

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

Dr. Steven Oluic
Chairman of the Board

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Board Minutes

JUNE 26, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ann Bagley, Alberta Chokshi, Reba Dykes, James Lee Holden, Kathy Johnson, Steven Oluic, Michael Petruziello, Mary Ruth Shumway, Patricia Varanese

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Martin Fay, Carolee Lesyk, Douglas Lundblad

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

GUESTS: Gail Roussey (Geauga League of Women Voters), Charles Tong (Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers), Angela Daugherty (Family Pride of Northeast Ohio), Vicki Clark, Patricia Spadaro, Kate Gehlfuss (Ravenwood Health), Linda and Craig Megla (Community Members), ND Howard (GCTP)

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

Dr. Oluic called the meeting to order at 6:01 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, Steven Oluic, Michael Petruziello, Mary Ruth Shumway and Patricia Varanese. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM MAY 29, 2024

Ms. Shumway moved to waive the reading of 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 and turned the meeting over to Director Lakomiak.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There was no report.

V. GEAUGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR GERRY MORGAN – BOARD SIZE DISCUSSION

Director Lakomiak introduced Gerry Morgan, Geauga County Administrator, who is here this evening to solicit feedback about changing the size of the Board.

Mr. Morgan said House Bill 33 authorizes county commissioners to adopt the number of members a local board will have. For this Board, that can remain at 14, increased to 15/18, or decreased to 9/12. There has been discussion about reducing the board member size to 12 for Geauga. He would like to hear comments, concerns, discussion points about that from this Board. There are certain categories that need to be filled. Historically, these specific categories were met by the state appointments.

Ms. Johnson is in favor of decreasing the number to help staff and the committees work in a better fashion. Dr. Oluic favors reducing the number to 12 to be more efficient. Ms. Bagley feels it would be a disservice to the Board to reduce the size since there would be less experienced mental health professionals. Director Lakomiak said there are currently five clinicians on the Board and four are here this evening. The new legislation states that the size of a board can be changed back after four years if preferred. Director Lakomiak explained the appointment process. Dr. Oluic commented that it behooves the Board to help find new members. Mr. Morgan said it is up to the commissioners to make the decision about board size in every county, but commissioners must get feedback from the local board. The Board members were asked what their individual opinion is. Most were in favor of reducing the size to 12. Ms. Bagley said she is not in favor of making the board smaller and feels there should be at least 14 members.

Mr. Morgan will relay the comments to the Commissioners so they can move forward with a decision. If the board size is reduced, the Commissioners would need to make sure the specific member requirements are met.

VI. GUEST SPEAKERS:

Director Lakomiak said that each Board member had received a copy of the FY 2023 Annual Report and it was also emailed to community partners, OhioMHAS and Board of County Commissioners as required under ORC 340. Ms. Lakomiak quoted her statement made in the report: "My sincere appreciation and respect for those who stand with individuals and families in times of crisis, acknowledge those in times of achievement, and also provide hope to those maintaining and thriving, trusting they can reach out to you if needed." Since this is the annual meeting, we will be hearing from several guest speakers who provide direct service from agencies that are funded by the Board and celebrate the work that is being done.

- Jodi Morton, PRS, Peer Recovery Specialist, Ravenwood Health
- John Dorsey, PRS, Peer Recovery Specialist, Ravenwood Health
- Matthew Petersen, OCPA, Prevention Specialist, Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers
- Devin Capella, OCPA, Prevention Specialist, Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers
- Morgan Whitely, LPCC-S, Clinical Outreach Coordinator and Therapist, Family Pride of Northeast Ohio

Dr. Oluic recognized Board Member Ann Bagley for her service to the Board and community, and presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Agency Relations

There was no report.

b. Finance

There was no report.

c. Planning and Policies

There was no report.

d. Capital Planning

Ms. Dykes reported that the committee has been meeting with the architect team about the Transitional Living Center expansion. The Geauga Housing Coalition has formed a homeless subcommittee, and a meeting has been scheduled for July 17th.

VIII. BOARD REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS

a. Approval of Revised Public Records Policy

Ms. Shumway moved to approve the Policy as written. Mr. Holden seconded the motion. Discussion: Director Laconia briefly explained the recommended changes. **Voice Vote: Ayes-9; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

b. Resolution 24-06-1 Shelter Plus Care Funding

Mr. Holden moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Shumway seconded the motion. Discussion: This is a federal grant that can be used to provide rental assistance for individuals and families with mental illness. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-9; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

c. Resolution 24-06-2 Recovery Housing Allocation to Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers for SFY2025

Mr. Holden moved to approve the Resolution. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. Discussion: The Board received an allocation from OhioMHAS that will be used for the purposes stated. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-9; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

d. Resolution 24-06-3 Problem Gambling and Addiction Services Allocation

Mr. Holden moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Chokshi seconded the motion. Discussion: Each board received this allocation. The funds will be awarded to Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers and used for the stated purposes. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-9; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

e. Resolution 24-06-4 Allocation of 2023-2024 State Opioid and Stimulant Response Funds

Ms. Shumway moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Chokshi seconded the motion. Discussion: Red Tulip Project applied for and was awarded carryover funds from OhioMHAS. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-9; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

f. Resolution 24-06-5 Bipartisan Safe Communities Act Funding

Ms. Johnson moved to approve the Resolution. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. Discussion: OhioMHAS put out a grant application for funds that can be used to provide crisis response in the wake of natural disasters and traumatic events. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-9; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

g. Financial Reports

Mr. Mausser reported on the following for May 2024:

- 86.5% of the Board's administrative budget has been expended for SFY2024.
- County Calendar Year Expenditures were slightly over \$3.02 Million.
- The Auditor's Fund Balance was just over \$2.37 Million.
- Voucher Recap #695 in the amount of \$456,460.89.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Bagley suggested at last month's meeting the Board acknowledge the retirement of Brad Welch and his many years of service to the county. She may write something up to review at the next Board meeting.

X. NEW BUSINESS

a. Nominating Committee Report/Proposed Slate of Officers for SFY2025

Ms. Varanese reported that the committee met to discuss a slate of officers for the upcoming fiscal year. They felt the current executive committee has done a good job and asked each person if they would be willing to continue in their current position. The committee's recommendation is to nominate the following Slate of Officers for SFY2025: Chairman – Steven Oluic; Vice Chair – Alberta Chokshi; Treasurer – Michael Petruziello; Secretary – James Lee Holden. There were no nominations from the floor. Ms. Johnson moved to close the nominations and adopt the recommended Slate of Officers. Ms. Shumway seconded the motion. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-9; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Petruziello reported he attended the Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers' golf outing and that it was an excellent event. Charles Tong thanked the Board for its sponsorship and support and Mr. Petruziello for putting together a group of golfers. Mr. Petruziello feels the Board should hold a golf outing or a black-tie event to raise funds.

Ms. Bagley said in the past as part of mental health week, the Board held a dinner in the evening and also a staff appreciation luncheon to honor volunteers and professionals, and to bring

attention to what the Board and agencies are doing throughout the year. Ms. Chokshi said there was a lack of interest, participation and enthusiasm, so it was decided to no longer hold the dinner. Director Lakomiak listed the events that took place during Mental Health Month this year. It was suggested that a committee could be convened to discuss this further.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Holden moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. The meeting was then adjourned at 7:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Teresa Slater
Administrative/Office Manager

Dr. Steven Oluic
Chairman of the Board

James Lee Holden
Secretary of the Board