

**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**

**Phone: (440) 285-2282**  
**Fax: (440) 285-9617**

**Board Minutes**

**MAY 29, 2024**

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

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Michael Petruziello

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

**GUESTS:** Gail Roussey (Geauga League of Women Voters), Tia Lawrence (Torchlight Youth Mentoring Alliance), Charles Tong (Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers), Andrea Gutka (WomenSafe), Mary Wynne-Peaspanen (Signature Health), Angi Daugherty (Family Pride of Northeast Ohio), Carolyn Brakey (Community Member)

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

Dr. Oluic called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Mr. Holden called the roll for attendance purposes and the following Board members were present: Ann Bagley, Alberta Chokshi, Reba Dykes, Martin Fay, James Lee Holden, Kathy Johnson, Carolee Lesyk, Douglas Lundblad, Steven Oluic, Mary Ruth Shumway and Patricia Varanese. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

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

Dr. Lesyk moved to waive the reading of the Minutes and to approve the Minutes. Ms. Shumway seconded the motion. **Voice Vote: Ayes-11; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

**III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Dr. Oluic reported that a gentleman took his life earlier this month. It seems as if we can't stop the blight of suicide despite all that we do in the community.

There has been discussion with the Commissioners about reducing the size of the Board to 12 members.

The Board and staff have spent a lot of time reviewing proposals and budgets. Those efforts culminate tonight with decisions on how to serve the public best within the mandates of the Ohio Revised Code.

#### **IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Sequential Intercept Mapping: Michelle Maneage provided an update on the sequential mapping workshop, which is a component of the Stepping Up Initiative. Representatives from about 20 local agencies reviewed how individuals with mental illness and co-occurring disorders intercept with the criminal justice system. The results serve as a community needs assessment and a map was created that identifies local resources along with gaps. The group chose several priorities to address - housing, transportation, integrating 911 and 988, mental health stabilization, and detox services in Geauga. The team from NeoMed will continue to provide guidance as the groups work to address these issues.

RFP Process: Last year, allocations were continued from the prior year to give the staff an opportunity to review programs funded by the Board. Service specifications were created that include program requirements. Only existing agencies submitted proposals for the upcoming fiscal year. The Board anticipates receiving about \$9 Million in revenue, although OhioMHAS has not announced all of the funding to boards for SFY2025. Approximately \$9.4 million in funding requests were received, including funding for inpatient hospitalization, crisis services and medication, residential treatment and pooled funding to Family First Council. If all programs were fully funded, it would result in a deficit of about \$623,000. Program audits and agency billings were reviewed and allocations were then adjusted. In some cases, other funding sources are available. The Board is to serve as the payer of last resort. The final allocations resulted in deficit spending of about \$250,000. Past trends show that not all allocations are spent down each year. Financial reserves are available to cover any deficit if needed. Director Lakomiak met with each agency director to review staff recommendations.

#### **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **a. Agency Relations**

Ms. Johnson reported the committee met on April 29<sup>th</sup>. They reviewed a handout that provided an overview of the Board's statutory obligations and responsibilities pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 340, 5119 and 5122. The committee also talked about suicide statistics in the county and the need to focus on this issue through the Suicide Prevention Coalition.

##### **b. Finance**

There was no report.

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

Ms. Chokshi reported the committee met on May 14<sup>th</sup>. They focused on updating the Board's public records policy. They will continue to review Board policies. This fiscal year, the committee also updated the charge of committee, the chain of command was established and the Succession Policy updated, and Director Lakomiak's evaluation was completed. The next set of goals will be developed once the chair has been established for SFY2025.

#### **d. Capital Planning**

Ms. Dykes reported that the committee had a Transitional Living Center meeting today with the architects and reviewed building drawings and interior pictures. The project is on track to go out for bid in July. The facility will be more functional for staff and much nicer for residents. It was designed for and built in 1999 and is very worn, but will now be expanded, updated, refreshed and renovated.

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

#### **a. Resolution 24-05-1 System of Care Funding Allocations for SFY2025**

Ms. Johnson moved to approve the Resolution. Mr. Holden seconded the motion. Discussion: The allocation to Family First Council represents pooled funding used for multi-system high risk youth. The second half allocation will be reviewed and the Board may not need to provide as much funding due to a decrease in out of county placements. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-11; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

#### **b. Resolution 24-05-2 Administrative Budget for SFY2025**

Dr. Lesyk moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Chokshi seconded the motion. Discussion: There is a vacant staff position and Director Lakomiak would like to hire someone in SFY2025. Board membership dues, travel and training, and conference registrations have increased. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-11; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

#### **c. Resolution 24-05-3 Torchlight Allocation for SFY2025**

Ms. Johnson moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Shumway seconded the motion. Discussion: The agency requested funding for two programs they are currently providing. The goal for the upcoming fiscal year is to have more foster care children involved in one of the programs. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-11; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

#### **d. Resolution 24-05-4 Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers Allocation for SFY2025**

Ms. Bagley moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Shumway seconded the motion. Discussion: The agency initially asked for more funding, but they were able to secure other funding from the Commissioners opiate settlement fund. As a result, they decreased their request. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-11; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

#### **e. Resolution 24-05-5 Geauga Sheriff Grant Award for SFY2025**

Ms. Bagley moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Shumway seconded the motion. Discussion: The LOSS Team is known statewide as the best in Ohio and is training other LOSS teams. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-11; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

**f. Resolution 24-05-6 NAMI Geauga Allocation for SFY2025**

Dr. Lesyk moved to approve the Resolution. Mr. Fay seconded the motion. Discussion: In the past, the agency had many programs they were running. This year, the agency will focus on the programs that are doing well before adding additional programs. They will also partner with the Board to provide trainings in the community such as mental health first aid, signs of suicide, and crisis intervention training for first responders. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-11; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

**g. Resolution 24-05-7 WomenSafe Allocation for SFY2025**

Ms. Johnson moved to approve the Resolution. Mr. Fay seconded the motion. Discussion: WomenSafe provides a lot of counseling. The recommendation is to increase funding for mental health counseling and therapy but not to fund the care coordinator program. Additionally, the mental health education and outreach program is covered through the Education Service Center. There are other funding sources that can be used. The recommendation is to not fund this program. Overall, the recommendation does not represent a cut in funding, just a shift. Director Lakomiak said schools have the funding to provide mandated education in schools. Ms. Gutka responded that the ESC does not provide the healthy relationships program as WomenSafe defines it. There have been changes in who is allowed in the schools, but WomenSafe has worked diligently to maintain those relationships. She also stated that the agency exceeded the allocation for counseling for this fiscal year. The Care Coordinator would help manage their wait list and link people to other agencies and services. Ms. Bagley asked if the Board has enough money to fund this request. Director Lakomiak said the ESC provides specific programming in the schools. She scheduled a meeting with the ESC to see what is being provided in schools and to make sure there are no gaps in services. It is not the Board's mandate to provide this service in the schools. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-11; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

**h. Resolution 24-05-8 Family Pride Allocation for SYF2025**

Dr. Lesyk moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Dykes seconded the motion. Discussion: The staff reviewed what has been billed in the past to determine an allocation recommendation. Family Pride is a great partner in the community. Director Lakomiak has heard a lot of great things about Family Pride. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-11; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

**i. Resolution 24-05-9 Catholic Charities Allocation for SFY2025**

Mr. Holden moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Chokshi seconded the motion. Discussion: The agency requested a shift in funding to increase their case management self-sufficiency program due to utilization. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-11; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

**j. Resolution 24-05-10 Ravenwood Health Allocation for SYF2025**

Dr. Lesyk moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. Discussion: Director Lakomiak met with Vicki Clark and other agency staff about their RFP. Ravenwood is one of 12 entities in Ohio designated as a 988 call center and they receive a substantial amount of funding for this purpose. They discussed how to merge the Board's hotline with 988 and how

to increase marketing/advertising for the 988 line. Most of their services are clinical and fall under what the Board must provide to meet the full continuum of care requirement. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-11; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

#### **k. Resolution 24-05-11 Recovery Housing Allocation**

Mr. Fay moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Shumway seconded the motion. Discussion: Board staff applied for and received grant funds that can be used to provide rental assistance for individuals in recovery. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-11; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

#### **l. Resolution 24-05-12 Signature Health for SFY2025**

Ms. Bagley moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Chokshi seconded the motion. Discussion: Staff is recommending the allocation of \$8,000 to provide the HIV/AIDS program to high risk clients in the jail and residential treatment facilities. Staff is recommending that the Board not fund the HIV/AIDS Education for Students in a School or Community Setting program due to the availability of other funding sources. Signature Health will ask the schools to fund this program. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-11; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

#### **m. Financial Reports**

Mr. Mausser reported the following for April 2024:

- 77.4% of the Board's administrative budget has been expended for SFY2024.
- County Calendar Year Expenditures were slightly over \$2.57 Million.
- The Auditor's Fund Balance was just over \$2.37 Million.
- Voucher Recap #694 in the amount of \$630,271.75.

### **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

Dr. Oluic reported Mr. O'Brien tendered his resignation. Ms. Bagley said Brad Welch, Family First Council Coordinator, retired this year. She would like the Board to congratulate him and let him know they appreciate the wonderful job he has done.

### **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Fay announced that his term on the Board ends June 30, 2024 and he will not be seeking reappointment. He is not able to attend the June meeting so this is his last one.

### **IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Gail Roussey – Geauga League of Women Voters: She asked if there are requirements in the Ohio Revised Code regarding the size of boards. Director Lakomiak responded there are. The commissioners decide the size of boards - 9, 12, 14, 18 – and would ask for feedback from board members. She talked to other counties about this issue and then discussed reducing board size to 12 with the Commissioners. One-third of the members would be appointed by OhioMHAS and two-thirds by the County Commissioners. The board membership process is also delineated

in the Ohio Revised Code. Director Lakomiak said there is no requirement for boards to have committees. It is up to each board to decide what they want to do and how they want to move forward.

Andrea Gutka, Director of WomenSafe, read a statement about the agency and the funding received from the Geauga Board.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Holden moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The meeting was then adjourned at 7:25 PM.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

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**Teresa Slater**  
**Administrative/Office Manager**

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

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