**GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH**

**AND RECOVERY SERVICES**

**Jennifer Malainy 13244 Ravenna Road**

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

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

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**Board Minutes OCTOBER 20, 2021**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Alberta Chokshi, Walter Claypool, Martin Fay, James Lee Holden, Vanessa Jensen, Kathy Johnson, Carolee Lesyk, Jennifer Malainy, Linda Miller, Steven Oluic, Michael Petruziello, Mary Ruth Shumway

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ann Bagley, Gregory O’Brien

**GUESTS:** Mary Wynne-Peaspanen (Signature Health), Kim Carter (NAMI Geauga), Vicki Clark (Ravenwood Health), Melanie Blasko (Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers), Tim Kehres (Torchlight), Michelle Bertman (Catholic Charities), Angela Daugherty (Family Pride)

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

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

Ms. Malainy called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. She then said that the meeting is being held in public for the purpose of conducting the Board’s business. Public comments will be allowed for a total of ten minutes at the end of the meeting.

Ms. Chokshi called the roll for attendance purposes and the following Board members were present: Alberta Chokshi, Walter Claypool, Martin Fay, James Lee Holden, Vanessa Jensen, Kathy Johnson, Carolee Lesyk, Jennifer Malainy, Linda Miller, Steven Oluic, Michael Petruziello, Mary Ruth Shumway.

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge was recited by those in attendance.

Ms. Malainy said she has spoken with several Board members in the past few days and has made the decision to move to enter into Executive Session at 6:02 PM today pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G)(1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion or compensation of a public employee. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-11; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-1.** Mr. Claypool recommended that even though Dr. Jensen has not yet been sworn in, she be invited to participate in the Executive Session, but not the staff or the audience. The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:08 PM. Ms. Malainy said no action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

1. **SWEARING IN OF DR. VANESSA JENSEN - OHIOMHAS APPOINTMENT**

Ms. Slater delivered the Oath of Office to Dr. Vanessa Jensen, who was then welcomed by those in attendance.

1. **APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 15, 2021**

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

1. **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Ms. Malainy said the November Board meeting will be held on the 17th. There will be no Board meeting in December.

1. **CEO REPORT – WRITTEN REPORT**

Mr. Adams said he did not have any additions to his written CEO Report. Dr. Oluic asked if Open Beds will have information about available beds in both public and private facilities. Mr. Adams said as of now just public, but they would like to eventually include availability for all facilities. Dr. Oluic said that type of database would be helpful to everyone.

Mr. Adams said he attended the virtual training for OhioRISE yesterday afternoon to review changes in Medicaid for children 18 years old and under and will keep the Board updated as he receives additional information.

Mr. Claypool asked who Open Beds is. Mr. Adams said it is a private for-profit company that provides software for and referrals to public and private healthcare companies. This database has already been implemented in several other states.

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

Ms. Miller had nothing new to report.

* 1. **Finance**

Mr. Petruziello said he attended the budget hearing with Mr. Adams and Mr. Mausser. He said there was some discussion with the Commissioners about funding for housing. Mr. Petruziello would like to meet and involve all of the agencies to make sure everyone’s housing needs can be addressed, and develop a plan for drug and alcohol and mental health services.

* 1. **Planning and Policies**

Mr. Claypool said the committee met prior to the Board meeting. They discussed the performance evaluation process for Mr. Adams and whether to use Telos, SurveyConnect, or conducting the evaluation internally. The recommendation is to go with the less expensive option, which is SurveyConnect. The Board can now vote and move forward on this matter.

Ms. Chokshi would prefer to use Telos because they are more detailed and do most of the work. SurveyConnect is basically done online. She feels that the coaching piece is not needed. She suggested using SurveyConnect next year. The cost without the coaching piece is $1,350.00 for SurveyConnect and $2,200.00 for Telos.

Mr. Claypool said his concern is since Telos is used by Ravenwood Health, there may be bias associated with their evaluation and may “put a thumb on the scale a little bit”. SurveyConnect is completely independent. Ms. Chokshi said she was not originally aware of any connection between Telos and Ravenwood. Mr. Claypool briefly explained for Dr. Jensen the SurveyConnect process and that Telos’ approach is more hands on.

Ms. Miller is in favor of using Telos since this type of evaluation has never been done before in order to get a more complete visualization. Mr. Adams said Mr. Claypool and Ms. Vidmar met before the last Board meeting and were to ask for referrals from SurveyConnect. Mr. Claypool said he was supposed to follow up with that. He does have some references to follow up on, but his assumption is that SurveyConnect is not going to give names that wouldn’t provide positive feedback.

Ms. Shumway asked if Mr. Adams is thinking about retiring in three years. Mr. Adams responded that he would like to retire in three to five years. Mr. Claypool asked for someone to make a motion and a second so the Board can vote individually on whether to use Telos or SurveyConnect. Ms. Johnson asked if there is a conception that Telos is more complete because of their intent to have a long-term relationship with the Board. A vote was then taken regarding which entity the Board would like to use. SurveyConnect received six votes, Telos received five votes, and there was one abstention.

Mr. Claypool reported that the committee had a robust conversation about the Strategic Plan. The topic was tabled until later in the meeting so that all Board members could have the opportunity to review the proposed Plan.

* 1. **Housing**

Dr. Oluic reported that Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers opened a new 16 bed men’s residential treatment facility. He also saw in the News Herald that a for profit agency opened facilities in Euclid for men and women. He suggested that could be a resource in the area the Board should be tracking. Dr. Oluic then reported that he recently met with Mr. Adams to discuss housing, what county property is available, and some other ideas about building a more robust housing situation in Geauga County for our needs. Ms. Miller said Lake-Geauga’s new facility in Mentor is fabulous and beautiful, and she is very happy for them. Mr. Claypool said there should be facilities for that purpose in Geauga County. He is tired of supporting things in Lake County. Ms. Blasko said the Board only pays for services provided to Geauga residents no matter where the facility is located.

1. **BOARD REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS**
	1. **Resolution 21-10-1 Permanent Supportive Housing Grant Award**

Mr. Adams said these are grant funds that have been received over the past several years for the Board’s independent living apartments. Ms. Miller moved to approve the Resolution. Dr. Oluic seconded the motion. Mr. Claypool asked what these funds are for. Mr. Adams responded the funds are used for the Board owned apartments. Mr. Claypool clarified that this is for existing housing, and not for a new project. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-12; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

* 1. **Gala/Event Discussion**

Dr. Oluic feels it might be a good idea for the Board to hold some kind of event. It was discussed that July may be the best month to have an event. He suggested using the Geauga Leadership model as a guide. He also said a 501(C)(3) could be established if the Board itself cannot accept money. He said any event would be focused on being proactive and making the community aware of any issues. Dr. Oluic asked about convening an ad hoc committee to discuss this further. Mr. Petruziello suggested that the Board could have a booth at the Geauga County Fair and should look into what that would entail. He feels it is important for the community to see this Board and what it does. Dr. Lesyk, Ms. Shumway and Ms. Malainy are willing to be part of the committee, along with Dr. Oluic to discuss this in more detail. Dr. Oluic said in the extreme, it could be some type of gala in a hall, hold raffles, have sponsors, tables for county agency information, have a meal, and a guest speaker. Mr. Claypool asked where any funds received would go. Dr. Oluic sees any event as PR, not necessarily a fundraiser. He said if the Board establishes a 501, that entity could determine where any funds should go. Most of any money collected would probably go towards paying for the event. Mr. Claypool said there are three rotary organizations in the county who support charitable organizations. In February, the Chester Rotary is holding a gala called “Shining Stars”, and they share proceeds with the people they sponsor. He is a member of the Chester Rotary and can ask if the Board could participate in that event. He can also ask if someone from the Board could speak at an upcoming Chester Rotary meeting.

* 1. **Housing Committee – Ad Hoc or Standing**

Mr. Adams suggested keeping the Housing Committee ad hoc for now. There are a lot of projects in the works, including Ravenwood Health’s new 3.7 level treatment facility in Geauga County. These projects can be reviewed over the winter and the spring and if there are long term issues, the committee could be changed from ad hoc to permanent.

* 1. **Financial Reports and Voucher Recap**

Mr. Mausser reported that 22% of the Board’s administrative budget was expended through September 30, 2021. There were two expenses from the Community Education Budget for Constant Contact software and the Snack and Learn training. The calendar year expenditures through September were $4,848,357.16. The Auditor’s Fund Unencumbered Balance at the end of September was $3,942,400.65. The Cash Balances by Source of Funds are in order. Next month, he will be allocating any carryover to the proper category. Mr. Petruziello asked if Mr. Mausser received additional funds due to the new valuation done by the Auditor. Mr. Mausser said the Auditor did certify that the Board will be receiving about $175,000.00 more in revenue. The expenditures included on Voucher Recap Schedule #663 totaled $861,663.23 for the month of September.

1. **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Miller said Red Ribbon Week is October 23-31, 2021 and distributed ribbons, brochures, and information about it.

Ms. Miller reminded everyone that Saturday is National Drug Take Back Day and distributed a list of places where unused medication will be collected.

Mr. Adams said it has been suggested that Judge Grendell and Judge Paschke be invited to speak at separate Board meetings in the future. Once the dates have been chosen, he will submit a request to OhioMHAS to have both sessions approved as Board training.

Mr. Petruziello reported that he, Ms. Johnson and Ms. Martin-D’Arienzo took part in the Suicide Prevention Walk at Berkshire High School on October 7, 2021. He prepared an overview about that experience and distributed it to Board members. He talked with several students about what may be causing them to experience mental health issues. Based on those conversations, he listed three survey questions he would like to have students answer.

Ms. Shumway suggested inviting Karen Lackey to speak about the school programs she is part of to see what is already being done. Ms. Johnson said it was good to go out and walk with the kids. There have been three suicides at Berkshire Schools and it was the students’ idea to do this. She also spoke with some teachers and a school nurse. Ms. Johnson said it is staggering what is going on in the minds of children. She said it was very worthwhile and that the Board should be out in the community and learning what is going on. She feels there may be needs that are not being addressed. It has been a stressful couple of years in many ways and students are feeling that strain.

Mr. Petruziello also spoke with some of the providers who were at the event. He commented that the Board is always hearing about best practices. He said problems should be getting smaller, but they are actually getting bigger. Mr. Petruziello said we need to figure out what works in Geauga and not somewhere else, and come up with creative ways to reach out to young adults and find out what is going on with them directly.

Ms. Chokshi asked how these questions will be given to the kids. Mr. Petruziello said he doesn’t want the teachers to be involved, and he is not sure how to get kids involved. Ms. Chokshi said we may be crossing a line going into the schools. We need to have some type of an affiliation. We can’t just walk in and do a survey. Ms. Shumway said some schools would welcome that and some would not. Dr. Jensen said there are a number of standard short surveys that could be vetted in how they are worded. She suggested contacting principals and maybe have Ravenwood or another provider who is already in the schools conduct the survey. Mr. Petruziello replied that he doesn’t want a best practices survey and feels that the providers don’t know what the root causes are. He said the Board needs to hear from this age group about how they are impacted and get them to identify what they perceive the problems to be. Ms. Shumway said the causes will vary, but at least the Board would have some starting point.

Ms. Malainy suggested putting this matter on the agenda and discussing it further. Mr. Claypool said the Board has a lot of credibility and suggested approaching the school superintendents. He said it would be interesting to hear what kids are thinking about what they hear in schools. Mr. Petruziello said he does hear some of the issues from his grandkids and their friends. Ms. Malainy asked if we should start talking with the superintendents soon. Mr. Petruziello said we should first develop a presentation. Mr. Adams said he can speak to the Educational Services Center, see what they think, and maybe coordinate the survey through them. Ms. Johnson said she recently attended an ESC board meeting to see what they do. She told a story about a young person who committed suicide and the circumstances that led to that decision. Ms. Shumway said suicide is a realistic out for kids. Ms. Johnson said anxiety and depression is widespread in middle school and this should be a big concern. She said we need to find out what is going on and how we can help a population we love and care about.

Strategic Plan: Mr. Claypool said he has a problem with the housing section, but everything else is good enough to move forward, but he reserves the right to debate and discuss this document further. Mr. Claypool then moved to approve the Strategic Plan. Dr. Oluic seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-11; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-1. MOTION APPROVED.**

1. **NEW BUSINESS**
	1. **Invitation to Speak at Future Board Meeting: Judge Grendell and Judge Paschke**

Mr. Adams said he was asked to invite Judges Grendell and Paschke to a future Board meeting.

Ms. Malainy asked if the audience had any public comments they would like to make. There were none.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Oluic moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Lesyk seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

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**Ms. Teresa Slater**

**Secretary/Receptionist**

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**Ms. Jennifer Malainy**

**Chairman of the Board**

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**Ms. Alberta Chokshi**

**Secretary of the Board**