

**GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH
AND RECOVERY SERVICES**

**March 16, 2022
Planning and Policies Committee
5:00 – 6:00 P.M.**

Present: Jim Adams, Jim Mausser, Amie Martin-D'Arienzo, Teresa Slater, Linda Miller, Ann Bagley, Kathy Johnson, Alberta Chokshi, Walter Claypool, Lee Miller, Vicki Clark, Kim Carter, Melanie Blasko, Jennifer Malainy

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Claypool called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

II. Approval of Minutes from October 20, 2021

Ms. Johnson moved to approve the Minutes. Ms. Bagley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Voice Vote: All Ayes, with one Abstention.

Mr. Claypool said three Board members have completed their question list regarding Mr. Adams' evaluation. He is waiting to hear from one other Board member. Mr. Claypool will send the questions that were chosen to the full Board for review. The questions will then be forwarded to SurveyConnect to consolidate. Evaluators will have the ability to comment on each question in the survey, which will also include a scale. Ms. Chokshi volunteered to make up a list of people the survey should be sent to. Ms. Bagley would like to help with that also. The committee has discussed sending the evaluation survey to Board members, staff, agencies, and various county and community leaders. Mr. Claypool will verify how many questions can be included and how many evaluators the survey can be sent to.

III. Review of Current Policies

Mr. Claypool reported that he requested a copy of the Table of Contents from the Board's Policy Manual to see where the Board is at from a policy standpoint. He then requested a copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP) sent to agencies. Mr. Claypool asked for a definition of what RFP means and Mr. Adams and Ms. Slater explained the RFP process. Mr. Claypool asked if the RFP requests particular information, such as wanting more than one agency to bid. Mr. Claypool said he has an issue with SOGI and may suggest that the Board have a policy which states anyone who has something to do with SOGI can't submit a bid. Ms. Chokshi said that could potentially be seen as discrimination and asked for further clarification. Mr. Claypool said the Board would need to discuss the merits of what would be deemed discriminatory. He would like to review the Policy Manual first and then go from there.

Mr. Claypool then read the Table of Contents of Board policies. He would like to review the following further: Free Choice of Providers Policy, Involuntary Commitment and Probate Hearings, Board Funding Reserve Policy, Advance of Non-Medicaid Funds, Board Communication Plan, and Continuous Quality Improvement Policy. Mr. Claypool would also like the committee to discuss the creation of new policies, including a policy that would address the selection process for service providers. He said certain activities going on in our community are resulting in mental health issues, such as Social Emotional Learning (SEL), along with other school programs. He has spoken with Karen Lackey from the Educational Service Center and some of the programs coming from the state may or may not be mandatory and should be

reviewed. He feels the state is putting kids in a position to be counselors for things such as suicide, which may then create additional problems. Mr. Claypool feels the Board should discuss this further and reach out to the state for clarification.

Ms. Bagley acknowledged that Mr. Claypool feels some of the programs in schools are dangerous, but she would also like to hear from someone who supports SEL. Mr. Claypool said we shouldn't put young kids in a position to do things they shouldn't. The Board is here to look out for our community. Mr. Claypool feels the Board should reach out to the Director of OhioMHAS and the schools boards about whether or not some of these programs are mandatory. He further said there are things that can be done if agreed to and make the Board more active in our community. Ms. Bagley asked if staff has access to information as to why the state feels SEL is a good thing. Mr. Claypool responded that some people on the state school board have different opinions as to what is good and what is not. Ms. Lackey sent him links to three of the programs in question. She said ESC's role is to assist in program implementation.

Mr. Claypool said there are additional policy issues that the committee may want to consider. Ms. Chokshi said the Board needs to be careful and look at its mission when deciding if something impacts the mental health of our community. She doesn't think the Board wants to get into conflict with schools and the local boards of education. Ms. Chokshi is just suggesting that the Board is careful in how they do it. Mr. Claypool said sometimes conflict is inevitable. He said drug abuse, mental health issues, etc. are increasing. He saw a picture of a child who was asked to express his emotions in class through drawing and it was a very scary and dark picture. Mr. Claypool attributes this to some of the programs going on in the schools. He feels some of what he sees about sex education is child endangerment. He has a friend who is an FBI agent specializing in human trafficking, who feels there is a lot of grooming that goes on in schools. Mr. Claypool is seeing some of these ideas being taught in sexual education classes. Ms. Malainy agrees that the Board should and can have an impact on what is going on in schools.

Mr. Claypool said when a six-year old child is being asked to describe/identify with a gender, we as adults ought to be questioning, particularly on the mental health board. If we see things that can dramatically affect our kids, the Board should act. He is trying to do his homework to be informed about some of these programs for discussion as a Board, and to act if we choose to. Ms. Johnson said some of what she is seeing happening in schools is taking over what is the purview of parents and putting it in the hands of educators. In regard to mental health, the Board is here to help and needs to identify what may cause harm. Ms. Bagley said some parents don't take responsibility. Ms. Johnson replied that doesn't make it the role of government. She further said community and church members have always helped children who are struggling. When we see some of the egregious things that are happening, the Board needs to be aware of and responsive to the needs of kids, but respect and help the families.

Ms. Johnson said she wants to know how to help kids that don't have a good family, but also realizes that is a very sticky subject. She feels the Board needs to come together and look at some of these issues. Ms. Chokshi said we need to hear from the schools, including the programs regarding sex education and who chooses which program to use. Ms. Johnson said the state board of education does have standards and a strategic plan, but does not define the curriculum. Ms. Chokshi said her son is an assistant superintendent and has different programs to choose from at the state level. Ms. Johnson said it is up to the school to choose what programs to use.

Mr. Claypool said he will create a list of issues that have been brought up, and then other discussion items can be added. Mr. Claypool said he wants to hear both sides of an issue and that his thinking may be adjusted after hearing from all sides.

IV. Review Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Mental Health Requirements to Determine Compliance, including:

- ORC 5119.97 says that the mental health board is to provide a list of all hospitals in the county served by the board willing to take respondents ordered to undergo treatment and a list of hospitals and treatment providers in counties that are willing to provide treatment for alcohol and drug abuse.

Mr. Claypool said someone reached out to him and said that the Board is not meeting the above section of the Ohio Revised Code. Mr. Claypool said this ORC section is special and unique and singled out for probate court. He would like staff to send the 2022 annual report of facilities to the Geauga Probate Court. Ms. Slater is in the processing of updating the Reports/To Do List and will make sure it is included. She will also see that the required information is sent to the Probate Court.

- ORC 340.03 Powers and Duties covers a lot of territory, but some areas we need to address are section: (G) (4) audit ...quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of addiction services, mental health services, and recovery supports.

Mr. Claypool said the Board may be able to do a better job by specifically looking at Geauga and tailoring our services to Geauga County. He feels the Board is taking instructions from the state and federal levels and not focusing on the specific problems in Geauga County. Ms. Chokshi, Ms. Miller and Ms. Bagley all feel that the Board has been tailoring programs to meet the needs in Geauga. Mr. Claypool referred to the Covid resolution and said he doesn't get the sense that the Board is looking at Geauga County issues. He feels the Board doesn't have the pulse of what is going on in Geauga. Mr. Claypool referred to information presented about housing needs relative to Probate Court. He then asked if there are housing needs, and if so, what they are. He does know about the Metropolitan Housing Authority from Mr. Petruziello. He would like to know if other people feel the same way. Ms. Chokshi said that information will be in the agencies' funding requests and will include the program and population being served. Mr. Claypool responded he does see the information coming from the agencies, but feels that is somewhat biased and not necessarily focused on the scope of things going on in Geauga County. He said agencies focus on their financial wellbeing. Ms. Chokshi said the agencies are presenting what they see as a need in the county. Ms. Johnson suggested doing something countywide instead of by agency and then bring that information together to review. Ms. Malainy said it is not just Mr. Claypool who feels the Board is rubber stamping things and referenced the Covid money the Board received but has not been spent.

- ORC 340.03 (G)(9) Submit to the director and the county commissioner of the county... an annual report of addiction services, mental health services, and recovery supports under the jurisdiction of the board...:

Most of the information talked about is ORC 340.03 is included in the Board's Community Plan and Annual Report, which are submitted to OhioMHAS and the Commissioners. Mr. Claypool feels all Board members should read Ohio Revised Code 340 because it is about the Board and

its duties, including Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services. Mr. Claypool said the Board's annual report is to be given to the county commissioners and asked if that has been done. Ms. Slater responded that it has. Mr. Claypool asked if a housing report has been submitted. Mr. Adams said most of that information is part of the Community Plan. Mr. Claypool would like to review the probate obligations of the Board listed in ORC 340.10.

V. Policies regarding selecting agencies and the effectiveness of each agency we fund

Mr. Claypool said Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers is a great organization and that Ms. Blasko does a great job. He has not really looked at the data for the region they serve and asked if there is an opportunity to create something similar to what LGRC has in Lake County in Geauga County. He would like to have an evaluation independent of agencies to take a neutral look. Ms. Miller asked if the Hospital Association's survey would have some of that information. Mr. Claypool responded he is not sure that would be an unbiased report, but he is also not sure where else to get data. Ms. Martin-D'Arienzo asked what kind of data Mr. Claypool is looking for. She does track drug related data and many other data sets. Ms. Shumway said Geauga County has a Loss Team headed by Deputy Tracy Jordan, who may have some of the data the Board would like to see.

Mr. Claypool said he will create a list of other policies to look at, will follow up on the information that needs to be sent to the Probate Court, and will contact Mr. Fay about the survey questions.

VI. Other

Dr. Jensen asked that all Board members get to see the set of evaluation questions that will be given to SurveyConnect.

Ms. Bagley said Family First Council representatives and service providers should have a pretty good idea of what is going on at the county level regarding programs for kids. Mr. Claypool suggested creating a category list and then deciding what additional data the Board wants to look at.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 PM.