

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

Regular Board Meeting
 Highlights
 January 9, 2025

FinancialMatters

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

- **Reconciliation Report:** Board members reviewed and approved the December 2024 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 Financial Reports:** Board members also reviewed the following December 2024 fiscal reports: 1) Balance Sheet through December 31, 2024; 2) Dashboard Report; 3) Network Funding Reserves; 3) Year-to-Date Status Report for the MHRS Board’s Operating Budget; and 5) Reconciliation Report.
- **Appropriation to ARPA Expenses Line Item:** Board members approved the appropriation of \$600,000 to the ARPA Expenses Line Item in the MHRS Board’s calendar year budget.
- **Risk Management & Insurance:** Approved the levels and adequacy of insurance coverage—including cyber security—to protect against allegations of improper conduct when carrying out duties as board members.
- **Special Allocation Request – Genesis Healthcare System – for Development of Youth Crisis Stabilization Unit:** Approved a special allocation of \$64,780 to the Genesis Healthcare System to cover the IT Project Budget Estimate for development of the Youth Crisis Stabilization Unit.
- **Open Minds Consultation — Network Improvements:** | MHRS Board Executive Director Misty Cromwell recently approved a \$13,860 allocation to Open Minds for 40 hours of work overages in the CY 2024 Contract. | Board members approved a motion to 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. (Once the Open Minds consultants’ due diligence work is finalized, another update report will be provided to the MHRS Board.)
- **Authorization to Pay 2024 Bills in 2025:** Adopted a resolution noting that 2024 invoices presented for payment in 2025 are approved for payment.
- 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>December 12, 2024</i>	— — —	\$85,327.83	\$85,327.83
<i>December 16, 2024</i>	\$202,919.79	\$446,700.78	\$649,620.57
TOTAL	\$202,919.79	\$532,028.61	\$734,948.40

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.
 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.



(The Burden of Mental Illness on Our Children)

Samanta Boddapati, Ph.D. and Margaret Rosencrans, Ph.D., from Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH), met with the MHRS Board's Partners Workgroup to give a PAX Program Overview and share some state data collected from classroom teachers and external PAX Partners. PAX Programs are located within five MHRS Board service area counties (Coshocton, Guernsey, Muskingum, Noble and Perry Counties). Specific local PAX data will soon be available.



Partners Workgroup Chair Randi Earnest reported that the PAX Good Behavior Game (GBG) is a research-based intervention used in classrooms to create an environment that is conducive to learning. The GBG nurtures student self-regulation, improves attention, and reduces impulsivity, thus wiring the brain during any school activity for long-term gain. It also reduces problematic behaviors, such as alcohol and drug use, psychiatric disorders, and even suicide. The PAX GBG is unique in that it uses peer reinforcement to encourage positive behavior and inhibit problematic behavior. | The PAX Tools initiative provides a collection of trauma-informed, evidence-based behavioral strategies for families and communities to promote the development of self-regulation in children's lives outside the classroom.

Teachers implement PAX strategies as part of their daily routines, making the children the heroes of change.

Key National Data:

- 11% of children (ages 8-11) have or have had a mental illness with severe impairment.
- 22% of teens (ages 13-18) have had a mental illness with severe impairment in their lifetime.
- Only 50% of youth with a mental health disorder receive any behavioral health treatment.

2023-2024 Snapshot – MHRS Board Region:

- ✓ Implementation Sites: Approximately 22 classrooms, 358 schools, 9 districts.
- ✓ Staff: Four external PAX Partners (Allwell); three NCH Staff.
- ✓ Internal Partners: 48 trained internal partners in all districts supported by external partners from NCH.
- ✓ Sustainability Teams: Active sustainability teams in majority of sites by the end of 2023-2024 school year.

Some Statewide Conclusions:

- ✓ Overall trends in reduced child behavioral difficulties, as rated by classroom teachers.
- ✓ Slight to stable increase in teacher-reported self-efficacy.
- ✓ Overall reduction in spleems (i.e., off-task behaviors).
- ✓ Increases in PAX implementation steps across majority of districts.

Future Direction:

- ✓ Deeper dive into data trends.
- ✓ Expand regional and statewide sustainability efforts.
- ✓ Integration of PAX with existing systems and programs.

Wrap-Up Thoughts:

Historically, the MHRS Board has invested in the PAX Program by funding teacher, partner, and tools trainings. Teachers have found that the implementation of the GBG in their classrooms has improved the behavior of their students and allows them more teaching time. More importantly, the GBG has a positive impact on students who are tending to be kinder, more supportive, and more encouraging to their classmates and more respectful to teachers and other adults.



Congratulations!

Jamie McGrew, the MHRS Board's Director of Community Outreach and Programming, recently received her Master's Degree in Public Administration through Ohio University. This achievement exemplifies Jamie's deep commitment to improving lives in Southeastern Ohio. Her journey through the Voinovich School, supported by a robust network of family, friends, and colleagues, reinforces her belief in the transformative power of collective effort.

Work Aligned with MHRS Board's Strategic Plan

Below are the three goals in the MHRS Board's Strategic Plan and some staff work in December that helped to further those goals:

1. Ensure and Increase the Availability of (and Access to) Quality Services:

- ✓ MHRS Board Director Misty Cromwell has been appointed to the Research Committee of the Appalachian Children's Coalition. This committee looks at ways to improve services at the intersection of service and practice.
- ✓ The FY 2026 RFA application process has begun. Evaluation and scoring will occur January through April—with providers presenting their priorities to the Board of Directors for review and consideration of ongoing funding.

2. Foster a Healthy & Coordinated Field of Provider Organizations (includes Community Awareness and Stigma Reduction):

- ✓ Continued work with TBD Solutions to assess and evaluate the network's mobile crisis services.
- ✓ Completion of FY 2024 Contract Organization Compliance Audits.
- ✓ Monthly meetings continue to occur around Guardianships, Re-Entry Coalitions, Ohio State Highway Patrol Outreach, Suicide Prevention, Housing and Crisis/Disaster Response.

3. Secure the Ongoing Health and Effectiveness of the MHRS Board:

✓ ***HB 257:***

This legislation proposes to allow public bodies like MHRS Boards to meet virtually. HB 257 was recently passed by both Ohio Legislative Chambers and signed by Governor DeWine. The legislation will become effective in 90 days. The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) is putting together guidance on the bill and implementation of its provisions. MHRS Board Director Misty Cromwell serves on the OACBHA Executive Committee that advocated for HB 257's passage.

✓ ***Continued Smart Sheet Work:***

Board staff continue to work with the Smart Sheet consultant to automate fiscal and program processes. To date, the following work areas have been moved under this management platform: Contracting, Mini-Grants, Media, and Access to Wellness Programming.