

Board Update

Mental Health & Recovery Services (MHRS) Board
 Serving Coshocton, Guemsey, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble & Perry Counties
 1500 Coal Run Road, Zanesville, Ohio 43701
 Phone: 740-454-8557

Board Meeting Highlights
February 3, 2025

FinancialMatters

Under the guidance of Finance Committee Chair Dr. Dan Scheerer, board members addressed the following issues.

- **Reconciliation Report:** Reviewed and approved the January 2025 Reconciliation Report that showed deposits, checks written for MHRS Board operations, payments to in-network contract service providers and out-of-network community partners, and journal entries.
- **Other January Financial Reports:** Reviewed the following January 2025 fiscal reports: 1) Balance Sheet through January 31, 2025; 2) Dashboard Report; 3) Network Funding Reserves; 4) Year-to-Date Status Report for the MHRS Board’s Operating Budget; and 5) Reconciliation Report.
- **Substantial Changes in FY 2026 Contracts with Service Providers:** Approved a resolution related to SFY 2026 agency-specific language to be included in the 120-day notices to contract agencies regarding substantial contract changes.
- **Appropriation Transfer – ARPA Expenses:** Approved the transfer of \$850,000 from the Contingencies Line Item to the ARPA Expenses Line Item in the MHRS Boards CY 2025 budget.
- **Request for EPIC Training Support – Allwell Behavioral Health Services:** Approved a one-time allocation of \$96,586 to Allwell Behavioral Health Services to support EPIC electronic health record training for Allwell employees.
- **Perry County Levy Renewal:** Authorized 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.
- Below is a breakdown of payments for mental health and addiction recovery services for clients and families or for system improvements:

<i>Accounts Payable</i>	<i>In-Network Providers</i>	<i>Out-of-Network Partners</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>January 10, 2025</i>	<i>\$361,177.47</i>	<i>\$6,185.84</i>	<i>\$367,363.31</i>
<i>January 23, 2025</i>	<i>\$78,599.89</i>	<i>\$979,284.91</i>	<i>\$1,057,884.80</i>
<i>January 27, 2025</i>	<i>- - -</i>	<i>\$6,191.25</i>	<i>\$6,191.25</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$439,777.36</i>	<i>\$991,662.00</i>	<i>\$1,431,439.36</i>

Executive Director
Misty Cromwell

Board of Directors
Sean Brady
Reid Carpenter
Abby Corder
Leondra Davis
Randi Earnest
Dennis Hitchcock
Sue Hoover
William Johnson
Tony Mayle, Jr.
Lt. Dave Peoples
Dan Scheerer, M.D.
Wendy Starlin
Ben Taylor
Bonnie Taylor

Board President
Sue Hoover

Board Vice President
Leondra Davis

Mission Statement
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 recovery services in our six counties.

Network Housing Continuum

Interim Partners Workgroup Chair Reid Carpenter reported on members' review of available service area housing for persons with mental illness and/or an addiction.

Key points:



- For someone with a mental illness and/or addiction, a stable home can be hard to come by and is one of the most powerful barriers to recovery. When this basic need isn't met, people cycle in and out of homelessness, jails, shelters and hospitals. Having a safe and appropriate place to live can provide the stability to allow clients to achieve their recovery goals.
- Members reviewed the current status of network housing that includes:
 - The Maslow Recovery House for Women (Cambridge – Guernsey Health Choices)
 - Frank's Way and Naomi Recovery Houses (Zanesville – Muskingum Behavioral Health)
 - Eclipse and Sobriety Village Recovery Houses (New Lexington – Perry Behavioral Health Choices)
 - Serenity Suites (Coshocton – Coshocton Behavioral Health Choices)
 - Transitional Living House (Zanesville – Allwell Behavioral Health Services)
 - Transitional Living House (Cambridge - Allwell Behavioral Health Services)
 - Meadowpark Apartments (Zanesville – Allwell Behavioral Health Services)
 - Two 4-bedroom Duplexes (Zanesville - Allwell Behavioral Health Services)
 - Chestnut Place in Coshocton – Country View Apartments in Guernsey County – Fairway Vista Apartments in Muskingum County (Allwell Behavioral Health Services)
- Members also reviewed OXFORD RECOVERY HOUSING options. Oxford House is a concept in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction, where houses are democratically-run, self-supporting and drug-free homes. Each house represents an effective and low-cost method of preventing relapse. So far, there are two Oxford Houses in Guernsey County – one for men and one for women. The next Oxford House development is being targeted for Coshocton County.
- Ohio 811 Project Rental Assistance Program: Will allow extremely low-income households of one or more adults with a disability to live in an integrated setting through rental subsidy and access to supportive services. Current 811 Housing options are located in the following counties: Tuscarawas, Belmont, Guernsey, and soon in Muskingum.

When people with behavioral health problems have access to treatment services and affordable housing, two things happen:

- 1) The individual achieves better health outcomes.
- 2) The cost to public systems drops.

Annual Performance Review – Executive Director

As prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code, the MHRS Board of Directors annually conducts an evaluation of the Executive Director’s performance and sets the Director’s salary for the coming fiscal year. Board members reviewed the Executive Committee’s evaluation report and set Director Misty Cromwell’s FY 2026 salary (effective July 1, 2025) at \$120,000. (Board members completing the evaluation were President Sue Hoover, Vice President Leondra Davis and Committee Chairs Dr. Dan Scheerer and Randi Earnest.

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 on behalf of system clients and their families.

Board members also approved the renewal of Director Cromwell’s employment contract for the period February 13, 2025, to February 11, 2028.

Legislative Day

On January 28, a delegation from our region traveled to Columbus to meet with service area legislators to discuss the Policy and Funding Priorities of the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) and also spent considerable time discussing the Ohio Department of Mental Health’s decision to disrupt the operations of one of our community group homes. Those participating in Legislative Day were: MHRS Board President Sue Hoover; Executive Director Misty Cromwell; MHRS Board staff members Jamie McGrew, Sarah Reed, and Karl Hoop; and former high school intern Avarie Wellman.

In meetings with legislators, it was stressed that the community mental health and addiction system needs continuation and expansion of existing funds to support the increasing demand for care. Some of OACBHA’s key recommendations are:

- Sustain the SFY 2024-2025 investments in community mental health and substance use disorder services – with funds flowing through MHRS Boards as they work with state and local partners to provide care to children and adults struggling with mental health and substance use disorders.
- Modernize MHRS Board contracting authority in the Ohio Revised Code to ensure Boards and local provider agencies are positioned to effectively collaborate in using federal , state and local funding for the provision of needed community services and supports.
- Protect the 25% portion of Adult-Use Cannabis tax revenue to expand substance use and addiction funding for community-based prevention, treatment, and recovery supports. Direct 50% of the annual cannabis tax revenue to MHRS Boards to support community services.

- Prioritize and align funding for MHRS Boards' local continuum of crisis services—including crisis stabilization, crisis urgent care, and crisis residential to ensure that the needs of children, youth and adults are met.
- Update regulations, policies, and practices to ensure that MHRS Boards are able to access and share all necessary client data, so that they can plan, develop, fund, manage, and evaluate the local system of care.
- Maintain workforce wellness and retention initiatives and investments to support development and growth of behavioral health practitioners working in community behavioral health settings.
- OhioMHAS should lead mental health and addiction services priorities and funding for the State of Ohio. As the state's statutory partner, local MHRS Boards should be at the table and involved in the design, development, and implementation of programs, funding, and priorities for community services and supports.

Community Crisis Response Team (CCRT)

Our region's Community Crisis Response Team is a vital part of our efforts to provide compassionate and effective support to individuals and families during times of crisis. Team members are instrumental in de-escalating situations, providing immediate care, and connecting those in need with long-term resources.

MISSION: The CCRT Mission is to provide compassionate, trauma-informed, and culturally sensitive crisis intervention.

Some CCRT trainings are scheduled for March 28-29-30, April 21-22-23, and a school-focused training for May 22-23.

Anyone interested in joining the Community Crisis Response Team and making a meaningful impact in our community should contact Jamie McGrew or Karl Hoop at the MHRS Board – 740.454.8557. Team members will have the opportunity of providing hope and support during life's most challenging moments.



The Board of Directors will next meet at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 13, at the MHRS Board Office, 1500 Coal Run Road, Zanesville. No committee meetings will be held. The Annual Board Member Training will take place from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.