

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

Dr. Steven Oluic
Chairman of the Board

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Board Minutes

MARCH 20, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ann Bagley, Alberta Chokshi, Reba Dykes, Martin Fay, Kathy Johnson, Douglas Lundblad, Steven Oluic, Michael Petruziello, Mary Ruth Shumway, Patricia Varanese

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: James Lee Holden, Carolee Lesyk, Gregory O'Brien

STAFF PRESENT: Christine Lakomiak, Jim Mausser, Teresa Slater

GUESTS: ND Howard (Observer), Tia Lawrence (Torchlight), Angi Daugherty (Family Pride), Kristine Frankenberry (NAMI Geauga), Melanie Blasko (Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers), Vicki Clark (Ravenwood Health), Mary Wynne-Peaspanen (Signature Health), Andrea Gutka (WomenSafe), Michelle Bertman (Catholic Charities), Kathy Franz (Gauga League of Women Voters)

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

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

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 21, 2024

Ms. Bagley moved to waive the reading of the Minutes and approve the Minutes. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. **Voice Vote: Ayes-9; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dr. Oluic welcomed everyone then turned the meeting over to Director Lakomiak for her report.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Lakomiak's report included the following:

State: Ohio's Mental Health and Addiction Conference: Building the System of Care is June 3-4, 2024. There are 60 different break-out sessions that cover mental health and addiction topics. There are 1200 slots. Each board receives two free registrations. Director Lakomiak and Ms.

Maneage or a Board member will use the second available slot. The conference will highlight Governor DeWine's investment in the mental health and wellness of Ohioans.

FAQ for Non-Medical Cannabis: An updated version was distributed. Cannabis is not yet available to be purchased by the general public in Ohio and no entities have been licensed to sell non-medical marijuana.

One Ohio Funding Region 13: Consists of Geauga, Lake, Ashtabula, and Portage counties. Outlines Ohio's plan to spend the opiate settlement dollars against pharmaceutical companies. She is not part of the region 13 board but does attend the meetings. Initially, an RFP was drafted to apply for the funds locally but the state has changed the guidelines and agencies will be able to apply directly through a portal on the One Ohio website.

Board Association: Director Lakomiak will be in Columbus next week meeting with the Chief Advisor of OhioMHAS and the Board Association to review the new prevention rules and the upcoming state fiscal year for OhioMHAS.

Crisis Center Update: Geauga signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Lake and Ashtabula in October 2023. This consortium is exploring the creation of a crisis center/24-hour observation center with beds for those in crisis to stay up to ten days instead of an inpatient hospital stay. They hold monthly workgroups and have hired a project coordinator with a grant from the Lake Health Foundation. The project has received support from Senator Cirino and the consortium will be meeting with Congressman Joyce's aide about funding. They are looking for land in the Concord area.

Loss Team Journey to Hope event: It was well attended. The Loss Team receives funding from the Board annually. Deputy Tracy Jordan was awarded a grant from the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation to coordinate this multi-county event. Ms. Johnson said the event was wonderful and the speakers did a fabulous job connecting with those grieving the loss of a loved one. There were activities available, along with agency information. She was impressed with the whole event.

Suicide Prevention Coalition Initiatives: Michelle Maneage, Deputy Jordan and representatives from Ravenwood Health and Lake Geauga Recovery Centers attended a state level meeting that provided good direction and the opportunity to hear from other Suicide Prevention Coalitions. The small group work resulted in local goals, such as mission messaging, tag lines, elevator speech, mission statement, increase visibility and advocacy.

Stepping Up Initiative: Director Lakomiak gave an update regarding this project which included a recap of the initial kick off on May 25, 2023 in which all Geauga Judges participated. The Sequential Intercept Mapping Workshop is May 2 and 3, 2024. The invitation was sent to members of the community who interact with the criminal justice and mental health systems. The Stepping Up project managers provided a template of who should attend the workshop. The second day allows an opportunity for others to attend as an observer. The workshop will evaluate how individuals move through our criminal justice system, identify points for diversion/intervention, how treatment and other community systems interact with the criminal justice system, and provide a roadmap for local goals and priorities. A core planning team has been working on this project for several months and gathered data from the jail and other

programs in the community that will be used during the workshop. A juvenile sequential mapping is an option for the future. As a result of Stepping Up, Board staff initiated several meetings with the Forensic team at the State Hospital for our local system which included Common Pleas and Municipal Courts, Prosecutor's Office, Public Defender's Office, and Mental Health Providers. Monthly meetings are held with UH Geauga, Ravenwood crisis services, the jail, and Board staff to identify people in both systems. Board staff applied for two grants through the Stepping Up Initiative – landlord mitigation and landlord incentive programs.

Crisis Intervention Training: The annual 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training started on Monday, March 18, 2024. CIT has become a globally recognized model for safely and effectively assisting people with mental and substance use disorders who experience crisis in the community. The training is a community effort with local systems providing education/presentations on their area of expertise. Board members are welcome to attend the graduation on Friday, March 22nd at 3:00 p.m.

Other: RFPs for SFY2025 are due March 29th; all contract agencies financial audits have been received, reviewed by Board staff and documents sent to Ohio MHAS as required. Any findings that resulted in a plan of correction have been submitted; the Budget Commission meeting on Monday, March 18, 2024 – Director Lakomiak thanked Mr. Mausser for his work on the budget which resulted in the unanimous approval of CY 2025 budget as submitted; Board staff met with the Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio to learn about their programs and services in Geauga County.

Director Lakomiak expressed gratitude to Board members for their ongoing support, guidance and volunteerism during her first year as Executive Director.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Agency Relations

Ms. Johnson reported that last week's meeting was cancelled due to the RFP process and will be scheduled after the RFP's are turned in.

b. Finance

Mr. Petruziello reported the next meeting is April 3, 2024 at 6:00 PM to review the budget and financial projections.

c. Planning and Policies

Ms. Chokshi reported that the March 12th meeting was cancelled. Committee members completed an evaluation of Director Lakomiak. The results have been compiled and given to Dr. Oluic, who will meet with Director Lakomiak.

d. Capital Planning

Ms. Dykes reported that the committee has met twice to review the updated design of the renovations at the Transitional Living Center. The expansion will include additional beds, a

larger common area, more staff space, a basement area, and many other upgrades with input from staff, residents and Board members. Ms. Dykes will be meeting with Director Swenson to discuss the Geauga Housing Coalition and the Geauga Homeless Coalition.

e. Opiate HUB

The next meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2024 10:00 AM at the Board offices.

VI. BOARD REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS

a. Resolution 24-03-1 Reimbursement to Geauga Safety Center

Director Lakomiak reported OhioMHAS has set aside funds to reimburse jails for psychotropic medication prescribed to inmates. The Board received the second quarter allocation which will be passed on to the Geauga Safety Center. Ms. Johnson moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Bagley seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Voice Vote: Ayes-10; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

**b. Resolution 24-03-2 Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Capital Grant Award**

Director Lakomiak said the Resolution will authorize access to the awarded capital grant funds and to move forward with the expansion of the Transitional Living Center. Mr. Petruziello asked about the mortgage referenced in the Resolution. Director Lakomiak replied this is to insure the facility will be used as stated in the application for ten years. Ms. Shumway moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-10; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

c. Financial Reports

Mr. Mausser reported on the following for February:

- 60.9% of the Board's SFY2024 administrative budget has been expended.
- Calendar year expenditures through February were just over \$1.8 million.
- The Unencumbered Balance was just over \$2.24 million.
- Voucher Recap Schedule #692 for February 2024 itemizes expenditures in the amount of \$385,932.49.
- The ten-year forecasting information will be reviewed at the next Finance meeting.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Bagley reported that the Opiate Hub does not have a Chair at this time since Ms. Miller has retired from that position. Dr. Oluic asked Board members to let him know if they are interested

in serving in that capacity. Ms. Johnson and Ms. Bagley have been attending the meetings on behalf of the Board.

Dr. Oluic reported on a suicide in Geauga County and emphasized the entire country is struggling with suicides. Ms. Shumway suggested reviewing county information about suicides to determine if the Board should target any specific population. Director Lakomiak said the Suicide Coalition reviews this data every month and uses the data to determine goals and strategies. The Board will be provided updated data on Suicides during the April board meeting.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Shumway moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. The meeting was then adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ms. Teresa Slater
Administrative/Office Manager

Dr. Steven Oluic
Chairman of the Board

Ms. Alberta Chokshi
Acting Secretary of the Board