

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

**Dr. Steven Oluic**  
**Chairman of the Board**

**13244 Ravenna Road**  
**Chardon, Ohio 44024**

**Christine Lakomiak**  
**Executive Director**

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**Board Minutes**

**FEBRUARY 21, 2024**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ann Bagley, Alberta Chokshi, Reba Dykes, James Lee Holden, Kathy Johnson, Douglas Lundblad, Gregory O'Brien, Steven Oluic, Michael Petruziello, Patricia Varanese

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Martin Fay, Carolee Lesyk, Mary Ruth Shumway

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

**GUESTS:** Kathy Franz (Geauga League of Women Voters), Melanie Blasko and Charles Tong (Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers), Mary Wynne Peaspanen (Signature Health), Vicki Clark (Ravenwood Health), Michelle Bertram (Catholic Charities), Andrea Gutka (WomenSafe), Angi Daugherty (Family Pride), Kristine Frankenberry (NAMI Geauga)

**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: Ann Bagley, Alberta Chokshi, Reba Dykes, James Lee Holden, Kathy Johnson, Douglas Lundblad, Gregory O'Brien, Steven Oluic, Michael Petruziello and Patricia Varanese. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

**II. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM JANUARY 17, 2024**

Dr. Oluic asked for a motion to waive the reading of the Minutes. Mr. Petruziello moved to waive the reading. Mr. Holden seconded the motion. **Voice Vote: Ayes-10; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.** Mr. Petruziello then moved to approve the Minutes as written. Ms. Bagley seconded the motion. **Voice Vote: Ayes-10; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

**III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Dr. Oluic welcomed everyone and then turned the meeting over to Director Lakomiak for updates.

**IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Lakomiak provided the following updates:

Trainings in Columbus: Director Lakomiak, Dr. Oluic and Mr. Petruziello attended a two-day training session which included a presentation by the Auditor of State regarding the roles and

responsibilities of boards as they relate to Ohio Revised Code Section 340. An updated handbook was distributed and is also available digitally. This handbook will be used to review and update Board policies and procedures.

TLC Expansion: a letterhead bid for architects was published on December 6th. Three firms responded and were interviewed. PERSPECTUS was chosen by the interview team. The funding awarded to MH & RS Boards are a priority as the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) needs to determine which projects will come to fruition and the timeline has moved up substantially. All documents were submitted to OhioMHAS prior to the deadline given by our project manager from the State. The Capital Planning committee has met three times since the last Board meeting regarding the expansion. A meeting with the architect is scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:45 PM to discuss the design, timeline, and other decisions that need to be made.

Capital Project Grant: The Board has been awarded approximately \$1 Million in funding cycle 2027-28 to build another 10 unit apartment complex.

Additional Funding Grant: Staff was notified that the Board had previously been awarded \$506,000 from OhioMHAS. These funds may be used for the TLC expansion to update the facility, including furniture, flooring, appliances, etc. or for another project.

SFY2025 RFP: The Request for Proposal was published on February 16, 2024. This document outlines service specifications. The RFP includes the standards for program certifications, what is allowable, the timeline for some reports and other pertinent information. A question and answer session has been scheduled for agencies who wish to submit a bid proposal. Completed RFPs are due no later than the end of business on March 29th.

## **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **a. Agency Relations**

Ms. Johnson reported that the next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2024 at 5:00 PM.

### **b. Finance**

Mr. Petruziello asked staff to send out notice of their next meeting date.

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

Ms. Chokshi reported that the committee met and updated the Charge of Committee and the Board's Succession Policy. The next meeting is scheduled for March 12th at 3:00 PM. The main topic will be the yearly evaluation of the Executive Director.

### **d. Capital Planning**

Ms. Dykes reported that the committee has met several times regarding the TLC expansion. Ms. Dykes and Ms. Johnson attended a meeting at Munson Town Hall about Geauga Faith Rescue Mission's intent to open a women's shelter. Over 200 people attended to express their concerns,

ask questions and find out what the program is all about. Several issues were brought up – making sure residents come from Geauga, if background checks will be done, proximity to the school, negative affect on property values, zoning changes. The shelter would house 8-10 single women that are homeless Geauga residents. Ms. Dykes said this program model is very positive and has great outcomes.

#### **e. Opiate HUB**

Ohio Revised Code 340 includes a requirement that boards must have a county hub coalition to address addiction. The January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting was very well attended and many different county groups were represented. Ms. Johnson and Ms. Bagley attended as Board representatives. There are several subcommittees – Treatment and Recovery, Prevention and Education, Training and Community Outreach, Business Support and Workplace Development. The next meeting is scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM.

### **VI. BOARD REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS**

#### **a. Planning and Policies Charge of Committee and Succession Policy**

Ms. Chokshi explained that the highlighted areas show what language will be added and the strike outs show what language will be deleted to update these two policies.

#### **b. Insurance Overview**

An overview of the Board's current insurance policies was distributed for review. Mr. Petruziello asked if staff is bonded. Mr. Mausser replied no because the Geauga County Auditor serves as the Board's fiscal agent. No other questions or concerns were voiced regarding coverage.

#### **c. Financial Reports**

Mr. Mausser reported on the following:

- 53.6% of the Board's SFY2024 administrative budget has been expended.
- Calendar year expenditures through January were \$968,362.59.
- The Unencumbered Balance was \$2,453,161.57.
- Voucher Recap Schedule #691 for January 2024 itemizes expenditures in the amount of \$999,586.16.
- The Budget Commission has moved up the 2025 calendar year budget review one month earlier than last year. The meeting is scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM.

### **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business.

### **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no New Business.

## **IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Melanie Blasko said Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers Alumni Association is holding an alcohol free dinner dance on March 25<sup>th</sup>. This is a sober event that includes dinner and music with a live band. They will be serving a traditional St. Patrick's Day meal, along with pizza and pasta. Tickets are \$10.00 through their website or \$15.00 at the door.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Holden moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. The meeting was then adjourned at 6:40 PM.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

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**Ms. Teresa Slater**  
**Administrative/Office Manager**

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**Dr. Steven Oluic**  
**Chairman of the Board**

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**Mr. James Lee Holden**  
**Secretary of the Board**