

**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**

**OCTOBER 18, 2023**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ann Bagley, Alberta Chokshi, Reba Dykes, James Lee Holden, Kathy Johnson, Carolee Lesyk, Douglas Lundblad, Gregory O'Brien, Steven Oluic, Mary Ruth Shumway, Patricia Varanese

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Martin Fay, Michael Petruziello

**STAFF PRESENT:** Christine Lakomiak, Jim Mausser

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

Dr. Oluic called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. Mr. Holden called the roll for attendance purposes and the following Board members were present: Ann Bagley, Alberta Chokshi, Reba Dykes, James Lee Holden, Kathy Johnson, Carolee Lesyk, Douglas Lundblad, Gregory O'Brien, Steven Oluic, Mary Ruth Shumway and Patricia Varanese. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

**II. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 20, 2023**

Ms. Johnson moved to approve the Minutes as written. Ms. Chokshi seconded the motion.  
**Voice Vote: Ayes-11; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

**III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Dr. Oluic said the training about the Board's roles and responsibilities was very helpful and informative.

**IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Lakomiak reported on the following:

- Agency Clinical/Medical Necessity Reviews of Board Funded Programs: Staff developed compliance protocols and audit tools using the certification standards as a guideline. Reviews will take place in November and early December.

## **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **a. Agency Relations**

Ms. Johnson said the committee will be updating their Charge of Committee. They will also be reviewing service specifications for the next fiscal year funding requests from agencies. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.

### **b. Finance**

There was no update.

### **c. Planning and Policies**

Ms. Chokshi reported there was no quorum at the last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM.

### **d. Capital Planning/Housing**

Ms. Dykes provided the following updates:

- Reviewed draft Charge of Committee and some minor revisions were made.
- Discussed different types of housing in Geauga. The greatest need is for permanent supportive housing.
- Discussed challenges and barriers.
- Discussed potential public/private partnerships.
- Discussed expansion of beds at the Transitional Living Center.
- Next meeting is November 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.

She attended the October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Geauga County Housing Coalition. This is a different group than the Homeless Coalition convened by Director Swenson. The Housing Coalition has significant ties to the Board. It was started so the Board could apply for the Shelter Plus Care HUD grant, which required the formation of a local housing planning body. As a result, this group has been in existence since 1999. There are approximately 40 members representing 25 agencies. The Housing Coalition became a 501(C)(3) entity in 2003. She met with Director Swenson and they discussed the overlap between these two groups. One of the charges of the Housing Coalition is to help coordinate the annual point in time homeless count mandated by some grant funders. At some point in the future, these two groups may converge into one.

She attended a FEMA county meeting about emergency food and shelter funding for local groups that provide shelter. The Veterans Food Pantry, Geauga Faith Rescue Mission, WomenSafe, Next Step, Doors of Hope receive funds from this grant.

Information about the Geauga County Housing Coalition's chili cook off was distributed. All funds are used to provide grants of up to \$500 to local housing agencies.

**e. Opiate HUB**

There was no update at this time.

**VI. BOARD REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS**

**a. Resolution 23-10-1 Ravenwood Health Capital Plan Funding for the Geauga Youth Center**

The Geauga County Commissioners are in the process of applying for a capital improvement grant to construct or renovate a youth residential care facility. In 2022, the Board passed a resolution in support of this application. Two changes to the resolution are needed. It will be the Commissioners who are applying for this funding, not Ravenwood Health. Additionally, the Board is not providing any funding for this project. Ms. Shumway asked if this facility accepts out of county placements. Ms. Lakomiak noted if a bed is vacant an out of county placement can be considered and a per diem is charged. Geauga youth are prioritized. Ms. Johnson moved to approve the Resolution. Mr. Holden seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-10; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-1. MOTION APPROVED.**

**b. Financial Reports**

Mr. Mausser said 22.2% of the Board's administrative budget has been expended through September. The calendar year expenditures were just over \$5.35 million. The Auditor's Fund Balance at the end of September was just over \$2.16 million. He has received second quarter allocation payments. Voucher Recap Schedule 687 in the amount of \$866,167.90 for September was included for informational purposes.

**VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**a. November Levy**

The following updates were given:

- Dr. Oluic, Mr. Lundblad and many others have been installing the big and small levy signs throughout the county. There are more signs available in the lobby.
- There have been articles in the Maple Leaf and the Chagrin Valley Times.
- Dr. Oluic had a conversation with a Geauga county resident who was critical of the Board. Dr. Oluic explained what the Board does. There are some misconceptions out there about that. It is very critical for the Board to advocate on behalf of the agencies and the services that are available.
- Director Lakomiak attended four League of Women Voters candidate nights to present information about the levy.
- There are many levies on the ballot, including a countywide Public Health levy.
- Residents have expressed concern about how the Auditor's increased property valuations will affect taxes assessed on property. This does not usually equate to a commensurate increase in taxes paid. Renewal levies are collected based upon the valuation of the

property when the levy was first passed. New and replacement levies are based on current property values.

- The Board discussed the impact passage of Issue #2 could potentially have on the Board, Geauga residents and agencies due to increased demand for services.

#### **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business discussed.

#### **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no New Business discussed.

#### **X. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kristine Frankenberry introduced herself as the new Executive Director for NAMI Geauga. She previously worked at Ravenwood Health for several years.

The Board then discussed the 988 crisis line number – what it is, what it is supposed to do, how it is supposed to work, and how the Board can advertise/promote this number in conjunction with the crisis text line, 211, and our local 24/7 crisis line. Ravenwood Health is one of 19 designated 988 call centers in Ohio.

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Lundblad moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Lesyk seconded the motion. The meeting was then adjourned at 7:55 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**