: holding the unit until tenant is available, provide additional security deposits, small repairs, pet deposits, additional insurance coverage...
- B. Office Space:** Ms. Hart reiterated that she has been working with the county offices and various vendors to get our new office space ready for the move. County Maintenance will be over on 3/19/24 to remove a built-in desk in the main area of the office space. Internet is almost ready to be installed, a painter has been secured, met with Security Technologies and are just waiting on a quote, and also waiting on a quote/layout for the office furniture.

Mr. Block asked about the Eclipse happening on 4/8/24 and if there is anything more happening around that as it pertains to SUD/MH. Ms. Walton stated that the county is meeting monthly and Ms. Battaglioli has been attending those meetings. Many libraries and communities have activities planned for that day. Ms Walton also explained that we have been having conversations with the providers on our monthly calls, asking them to remind their clients that the eclipse will be happening, and how to prepare. Mr. Hart also informed the Board that there are still some Covid Mitigation funds that will need to be spend by next year and that we can use this money to help stop the spread of Covid. Ms. Hart reached out to EMA to see if there is anything we could assist with for the Eclipse, such as hand washing stations, since we will see a large influx of people in the county. Ms. Brunarski also mentioned Mobile Crisis and they will be available that day to respond to any crisis calls. Ms. Walton mentioned that Mobile Crisis has had about 95 calls so far this calendar year (January 1st- March 12th).

Mr. Block also asked about the Culture of Quality Award and if it had been publicized. Ms. Hart explained that an article and picture was placed in both the Gazette and the Star Beacon. Miriam mentioned that we also plan to do a press release along with a picture of Ms. Hart and Ms. Walton to publicize the transition. Ms. Whittington asked that we forward that to the Commissioners as well to be placed in their newsletter.

Ms. Walton also mentioned that she went to D.C. for a HRSA Reverse Site Visit Conference at the beginning of the month, and that was highlighted on facebook as well.

New Business

A. State FY Contracting/Budgets

Ms. Hart has started initiating conversations with providers for the contracts for SFY 25, and working on the budget. Have had conversations with Denise Casto around deficit spending, what we have as a current cash balance, what we should be reserving. Ms. Walton mentioned that we did some deficit spending this year's budget, but many of those work one time (moving/retiring) expenses that will not be in next year's budget.

B. Levy

Ms. Walton mentioned that a Levy will need to be requested for ballot in November or in the following Spring. We will need to get the message out that this will be a renewal, and will not impact the current taxes, except for new construction. Ms. Whittington explained that that Budget Commission will first review the need for a levy, then the Commissioners decide on when the levy will be put on the ballot. They do not typically like to put levies on ballots during a Presidential Election. While November is the first time it can be placed on the Ballot, May will most likely be the better option. There are only 3 available options for the levy to go on the ballot so money does not stop.

C. Board Member Exit Letters/Certificates

Ms. Walton wrote letters and developed certificates for Board Members who have exited the Board over the last couple of years. The Executive Director and Board President will sign the certificates.

Communications

None

Adjournment

Ms. Deak moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Loftus Seconded
Approved Unanimously. Adjourned at 5:36

Margaret Buscetta
4/15/24