

**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

NOVEMBER 15, 2023

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

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

GUESTS: Kathy Franz and Rooney Moy (Geauga League of Women Voters), Melanie Blasko and Charles Tong (Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers), Andrea Gutka (WomenSafe), Vicki Clark (Ravenwood Health), N.D. Howard (Geauga C.T.P.)

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

Dr. Oluic called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Mr. Holden called the roll for attendance purposes and the following Board members were present at that time: Ann Bagley, Alberta Chokshi, Reba Dykes, Martin Fay, James Lee Holden, Kathy Johnson, Carolee Lesyk, Douglas Lundblad, Gregory O'Brien, Steven Oluic, Michael Petruziello, and Patricia Varanese. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited. Mary Ruth Shumway arrived at 6:05 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 18, 2023

Dr. Lesyk moved to approve the Minutes as written. Ms. Bagley seconded the motion. **Voice Vote: Ayes-12; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dr. Oluic thanked everyone who helped pass the levy by almost 67%. This reinforces that what the Board does is very important to the community.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Lakomiak reported on the following:

Levy: She thanked everyone who helped to get the levy passed and sincerely appreciates the work the agencies, Board members and the community put into this levy.

OhioMHAS: Director Lori Criss is leaving OhioMHAS. Dr. Baker will act as interim director until her replacement is appointed. There is still a lot of advocacy that needs to be done at the state level, especially in light of any changes which may be made to Ohio Revised Code Section 340.

Mileage Packet: Board members are allowed to get reimbursed for mileage as it relates to board business per Ohio Revised Code Section 340.02. The required forms will be emailed to Board members. It was asked that mileage reimbursement requests be submitted on a quarterly basis beginning with this fiscal year.

Stepping Up Initiative: This initiative encourages collaboration with the forensic, criminal justice and mental health systems by providing alternatives to jail for individuals with mental illness. To date, there have been meetings with the state hospital and forensic department with local judges, along with a presentation attended by judges, magistrates, prosecutor, and public defender. This initiative is spearheaded by Justice Stratton.

First quarter fiscal/clinical meetings with agencies: Staff reviewed agency outcomes. There was nothing worrisome. A “dashboard” template for outcomes that can be given to Board members will be developed. Agency clinical compliance audits are scheduled for November/December.

Health Officers: A second health officer training was held. Over 70 people attended to either become a health officer or to learn about the process.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Agency Relations

The committee has reviewed the charge of committee. It needs to be updated to more accurately reflect what should be done by the committee. Staff will submit their recommendations for review at their January meeting. Service specifications for each program funded by the Board will be developed. Ms. Maneage provided a report about the Transitional Living Center audit. There were no non-compliance issues. Residents are being well served and staff are very engaged with clients. Board staff did make a few recommendations that will benefit TLC residents and staff.

b. Finance

The next meeting is scheduled for early January.

c. Planning and Policies

Staff will be reviewing the Board’s policy manual. Any recommended changes will be submitted to the committee and then to the Board. The first items that will be reviewed are the charge of committee and succession policy.

d. Capital Planning/Housing

The committee met on November 8th. They have been working on developing a charge of committee. They will also be developing a housing inventory that will include housing dedicated specifically for mental health consumers. They will be exploring different funding opportunities and ways to collaborate with community partners to maximize housing opportunities. The

committee reviewed Geauga County's General Plan from 2021 and talked about getting involved with the planning process to highlight the need for affordable housing. The committee also reviewed a history of mental health housing and best practices. There is a meeting of the Geauga Homeless Coalition tomorrow at 1:30 PM.

Transitional Living Center Update: The Board applied for and received APRA funding in the amount of \$1.2 Million. These funds will be used to expand the amount of beds available at the TLC up to 16. Request for qualifications will be sent soon. There are some additional details that need to be worked out within the next few weeks.

e. Opiate HUB

Ms. Miller reported that a full HUB meeting will be scheduled in January. She distributed information about Issue 2 regarding the legalization of recreational marijuana.

VI. BOARD REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS

a. Resolution 23-11-1 Northeast Ohio Collaborative Grant Funding Allocation

The Board has received these funds for several years. The allocation is used to have someone stationed at the jail to provide crisis response and support services. Ravenwood Health, Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers and Family Pride provide services at the jail. Ms. Bagley moved to approve the Resolution. Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-13; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

b. Resolution 23-11-2 Allocation of 2023-2024 State Opioid and Stimulant Response Funds

All boards received the same allocation as last year. These are the agencies that meet the requirements of this funding. Ms. Shumway moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-13; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

c. Financial Reports

Mr. Mausser reported on the following for October 2023:

- 28.9% of the Board's SFY2024 administrative budget was expended.
- Calendar year expenditures were \$6,074,563.29.
- The Unencumbered Balance was \$2,441,236.57.
- Carryover funds from SFY2023 have been added to the appropriate funding sources.
- Voucher Recap Schedule #688 for October 2023 showed expenditures in the amount of \$716,405.20.
- Some line items will be in the negative due to the non-collection of half of the .5 levy funds.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. O'Brien moved to approve the final version of the Capital Planning Charge of Committee. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. **VOICE VOTE: AYES-13; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments. Dr. Oluic thanked everyone for the good work that is being done in the community.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Lesyk moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Bagley seconded the motion. The meeting was then adjourned at 6:54 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