

**GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH
AND RECOVERY SERVICES
CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024
5:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.**

Present: Christine Lakomiak, Jim Mausser, Michelle Maneage, Teresa Slater, Reba Dykes, Kathy Johnson, Doug Lundblad, Gregory O'Brien, Vicki Clark

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

II. Approval of Minutes from November 8, 2023

Mr. Lundblad moved to approve the Minutes. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. Voice Vote: All Ayes.

III. Housing Inventory

Discussion included:

- The Housing Inventory correlates with the housing definitions from OhioMHAS and shows the types of housing available in Geauga - recovery housing, residential treatment, permanent housing, transitional housing, and residential care.
- The Board does provide funding for Geauga residents to receive residential treatment at Lake-Geauga Recovery Center's three recovery homes in Lake county. A program audit was recently conducted that included verification of Geauga county residents. The Board receives a grant from the state of approximately \$50,000 to fund LGRC recovery houses. This is a Medicaid-eligible service. If the person does not have Medicaid, the Board has established a per diem rate. For permanent housing, an individual pays a portion of their income to rent and the Board receives a subsidy grant through HUD.
- Transitional Living Center: Staff recently conducted a full audit of the TLC program. Reports will be sent to the Board on a monthly basis. Staff will also know how many residents are there at any given time.
- Permanent Housing: Apartments in the community for mental health clients where they can stay as long as they want. There are approximately 30 people on the waiting list for permanent housing. The per diem rate is around \$30.00 per person for Ravenwood owned housing. This was increased from \$20.00 several years ago to provide funds to Ravenwood for maintenance on their houses.
- Geauga Independent Apartments: This facility is for individuals who need extra support. Staff is on site 40 hours a week. Must meet the criteria for severe and persistent mental illness to live there. A case worker/support worker takes clients shopping, to get medications, celebrates holidays, etc. OhioMHAS has approved funding for another apartment complex in 2027.
- There is a push from OhioMHAS to increase residential type 2 living facilities by paying a higher dollar amount from \$1,100 to \$1,600 monthly. PASARR funding is also available.

IV. TLC Project Update

The bidding proposal letter was sent to several different architectural firms. Two responded that they are interested. The letter asked for responses to specific questions for the Board to consider. OhioMHAS recommended moving forward in this manner in seeking an architect to coordinate the work and follow OhioMHAS guidelines. This letter was sent via email and regular mail. Responses are due back by January 12th. Once the architect is chosen, they will help with the specific information and requirements and guide the Board through the whole expansion process.

The TLC currently has 9 beds and can be expanded up to 16 beds and is managed by Ravenwood Health. The length of stay at the facility is up to two years. Individual cases may necessitate a longer stay. Staff made some recommendations about the program and will have a better understanding why someone may need to stay longer. When an individual is ready to leave the TLC, housing support workers will get them on waiting lists, enrolled in services, signed up for benefits, and determine the best type of living situation. In most cases people will move to permanent housing.

Ms. Clark said Ravenwood receives funds from the Board, the Collaborative, CopeLine and 988, which are used to fund the TLC. Mr. Mausser said the Board's portion is around \$500,000. There are two different per diem rates - \$325.00 for a crisis bed and \$101.00 for a less intensive regular bed. Claims are submitted through Gosh. Any increased cost should be proportionate. The TLC is already licensed and serving as a crisis center. Mr. O'Brien asked if any of Ravenwood's permanent housing is expandable. Ravenwood has discussed selling four of their houses and building another independent apartment complex. The biggest need is for permanent housing. The Board will be receiving a capital grant from the state in 2027 for this purpose.

The committee briefly discussed asking the Commissioners what their plans are for the county home property. It may be an ideal location to build something similar to the Geauga Independent Apartments. GIA has 8 single bedroom units and 2 two bedroom units and houses about 14 people. Ms. Clark feels the property would be perfect for that purpose.

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 PM.