

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

Steven Oluic
Chairman of the Board

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Board Minutes

JUNE 21, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ann Bagley, Alberta Chokshi, James Lee Holden, Kathy Johnson, Carolee Lesyk, Ryan Mekota, Linda Miller, Steven Oluic, Mary Ruth Shumway

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Walter Claypool, Reba Dykes, Martin Fay, Gregory O'Brien, Michael Petruziello

GUESTS: Kim Carter (NAMI Geauga), Gail Roussey (Gauga League of Women Voters), Vicki Clark (Ravenwood Health), Michelle Bertman (Catholic Charities), Melanie Blasko and Charles Tong (Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers), Mary Wynne Peaspanen (Signature Health), Angi Daugherty (Family Pride), Tia Lawrence (Torchlight), Alex Emerson (Gauga Times Courier), Alex and Ron Duncan (community members)

STAFF PRESENT: Christine Lakomiak, Teresa Slater

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, 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 at that time: Ann Bagley, Alberta Chokshi, James Lee Holden, Kathy Johnson, Carolee Lesyk, Ryan Mekota, Linda Miller, Steven Oluic, and Mary Ruth Shumway. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM MAY 17, 2023

Ms. Shumway moved to approve the Minutes as written. Dr. Lesyk seconded the motion.
Voice Vote: Ayes-9; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dr. Oluic recognized outgoing Board members Dr. Ryan Mekota and Ms. Linda Miller. He presented each with a certificate of appreciation and thanked them for volunteering their time to make Geauga county a better place for all citizens. He then presented Ms. Leila Vidmar with a gift and thanked her for guiding the Board through a tumultuous time as Interim Executive Director.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Lakomiak provided updates on the following:

- The initial Stepping Up kick off webinar was well attended. The next step is to schedule a two-day workshop for sequential mapping. This will produce a cross system map of how individuals flow through the criminal justice system, what resources are available in the county, and will identify what the service gaps are.
- The SFY2022 Annual Report was sent to the Commissioners, OhioMHAS, and can be accessed through the Board's website.
- The county and state board applications are on the Board's website.
- She attended a fire chiefs' meeting in Bainbridge to grow community partnerships. There is currently no peer support program for them. Bainbridge Fire Chief wrote a grant for this purpose and preliminary discussion took place how Mental Health might be invited to partner.
- The Clinical and Compliance Manager position is still being advertised. Staff have begun phone interviews. Face to face meetings will be scheduled soon.
- The Faith-Based Initiative event on Burton Square was very nice. She thanked Ms. Johnson and Mr. Holden who spent the entire day helping out.
- She is meeting with local inpatient hospitals to establish per diem rates. OhioMHAS has a program to offset the cost of placing individuals locally to divert them from the state hospital.
- The current Forensic Monitor at Ravenwood is retiring and is helping to onboard new staff. Letters have been mailed to local judges to let them know who the new contact is. A face to face meeting will be set up with each judge.
- Step One of the levy process was passed by the Commissioners. The paperwork for Step Two can now be submitted.
- With the start of the new fiscal year on July 1st, Chairman Oluic will be appointing committee heads and organizing the committee structure. Director Lakomiak will then work with the chairs of each committee to establish meeting schedules and agendas for the upcoming year.
- A board member training will be scheduled in September after new members have been appointed. There are currently no county openings, but there will be three state openings after June 30th.

Dr. Oluic and Ms. Chokshi were sworn in for their new appointment terms commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2027.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Agency Relations

There was no update.

b. Finance

There was no update.

c. Planning and Policies

There was no update.

d. Capital Planning

Ms. Shumway would like to have committee meetings from 4:30 to 5:30 prior to the August and November Board meetings.

e. Opiate HUB

Ms. Miller reported that the committee meets monthly and is currently working on the first responders' recognition in September.

VI. BOARD REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS

a. Resolution 23-06-1 Shelter Plus Care Funding

The funding will be allocated to Ravenwood Health and used for rental assistance. Ms. Shumway moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Bagley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-9; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

b. Resolution 23-06-2 Recovery Housing Allocation to Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers

The funds will be used for the Geauga Recovery House. Ms. Miller moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Shumway seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-9; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

c. Resolution 23-06-3 Problem Gambling and Addiction Services Allocation

Ms. Miller moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Chokshi seconded the motion. Discussion: Any funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year can be used for drug and alcohol treatment services. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-9; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

d. Financial Reports

Mr. Mausser was not able to attend, but he did provide a summary of the financial reports for May 2023.

VII. Discussion Items

a. Nominating Committee Report/Proposed Slate of Officers for SFY2024

Ms. Johnson reported that the nominating committee met in accordance with the bylaws and is putting forward the following Slate of Officers for SFY2024: Chair – Steven Oluic; Vice Chair – Alberta Chokshi; Treasurer – Michael Petruziello; Secretary – James Lee Holden. There were no nominations from the floor. Ms. Shumway moved to accept the proposed Slate of Officers for SFY2024. Dr. Lesyk seconded the motion. **VOICE VOTE: AYES-9; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business discussed.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Miller asked if a decision has been made about supporting agency fundraisers. Ms. Lakomiak replied that Lak-Geauga Recovery Centers, Ravenwood Health, and WomenSafe have already requested and received financial support. Signature Health will be receiving a \$200 donation to place an advertisement in their Dancing with the Stars event booklet to show the Board's support. An ad will also be placed for an upcoming veterans' event. Dr. Oluic reminded the agencies there are other groups and organizations in the county that are willing to provide donations and help get the word out that mental health and addiction services are available in Geauga.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Alex Duncan reiterated what he said in a previous meeting about the need for this Board and the non-profit agencies to make good decisions. It is his opinion that at times there are some public serving agencies that don't care about mental health considerations and concerns, including not responding to emails, not taking concerns properly, not being courteous and respectful, and not addressing things that need to be done. Dr. Oluic asked Mr. Duncan to send his concerns to Director Lakomiak.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Shumway moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Bagley seconded the motion. The meeting was then adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ms. Teresa Slater
Administrative/Office Manager

Dr. Steven Oluic
Chairman of the Board

Ms. Alberta Chokshi
Secretary of the Board