

2024 Annual Report to the Community



Mental Health & Recovery Services (MHRS) Board

of Coshocton, Guernsey, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble & Perry Counties

1500 Coal Run Road – Zanesville, OH 43701

740-454-8557

Website: www.mhrs.org

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(Culture of Quality Certified Board)

A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MISTY CROMWELL



As you look at the 2024 highlights in this report, you will see how we have used our federal, state, and local levy dollars to improve the lives of those struggling with mental illnesses and/or addictions.

I am deeply grateful to our dedicated Board of Directors, staff members, and community partners. Together, we are making positive differences in the lives of countless individuals.

On page 7, we are spotlighting the crucial role of peer supporters — individuals who have personal experience with mental health or substance use disorder challenges and have successfully navigated their own recovery journeys. They use their experiences to help others who are going through similar situations. This section of the report includes the perspectives of three peer supporters from Perry Behavioral Health Choices. Also included is the perspective of a client who notes the peer recovery program immensely helped her by fostering a sense of community and empowerment.

As always, we hope you will join us in our efforts to keep our communities healthy, safe, and drug-free.

Thank you!

Misty Cromwell



Our mission is to distribute federal, state, and local funding to community mental health providers in a way that facilitates the existence of—and access to—high-quality mental health and substance use disorder services in our six counties.

SOME CALENDAR YEAR 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

SYSTEM PLANNING

★ **Strategic Plan Monitoring:** The Executive Director’s monthly reports for the Board of Directors are now formatted to align with the organization’s Strategic Plan Goals: 1) Ensure and Increase the Availability of (and access to) Quality Services; 2) Foster a Healthy and Coordinated Field of Provider Organizations (including community awareness and stigma reduction); and 3) Secure the Ongoing Health and Effectiveness of the MHRS Board.

★ **Community Assessment & Plan:** This plan (required by the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services - OhioMHAS) is also periodically reviewed, and quarterly ‘touch-base’ meetings are being held with our OhioMHAS Regional Manager.

★ **Improving Network Operations:** The MHRS Board approved an Open Minds Consulting Proposal for collaborating with contract organizations to consider ways to improve healthcare quality and value and strengthen local communities.

★ **Improving Crisis Continuum:** A large service area stakeholder feedback session was held in the Fall of 2024 to identify those areas in the network’s crisis continuum that could be improved. Smaller follow-up feedback sessions are being planned. This work is being coordinated by TBD Solutions.

FUNDING OF TREATMENT & SUPPORT SERVICES

★ **Continued Transformation of the MHRS Board’s Funding Process:** Throughout the year, board and staff members worked to improve the network’s ‘Request for Funding Applications’ process—through meetings of the MHRS Board’s Care Management Council and trainings for system fiscal employees. Also, the MHRS Board’s Funding Prioritization Allocation ‘Buckets’ were revised and made available to contract organizations. | Several of the MHRS Board’s Partners Workgroup meetings were focused on reviewing the funding prioritization tiers and the services included in each.

★ **Mini-Grant Awards:** The MHRS Board approved over \$80,000 in mini-grants to service area community grassroots organizations. These grants help to engage citizens in creative community betterment that can positively impact at-risk populations. The grants addressed pregnancy and infant loss, treatment for foster care families, helping young girls cope with daily life struggles, services for youths detained in a juvenile treatment center, promotion of 988 Lifeline information, literacy assistance, a man camp and a parent café, the ‘No Limits’ Livestock Show, and services for children and families recovering from abuse and sexual assaults.

★ **Special Allocations:** The MHRS Board awarded several special allocations to support: recovery housing, an e-TMS Clinic, a foster home treatment pilot, the Warriors to Wellness Program for Veterans, a client-operated coffee shop, medication-assisted treatment, help for children with autism and their families, and a winter shelter program for the homeless.

★ **One Ohio Funding Thus Far for Region 12:** One Ohio has approved a Crisis Notification Program (through Ascend Consultants), where crisis care providers can be alerted when someone has been admitted to a hospital emergency room due to a behavioral health crisis — like an overdose or suicide attempts/ideation. These notifications will give providers and community health organizations timely information to ensure individuals are quickly connected with recovery resources. Behavioral health providers must provide a ‘next-day’ response to the client following the notification.

★ **Addressing Improved Access to Psychiatrists:** Approved an allocation to Muskingum Valley Health Centers to support (for one year) the salary and benefits for a newly-recruited psychiatrist. Access to psychiatrists in our region is not adequate, and the addition of a psychiatrist at MVHC will help to expand access to this level of care.

★ **Guernsey County Levy Renewed:** This renewal levy was approved by voters on November 5, 2024. This levy will help to ensure treatment and support services are available for those struggling with mental illness and/or addictions.

★ **Transitional Housing:** The MHRS Board supported Allwell Behavioral Health’s development of a transitional house in Cambridge. The house can accommodate up to eight persons. Residents are assigned a case manager who assists them in accessing community resources and/or employment.

Criminal Justice Matters

★ **Criminal Justice Collaboratives and Stepping Up Initiative:** Service area Criminal Justice Collaboratives continued to meet in 2024, and ‘Stepping Up’ meetings with former Ohio Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Stratton were held with community stakeholders. The ‘Stepping Up’ meetings are focused on the partnerships between mental health and criminal justice professionals, with the goal being to prevent persons with mental illness and/or addictions from being held in jails.

★ **Operation BRIDGE Days:** On September 24-25, 2024, the MHRS Board partnered with state and local entities to co-host Operation BRIDGE Days in Guernsey County. The goal of this initiative was to focus on the reduction of drug supply and demand and simultaneously prioritizing treatment for applicable individuals fighting addictions.

★ **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Academy & Special Training for Dispatchers:** Twenty-four law enforcement officers graduated from the 2024 CIT Academy. This 4-day course covered scene assessment and de-escalation skills, basic information about mental illnesses and addictions, and the importance of officer self-care. The group also heard the meaningful perspectives of clients and family members. A 1-day training was also held for four service area dispatchers.



SPECIAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS – FUNDED THROUGH ARPA

★ **Regional Youth Crisis Stabilization Unit:** A groundbreaking ceremony for this project was held October 9 in Bethesda, Ohio (pictured below – third from left is MHRS Board Director Misty Cromwell).



★ **Genesis Youth Crisis Stabilization Unit:** Project is on track, with renovations having been started at Genesis Hospital.

★ **Allwell Behavioral Health’s Urgent Care Facility – Guernsey County:** A contractor for this project has been identified and things are beginning to move forward.

FRIENDS OF RECOVERY

On September 25, 2024, the MHRS Board held a “Friends of Recovery” awards celebration. The Board annually recognizes individuals who significantly promote recovery from mental illness and/or addictions. This year there were eight recipients.



Pictured above (L to R): Drew & Courtney Bauserman (Co-Lab Productions), Carrie Bunting (Zanesville Community School), Jessica Wheeler (Muskingum Behavioral Health), Commander Elizabeth Biggers (New Lexington Police Department), Tracie Edwards (Allwell Behavioral Health), Travis Stevens (Guernsey County Juvenile Court), and Chief Jim Fain (New Lexington Fire Department). In front is Fetchy Doodle, Chief Inspiration Officer at Muskingum Behavioral Health.

Annual Suicide Awareness Banquet

The network's annual suicide awareness banquet was held in April. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of several "Heroes of Hope" awards (pictured L to R: Jim Still-Pepper (Allwell Behavioral Health) , Maureen Montgomery-Christian (Muskingum County Juvenile Detention Center), New Lexington Police Chief Doug Gill, a coffee shop rep who promoted the "Brew Matter" Campaign, and Sandra Harstine (Founder of our service area Suicide Prevention Coalitions). There was also a presentation by Daniel Bennett from Lifeside Ohio, stressing the importance of keeping guns out of the reach of those who may be contemplating suicide.



Addressing Farmer Stress

Last summer at County Fairs throughout our service area, the MHRS Board gathered feedback through an anonymous survey about stress in rural communities among farmers. Feedback was received from 887 farmers that indicated many are quietly struggling with untreated anxiety and depression. The MHRS Board is paying certification expenses for clinicians who would like to serve this special population.

'No Limits' Livestock Show



The Noble County Board of DD and the MHRS Board teamed up to offer a free opportunity for children over the age of 8 and adults who have developmental disabilities or receive mental health services—to show rabbits, sheep, goats, or feeder calves at the Noble County Fair. All animals were provided, and the 'No Limits' participants were paired with a 4-H or FFA member, who mentored them from practice on Monday of fair week until showtime on Friday. MHRS Board staff member Sarah Reed noted, *"The 'No Limits' Livestock show was a huge success and such an amazing experience for those showing animals as well as the 4-H and FFA mentors. To watch them be a part of something that can be life-changing doesn't happen very often, but it did at this special event!"*





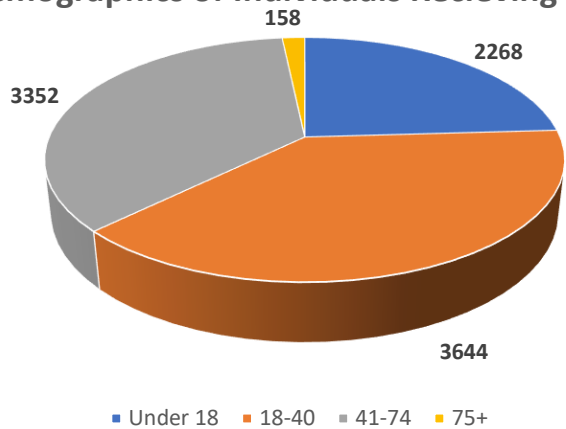
PEER SUPPORT

Below are the perspectives of three peer supporters from Perry Behavioral Health Choices (PBHC). Throughout the MHRS Board's network of care, peer supporters' lived experiences and empathetic approaches to those in recovery make them an essential component for creating a more equal and supportive environment.

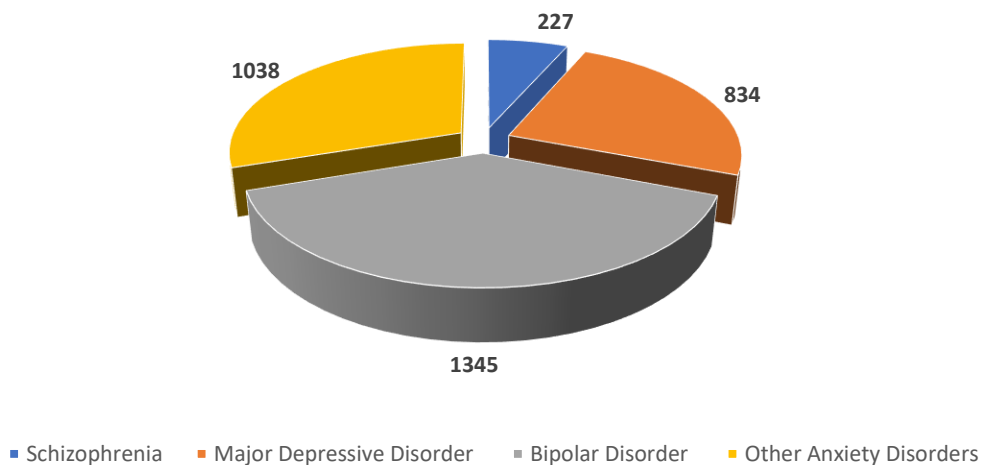
- **Amanda Snellings – Family Peer Mentor for the Ohio START Program:** *As a peer supporter, I remember my early days as a client at PBHC, where I met the trailblazers of peer support. Two years later, I followed in their footsteps, and I believe it's an excellent platform for anyone in early recovery. Leading by example, we show others where they could potentially go in their recovery journeys. I see it as a valuable stepping-stone. One aspect of my job that I love are the conversations we have in the car – whether we're going to see their child, attending a court hearing, or going to a doctor's appointment. During these moments, we could relax, connect over music, or appreciate the beautiful landscape of southeastern Ohio. I find that clients open up to me on a more personal level than they often do with counselors or in an Intensive Outpatient Program. I look forward to coming into work each day, as I never know who I will be picking up or what the day will entail. I consider my peer supporter work to be a humbling position to be in.*
- **Craig Wilson – Peer Supporter and Case Manager for Evolution – PBHC's Male Residential Facility:** *I've always felt peer support to be beneficial for the simple reason of sharing experiences that people can relate to. I've noticed how much clients respond when they find out I have been where they are in the recovery process. This allows us to lower some barriers and begin the process of communication on a more equal footing. Most clients are more willing to reach out if they know we have a shared experience. I have had people outside the agency contact me because they know I'm a peer supporter and they simply want to talk. Shared experiences allow them to open up and feel more comfortable about their recovery journey – or just life.*
- **Lucas Slate – Peer Supporter for PBHC's Outpatient Program:** *It is my goal to instill some hope into others that recovery is possible. Having mental health and addiction problems, I've run into many individuals who are also struggling with a dual diagnosis and am able to point them in the right direction. Sometimes asking for (and getting) help is hard for addicts. Hopefully, by talking to someone who has walked a similar path will help them in their recovery journey. Ultimately, people in recovery can make their communities much stronger by being productive community members.*

Ohio START Client Perspective: *"I met weekly with a peer supporter specialist. This was a woman just like me, who had been on my end of a CPS case and was successfully reunited with her children. All I had to do was breathe, listen, and take the next right steps."*

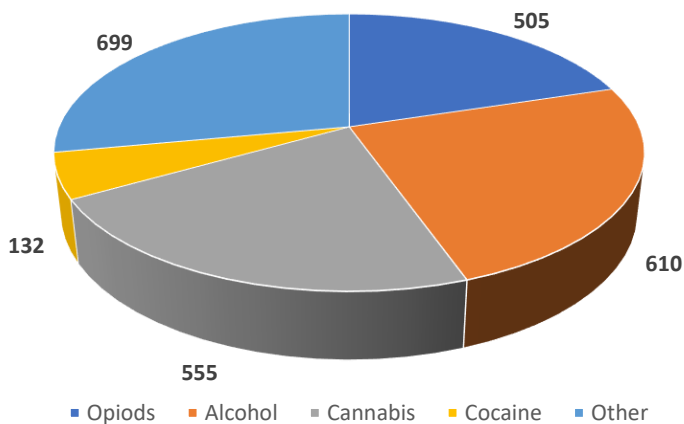
Age Demographics of Individuals Receiving Services



Diagnosis of Individuals Receiving Mental Health Service



Diagnosis of Clients Receiving Addiction Treatment and Recovery Services



CALENDAR YEAR 2024 REVENUE

LOCAL LEVIES	
Coshocton Levy	338,421
Guernsey Levy	943,521
Morgan Levy	207,502
Muskingum Levy	1,722,854
Tax Settlement (Muskingum County)	49,252
Noble Levy	402,632
Perry Levy	506,610
SUBTOTAL – LOCAL LEVIES	4,170,792
STATE FUNDS	
421 Funds	4,254,544
Forensic Funds	524,013
Crisis Infrastructure	50,000
State Per Capita Funds 421 – Both	267,242
Gambling Funds	74,847
Community Investment – 421 Funds	105,634
Criminal Justice – Addiction Treatment Program Grant – BH Linkage	41,667
Recovery Housing	50,450
Prevention and Wellness Grant	17,160
Prevention and Wellness – EBP	24,800
Special Grant – Jail Medications	26,615
Community Investment – Special Legislative Allocation	448,005
Crisis Stabilization Center	301,572
OACBHA – Appreciation Grant	9,000
Special Docket – Courts	245,000
Crisis Flex Funds	117,596
Prevention & Wellness – Early Intervention	55,000
Access to Success	16,075
Restoration to Competency	3,500
Community Transitions	62,500
Hospital Access Program	35,200
SUBTOTAL – STATE FUNDS	6,730,419
FEDERAL FUNDS	
Block Grant – Alcohol and Drug	756,309
Block Grant – Mental Health	342,090
Block Grant – Women	282,317
Title XX	150,830
ARPA Funds	4,715,801
SCOPE Grant	351,582
Ohio – State Opioid Response (SOR)	579,301
Project Aware	50,000
SUBTOTAL – FEDERAL FUNDS	7,228,229
OTHER FUNDS	
Employee Share of Health Insurance	18,609
Recovery Summit	2,704
SUBTOTAL – OTHER FUNDS	21,313
TOTAL REVENUE - \$18,150,753	

CALENDAR YEAR 2024 EXPENDITURES

<i>PAYMENTS TO CONTRACT SERVICE PROVIDERS</i>	
Allwell Behavioral Health Services	3,968,225
Forensic Diagnostic Center of District 9	663,456
Coshocton Behavioral Health Choices	478,655
Guernsey Health Choices	401,407
Morgan Behavioral Health Choices	207,043
Muskingum Behavioral Health	653,703
Perry Behavioral Health Choices	1,230,710
Southeastern Ohio Counseling	10,343
MHRSB – Belmont, Harrison & Monroe (Residential – Liberty Manor)	30,943
Levy Collaborative	368,186
Children’s Residential	123,245
Community Action – Morgan and Washington Counties	6,804
Criminal Justice – Addiction Treatment Program – Court Administration	7,180
State-Operated Services	1,291,384
Evidence-Based Prevention and Wellness Grant	4,752
Community Medications Grant – Jails	26,615
Specialty Docket – Courts	245,000
Recovery Summit	1,961
Special Legislative Allocation Grant	346,466
Muskingum County Creative Options	16,273
Ohio – State Opioid Response (SOR)	143,106
OACBHA Grants	5,983
Access Success	9,475
Multi-System Adult Services	2,050
Muskingum County Court Program	7,500
Trauma-Informed Care Collaborative	5,000
Gambling Social Media Campaign	8,079
Crisis Infrastructure	72,348
Recovery Housing	7,293
Hospital Access	22,400
Crisis Flex Funds	49,453
Crisis Stabilization	937,500
CISM Training	23,709
ARPA Grant	4,115,801
SCOPE Grant	305,213
<i>SUBTOTAL – PAYMENTS TO SERVICE PROVIDERS</i>	<i>15,492,048</i>
<i>PAYMENTS ON BEHALF OF SERVICE PROVIDERS</i>	
GOSH Billing System	32,531
<i>SUBTOTAL – PAYMENTS ON BEHALF OF SERVICE PROVIDERS</i>	<i>32,531</i>
<i>OPERATING COSTS OF MHRS BOARD</i>	
Administration	1,020,544
Agency Service	36,268
Levy Settlement	49,252
<i>SUBTOTAL – MHRS BOARD OPERATING COSTS</i>	<i>1,106,065</i>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES – \$16,935,856	



ALLWELL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

- ▶ 2845 Bell Street, Zanesville, OH, 43701 740-454-9766
- ▶ 710 Main Street, Coshocton, OH, 43812 740-622-4470
- ▶ 2500 John Glenn Highway, Cambridge, OH, 43725 740-439-4428
- ▶ 915 S. Riverside Drive, McConnelsville, OH, 43756 740-962-5204
- ▶ 44020 Marietta Road, Caldwell, OH, 43724 740-732-5233
- ▶ 1375 Commerce Drive, New Lexington, OH, 43764 740-342-5154

COSHOCTON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CHOICES

610 Walnut Street, Coshocton, OH, 43812 740-622-0033

GUERNSEY HEALTH CHOICES

1009 Steubenville Avenue, Cambridge, OH, 43725 740-439-4532

MORGAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CHOICES

915 S. Riverside Drive, McConnelsville, OH, 43756 740-962-6933

MUSKINGUM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

1127 West Main Street, Zanesville, OH, 43701 740-454-1266

PERRY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CHOICES

203 N. Main Street, New Lexington, OH, 43764 740-342-1991

FORENSIC DIAGNOSTIC CENTER OF DISTRICT 9

1109 Clark Street, Cambridge, OH, 43725 740-439-4136

SOUTHEASTERN OHIO COUNSELING CENTER

239A Old National Road, Old Washington, OH, 43768 740-489-5571



There are times in each of our lives when we, our family, friends, or co-workers struggle with behavioral health issues. For over 50 years, your local Mental Health & Recovery Services Board has responded to community needs by establishing a System of Care that provides hope and "Help Close to Home."

Board of Directors

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

Staff Members

- Misty Cromwell, Executive Director
- Rhonda Hanes, Associate Director & Director of Finance
- Sarah Reed, Director of Compliance & Quality Improvement
- Jamie McGrew, Director of Community Outreach & Programming
- Karl Hoop, Director of Community Engagement & Crisis Services
- Roger Birch, Director of Youth & Family Services
- Janet Hill, Director of Business Operations & Claims
- Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator
- Terri France, Office Manager

HELP IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Allwell Behavioral Health Services

CRISIS HOTLINE – 1-800-344-5818

