

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

**March 15, 2023
Agency Relations Committee
5:00 – 5:45 P.M.**

Present: Christine Lakomiak, Jim Mausser, Teresa Slater, Linda Miller, Kathy Johnson, Michael Petruziello, Carolee Lesyk, Alberta Chokshi, Melanie Blasko, Mary Wynne-Peaspanen, Vicki Clark

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:12 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited by those present.

II. SFY2024 Contract and Grant Agencies Allocation Process

Ms. Johnson reported that she and Ms. Miller were reviewing the request for proposal process and procedures, along with meeting with each agency director, prior to Ms. Miller's surgery and before the Associate Director resigned. They have met several times with staff about how to move forward with agency funding proposals for SFY2024. The discussion included delaying the RFP process for 2 weeks, 3 months, 6 months or 12 months. The initial thought was to delay the process for a few weeks and then continue what has been done in the past. It was quickly determined that this approach was unrealistic, especially in light of staffing changes. Ms. Lakomiak brings a wealth of knowledge from Lake county, but there will be an adjustment period for Geauga. The discussion then focused around extending the contract and allocations from SFY2023 to SFY2024, pending recommendation by Agency Relations, and with the support of the Finance Chair and Board Chair, in March, and then present individual agency allocation resolutions at the April Board meeting.

Ms. Johnson then spoke about Vicki Clark's presentation and the need for the Board to address agency staff retention and other agency financial requests. The staff also feels this is the way to handle allocations for the upcoming fiscal year to allow Ms. Lakomiak time to meet with agency directors and review their programs. Ms. Lakomiak said she and Mr. Mausser will be meeting with agencies about their fiscal needs and contract modifications. She is in agreement with this approach to continue the same service pattern until she understands the agencies, their programs, and develops service specifications before making big changes.

Mr. Petruziello suggested having agencies submit any special financial needs or requests to the Board as quickly as possible. Mr. Mausser said some allocations can be shifted from one service category to another either up front or afterwards. The Board can approve the individual agency service allocations in April and contracts can be amended if needed. Ms. Johnson feels this will also lift some of the burden from agencies.

Ms. Miller moved to recommend continuation contracts for SFY2024. She then read the draft resolution submitted to the committee. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. Discussion: It was clarified that allocations will remain the same as in SFY2023. Ms. Lakomiak said this would give the staff and Board time to see if agencies are over or under on service provision and discuss other options. Voice Vote: Ayes-3; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.

III. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 PM.