**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 March 17, 2021**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ann Bagley, Alberta Chokshi, Walter Claypool, Jennifer Malainy, Linda Miller, Steven Oluic, Michael Petruziello, Mary Ruth Shumway

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Martin Fay, James Lee Holden, Carolee Lesyk, Gregory O’Brien, Leila Vidmar

**GUESTS:** There was no attendance taken of other meeting participants

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

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

Ms. Bagley called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. Ms. Slater called the roll for attendance purposes.

1. **APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 17, 2021**

Dr. Oluic moved to approve the Minutes as written. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-8; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

1. **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Ms. Bagley shared that the County is doing much better in regards to Covid. When the Board last met, the rate was more than 600 people per ten thousand and the number is now just over 200.

1. **CEO REPORT**

Mr. Adams reminded everyone that the first joint committee meeting is scheduled for April 7th. He has been meeting with agency directors about their SFY2022 Requests for Proposals, which are due Friday. The agency RFPs will also be submitted electronically and can be sent to Board members. The staff will also prepare a summary for each agency proposal.

Mr. Adams reported that he received a call from Judy Zamlen-Spotts this past Friday. She had some questions about the latest SOR grant and asked if the Board saw the application. She had spoken with three Board members who said they did not see it. Mr. Adams reminded the Board that he talked about the SOR 2.0 grant in several of his CEO Reports and that the complete application was sent to all of them.

Mr. Petruziello said he has looked at the Health District’s website and noted they are receiving reports from West Geauga Schools about presumed Covid cases that are not being verified. He will reach out to Health Commissioner Tom Quade for clarification. Mr. Petruziello said he is having issues with another board regarding gatherings at Metropolitan Housing and not being able to use the community room.

1. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
   1. **Agency Relations**

Ms. Miller reported that Agency Relations and Finance met together on February 24, 2021 to decide what information the Board is interested in seeing from the agencies regarding outcomes. She said the meeting did not generate anything helpful, so she is still working on that.

They also discussed a housing grant opportunity that is available through the state and whether or not to apply for these funds to do renovations and upgrades at the Geauga Youth Center.

Ms. Miller said the key findings from the Recovery Housing in Ohio Analysis of Resident Survey Data Report are located on Page Two. She said overall the findings indicate that recovery housing is important and successful.

* 1. **Finance**

Mr. Petruziello will have more financial information to share after the RFP review meetings with Agency Relations.

* 1. **Planning and Policies**

Ms. Vidmar was not able to participate this evening. Mr. Adams said the committee has not met since what was last reported.

* 1. **Housing**

Mr. Adams said he is attending a meeting on Friday with several county representatives about the possibility of applying for state funding to update/renovate the Geauga Youth Center. He has spoken with the head of the county maintenance department and they have already started looking into making major renovations to that facility and is thrilled and excited about this opportunity.

Dr. Oluic asked about additional housing. He has been on the housing subcommittee for 8 months and nothing has been done. Mr. Adams said he has spoken with Mr. Rice and the Commissioners since the last meeting. The availability of property at Metzenbaum is on a slow track due to a lawsuit with EPA regarding water rights to the property. There are also deed restrictions which state that the property must be used for the provision developmental disability services. They are in the process of trying to get this changed and are working with attorneys at the Cleveland Foundation and the County to that end. Mr. Adams spoke with Commissioner Dvorak last Friday, who said this process is moving at a snail’s pace but is still going forward. Mr. Rice said the Metzenbaum property will likely be addressed in three phases, and that it will probably be at least July/August until the Board will come into the process.

Ms. Shumway asked why the Board couldn’t move into one of the houses once the EPA issue is resolved. Mr. Adams said it is his understanding that the property has not yet been transferred from Metzenbaum, and even if the Board took control, the buildings are currently occupied. It would be at least a year before we could move someone in.

Mr. Petruziello asked if Mr. Adams has completed the inventory of recovery housing that is available in Geauga County. Mr. Adams replied that he has gathered that information for the housing committee and can send what he has to all Board members.

1. **BOARD REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS**
   1. **Resolution 21-03-1 Permanent Supportive Housing Program Grant Award**

Ms. Miller moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Chokshi seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Adams said this is the continuation of a grant the Board currently receives. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-8; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

* 1. **Financial Reports**

Mr. Mausser reported that 53.7% of the Board’s administrative budget was expended through February. There were no expenses from the Community Education Budget. The County Calendar Year Budget Report shows expenditures of $1,036,205.23 through February. The Auditor’s Fund Balance through February was $3,446,492.42. He said the Cash Balances by Source of Funds accounts are all in order. Mr. Mausser said some agencies could have balances remaining in their current fiscal year contract, due to the pandemic and Medicaid.

Ms. Miller asked about the balance shown for the Chardon Pilot Project allocation. Mr. Mausser said the school has already received a payment of $62,500.00 and the amount shown is the balance remaining.

* 1. **Approval of Voucher Recap**

Ms. Shumway moved to approve Voucher Recap Schedule #656 in the amount of $436,168.77. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-8; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

1. **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Miller reported that the full HUB Committee met in February and will be meeting next on June 10th at 10:00 AM. They have discussed doing some events virtually since most of the previously scheduled events were community-oriented.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Shumway said most of the kids placed at the Geauga Youth Center come from the Geauga Juvenile Court. She asked if each child will need to have an assessment by Ravenwood Health even if they already have a therapist. Mr. Adams said every kid there has probably been receiving services for a long time. He said they can keep their own therapist and that services do not have to be provided by Ravenwood.

Ms. Shumway asked if there will be any new agencies submitting RFPs for funding. Mr. Adams said he has been contacted a few times by Prosperity Haven. This agency operates a 12 bed residential drug and alcohol treatment program in Hambden. He doesn’t know if they will actually submit a proposal.

Ms. Shumway commented on the fact that there is not any type of a step down medically assisted treatment facility and reunification program in Geauga for families and parents of children. Mr. Adams said Lake-Geauga’s Neveah Ridge facility serves women with very young children. They are looking at a new facility that would serve families with older kids. Ms. Blasko said funding for that purpose was included in the second year of the SOR 2.0 grant budget. She said there is a great need for a recovery house for women with children 17 years of age and under. She said Neveah Ridge is a primary treatment facility and not a step down or recovery house. Ms. Blasko and Mr. Adams have discussed finding a home in Geauga County for women and children once they leave primary treatment. This would be a joint venture with both the Lake and Geauga Boards, but the facility would be located in Geauga and take clients from both counties.

Ms. Shumway said transportation is a huge issue in Geauga. She asked if there are any programs available to transport people, such as high school students, to non-typical therapeutic environments. Mr. Adams replied there is not and Geauga does not have great transportation options. It is very difficult to make transportation cost effective and it would probably need to be heavily subsidized. Ms. Shumway said Equine Growth offers services to some of the high schools for students between the ages 15-17 who need additional therapeutic intervention, but most cannot afford to transport them. Mr. Claypool said he would like to hear more about this. He said the Amish don’t have transportation and they get around just fine. He talked about using Uber and other similar transportation services. Ms. Shumway replied that a parent must provide consent for this type of service. Mr. Claypool said that is already done by Uber as part of their set up. He would love to hear more about the transportation need because he doesn’t think it is as great as it is being portrayed. He cannot help solve a problem if he doesn’t understand it. He is willing to be educated further about this issue by looking at any data that is available.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Claypool moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 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. Teresa Slater**

**Acting Secretary of the Board**