

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

OFFICIAL MINUTES – SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
(March 27, 2025)

I. BOARD NOTIFICATION & COMPLIANCE WITH SUNSHINE LAW:

The March 27 special board meeting notification was posted on the MHRS Board’s Facebook Page, announcing the Board of Directors would meet at 5:00 p.m. at the MHRS Board Office.

II. CALL TO ORDER: President Sue Hoover called the regular board meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

III. ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present:

- *Sue Hoover, President (Muskingum County)*
- *Leondra Davis, Vice President (Coshocton County)*
- *Randi Earnest (Guernsey County)*
- *William Johnson (Coshocton County)*
- *Lt. Dave Peoples (Guernsey County)*
- *Dan Scheerer, M.D. (Muskingum County)*
- *Ben Taylor (Perry County)*
- *Bonnie Taylor (Muskingum County)*

Board Members Excused:

- *Sean Brady (Muskingum County)*
- *Abby Corder (Muskingum County)*
- *Reid Carpenter (Noble County)*
- *Dennis Hitchcock (Muskingum County)*
- *Tony Mayle, Jr. (Morgan County)*
- *Wendy Starlin (Perry County)*

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

Staff Members Present:

- *Misty Cromwell, Executive Director*
- *Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator*

IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: (None)

V. AGENDA: There being no changes to the pre-mailed agenda, RANDI EARNEST MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE MARCH 27, 2025, SPECIAL BOARD MEETING AS MAILED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DAVE PEOPLES AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

VI. MEETING MINUTES: WILLIAM JOHNSON MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 13, 2025, BOARD MEETING AS SUBMITTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DAVE PEOPLES AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: LEONDRA DAVIS, ABSTAIN; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was approved receiving six positive votes and one abstention.

VII. SECOND HEARING — SPECIAL ALLOCATION REQUEST FROM ALLWELL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES:

At the March 13 meeting, James McDonald submitted a request for the MHRS Board to fund a contract with Eleos AI Research in the amount of \$45,000 per year for three years. Board members had some

additional questions about this request and delayed action until March 27.

In an email from CEO James McDonald dated March 21, he noted that Ed Romito, the Chief Information Officer at Genesis, has pointed out there is no AI EPIC product/module for progress note capture. James noted that Eleos is a stand-alone solution that imports into the EHR. He again pointed out the benefits of using Eleos, including the ability to collect cash sooner.

Following further discussion, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE FUNDING THE FIRST YEAR OF A CONTRACT WITH ELEOS AI RESEARCH IN THE AMOUNT OF \$45,000. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BEN TAYLOR, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, ABSTAIN; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was approved receiving six positive votes and one abstention.

VIII. OPEN MINDS CONSULTING:

Board members thoroughly reviewed the recommendations from Open Minds Consulting for improving the MHRS Board's network of care. Following discussion, DAN SCHEERER MOVED THAT THE BOARD MOVE FORWARD WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT — AND APPROVE A CONTRACT WITH OPEN MINDS TO PROVIDE 500 HOURS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DURING THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2025, TO DECEMBER 31, 2025, WITH THE CONSULTING FEE BEING \$138,250 PLUS EXPENSES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY RANDI EARNEST, AND A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS: LEONDRA DAVIS, YEA; RANDI EARNEST, YEA; WILLIAM JOHNSON, YEA; DAVE PEOPLES, YEA; DAN SCHEERER, YEA; BEN TAYLOR, YEA; AND BONNIE TAYLOR, YEA. The motion was unanimously approved receiving seven positive votes.

IX. NEXT MEETING:

President Hoover noted that the Board would next meet in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 10. The Finance/Audit Committee and Partners Workgroup will meet from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. The meeting will take place at the MHRS Board Office, 1500 Coal Run Road, Zanesville.

X. COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

► *Thank you!* Dr. Scheerer thanked board members for their willingness to attend two board meetings in March. Board members' obvious commitment to the MHRS Board's overall mission is greatly appreciated.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

SIGNATURES

Linda Hand, Administrative Coordinator

Misty Cromwell, Executive Director

Sue Hoover, Board President