**GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH**

**AND RECOVERY SERVICES**

**Steven Oluic 13244 Ravenna Road**

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

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**Board Minutes July 20, 2022**

**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

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**GUESTS:** Nina Lalich (League of Women Voters), Mary Wynne Peaspanen (Signature Health), Joe Schellentrager (Citizen, Board Applicant), Anastasia Nicholas (Geauga Times), Tia Lawrence (Torchlight Youth Mentoring Alliance), Melanie Blasko, Charles Tong (Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers), Vicki Clark (Ravenwood Health), Michelle Bertman (Catholic Charities), Andrea Gutka (WomenSafe), Kim Carter (NAMI Geauga)

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Dr. Oluic called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Ms. Chokshi called the roll for attendance purposes and 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, Michael Petruziello, Mary Ruth Shumway.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO ORC 121.22(G)(1) TO CONSIDER THE EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISMISSAL OR TERMINATION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEE(S) AND ORC 121.22(G)(3) TO DISCUSS WITH LEGAL COUNSEL IMMINENT COURT ACTION AND LITIGATION**

Dr. Oluic said the Board will be going into Executive Session at this time for the following reasons: Pursuant to ORC 121.22(G)(1) to consider the employment, compensation, dismissal or termination of public employee(s) and ORC 121.22(G)(3) to discuss with legal counsel imminent court action and litigation. Mr. Petruziello moved to go into Executive Session for the stated purposes. Dr. Lesyk seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ayes-13; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved. The Board then went into Executive Session at 6:04 PM. The Board came out of Executive Session and was back in Regular Session at 7:02 PM.

1. **APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES: JUNE 6, 2022; JUNE 15, 2022; JUNE 21, 2022; JULY 7, 2022**

Ms. Shumway moved to approve the Minutes from June 6, 2022. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. Voice Vote: Ayes-13; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.

Ms. Shumway moved to approve the Minutes from June 15, 2022. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. Voice Vote: Ayes-13; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.

Ms. Shumway moved to approve the Minutes from June 21, 2022. Mr. Holden seconded the motion. Voice Vote: Ayes-13; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.

Mr. Holden moved to approve the Minutes from July 7, 2022. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. Voice Vote: Ayes-13; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.

1. **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Dr. Oluic reported that the open Board member position is being advertised on the Board’s website with a deadline date of July 29th. Two applications were received and sent to Board members. If any others are received, they will be sent to the Board also. He will keep everyone informed. Ms. Bagley asked if OhioMHAS decides who to appoint if there is more than one applicant. Ms. Slater clarified that the two applications were received by the Board office not online to the state and that they have not been sent to OhioMHAS. Dr. Oluic said the two applications will be forwarded to OhioMHAS for review by the deadline date. Individuals who are interested and qualified can complete an application online. Ms. Malainy asked who determines which applications are sent on to the state. Dr. Oluic responded that anyone can apply for the position and all applications will be sent to the state to decide who they would like to appoint. Ms. Slater explained in the past, the Executive Director would meet with the individual and let the state know whether or not the person is being recommended as a Board member. Mr. Claypool said he spoke with the Director of OhioMHAS a few months ago and they are amenable to the Board having some type of input in the process. Dr. Oluic is hoping to talk to Director Criss himself within the next few days. He then mentioned the upcoming trainings that were sent to Board members by Ms. Bagley.

1. **ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Ms. Martin-D’Arienzo asked if there were any questions about her July Report. Ms. Johnson thanked Ms. Martin-D’Arienzo and said the information included was very beneficial. Dr. Oluic commended Ms. Martin-D’Arienzo on the great job she has been doing for the Board in the county over the last few months – attending sessions with the County Commissioners and working on many issues – and keeping him informed.

Mr. Claypool said he spoke with Ms. Martin-D’Arienzo about yesterday’s meeting of the Commissioners. There was discussion about the Board setting up a reserve fund and also about some type of grant. He was very disappointed that a Commissioner wouldn’t even second a motion to put the levy on the ballot this year. He said both Ms. Martin-D’Arienzo and Mr. Mausser did an outstanding job presenting the information. Mr. Claypool said he would like to have a more robust conversation about the proposed reserve fund. Mr. O’Brien said the reserve fund will be for housing. He has spoken with Mr. Mausser about this and that conversation will take place at the September meeting. Mr. Claypool said he also spoke with Ms. Martin-D’Arienzo today about various funds that the Board holds, but which are not necessarily funds the Board manages.

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

Ms. Johnson said Ms. Malainy had appointed her as Chair of this committee and she looks forward to serving in this capacity. Dr. Lesyk asked about committee appointments that were made for this fiscal year by Ms. Malainy. Dr. Oluic said the committee heads will remain as appointed by Ms. Malainy and that this will be discussed further in September.

* 1. **Finance**

There was no report.

* 1. **Planning and Policies**

There was no report.

* 1. **Housing**

There was no report.

1. **BOARD REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS**
   1. **Resolution 22-07-1 Shelter Plus Care Funding**

Ms. Miller moved to approve the Resolution. Mr. O’Brien seconded the motion. Discussion: Ms. Shumway asked if these funds are used by Ravenwood Health for the apartments and other housing provided in the community. Ms. Martin-D’Arienzo responded that is correct, but the funds are used for the target population of individuals with a mental health diagnosis. Roll Call Vote: Ayes-13; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.

* 1. **Resolution 22-07-2 Allocation of 2022 State Opioid Response Funds**

Dr. Lesyk moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Bagley seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Claypool asked why Red Tulip is receiving funds. It was his understanding that this agency would be privately funded. Ms. Martin-D’Arienzo responded when SOR 2.0 funds were distributed, instead of receiving a full year of their budget, agencies were only given nine months of funding. These funds bridge that three- month gap. Red Tulip is not a contract agency of the Board, but they are eligible to apply for funding from OhioMHAS. Roll Call Vote: Ayes-13; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.

* 1. **Resolution 22-07-3 Multisystem Adult Wellness Funding**

Dr. Lesyk moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. Discussion: Ms. Martin-D’Arienzo said these funds will be used to capture expenses that are not paid for by traditional sources or any other funding mechanism. She gave the example of a person who was released from jail into a residential treatment facility for their mental illness. Roll Call Vote: Ayes-13; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.

* 1. **Financial Reports**

Mr. Mausser said the reports include financial information through June, which is the end of the fiscal year. The administrative expenses for the year came in about 15% below budget due to the open staff position. There will be some SFY2022 expenses paid in July and September. There were no expenses from the community education budget. The County Calendar Year Expenses through June were just over $2.3 Million. The Unencumbered Balance on June 30th was just over $3.59 Million. The Cash Balances by Source of Funds are all in order. There are some negative balances, but the Board will recoup those funds. The financial reports also included Voucher Recap #672 in the amount of $481,714.50 for June expenses.

Mr. Claypool asked what the deadline is for a decision on the levy. Mr. Mausser replied it is a two-step process and the first step would need to go forward next week. Mr. O’Brien asked if the Board misses an opportunity to recoup the reduced collection because of the Commissioners not voting to put the levy on the ballot. Mr. Mausser said the Board will not lose any levy funds by not being on the November ballot, but would only have one opportunity next year to put it on the ballot. Mr. O’Brien said it is important to get on the ballot as a renewal, otherwise taxpayers would have to pay an additional 12.5% for any new levy. Mr. Mausser said that is also why you don’t want to do a permanent reduction. The Board gets less money and the local taxpayer pays more.

Ms. Shumway asked what happened at the meeting. Dr. Oluic said one Commissioner moved to approve the resolution and there was no second. Ms. Malainy asked if a reason was given as to why. Mr. Mausser feels it is because the Board is reducing collection on this levy for one year. Mr. Petruziello said the Board would have had all of 2023 to plan if the levy was renewed in November, but now the chances have been diminished. Dr. Oluic commented that receiving grants are never a guaranty. Mr. Claypool feels we should try again if there is an opportunity. Dr. Oluic also feels it is worth having a conversation with the Commissioners to articulate it is vital for the residents of the county and the ability of the Board to fulfill its mission. Ms. Bagley asked if it was clear that the Commissioners understood all of what was explained. Mr. Holden responded that Mr. Mausser and Ms. Martin-D’Arienzo explained it very well and did a good job. Dr. Oluic said he will talk to the Commissioners about reconsidering and ask to get back on the agenda.

1. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**
   1. **Veterans Administration**

Ms. Martin-D’Arienzo introduced Mr. Jim Holbrook, who is a mental health social worker at the Veteran’s Administration in Cleveland. Mr. Holbrook thanked the Board for the opportunity to talk about community-based intervention for suicide prevention. He has been practicing for 28 years and specializes in crisis services. He has been with the VA for the last ten years, and is involved with cutting edge work in suicide prevention. Their goal is to reduce suicide by veterans and improve the overall health of the veteran and his/her family. Suicide is one of the top 10 leading causes of death in the US – over twice more than homicide – and is the only top ten cause that is still on the increase.

Mr. Holbrook said this is a national problem. The VA has been making inroads through independent research and collaborating with other entities. One of the research datapoints shows that almost 2/3rds of the veterans being lost to suicide are not attached to the Veterans Administration or receiving any services. The VA is making suicide prevention a priority in an effort to affect the lives of veterans and those within the broader community. The federal and community systems are very different. The research shows that it is not enough to have inwardly facing programs, tools, resources and evidence-based practices, but that the VA needs to be partnering with the broader community and take a public health approach by accessing the local system of resources and opportunities to positively impact those veterans being lost to suicide.

Dr. Oluic asked how many veterans are killing themselves every day. Mr. Holbrook responded that the number is 19-22 a day nationally. Some people do receive services at multiple locations that can’t talk to each other. Therapy is not the only way to help people get better. Some people will never walk in to a mental health office. The VA’s public health strategy is to collaborate with communities to see what is needed and build locally based resources. Mr. Holbrook said suicide rates in Geauga are not as bad as in some other Ohio counties. He referenced the Community-Based Interventions slide and said there needs to be a way to talk across systems. He said the public health approach is happening nationally. The veteran’s community is a little different so we need to rethink how this should be done at the county level, otherwise it won’t work.

Mr. Holbrook said the Veterans Administration is focusing on three main goals: 1. Identify service members, veterans and their families and screen for suicide risk. 2. Promote connectedness and improve care transitions. 3. Increase lethal means safety and safety planning. He said the days following inpatient treatment are very risky. There must be systems and plans in place as individuals transition out of the hospital to provide the best available support. Agencies need to collaborate and bring together all realms of the community to include best practices, services, research, and tools, in addition to local resources and solutions.

* 1. **OhioMHAS Board Member Appointment Applications**

This agenda item was discussed earlier.

* 1. **Proposed Industrial Appraisal Agreement**

Ms. Slater explained the appraisal process for the Board’s three properties and the purpose. Ms. Miller moved to approve the Agreement. Mr. O’Brien seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ayes-13; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.

* 1. **Mental Health Levy Update**

This agenda item was discussed earlier.

* 1. **Board Vehicle Update**

Ms. Slater reported that the Ford Explorer was sold at auction for $3,050.00. The buyer is making arrangements to have the vehicle removed from the Board’s property.

1. **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business discussed.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Oluic said the Board had a very good discussion and fruitful interaction during Executive Session, and as a result, the following motions will be presented for a vote:

Mr. Petruziello moved that the Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services approve the Release and Settlement Agreement between James Adams and the Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services and authorize the Board Chairman to sign the Agreement. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll Call Vote: Ayes-13; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.

Mr. Petruziello moved that the Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services approve the Contractor Agreement for the performance of Interim Director services between Leila Vidmar and the Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services and authorize the Board Chairman to sign the Agreement. Ms. Bagley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll Call Vote: Ayes-13; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.

For the good of the order, Ms. Miller reported Governor DeWine announced that local governments will be receiving payments from the opioid settlement for the next several years. The funds will be given to County Commissioners, who will then decide how the money will be spent. Mr. O’Brien commented that he has seen the settlement agreement and it is very unwieldly and convoluted.

1. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Petruziello moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Holden seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

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**Ms. Teresa Slater**

**Secretary/Receptionist**

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**Dr. Steven Oluic**

**Chairman of the Board**

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**Ms. Alberta Chokshi**

**Secretary of the Board**