**GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH**

**AND RECOVERY SERVICES**

**Ann Bagley 13244 Ravenna Road**

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

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**Board Minutes May 19, 2021**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ann Bagley, Alberta Chokshi, Walter Claypool, Martin Fay, James Lee Holden, Kathy Johnson, Carolee Lesyk, Jennifer Malainy, Linda Miller, Gregory O’Brien, Steven Oluic, Michael Petruziello, Mary Ruth Shumway, Leila Vidmar

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**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 6:00 PM and made the following statement: This meeting of the Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services is held in public for the purpose of conducting the Board’s business and is not considered a public meeting. No community comments will be taken at this time.

Ms. Bagley asked Ms. Vidmar to call the roll for attendance purposes. The following Board members were present: Ann Bagley, Alberta Chokshi, Walter Claypool, Martin Fay, James Lee Holden, Kathy Johnson, Carolee Lesyk, Jennifer Malainy, Linda Miller, Gregory O’Brien, Steven Oluic, Mary Ruth Shumway, Leila Vidmar. Mr. Petruziello was not present for roll call, but he was able to participate after the meeting began.

Mr. Claypool asked Ms. Bagley to repeat the words she said about this not being a public meeting. Ms. Bagley then said the following: This meeting of the Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services is held in public for the purpose of conducting the Board’s business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. No community comments will be taken at this time. Mr. Claypool said he takes exception to that because this is absolutely a public meeting. Ms. Bagley replied that we have started every meeting this way since Mr. Claypool has been on the Board and if he would like to discuss it at a later time we can, but this is not the time. Mr. Claypool adamantly responded that we will discuss it now. He said that Ms. Bagley cannot control this. Ms. Bagley said the Board has a very full agenda and this topic will not be discussed now. Mr. Claypool replied he will not sit in a meeting that will violate the law and that this is a public meeting.

1. **APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM APRIL 21, 2021**

Ms. Bagley asked for a motion to approve the Minutes. Dr. Lesyk moved to approve the Minutes as written. Ms. Chokshi seconded the motion. Ms. Bagley asked if there was any discussion about the Minutes. There was none and Ms. Bagley then asked for a voice vote. **VOICE VOTE: AYES-13; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

1. **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Ms. Bagley told the Board that it is national mental health awareness month. She let the Board know that she acknowledged the Board’s appreciation of the staff by having flowers delivered. She said the staff has done a great job over the last year and had to go through some very difficult times with a number of things. Ms. Slater commented that the staff loved receiving their flower arrangements.

1. **CEO REPORT – WRITTEN REPORT**

Mr. Adams wanted to state for the record that what Ms. Bagley said at the beginning of the meeting is printed at the top of the agenda.

Mr. Adams participated in a meeting about the new budget bill that is moving through the Senate. The House has already passed its version of the budget bill. The House and Senate are expected to hold a conference meeting by the end of the month. He will provide the Board with an update when that happens.

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

Ms. Miller said the committees met five Wednesday evenings to hear from agencies regarding their funding requests for the upcoming fiscal year. The Resolutions the Board will vote on this evening come from those meetings.

* 1. **Planning and Policies**

Ms. Vidmar said the committee met on May 12th and a recap of that meeting was sent to committee members. She has contacted two different organizations about 360 evaluations and will keep the Board updated.

* 1. **Housing**

There was no update.

1. **BOARD REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS**
   1. **Resolution 21-05-1 System of Care Funding Allocations for SFY2022**

Dr. Oluic moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. Discussion:

Mr. Claypool asked what this Resolution is. Ms. Bagley responded it is a Resolution that was reviewed last week at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Claypool apologized to Ms. Bagley if he was wrong about what he heard her say earlier in that this was not a public meeting, and he would like to correct that. Mr. Claypool said this format is very difficult because we don’t have all the people in the room. Mr. Adams responded that is no excuse to yell at people. Mr. Claypool said it is the reason he raised his voice. Mr. Adams replied that is not a professional reason to yell at people. Mr. Claypool said he won’t apologize for raising his voice because he needed Ms. Bagley to hear him, but it was not said with any animus.

Mr. Claypool said relative to voting on any of these Resolutions, during the budget hearings, Board members heard agencies making their reports, but the Board never had a conversation about how we are going to fund them. Now we have a Resolution and are being asked to vote on agencies as a block. He has issues with some of the line items and the Board should have conversations about what we are funding. Mr. Adams said we had this conversation at the last meeting and went line by line on the long spreadsheet and every line was represented. Mr. Claypool said each organization made their presentation, but there was no opportunity to have a discussion with the Board because the whole Board was not at that meeting. Ms. Bagley replied that most of the Board was there when we went through this. Dr. Lesyk said there were enough people present to have a discussion. Mr. Claypool said the Agency Relations and Finance committees met and discussed this, but the Board has not had a conversation about funding these organizations, so from a process standpoint, he has a problem with the Resolution. He reiterated that this Board has not met to discuss how these things are going to be financed. He then said that until all these Resolutions are discussed line by line, he will be voting no to every one of them.

Ms. Bagley said this Resolution has been moved and seconded and now is the time to discuss it. Mr. Claypool told Ms. Bagley that according to Robert’s Rules of Order he has the floor and while he has the floor, she has to respect that. Dr. Lesyk said no she doesn’t because the Board has business to get through. Mr. Claypool replied that he is a Board member and is entitled to have the floor. Dr. Lesyk stated that he speaks too much at every meeting deflecting the Board from business, and if he listened more, he would know that the Board has discussed this a great deal. Mr. Claypool replied that it has not been discussed as a Board. Each committee got to discuss it, but the Board did not get to see or hear or discuss it.

Ms. Bagley again said this is the time to discuss Resolution 21-05-1 System of Care Funding Allocations. She further said it has been moved and seconded and asked if there is any more discussion. Ms. Johnson asked why there are so many agencies grouped together on the Resolutions. She finds it very troubling that we are not voting agency by agency. As a new member she does not understand it at all.

Mr. Adams said when each agency met with the committees and made their presentation, all Board members were invited to be part of that. There was another opportunity to discuss those presentations last week. This is a different Resolution. The one that includes the main agencies is Resolution 21-05-3. We went through all of these line items before. This helps the auditing process to have everything in one place. This is how it has been done for the last 25/30 years and the Auditor likes this format because it is simple to go back and check what was given in previous years. Each of the line items were talked about at least twice. He also reminded everyone that Ravenwood Health made presentations to the Board in January and February. Ms. Johnson again stated that she finds it troubling that the Board is voting for all of these at one time. There is one agency she would vote no on, which means she would need to vote no on the entire Resolution. Mr. Adams said that a Resolution can be amended. He said the motion to approve all these Resolutions as is came from the joint committee recommendations.

Mr. Claypool commented that these Resolutions came from the joint committee meetings, but they have not been considered by the full Board. If a member was not able to attend a meeting, they don’t have another opportunity to discuss it further outside of that meeting. This is the first time it is presented for Board consideration. Mr. Claypool said in this particular situation, he does not have any issues, and he would let this Resolution pass. He then asked what the residential services allocation is for. Mr. Adams said this allocation can be used to pay an agency that provides some type of housing which is not available here or is not a contracted service. Mr. Claypool then asked about the risk pool. Mr. Adams said the risk pool allocation acts as self-insurance and is used if one of the other line items has been expended. Ms. Bagley called the question. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-13; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

* 1. **Resolution 21-05-2 Grant Awards for SFY2022**

Ms. Miller said the only agency included in this Resolution is Signature Health, formerly the Family Planning Association. Ms. Miller then moved to approve the Resolution. Dr. Lesyk seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Claypool said he would not fund this organization now until it is confirmed that they are not actively involved with SOGI. He would like to set this Resolution aside. Ms. Johnson was also concerned about teaching comprehensive sexuality. Mr. Claypool again said he is not in favor of funding Signature Health at this time because some of the comments made during their presentation seem to be in support of SOGI and he wants to confirm their level of involvement.

Ms. Chokshi asked if this issue should be taken up by Agency Relations. The agency did make their presentation and what they are asking for. Ms. Chokshi reiterated that any issues we have with agencies and/or SOGI should be addressed through Agency Relations. Mr. Claypool replied that the only leverage the Board has is funding. Ms. Johnson said the term “gender unicorn” was mentioned in a very enthusiastic way and the presenter said she would like to have more time to teach. Ms. Johnson said she is not a fan of comprehensive sexuality education. Mr. Claypool said some Board members consider those efforts to be harmful to our kids.

Ms. Bagley asked if there was any other discussion. Mr. Claypool moved to table the Resolution. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. Dr. Oluic asked if there is a timeline on awarding these funds and if we can get the answers to any questions first. **ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE MOTION TO TABLE: AYES-8; NAYS-6; ABSTENTIONS-0. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED AND THE RESOLUTION WAS TABLED.**

* 1. **Resolution 21-05-3 Funding Allocations to Board Contract Agencies for SFY2022**

Ms. Miller listed the agencies that are included in the Resolution: Catholic Charities, WomenSafe, Ravenwood Health, Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers, Family Pride, NAMI, and Torchlight Youth Mentoring Alliance.

Dr. Oluic moved to approve the Resolution. Dr. Lesyk seconded the motion. Discussion:

Mr. Claypool said when NAMI was making their presentation, he asked what the Board is getting for its money. They may be doing good things but there is no accountability for NAMI. He again asked what the Board is getting for its money. Ms. Shumway said that not everything is measurable. Mr. Claypool asked why we should fund them then. Dr. Lesyk responded because it helps take care of the long-term mental health needs of clients and their families. Mr. Claypool asked how we know it is doing that and that it is not a scam. Dr. Lesyk replied that it is not a scam and one way you can tell is by a reduction in hospitalization rates. Dr. Oluic said he has personal experience with NAMI. They are a resource that is not available elsewhere. They go to court and assist with law enforcement issues. They help families quite a bit. His experience is that they are very effective. There was some turmoil that led to some questions, but he thinks the agency is on the right track now. They are very much an advocate for the mentally ill.

Mr. Claypool said if we are spending money, we should expect to be able to quantify what the benefit is. There should be a quantifiable result we can point to. If not, then it does not seem right to him. Mr. Adams said they have several programs that provide education and support for individuals and families with mental illness. NAMI does pre and post testing, which is used quite often when providing prevention programs. They can teach others how to identify people in trouble, including in high school and middle school to help identify friends in need. There is some gleanable information through pre and post testing in education and prevention. Dr. Oluic thinks they can provide that information.

Ms. Shumway said most of what the Board looks at is funding the patient, but this is for the client, their family, and the whole community. They provide a basic course about mental illness that helps the whole family, especially when there is a crisis or when someone is mentally unstable. Dr. Oluic said they are out and about in the community and in many cases what they do is unknown to the Board. He said the Board accepts a certain amount of risk in everything they fund. He talked about asking the agency for some metrics, and suggested that this Resolution not be tabled.

Mr. Claypool said the agency is lacking accountability and we ought to have high expectations. The Board needs to come up with a way to measure results. Ms. Shumway asked about tracking the number of programs they provide, how full they are, and the participation rate. Mr. Adams said he has already talked with them about some of those measurements. One of the reasons to provide financial support to NAMI on a contractual basis is so we can track data better and because it will give the Board more administrative flexibility.

Mr. Claypool asked what Torchlight does. Mr. Adams replied that this is Big Brothers Big Sisters. Mr. Claypool then asked if they are still pairing adults with kids. Mr. Adams replied that they still have the same board and programs, but they changed their name and affiliation because BBBS did not want to support some of the programs the agency provides.

Mr. Claypool said that Ravenwood Health has their logo on the SOGI website. He has been told that we are not funding SOGI, but Ravenwood is providing counseling in that program. He said it is no secret that he has an issue with SOGI, however the counselors are probably doing good things in a situation that needs to be addressed. He is not sure what to do. His natural tendency is to table this Resolution, but the Board did commit to having a conversation with SOGI. He thinks that Ravenwood is holistically good, but we have not yet had a conversation around SOGI and what they are about.

Dr. Oluic feels the Board should move forward with this Resolution. Mr. Adams said the Ravenwood staff person provides suicide prevention and intervention. The individuals in this group are four to six times more likely to commit suicide than someone who is not in the LGBTQ community, and that is why Ravenwood is involved. He said suicide numbers are high in Geauga. Mr. Claypool said he does not necessarily agree with the data and the relationship between LGBTQ persons and suicides, but he does agree it is a good thing to have counselors available if someone is having an issue. Dr. Oluic said that is a high-risk group and many commit suicide for many different reasons. He hopes the Board will pass this Resolution and then have a conversation with SOGI. Ms. Miller called the question. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-14; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

* 1. **Resolution 21-05-4 Shelter Plus Care Funding**

Mr. Adams said this grant was applied for about 25 years ago and is a housing grant from HUD. He said it is not a pass-through allocation because we must reapply for these funds every year. Mr. Petruziello asked what the expenses are. Mr. Mausser said this money is only used for rental reimbursements and is distributed to Ravenwood Health to supplement the rents of clients who have a mental health diagnosis and who live in the community. It is not used for the Geauga Youth Center or for the Board’s apartments.

Ms. Johnson said she does not understand the role of Ravenwood Health. Mr. Adams said they have a whole department that places clients in apartments throughout the community. They also negotiate with landlords regarding rent and work out any tenant issues they may come up. If a client is hospitalized, they talk with the owner and make any necessary arrangements so that the client has a home to return to. Mr. Petruziello asked if this is done in conjunction with the Metropolitan Housing Authority. Mr. Adams said these people are not, although there probably are some individuals with severe and persistent mental illness who receive Section 8 vouchers through the Housing Authority. Individuals must meet certain criteria to qualify for this HUD funding. There was no further discussion and Ms. Bagley asked Ms. Vidmar to call the roll. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-13; NAYS-1; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

* 1. **Resolution 21-05-5 Administrative Budget**

Dr. Lesyk moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Chokshi seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Claypool clarified that this Resolution is for the Board’s administrative offices. Mr. Adams replied that is correct. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-14; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

* 1. **Resolution 21-05-06 Recovery Housing Capital Funds Allocation to Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers**

Mr. Adams said that Lake-Geauga has received a major capital grant for sober living housing for up to five women. The state provides 75% of the funding and Boards are to provide 25%. The Board had to approve the project and agree to provide the match. This application goes back to 2016. This Resolution allocates the match funds. The Board will need to pass another Resolution once the other funds are received. This funding is for a 30-year loan and does put on a lien on the property, which is forgiven even if it is not paid in full. Mr. Adams said he had to sign off when Windsor Hospital closed and also for Heather Hill.

Mr. Petruziello said the problem he has with this is that the Board is rubberstamping something that has already been done. The property was purchased before the funding was approved. Mr. Adams said we did receive notice that the grant was approved by the controlling board. It has taken a long time to find a five-bedroom house, and since Lake-Geauga did not get the check first, they used their own money to purchase the property. Mr. Petruziello asked about the battle the agency is having with the zoning board. Mr. Adams said the Resolution states the funding is contingent upon obtaining the proper zoning. He said the state will never release the money unless the house is approved for use by the zoning board.

Ms. Miller moved to approve the Resolution. Dr. Lesyk seconded the motion. Additional discussion: Mr. Adams said this project is on Lake-Geauga’s housing inventory list. He has created a spreadsheet to show what housing agencies have, what kind of condition it is in, when it was bought, if the property is still in use, and what they are planning for in the future. He said this was discussed at the ad hoc housing committee. The spreadsheet also breaks down what is funded by the Board and what is private, so the Board can see the whole picture of what is available in the county. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-14; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

* 1. **Financial Reports**

Mr. Mausser said 66.3% of the Board’s administrative budget has been expended as of April 30, 2021. There were no expenses in April from the Community Education Budget. Expenditures from the County Calendar Year Budget Performance Report totaled $1,909,823.20 from January through April. As of April 30th, the Unencumbered Balance was $3,533,138.58. He said everything looks good on the Cash Balances by Source of Funds Spreadsheet. He expects there will be some carryover funds in a few of the funding sources at the end of the fiscal year.

* 1. **Approval of Voucher Recap**

Dr. Lesyk moved to approve Voucher Recap Schedule #658 in the amount of $259,355.91. Ms. Chokshi seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-14; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

1. **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Bagley reported that she asked Ms. Chokshi to chair the Nominating Committee. They will submit a Slate of Officers for SFY2022 to be voted on at the June meeting.

Ms. Shumway suggested that the Board get a legal opinion on whether we need to vote on the vouchers. Dr. Oluic said he has had to deal with the Auditor and his suggestion is when in doubt the Board should do the voting. There have been situations when Geauga called other counties and different auditors interpret the law differently. Mr. Petruziello said he would like to not have to rubberstamp stuff anymore.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Lesyk said the Vice President position still needs to be filled. Mr. Adams said that position has been vacant since Mr. Niewulis resigned. Mr. Claypool moved to appoint Mr. Petruziello. Mr. Holden seconded the motion. The Board then discussed whether that position needs to be filled for just one month and decided to wait and vote on a new Slate of Officers next month.

Dr. Oluic asked about inviting a representative from Signature Health to come to the Board and show some of their teaching materials and that SOGI should also be invited to speak with the Board. Ms. Chokshi talked about discussing this issue at Agency Relations first and then bringing it to the full Board. Mr. Claypool said since we do not have a relationship with SOGI, he suggested inviting Ms. Steigerwald to speak to the whole Board about sexual orientation and gender identity. Mr. Adams said he will ask her to come to the June meeting.

Mr. Claypool reminded everyone that the current state law enabling the Board to meet via Zoom expires June 30th.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Miller moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Lesyk seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 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**