

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

OFFICIAL MINUTES
(January 9, 2025)

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

I. BOARD NOTIFICATION & COMPLIANCE WITH SUNSHINE LAW:

On December 30, 2024, board members, contract organization directors, service area news media, county boards of commissioners, and state legislators were notified the Board of Directors would meet on Thursday, January 9, 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., Regular Board Meeting.

II. CALL TO ORDER: President Sue Hoover called the regular board meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

III. ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present:

- *Sue Hoover, President (Muskingum County)*
- *Leondra Davis, Vice President (Coshocton County)*
- *Reid Carpenter (Noble County)*
- *Abby Corder, (Muskingum County)*
- *Randi Earnest (Guernsey County)*
- *William Johnson (Coshocton County)*
- *Tony Mayle, Jr. (Morgan County) - Virtual*
- *Dr. Dan Scheerer (Muskingum County)*
- *Wendy Starlin (Perry County)*
- *Ben Taylor (Perry County)*
- *Bonnie Taylor (Muskingum County)*

Board Members Excused:

- *Sean Brady (Muskingum County)*
- *Dennis Hitchcock (Muskingum County)*
- *Lt. Dave Peoples (Guernsey County)*

There being eleven board members present, a quorum was constituted for conducting official business. *(Board members attending virtually cannot vote on motions.)*

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:

- *Samanta Boddapati, Ph.D., and Margaret Rosencrans, Ph.D., from Nationwide Children's Hospital*

The following guests were present during the Finance/Audit Committee Meeting and a portion of the full board meeting:

- *Rick Rowley and Kim Bond from Open Minds Consulting*

Present for a portion of the full board meeting:

- *David Moser, MHRS Board Attorney*

V. **AGENDA:** President Hoover noted the following changes to the pre-mailed agenda: 1) the shifting of some topics; and 2) the addition of an item under New Business — *Competitive Bidding*. RANDI EARNEST MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE JANUARY 9, 2025, BOARD MEETING AS AMENDED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ABBY CORDER AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

VI. **MEETING MINUTES:** LEONDRA DAVIS MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 12, 2024, BOARD MEETING AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, ABSTAIN; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was approved receiving eight positive votes and one abstention.

VII. **OPEN MINDS UPDATE:**

During the Finance/Audit Committee and the full board meeting, members thoroughly discussed with Open Minds Consultants Rick Rowley and Kim Bond the Scope of Work in meeting the goals of their contract agreements with the MHRS Board.

It was reported that MHRS Board Director Misty Cromwell has already approved an allocation of \$13,860 to Open Minds for 40 hours of work overages in the CY 2024 contract.

Following lengthy discussion, REID CARPENTER MOVED THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS INDICATE TO APPLICABLE CONTRACT ORGANIZATIONS THE MHRS BOARD'S COMMITMENT TO HELPING IMPROVE THE NETWORK OF CARE – AND THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO CONTRACT WITH OPEN MINDS FOR 500 HOURS OF CONSULTATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN CY 2025 (CONSULTING FEE - \$138,250 – PLUS EXPENSES). THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY WILLIAM JOHNSON AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDY EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving nine positive votes.

Once the Open Minds consultants' due diligence work is finalized, another update report will be provided to the MHRS Board, following which the proposed CY 2025 contract will be finalized and signed.

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

Board members were provided a report of staff members' work during December – as aligned with the MHRS Board's Strategic Plan Goals to: 1) Ensure and increase the availability of (and access to) quality services; 2) Foster a healthy and coordinated field of provider organizations (*includes community awareness and stigma reduction*); and 3) Secure the ongoing health and effectiveness of the MHRS Board.

Work areas included: | Collaborations with the Appalachian Children's Coalition. | Outlining Work on the MHRS Board's Community Assessment and Plan. | The Genesis Youth Crisis Stabilization Unit Renovation Project. | The review process for FY 2026 RFA Applications. | Continued Assessment and Evaluation of Mobile Crisis Services. | Completion of FY 2024 Program Compliance Audits.

IX. **FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT:**

1. **Authorization to Pay 2024 Bills in 2025:**

Following the report of Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

IT HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY THE FISCAL DEPARTMENT TO PAY 2024 BILLS IN

2025. THIS WOULD INCLUDE ANY UNKNOWN INVOICES DATED 2024 THAT ARE PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT IN 2025. ANY KNOWN 2024 EXPENSES HAVE BEEN DOCUMENTED AS A CARRYOVER EXPENSE. IT IS RESOLVED THAT 2024 INVOICES PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT IN 2025 ARE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT.

THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY WILLIAM JOHNSON AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDY EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving nine positive votes.

2. *Financial Reports:*

Board members reviewed the following December 2024 financial reports: 1) Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2024; 2) Dashboard Report; 3) Network Funding Reserves; 4) Year-to-Date Status for the MHRS Board's Operating Budget; and 5) Reconciliation Report.

► ***December 2024 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 DECEMBER 2024 RECONCILIATION REPORT AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LEONDRA DAVIS AND A ROLL-CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDY EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving nine positive votes.

3. *Appropriation to ARPA Expenses Line Item:*

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 \$600,000 TO THE ARPA EXPENSES LINE ITEM IN THE MHRS BOARD'S CALENDAR YEAR BUDGET. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY REID CARPENTER AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDY EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving nine positive votes.

4. *Risk Management and Insurance:*

Chairman Scheerer guided a review of proposed insurance coverage for the MHRS Board, the Liberty Manor State-Operated Group Home; and the Eastern Alliance Council of Governments (that oversees the Country Garden Manor State-Operated Group Home).

Following review of Committee action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE LEVELS AND ADEQUACY OF INSURANCE COVERAGE—INCLUDING CYBER SECURITY—TO PROTECT AGAINST ALLEGATIONS OF IMPROPER CONDUCT OR NEGLIGENCE WHEN CARRYING OUT DUTIES AS BOARD MEMBERS. (MHRS DIRECTOR MISTY CROMWELL WILL SEEK CLARIFICATIONS FROM INSURANCE AGENT TOM PRICE ABOUT DIFFERENCES IN GROUP HOME COVERAGES AT LIBERTY MANOR AND COUNTRY GARDEN MANOR.) THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LEONDRA DAVIS AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDY EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving nine positive votes.

5. **Genesis – Development of Youth Crisis Stabilization Unit:**

Following the report of Committee Action, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE TO APPROVE A SPECIAL ALLOCATION OF \$64,780 TO THE GENESIS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM TO COVER THE ‘IT’ PROJECT BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR THE HOSPITAL’S YOUTH CRISIS STABILIZATION UNIT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY WILLIAM JOHNSON AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: REID CARPENTER, YEA; ABBY CORDER, YEA; LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDY EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; WENDY STARLIN, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving nine positive votes.

6. **Allwell Behavioral Health Services – Financial Status:**

Members discussed Allwell’s Financial position and possible ways the MHRS Board could provide some limited resources to them (as discussed at a prior Finance/Audit Committee meeting held on December 2 and the Board’s December 12 board meeting).

In March, Board President Sue Hoover, Finance/Audit Committee Chair Dr. Dan Scheerer, and MHRS Board Executive Director Misty Cromwell will be attending a meeting with Allwell’s Board of Directors to further discuss the organization’s financial status.

X. PARTNERS WORKGROUP:

PAX Good Behavior Game Initiative: The Partners Workgroup met with representatives from Nationwide Children’s Hospital to hear an update report about this program (*summarized in Board Highlights Update*).

Strategic Communications Plan: Group members also received a report from Jamie McGrew about plans for social media and other communication methods to be implemented in CY 2025 (*summarized in Board Highlights Update*).

XI. OLD BUSINESS: (None)

XII. NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Competitive Bidding:**

Attorney David Moser shared with board members information related to the MHRS Board’s RFA pilot process and other contracting factors such as competitive bidding. (There are some anticipated positive changes in the contracting arena included in the Ohio Revised Code.) Attorney Moser also pointed out there are some good alternatives for transitioning to the new RFA process—as well as addressing larger picture concerns.

It was agreed that the MHRS Board’s 2025 Annual Board Member Training will be focused on this issue. Board members should let Director Cromwell know of any contracting issues they would like included in the board training presentation.

XIII. COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

► **HB 527 – Virtual Meetings:** Governor DeWine has signed HB 257, which proposes to allow public bodies like MHRS Boards to meet virtually. The bill will become effective in 90 days. OACBHA is working on some policy guidance to help MHRS Boards with implementation of the new language.

XIV. NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be Thursday, February 13, 2025, @ 6:00 p.m. at the MHRS Board Office, 1500 Coal Run Road, Zanesville. (Committees will meet from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.)

XV. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

SIGNATURES

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator

Misty Cromwell, Executive Director

Sue Hoover, Board President