

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

May 10, 2023

Finance Committee

1:00 – 2:30 P.M.

Present: Christine Lakomiak, Jim Mausser, Teresa Slater, Michael Petruziello, Linda Miller, Jimmy Lee Holden, Vicki Clark, Kim Carter

I. Call to Order

Mr. Petruziello called the meeting to order at 1:09 PM.

II. SFY2024 Administrative Office Budget

Mr. Petruziello asked to review the proposed salary line of the budget. Mr. Mausser reported the following: The amount Includes a 5% increase for this calendar year retro to January 1st and a 4% for the next calendar year for Teresa Slater and Jim Mausser, which is in line with what the Commissioners gave employees. He also included \$65,000 for the new position starting July 1st. The Medicare and PERS budget lines are formula driven based on the total salary amount. Ms. Lakomiak said the personnel policies give her the authority to provide raises to staff. She is to let Finance know what was done. Mr. Mausser said the proposed administrative and community education budgets represent a 7.2% decrease from the current fiscal year for a total of \$571,725.00 for SFY2024. Any carryover from this fiscal year will be added to the general fund. Ms. Miller moved to recommend approval of the proposed administrative and community education budgets to the full Board. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. Voice Vote: All ayes.

III. SFY2024 System of Care

Mr. Mausser recommended the following changes for the next fiscal year: 1. Decrease the Residential Services allocation to \$110,000; 2. Increase the Trauma Informed Care Response to \$30,000. The total dollar amount is the same. He will need to use some of the Risk Pool allocation this year for Trauma Informed Care and Response expenses. Mr. Petruziello moved to recommend approval of the proposed System of Care Resolution to the full Board. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. Voice Vote: All Ayes.

IV. OHIOMHAS Grant

Ms. Lakomiak reported funding is available through the NEO Collaborative. Each region received \$7.4 million to be used for mental health transition housing, residential stays, case management, linkages, medications, and other support services. She proposes applying for \$1.2 million on behalf of Geauga to either renovate an existing facility or to build something new. There has been discussion that the Commissioners would allow the Board to use two of the Metzenbaum homes. The DD Board has moved to transfer use of the two homes to the Geauga Board. She has contacted the Commissioners for an update and will forward that information to the committee. There are two eight-bedroom homes and six bathrooms in each facility. The basement walkout of each facility could then be a 16-bed facility. The clientele would be adults with a mental health diagnosis and used for clients who need some type of stepdown facility before moving into independent housing. Most of the services will be Medicaid billable.

Cuyahoga is the lead Board writing the grant for all counties. The application will be submitted to

the State on the 19th. There is a match requirement of 10% and the Board's share would be \$120,000. There hasn't been any discussion about who will run the facility. The Board can put out a request for proposal or ask an agency to run the facility. Cuyahoga and Lake County did the latter. After discussion, it was decided that Ms. Lakomiak will ask the clinical agencies to submit a Letter of Intent if they plan to bid on this project.

V. Salary Increase

This agenda item was discussed above. Ms. Lakomiak said she is to conduct performance appraisals of staff which were complete in March. She can then give salary increases and present what she did to the Finance committee. That information can also be shared with the full Board.

VI. MRSS Pass Through Funds

Ravenwood Health applied for and received a grant of \$199,753.97. OhioMHAS said the funds must go through a board because of the reporting requirements of GFMS. The funds will be used for mobile response crisis stabilization to provide services to children with severe behavioral issues in their homes to help keep them out of a residential facility. The service will be available 24/7. A therapist and case worker will be available to go into the home for 42 days as much as needed so they don't have to be removed from the home. They can respond right at the moment of a crisis and could be accessed through the crisis line, law enforcement or emergency services.

Mr. Petruziello asked if Ravenwood would be removing one of their current programs. Ms. Clark responded this would be a new program. Ms. Lakomiak said most of the services should be Medicaid billable and under OhioRise, Medicaid has started to fund this program. Mr. Petruziello asked why the agency would add another program when the Board has heard that they can't staff current programs. Ms. Clark said Ravenwood has already filled those positions and staff is ready to go. MRSS can also alleviate the pressure on some other programs because they can start to help kids and their families in the moment of the crisis before additional trauma occurs.

Mr. Holden commended Ravenwood for going after funds from other sources and asked when they would need to come to the Board for funding. Ms. Clark said if this funding goes away and the Board chooses not to fund the program, the agency would only serve children that have Medicaid. The agency deals with staffing issues every day and make choices based on priorities and targeting crucial programs. She feels this is a positive program that can make a big impact. Ms. Lakomiak said accepting this passthrough funding does not obligate the Board to fund the program in the future.

Ms. Miller moved to recommend the Board accept the MRSS Funds from OhioMHAS. Mr. Holden seconded the motion. Voice Vote: All Ayes.

VII. Levy on November Ballot

Mr. Mausser distributed the five-year forecast again to show what would happen if one or both of the levies didn't pass. The levies collectively bring in a little over \$3.8 million as renewals – the .7 about \$2.25 million and the .5 about \$1.6 million. The .7 levy can be used for mental health and recovery services. The .5 can only be used for mental health services. Mr. Petruziello moved to recommend approval of putting the .7 mil levy on the ballot in November to the full Board. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. Voice Vote: All Ayes.

VIII. Unit Rate Adjustment

The Board has discussed allocating additional funds to agencies who provide clinical services in SFY2023. This is due in part to the low reimbursement rate of Medicaid, which has been stagnant for roughly 25 years. The state budget includes a proposal to increase Medicaid rates by 10%. Mr. Mausser suggested giving agencies a 5/8/10% rate adjustment based upon services billed through GOSH until the end of the fiscal year, retroactive to July 1, 2022. He distributed a spreadsheet to show what that would look like for each agency. Some agencies may have enough funding left over in their contract amount to cover this allocation; otherwise, the money would come from the Board's unencumbered reserves. Mr. Petruziello would like to use 5%. Mr. Holden suggested keeping things status quo until we see where billings are at the end of this fiscal year. The Board could decide whether to supplement allocations at a later date. Ms. Miller would like to use 10%. It was decided that Mr. Mausser will have the final figures for Finance to review in July, along with a draft resolution.

IX. EMDR Training Allocation

The Board allocated funds to Ravenwood Health for this training at its February meeting. Other agencies indicated they would also like to provide this training for staff. Several agencies put together a request for funding to have 16 staff trained at the cost of \$22,400. Staff that receive the training will have to sign a professional development contract to make a two-year commitment to the agency or they would have to pay the agency back. Ms. Lakomiak said it is good to have more than one agency trained in this type of therapy so that consumers have more than one option. It could potentially cause a waiting list if it is done by just one agency. This training provides counselors with an additional tool they can use. It has been shown to help people with PTSD and other types of trauma. Ms. Lakomiak said this is an excellent training and excellent course of therapy. The outcomes are very positive and it has been shown to reduce the number of client therapy sessions. Ms. Clark said counselors can have up a caseload of up to 10 clients at any given time receiving this therapy. Ms. Miller moved to recommend approval of this allocation to the full Board. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion.

X. Cell Phone for Executive Director

Mr. Petruziello reported that Ms. Lakomiak has been using her personal phone for work purposes. He recommends the Board pay for a work phone she can use. He feels it is inappropriate for her to have to use her personal phone. Mr. Petruziello plans to make a motion to the Board to move this forward. Mr. Holden and Ms. Miller agree. Mr. Mausser will add \$500 to the Utilities budget line item. Mr. Petruziello then asked if Ms. Lakomiak has a Board laptop to use. She responded she does not. Mr. Petruziello, Mr. Holden and Ms. Miller will also recommend that the Board provide her with a work laptop so she does not have to use her personal laptop.

XI. Agency Fundraisers

Ms. Lakomiak said agencies have various fundraisers throughout the year and asked if the Board would like to show support of the agencies and to the community. She suggested attending, sponsoring or donating to one fundraiser a year for each agency. Some type of policy could be put in place. This will help the Board interact more with agency board members, staff, and community members. She would like to discuss this at the Board meeting. Mr. Petruziello feels the Board needs to be actively involved in agency presentations and meetings at schools and listen to what people say about our agencies. He has no problem with the Board

participating in or sponsoring agency fundraisers. Mr. Petruziello suggested a budget of \$2,500 a year for this purpose. Ms. Lakomiak will see what agencies have planned for the next 12 months. Mr. Mausser said the Community Education Budget can be used for this purpose. Mr. Petruziello will bring this up at the Board meeting.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 PM.