

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

Steven Oluic
Chairman of the Board

13244 Ravenna Road
Chardon, Ohio 44024

Christine Lakomiak
Executive Director

Phone: (440) 285-2282
Fax: (440) 285-9617

Board Minutes

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ann Bagley, Alberta Chokshi, Reba Dykes, Martin Fay, James Lee Holden, Kathy Johnson, Carolee Lesyk, Douglas Lundblad, Steven Oluic, Patricia Varanese

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Gregory O'Brien, Michael Petruziello, Mary Ruth Shumway

GUESTS: Katherine Franz (Geauga League of Women Voters), Vicki Clark (Ravenwood Health), Charles Tong (Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers), Mary Wynne Peaspanen (Signature Health), Angi Daugherty (Family Pride), Susan Parker (NAMI Geauga), Anastasia Nicholas (Geauga Times Courier)

STAFF PRESENT: Christine Lakomiak, Jim Mausser, Teresa Slater, Michelle Maneage

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Oluic called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Mr. Holden called the roll for attendance purposes and the following Board members were present at that time: Alberta Chokshi, Reba Dykes, Martin Fay, James Lee Holden, Kathy Johnson, Carolee Lesyk, Douglas Lundblad, Steven Oluic and Patricia Varanese. Ms. Bagley arrived at 6:05 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM JULY 19, 2023

Ms. Johnson 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 welcomed the Board's new staff member, Michelle Maneage. He said the Board has a levy on the ballot in November and will be asking for help on the campaign. He will be making some changes to the current committee assignments and emphasized the importance of having an effective committee structure.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Lakomiak reported on the following:

- Michelle started on August 7th as the Board's Clinical and Compliance Manager. She then introduced herself and talked about her experience as a clinician, community based social worker, and as the program director for Doors of Hope in Middlefield – Geauga's only family homeless shelter.
- The Board was awarded a grant from OhioMHAS for \$15,000 to highlight Overdose Awareness Day on August 31st. She made a presentation to the Commissioners who then passed a resolution proclaiming August 31st as Overdose Awareness Day in

Geauga. This year's theme focused on honoring the people whose lives have been affected by overdose. Staff distributed information and handouts to the community that day from the Commissioners' Bicentennial Building at the Geauga County Fair. The funds were also used to purchase medication disposal bags which will be distributed to senior centers and other places throughout the community.

- The Board received \$1,500 for First Responder's Week of Appreciation in September. Over 700 bags were delivered to local police/fire stations. Linda Miller and her husband have worked tirelessly the last several years on this project.
- September is national Suicide Prevention Month. The Suicide Prevention Coalition Board has partnered with local agencies and schools to have resources and giveaways available at various football games in the county. This was a youth led initiative who reached out to the Coalition.
- The 988 project started about one year ago. Ravenwood is one of 19 agencies in Ohio who has been certified through OhioMHAS as a 988 call center. Our local CopeLine has also been recognized at the state level, and provides information to individuals about mental health and recovery resources available in the county. 988 serves as a nationwide number for suicide intervention and crisis support.
- Staff completed a forensic monitor program audit and will be writing new service specifications to include outcomes and performance measures that align with ORC 340. Staff met with local judges and the forensic monitor to review the parameters of the program, what role it serves in the county, and the Board's role in the process. A meeting was coordinated at Northcoast Hospital with the Sheriff, Board staff, local judges, and Geauga's forensic monitor. It was a great opportunity to talk about how the systems work together. There will be a training for judges and magistrates with the forensic department of Northcoast in November.
- Health Officers/Inpatient Hospitalization: Training has been provided to 21 health officers in Geauga so far. The Board received \$68,000 for inpatient diversion from the state hospital. Director Lakomiak is working with Highland Springs on a per diem rate for inpatient hospitalizations. Highland Springs is a beautiful campus and we are the first board in the state to have a contract with them.
- OhioMHAS has been focusing on crisis services and the need to increase what is available. The Northeast Ohio Board Collaborative has been holding regional crisis facility discussions to bring additional funding to the area so individuals can go to a crisis stabilization center instead of an emergency room for up to 72 hours and then link patients with services. The proposed Memorandum of Understanding has been reviewed by Attorney Susan Wieland.
- Director Lakomiak will be attending a two-day conference September 28/29 with OhioMHAS and the Board Association.
- Staff has signed up to participate in the Geauga NAMI Walk on September 30th. Board members are welcome to participate also. The walk will be held on Chardon Square. Agencies will be stationed around the square with information about the services they provide.
- On October 18th the Board Association will provide a two-hour training about the role and responsibilities of board members and our Board meeting will be on the same day.
- The final state budget has passed and the Board has been awarded funding for very specific programs. The programs being recommended in the following resolutions meet the guidelines and requirements of the state.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Records Commission

Ms. Chokshi said the committee held its annual meeting on August 23, 2023 to review the current records policy and retention schedule. The committee decided to add that copies of records and draft/transient records will be kept until no longer of administrative value. Attorney Wieland will clarify who should be part of the Records Commission.

b. Agency Relations

Ms. Johnson reported that the committee met on September 18th. The following items were discussed: the need to update the charge of committee; the RFP process and agency presentations; new service specifications that will be reviewed by the committee and then the full Board; what outcomes the Board would like to see; the positive and robust involvement of the Board in the community.

c. Finance

Mr. Mausser reported that the committee reviewed quotes for the storm damage at the Board offices and the apartments. Each incident has a separate \$1,000 deductible. The committee also reviewed quotes for a new furnace and AC unit in the conference room. He is recommending that the Board approve the first resolution to replenish funds that can be used for emergency repairs.

d. Planning and Policies

Ms. Chokshi said a meeting was convened on September 12th, but since there was no quorum, the proposed agenda items will be discussed at the next meeting.

e. Capital Planning/Housing

Ms. Dykes reported that a meeting was planned but there was not a quorum. She has prepared a draft charge of committee that will be sent to committee members to review and discuss at the next meeting. She then provided an update about the homeless coalition spearheaded by Director Craig Swenson. The initial meeting was attended by over 60 people representing many local organizations and entities. The main focus is to develop a community response to homelessness. They will be putting together a list of resources local agencies can provide and how they can help.

f. Opiate HUB

Ms. Miller reported that 750 bags were packed and delivered for first responders' recognition week. Jim Mausser and her husband put up banners throughout the community. The full HUB group will be meeting sometime in mid-November. Ms. Johnson will now be part of the committee as another Board representative.

VI. BOARD REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS

a. Resolution 23-09-1 Board Facility Maintenance and Repair Allocation

This Resolution was first passed in July 2018. There is approximately \$4,500 remaining. Passage of this resolution will add \$25,000 that can be used for emergency repairs outside of normal administrative budget. Mr. Holden moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Chokshi seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-10; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

b. Resolution 23-09-2 Mobile Crisis and Crisis Response Funding Allocation

Ms. Johnson moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Bagley seconded the motion. **VOICE VOTE; AYES-10; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

c. Resolution 23-09-3 Access to Welling Funding

This is the third year the Board has received this grant. The funds are used to provide services to an individual in their local community and keep them out of inpatient hospitalization. The agencies submit a request for to the Board and if it meets the requirements, the expenses are approved. Ms. Bagley moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. **VOICE VOTE: AYES-10; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

d. Resolution 23-09-4 Recovery Housing Allocation to Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers SFY2024

Director Lakomiak said the state had additional funding available for recovery housing. Lake-Geauga applied for funds and was awarded \$5,000. Mr. Holden moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Chokshi seconded the motion. **VOICE VOTE: AYES-10; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

e. Resolution 23-09-5 Reimbursement to Geauga Safety Center

OhioMHAS reimburses jails and safety centers for certain psychotropic medication provided to inmates. The amount of \$39,798 is to reimburse the Geauga Safety Center for those expenses during the second half of SFY2023. Mr. Holden moved to approve the Resolution. Dr. Lesyk seconded the motion. **VOICE VOTE: AYES-10; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

f. Resolution 23-09-6 Allocation of 2023 State Opioid and Stimulant Response Funds

This allocation is being given to Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers for costs associated with their recovery houses. Ms. Johnson moved to approve the Resolution. Dr. Lesyk seconded the motion. **VOICE VOTE: AYES-10; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

g. Resolution 23-09-7 Evidence-Based Prevention Funding for SFY2024

This is a state allocation for evidence-based community programs that meet specific criteria. Dr. Lesyk moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Chokshi seconded the motion. **VOICE VOTE: AYES-10; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

h. Resolution 23-09-8 Permanent Supportive Housing Grant Award

This grant is used to for staff, supportive services and operating costs at the Geauga Independent Apartments. Ms. Bagley moved to approve the Resolution. Dr. Lesyk seconded the motion. **VOICE VOTE: AYES-10; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

i. Resolution 23-09-9 Northeast Ohio Collaborative Grant Funding for Short-Term Residential Mental Health Facilities

Director Lakomiak explained that the Resolution is in support of the NEO Collaborative's funding application to create or expand residential type 1 facilities in the catchment area. The Board's project would entail expanding the Transitional Living Center by up to 16 beds. One of the architects involved with the original project is reviewing the TLC plans to ascertain what can or cannot be done. Ms. Dykes moved to approve the Resolution. Dr. Lesyk seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-10; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

j. Resolution 23-09-10 Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Linkages Grant Allocation for SFY2024

The funds will be used to pay for a full-time clinician at the Geauga Safety Center to provide ongoing mental health and recovery treatment. Mr. Holden moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Bagley seconded the motion. **VOICE VOTE: AYES-10; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

k. Financial Reports

Mr. Mausser said the reports include July and August information. The final figures for SFY2023 show that final 73.1% of the budget was expended. For SFY2024 through August, 15.2% of the budget has been expended. The calendar year expenditures are just over \$4.46 million. The Auditor's fund balance at the end of August was \$2.18 million. He has received most of the first quarter allocations and started receiving second quarter allocations yesterday. Two voucher recaps were submitted for review: Voucher Recap Schedule 685 in the amount of \$675,091.98 for July and Voucher Recap Schedule 686 in the amount of \$625,040.33 for August.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. November Levy

Director Lakomiak said the Board's levy is Issue #22. Staff is meeting tomorrow to discuss what has been done in the past and what should be done this time. Another meeting will then be scheduled for anyone interested in working on the levy. Dr. Oluic said he and Mr. Lundblad will put the big signs out in various places. He feels the Board is on an upward trend and we need to continue to have a presence in the community.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Lundblad mentioned suicide prevention month and said veterans can call 988, and press 1, and will then get someone who is qualified to speak with a veteran and their unique situation. Veterans can also go to veteranscrisisline.net to chat online, send a text to 838-255, or call 1-800-273-8255 and press 1. You do not have to be in the VA network to get help. Director Lakomiak said the suicide prevention coalition is open to all community members. The meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 8:15 at the Board offices. There is also a zoom option.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Sue Parker of NAMI Geauga said Kimberly Carter has put in her notice of resignation and will be working at a Cuyahoga agency. Ms. Parker said the position has been posted on Indeed. She will screen the resumes and do the initial interviews. She then said NAMI is different than other providers in that the volunteers and staff are individuals with lived experience who have a mental illness or have a family member with a mental illness. They provide advocacy, awareness, and connection to resources.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Parker reminded everyone that the NAMI Geauga Walk is September 30th on Chardon Square. There will be providers and vendors stationed around the route.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Holden moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Lesyk seconded the motion. The meeting was then adjourned at 7:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ms. Teresa Slater
Administrative/Office Manager

Dr. Steven Oluic
Chairman of the Board

Mr. James Lee Holden
Secretary of the Board