**GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH**

**AND RECOVERY SERVICES**

**Ann Bagley 13244 Ravenna Road**

**Chairman of the Board Chardon, Ohio 44024**

**James C. Adams Phone: (440) 285-2282**

**Chief Executive Officer Fax: (440) 285-9617**

**Board Minutes August 19, 2020**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ann Bagley (Chair), Alberta Chokshi (Planning and Policies), Walter Claypool (Planning and Policies), Martin Fay (Agency Relations), Carolee Lesyk (Finance/Agency Relations), Jennifer Malainy (Agency Relations), Linda Miller (Agency Relations/Finance/Planning and Policies), Tom Niewulis (Finance), Steven Oluic (Agency Relations), Michael Petruziello (Finance), Mary Ruth Shumway (Agency Relations), Leila Vidmar (Planning and Policies)

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jimmy Lee Holden (Finance), Gregory O’Brien (Planning and Policies)

**GUESTS:** There was no attendance taken of who participated in the meeting

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jim Adams, Amie Martin-D’Arienzo, Jim Mausser, Teresa Slater

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Ms. Bagley called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Ms. Vidmar called the roll for attendance purposes. Present: Ann Bagley, Alberta Chokshi, Walter Claypool, Martin Fay, Carolee Lesyk, Jennifer Malainy, Linda Miller, Tom Niewulis, Steven Oluic, Michael Petruziello, Leila Vidmar, Mary Ruth Shumway

1. **SWEARING IN OF REAPPOINTMENTS: ANN BAGLEY AND MARTIN FAY**

Ms. Slater delivered the Oath of Office to Ms. Bagley and Mr. Fay, who were reappointed to the Board by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2024.

1. **APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM JUNE 17, 2020**

Ms. Miller moved to approve the Minutes as written. Ms. Chokshi seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-12; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

1. **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – TOM QUADE, GEAUGA COUNTY HEALTH COMMISSIONER**

Ms. Bagley invited Mr. Quade to the meeting to give the Board an update regarding Covid-19 in Geauga County.

Mr. Quade thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. He said every day they have a better understanding of this disease, although things can change rapidly. He has a PowerPoint presentation that he can send if anyone would like to have that. Highlights of this evening’s presentation included the following:

* Covid is a communicable disease transferred from one person’s respiratory system to another person. The longer people share a space together the greater the risk is for exposure.
* Prior to June, the primary impact of Covid was seen in congregate settings, such as long term care facilities and the prison system.
* Since June, the vast number of confirmed cases have been to individuals 60 years of age and younger, and half of those were under 40.
* Contraction of the disease does not always cause the same health issues. Many people are asymptomatic which presents a unique challenge since someone could unknowingly spread the virus to others. Most people have mild symptoms.
* Recently there have been a larger number of younger folks under 20 who have contracted the virus. This is causing some concern since kids are not even back in school yet.
* The number of cases peaked in May and has been steadily going down. There have been 44 deaths from Covid, which makes it the leading cause of death from March 1st through July 31st in Geauga County. That should not be true going forward unless there is another peak in cases or outbreak in long term care facilities.
* Geauga County is historically healthy in comparison to the state as a whole. A county risk map was implemented by the state using indicators to identify the risk level for each county by tracking the percentage of cases occurring outside of a congregant setting in an effort to contain community spread. There are four levels. Geauga has mostly stayed in level one, but did reach the second level twice. Geauga is not currently experiencing any outbreaks in congregant settings.
* The challenging piece is people thinking that things are as good as they are going to get and relaxing some of the measures used to contain the virus.
* Geauga County represents 0.8% of the state’s population, has 0.5% of the cases in the state, a hospitalization rate of 0.8%, and has 1.2% of the deaths in the state.
* The basic message is “whatever can be done to keep what is in my respiratory system out of your respiratory system”.
* Public health prevention strategies revolve around putting up barricades to protect the people around you and cut down the likelihood of viral transmission, such as wearing face masks, social distancing, hand washing, and the fewer people occupying the same space at the same time helps control the spread.
* If someone tests positive for the virus, an order of isolation is issued so they don’t spread it to others. Individuals who live in the same household, people they work with, or come in close contact with, are quarantined for 10 days even if they are asymptomatic.
* There is a lot of talk about herd immunity and vaccine development. Herd immunity is dependent on how long immunity lasts. With the coronavirus, this typically fades very quickly in a matter of weeks and months. To get herd immunity, a large number of individuals would need to get the virus at the same time over a certain period of time.
* Using a specific mathematical model, it is estimated that approximately 10% of the population has Covid. There would need to be 60%-80% of the population with the virus to reach herd community. If you multiply that by the percentage of hospitalizations and deaths, this would result in a grave outcome. That is why everyone should do what they can to stop the spread.

Ms. Bagley said the Board has been discussing having the option of meeting face to face and via Zoom. Mr. Quade said it is important to have public input and accessibility for public meetings. There is still the issue of protecting the individuals involved and it would be great to hold meetings using this hybrid model. He suggested that those who feel comfortable meeting face to face should still wear masks and practice social distancing. Anyone with a medical condition should still probably participate via Zoom.

Mr. Claypool commented on the presentation made to the Commissioners and said that numbers can be twisted in a lot of different directions. He was a math major and when looking at the numbers, he feels that a lot of panic was created about this virus. He said the chance of someone dying is significantly lower than is reasonable considering the impact and damage done to our society. Mr. Claypool challenged the legal authority of the Governor and Health Director to issues orders that resulted in the loss of personal freedoms and independence, produced significant job loss, caused industries to shut down, and had many other negative impacts, for something that generated a small percentage of hospitalizations and deaths. These actions have created other health crises, including an increased number of overdoses, suicides, and individuals seeking help for depression, which has caused more damage and harm than the virus itself. Mr. Quade responded that he is just providing information. Each county is doing things differently. He cannot speak to the Governor’s legal authority regarding his directives and orders. If we want to reduce the spread of Covid, then there are certain steps that need to be taken.

Mr. Petruziello asked about the 44 deaths in Geauga from Covid. Mr. Quade said the majority were in nursing homes. Mr. Petruziello then asked how many were in the 60 and under age group. Mr. Quade responded only one so far. Mr. Petruziello then asked how many of these individuals were 40 year of age or younger. Mr. Quade responded that there were none. Mr. Petruziello asked what the historical deaths by suicide was prior to the Covid outbreak and then since that time. Mr. Quade said from March 1st through July 31st there were six intentional self-harm deaths. Ms. Martin-D’Arienzo said the Sheriff’s Office has reported ten deaths so far this year. This number includes Geauga residents who completed suicide in another county. The health department only counts individuals who died here.

Ms. Bagley thanked Mr. Quade for his presentation. If there are any other questions, they can be directed to him.

1. **CEO REPORT**

Mr. Adams said he has been meeting with NAMI and will keep the Board updated as things move forward. He also discussed an opportunity to increase housing at the joint Finance and Agency Relations committee meeting.

1. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
2. **Agency Relations and Finance**

Ms. Miller reported that the committees met jointly this past Monday. They reviewed the following Resolutions and are recommending that the Board approve all of them. Mr. Niewulis clarified that one of the Resolutions was not discussed and the Resolutions before the Board this evening were renumbered accordingly.

Ms. Shumway commented that Chris Steigerwald, when presenting on behalf of SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity), said the Board is providing funds for members of this group. Mr. Adams said that is not correct to his knowledge. Clients may be receiving services from Ravenwood Health but the Board has no resolution setting aside funding for that specific group. Mr. Claypool asked what services they are receiving and if the Board has oversight on the type of services that can be provided. Mr. Adams responded that the Board funds Ravenwood to provide counseling and other services such as group therapy for clients without insurance. Mr. Claypool questioned the efficacy of counseling for that specific group of people. He said the Board needs to look into where the money is going and if it is an appropriate use of funds. Ms. Bagley responded that if Mr. Claypool would like to discuss this further, it can be brought up under New Business.

**RESOLUTION 20-08-1 MOBILE CRISIS AND CRISIS RESPONSE FUNDING ALLOCATION:** Ms. Miller moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Chokshi seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Claypool asked what mobile crisis is. Mr. Adams said it is part of the continuum of 24 hour crisis care that is provided face to face in the community. Mr. Claypool commented on the fact that these funds are going to Ravenwood. Mr. Adams said Ravenwood is the only agency qualified to provide this service. Mr. Claypool then commented that these are grant funds and the Board should not have to vote on allocating this money. Mr. Adams replied these funds are not part of a grant, but is an allocation from the state for a specific purpose. Mr. Claypool asked what the other options are before the Board decides to give this money to Ravenwood. Mr. Adams replied that Ravenwood is the only agency qualified to provide these services since they have masters’ level clinicians. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-12; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

**RESOLUTION 20-08-2 SPECIALIZED DOCKET ALLOCATION TO GEAUGA COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS:** Ms. Shumway moved to approve the Resolution. Mr. Niewulis seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-12; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

**RESOLUTION 20-08-3 APPROVAL OF YOUTH GROUP HOME FUNDING:** Ms. Miller moved to approve the Resolution. Dr. Lesyk seconded the motion. Discussion: Ms. Shumway asked if youth from Lake County are placed at the youth group home. Mr. Adams replied that they are. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-11; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

**RESOLUTION 20-08-4 EVIDENCE-BASED PREVENTION FUNDING FOR SFY2021:** Dr. Oluic moved to approve the Resolution. Dr. Lesyk seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-11; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

**RESOLUTION 20-08-5 RECOVERY HOUSING ALLOCATION TO LAKE-GEAUGA RECOVERY CENTERS FOR SFY2021:** Dr. Lesyk moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Claypool asked what these funds are for. Mr. Adams replied they are for the men’s and women’s recovery houses in Geauga County operated by Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-12; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

**RESOLUTION 20-08-6 KINDERGARTEN THRU 12TH GRADE (K-12) PREVENTION GRANT ALLOCATION:** Ms. Miller moved to approve the Resolution. Dr. Oluic seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Niewulis said each school district had to submit a plan on how they would use the funds. Berkshire’s plan includes a social emotional learning component which he does not like and feels is not an appropriate use of these funds. Mr. Claypool agrees with Mr. Niewulis.

Mr. Adams said the funds were spread evenly to all of the districts. The Educational Service Center will act as the administrative agent. Mr. Claypool asked what the funds will be paying for. Mr. Adams said a summary of each plan was compiled by Ms. Martin-D’Arienzo and previously sent to Board members. The programs implemented must be evidence-based and provided by certified prevention and education specialists and not school staff.

Mr. Petruziello commented that the legislature allocated these funds for a specific purpose and asked why they need to go through the Board. Ms. Shumway replied it is because the funds must be used for mental health programs. Mr. Petruziello again asked since the allocations are specifically for the school districts, why the Board needs to approve the funds. Mr. Adams said every line item in the budget is allocated to specific departments because the legislature does not have the capacity to provide oversight of hundreds of millions of dollars. These funds were allocated jointly to OhioMHAS and the Department of Education. Mr. Petruziello asked if this matter could be tabled until it is determined whether or not the funds need to be handled this way. Mr. Mausser said the state has already distributed these funds to the Board.

Mr. Claypool asked for a definition of evidence-based treatment. Mr. Adams said there are lists of direct service programs that have been researched and peer reviewed extensively on a national level, by such entities as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the National Institute of Health. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-9; NAYS-3; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

**RESOLUTION 20-08-7 STRONG FAMILIES/SAFE COMMUNITIES ALLOCATION FOR SFY2021:** Ms. Miller moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Chokshi seconded the motion. Discussion: Ms. Shumway would like to have a list of Family First Council’s referral agencies. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-12; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

**RESOLUTION 20-08-8 ALLOCATION OF MENTAL HEALTH PRISION REENTRY PROGRAM FUNDS:** Mr. Niewulis moved to approve the Resolution. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-12; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

**RESOLUTION 20-08-9 CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LINKAGES GRANT ALLOCATION FOR SFY2021:** Mr. Niewulis moved to approve the Resolution. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Claypool asked what these funds are for. Mr. Adams said several agencies provide mental health and substance abuse services to inmates in the Geauga county jail. They also help inmates link to other services once they are released from jail, including housing, employment, and treatment. Mr. Claypool commented that a lot of funds are going to Ravenwood. He said the Board needs to see where all this money is going, determine if the funds are being managed effectively, and if there is any waste going on. He is concerned that Ravenwood is “sucking up dollars left and right” and would like to look at this from an efficiency standpoint. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-12; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

**RESOLUTION 20-08-10 CHARDON PILOT PROJECT FUNDING:** Dr. Lesyk moved to approve the Resolution. Dr. Oluic seconded the motion. Discussion: Ms. Shumway asked if this is the last year for these funds. Mr. Adams replied he keeps thinking it is the last year. Mr. Petruziello said this is a line item in the state budget and he is not sure why it is coming to the Board and why we have to approve it. Mr. Claypool said the Board has a duty to the citizens to see if this is a waste of money and to reach out to the state to see if there is a better use for these funds. Mr. Niewulis said whoever lobbied for this money is who should ask the state. Mr. Claypool said the voice of the boards at the state level needs to make changes to how they lobby for mental health and push back on the questionable use of dollars to save the taxpayers money. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-9; NAYS-3; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

1. **Planning and Policies**

Ms. Vidmar reported that the committee met on August 4th and August 12th. A compilation of the evaluation results was sent to Board members to make sure their comments were included as they pertain to the parameters she used. A subgroup of the committee will look at the most recent salary survey done by the Association, determine several counties that are similar in size to Geauga, and request a copy of their CEO contract if applicable. This information will then be given to the full committee to discuss salary, compensation, etc.

A draft of goals and objectives was sent out for committee members to review and decide if they would like to change or add anything. Ms. Vidmar asked how the Board would like to proceed. Mr. Claypool commented that the goals and objectives do not include enough metrics and measurements to hold the agencies accountable. He feels the Board is not adequately watching what the agencies are doing and making sure the Board is getting a good return for the funds allocated. Mr. Petruziello feels this conversation should be held in Executive Session. Ms. Vidmar asked if Ms. Martin-D’Arienzo receives outcomes information from the agencies. Ms. Martin-D’Arienzo replied that she does receive this information and has created outcomes reports for each agency program funded by the Board. Ms. Vidmar said it would be helpful to review those reports. Mr. Claypool would also like to see those reports. He is not sure what the metrics should be, but assumes Mr. Adams has the ability to determine what the outcomes should be. One of his biggest concerns is the amount of funds the Board allocates to Ravenwood Health and if they are producing the outcomes and performance results the Board expects. Ms. Bagley asked Ms. Martin-D’Arienzo to send the most recent outcomes reports to the Board members so they can make an informed decision regarding how funds are being utilized.

Ms. Shumway asked when each program was updated by the agencies. Mr. Niewulis said agencies did submit information about the past fiscal year but the Board was not able to review that information in detail. This would help define upcoming goals and objectives and aid in developing metrics for the agencies and staff, not just for today, but also for the future. Mr. Claypool commented that if a specific model is being used, the Board should be able to generate results, determine performance in any area, and if necessary, decide what needs to be done to improve that outcome. In order to do that, the Board needs to know the current standards and how they are being measured. Ms. Chokshi said agencies need to be certified on a state and national level and need to meet specific program criteria.

Mr. Claypool replied he is not concerned about the state departments, but is referring to board directors. One goal for the director would be to establish the metrics used to measure agencies to see if they meet the objectives and goals of the Board. It would be Mr. Adams’ responsibility to help the Board insure that we are being the most effective we can with the funds we receive. The Chardon funds should have been questioned long ago. Ms. Chokshi replied that it is not just Mr. Adams’ responsibility to make sure agencies are striving to meet goals. This is done in conjunction with the various certifying bodies. She suggested taking that input, presenting it to the Board and then make realistic goals. Mr. Claypool said his goal is to determine what the right path is. He said there are some things the Board can’t control, but there are issues where they can decide how things should be done.

Mr. Adams said the Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC) model can be used to help the Board make good financial decisions by first conducting a needs assessment. This was done several years ago and he is recommending that the Board go through that process again to find out what the current needs are in the county. Mr. Claypool said he would like to see the actual results from the assessment and not just who participated and how it was done. Mr. Adams said at the Agency Relations/Finance meeting Monday, there were specific questions about specific programs and Ms. Martin-D’Arienzo could answer those questions in real time which then helped the committee with any decisions made. He said big outcomes indicators are sometimes driven by small programs. One such outcome is the cost of paying for someone at the state hospital at $700 per day versus what it costs to keep someone in the community with local services and a better quality of life. That is the type of long term outcomes that we don’t focus enough on.

Mr. Niewulis suggested using those summaries as a good start for Mr. Adams to let the Board know where programs stand and where they should be, so the Board can make informed decisions about funding. Ms. Bagley said that process could start through Planning and Policies. Ms. Vidmar talked about putting some type of metrics in place to serve as an early warning before an agency is in trouble. She feels the whole Board could help develop that criteria.

Mr. Claypool said he has issues with state and local health board decisions that are having a negative impact on the mental health board, including an increase in addiction and suicides. He feels the state is trying to fix something that can’t be fixed and that Covid-19 will be with us forever.

1. **BOARD REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS**
   1. **Financial Reports**

Mr. Mausser reported that final administrative expenses for SFY2020 finished under budget at 80.3%. The biggest savings came from Ms. Martin-D’Arienzo being hired half way through the fiscal year. July expenditures were slightly over budget for the first month of SFY2021 because there were three pay periods and because of the payment to the Association for membership dues. Mr. Mausser said $3,547,959.32 has been expended through July, as reflected on the County’s Calendar Year Budget Performance Report. Mr. Niewulis asked about the amount shown in the Auditor’s Fund Balance for SFY2021. Mr. Mausser said the Resolutions passed this evening will bring that amount down. This is where he anticipates the amount to be when taking into account all receivables and encumbrances. The unexpended funds from the administrative budget in SFY2020 will be added to the unencumbered reserves amount. Mr. Petruziello commented that even with all the Resolutions that were passed, the Board will still have approximately $2.4 Million of unencumbered funds. Mr. Mausser replied that we have not received all of the funding yet for these Resolutions. Mr. Petruziello asked what revenue the Board gets from the citizens of Geauga County. Mr. Mausser said the Board has two levies and those amounts are listed under Revenue Receivables for SFY2021. Mr. Petruziello asked what the chances are of giving some of those funds back. Mr. Mausser feels the Board will receive less state and federal funding next year. Ms. Shumway commented that the Board will also be looking into an opportunity to potentially provide additional mental health housing.

* 1. **Approval of Voucher Recaps**

Mr. Niewulis moved to approve Voucher No. 648 in the amount of $476,271.94. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-11 NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

Mr. Petruziello moved to approve Voucher No. 649 in the amount of $529,383.21. Dr. Lesyk seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-11; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

1. **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Vidmar asked if there is any update about the new residential home in Burton. Mr. Adams said he has not heard from the Commissioners after sending them information about it.

Dr. Lesyk asked about the roofs. Mr. Adams said the contract process is finally completed. He did speak with Glen Vernick, who made a recommendation of someone to oversee this project.

Mr. Petruziello asked about getting additional information from the agencies, such as their federal filings. Mr. Adams said that can be included in next year’s request for proposal. Mr. Petruziello would like their current filing to see what other funding agencies receive in addition to what they get from the Board.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Adams reported he recently spoke with Don Rice about their facilities at Metzenbaum. They are looking to subdivide some of the property, including their four residential houses. Joy Black is currently leasing one of the homes. He asked if the Board would consider taking either a 1.5 acre or 3 acre lot with one or more of the existing homes to increase our housing capacity. This topic was discussed at the joint committee meeting on Monday. If Board members are interested in this proposal, Ms. Bagley will put together ad hoc committee to pursue this further.

Mr. Claypool again expressed his concern about the SOGI group headed by Chris Steigerwald. He said if members of this group are receiving Board funding, the Board needs to know what is being done to whom and the process by which treatment is determined. Mr. Adams said he will speak with Ravenwood about this issue, but said the Board does not have a contract in place for this particular group. Mr. Claypool commented that the funds may be allocated to Ravenwood and then used for counseling to SOGI members. If that is the case, then the Board needs to have oversight of this and have a conversation about the criteria and vetting process. Ms. Shumway said she does not think that is what is happening, but that members of SOGI are being referred to Ravenwood for services. Mr. Adams reiterated that he will look into this matter. Mr. Claypool commented that he is not a big fan of what is going on with that group.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Lesyk moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. Those present discussed holding next month’s meeting in person and via Zoom. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

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**Ms. Teresa Slater**

**Secretary/Receptionist**

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**Ms. Ann Bagley**

**Chairman of the Board**

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**Ms. Leila Vidmar**

**Secretary of the Board**