

MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY SERVICES (MHRS) BOARD  
*Serving Coshocton, Guernsey, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble & Perry Counties*  
 1500 Coal Run Road – Zanesville, OH, 43701

**OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
*(February 3, 2025)*

**I. BOARD NOTIFICATION & COMPLIANCE WITH SUNSHINE LAW:**

On January 28, 2025, board members, contract organization directors, service area news media, county boards of commissioners, and state legislators were notified that the Board of Directors would meet on Monday, February 3, 2025, at the MHRS Board Office — with the schedule of activities to include: 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., meetings of Finance & Audit Committee and Partners Workgroup; and 6:00 p.m., Full Board Meeting.

**II. CALL TO ORDER:** President Sue Hoover called the board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**III. ROLL CALL:**

Board Members Present:

- *Sue Hoover, President (Muskingum County)*
- *Leondra Davis, Vice President (Coshocton County)*
- *Sean Brady (Muskingum County)*
- *Reid Carpenter (Noble County)*
- *Abby Corder, (Muskingum County)*
- *Dennis Hitchcock (Muskingum County)*
- *William Johnson (Coshocton County)*
- *Tony Mayle, Jr. (Morgan County)*
- *Lt. Dave Peoples (Guernsey County)*
- *Dr. Dan Scheerer (Muskingum County)*
- *Ben Taylor (Perry County)*
- *Bonnie Taylor (Muskingum County)*

Board Members Excused:

- *Randi Earnest (Guernsey County)*
- *Wendy Starlin (Perry County)*

There being twelve board members present, a quorum was constituted for conducting official business.\

Staff Members Present:

- *Misty Cromwell, Executive Director*
- *Rhonda Hanes, Associate Director / Director of Finance & Administration*
- *Sarah Reed, Director of Compliance and Quality Improvement*
- *Jamie McGrew, Director of Community Outreach & Programming*
- *Karl Hoop, Director of Community Engagement & Crisis Services*
- *Roger Birch, Director of Youth & Family Services*
- *Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator*

**IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

The following guests were present during the Partners Workgroup Meeting:

- *Melissa Johnson, Chief Clinical Officer, Allwell Behavioral Health Services*
- *Brittany Allen, Regional Manager, Oxford House*
- *Sydney Pierce, Student Intern @ Hopewell Behavioral Health Centers through Ohio University (Sydney was also present for the full board meeting)*

**V. AGENDA:** REID CARPENTER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE FEBRUARY 3, 2025, BOARD MEETING AS MAILED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ABBY CORDER AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

**VI. MEETING MINUTES:** LEONDRADA DAVIS MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2025, BOARD MEETING AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY REID CARPENTER AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS

FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, ABSTAIN; REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was approved receiving ten positive votes and one abstention.

**VII. HEARING REVIEWS – FY 2026 SERVICE PROVIDER FUNDING APPLICATIONS:**

MHRS Board staff and board members reviewed FY 2026 funding applications from Muskingum Behavioral Health and Coshocton Behavioral Health Choices. The Q/A portions of the hearings were recorded, and that information will be used to help facilitate informed decision-making.

**VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

The main issue covered by Director Misty Cromwell was a summary of actions taken, following a communication from the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) that they would be disrupting the operations of one of the MHRS Board’s community group homes.

Misty’s report also provided updates about the development of some important crisis services: 1) the Youth Crisis Stabilization Unit @ Genesis; 2) Allwell’s projects to provide an improved Guernsey Counseling Center and a Behavioral Health Urgent Care in Cambridge; and 3) the regional Youth Crisis Facility to be located in Bethesda, Ohio.

**IX. FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT: (Dr. Dan Scheerer, Chair)**

**1. Appropriation of Unencumbered Funds from December 31, 2024:**

Following the report of Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE APPROPRIATION OF \$10,864,795.54 IN UNENCUMBERED FUNDS FROM DECEMBER 31, 2024, TO THE CALENDAR YEAR 2025 BUDGET IN THE CONTINGENCY FUNDS LINE ITEM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DENNIS HITCHCOCK AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, YEA; REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving 11 positive votes.

**2. Financial Reports:**

Board members reviewed the following January 2025 financial reports: 1) Balance Sheet as of January 31, 2025; 2) Dashboard Report; 3) Network Funding Reserves; 4) Year-to-Date Status for the MHRS Board’s Operating Budget; and 5) Reconciliation Report.

► **January 2025 Reconciliation Report:**

Following the report of Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 2025 RECONCILIATION REPORT AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DENNIS HITCHCOCK AND A ROLL-CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, YEA; REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving 11 positive votes.

**3. Resolution – Substantial Changes in FY 2026 Contracts with Service Providers:**

Board members discussed the 120-Day Notice related to FY 2026 service provider contracts and requested some better terminology in Item #2 related to ‘allocations.’ Director Cromwell will work with Attorney David Moser on this requested edit.

Following the report of Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD

ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE STATE FISCAL YEAR 2026 AGENCY-SPECIFIC LANGUAGE (IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ABOVE EDIT REQUEST) TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 120-DAY NOTICES TO CONTRACT AGENCIES REGARDING SUBSTANTIAL CONTRACT CHANGES:

WHEREAS the Mental Health & Recovery Services Board has the responsibility and authority to plan, fund, and evaluate behavioral health services for Coshocton, Guernsey, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, and Perry Counties; and

WHEREAS the Mental Health & Recovery Services Board implements contracts to pay for services with provider agencies; and

WHEREAS the Mental Health & Recovery Services Board must notify contract agencies of any substantial changes to contract terms with a 120-day notice in writing;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved by the Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Coshocton, Guernsey, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, and Perry Counties to approve the State Fiscal Year 2026 agency-specific contract language that is included in the 120-day notices (that will include better terminology for 'allocations') for the following contract agencies: Allwell Behavioral Health Services; Coshocton Behavioral Health Choices; Morgan Behavioral Health Choices; Muskingum Behavioral Health; Perry Behavioral Health Choices; and the Forensic Diagnostic Center of District 9.

THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY REID CARPENTER AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, YEA; REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving 11 positive votes.

**4. Appropriation Transfer – ARPA Expenses:**

Following review of Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE AN APPROPRIATION TRANSFER OF \$850,000 FROM THE CONTINGENCIES LINE ITEM TO THE ARPA EXPENSES LINE ITEM IN THE MHRS BOARD'S CY 2025 BUDGET. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, YEA; REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving 11 positive votes.

**5. Allwell Behavioral Health Services – Request for EPIC Training Support:**

Following the report of Committee Action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE A ONE-TIME ALLOCATION OF \$96,586 TO ALLWELL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES TO SUPPORT EPIC TRAINING FOR ALLWELL EMPLOYEES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DENNIS HITCHCOCK AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, YEA; REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, ABSTAIN; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, NAY; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was approved receiving nine positive votes, one abstention, and one negative vote.

**6. Perry County Levy Renewal:**

Following the report of Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO REQUEST THE PERRY COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS TO PLACE A ONE (1) MILL, 10-YEAR RENEWAL LEVY ON THE MAY 6, 2025, BALLOT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ABBY CORDER AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, YEA; REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving 11 positive votes.

**X. PARTNERS WORKGROUP:**

**Review of Network's Housing Continuum:** Reid Carpenter (Interim Chair for the Partners Workgroup) reported on their meeting with representatives from Allwell Behavioral Health Services and Oxford House, Inc. to review local housing that is available to meet the needs of clients struggling with mental illness and/or addictions (*summarized in Board Highlights Update*).

**XI. RECORDS RETENTION COMMITTEE REPORT:** (*Sarah Reed, Director of Compliance/Quality Improvement*)

Committee met before full board meeting, with following board members present: Sean Brady, Abby Corder, Leondra Davis, Dennis Hitchcock, Sue Hoover, Dave Peoples, William Johnson, Dr. Dan Scheerer, and Ben Taylor. Sarah reported: 1) there were no changes to the record retention schedule; and 2) records were destroyed in-house in April of 2024 (per MHRS Board retention schedule to keep for seven years): a) FY 2016 GOSH Forms and Residency Verifications; and b) FY 2014 Fiscal Reports – Board Pays and Monthly Reconciliations). This committee will be meeting again on February 12, 2026.

**XII. RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION:**

SEAN BRADY MOVED THAT THE BOARD RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT RENEWAL AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LEONDRA DAVIS AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, YEA; REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving 11 positive votes.

The Board of Directors recessed to Executive Session at 7:28 p.m.

The Board of Directors returned to Open Session at 7:57 p.m.

**Employment Contract:** DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO RENEW THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 13, 2025, TO FEBRUARY 11, 2028. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SEAN BRADY AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, YEA; REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving 11 positive votes.

**Performance Evaluation and Setting Executive Director's Salary for FY 2026:**

Members reviewed the Executive Director's Annual Performance Evaluation prepared by the Executive Committee under the guidance of Board President Sue Hoover. The evaluation was very detailed in identifying Director Misty Cromwell's many strengths in leading the organization.

ABBY CORDER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S ANNUAL SALARY FOR FY 2026 (EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$120,000, REPRESENTING A 7.14% INCREASE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DENNIS HITCHCOCK AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: SEAN BRADY, YEA; REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; DENNIS HITCHCOCK, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; TONY MAYLE, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving 11 positive votes.

President Sue Hoover praised Director Cromwell for her high-quality job performance. In particular, she noted the new RFA process for selecting contract service providers, the excellent manner in which she keeps board members apprised of network operations, her significant state connections with the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities, and her passionate advocacy for system clients and their families.

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

***Temporary Pause of Federal Financial Assistance:*** Misty noted that currently there is nothing specific to report about the Trump Administration’s announcement about the pausing of federal dollars for certain federal financial assistance programs.

**XIV. NEXT MEETING:** The MHRS Board of Directors will next meet at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 13, at the MHRS Board Office. The Annual Board Member Training will take place prior to regular board meeting from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. There will be no committee meetings.

**XV. COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

► ***Community Crisis Response Team:*** Jamie McGrew, Director of Community Outreach and Programming, shared information about the Community Crisis Response Team (CCRT) and some dates for team member trainings: March 28-29-30; April 21-22-23, and a School Focused Training to take place May 22-23. Asked board members to help get the word out about the trainings. Those interested should contact Jamie McGrew or Karl Hoop at the MHRS Board Office 740.454.8557.

**XVI. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

**SIGNATURES**

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator

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Misty Cromwell, Executive Director

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Sue Hoover, Board President