

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

Dr. Steven Oluic
Chairman of the Board

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Board Minutes

October 16, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Alberta Chokshi, Reba Dykes, James Lee Holden, Kathy Johnson, Douglas Lundblad, Michael Petruziello, Mary Ruth Shumway, Patricia Varanese

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Carolee Lesyk, Steven Oluic

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

GUESTS: Charles Tong (Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers), Vicki Clark (Ravenwood Health), Newell Howard (GCTP), Kristine Frankenberry (NAMI Geauga), Kristy Mowry, Lori Radwuncky (Red Tulip Project), Angi Daugherty (Family Pride), Tia Lawrence (Torchlight Youth Mentoring Alliance), Andrea Gutka (WomenSafe)

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

Acting Chair Alberta Chokshi called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Mr. Holden called the roll for attendance purposes, and the following Board members were present: Alberta Chokshi, Reba Dykes, James Lee Holden, Kathy Johnson, Douglas Lundblad, Michael Petruziello, Mary Ruth Shumway, and Patricia Varanese. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 4, 2024

Mr. Petruziello moved to waive the reading of and approve the Minutes. Ms. Shumway seconded the motion. **Voice Vote: Ayes-8; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dr. Oluic was not able to attend this evening. Ms. Chokshi is serving as Acting Chair. She welcomed everyone and then turned the meeting over to Director Lakomiak for updates.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Lakomiak introduced Jared Hammond, a licensed music therapist at Ravenwood Health. He provided several wellness sessions to agency staff during the Week of Appreciation in September. He guided a brief drum circle session for those who wished to participate. This type of therapy can be used in many different ways – calming, positively expanding excess

energy, activating emotions through sensory experiences, and for many other populations - children, adolescents, adults, and veterans.

SOS 4.0: In the past, boards had to apply for these funds on behalf of agencies. This year, agencies could apply directly. OhioMHAS received a lot of applications and is in the process of reviewing them. No allocations have been announced yet. Geauga agencies have received almost \$1.4 million in SOS funds annually.

As part of Governor DeWine's Great Minds Fellowship Initiative, OhioMHAS accepts applications through November 15th for loan repayment of up to \$20,000. The agency where the social worker is employed must be certified by OhioMHAS. Hopefully, this will help with recruitment and retention. Awards will be made on a first-come, first-served basis.

One Ohio Region 13: Commissioner Dvorak and Sheriff Hildenbrand sit on this board. Applications have been reviewed and submitted to the state level. Meetings are now closed for executive sessions.

988: The state wants regions to use 988 as the primary crisis line over local hotlines. Geo routing is in place so a call can be directed to the local call center. Ravenwood Health was awarded the 988-call center in this area. As 988 funding increases, there may be an opportunity to reduce funding to CopeLine that could be used for other services. Ravenwood Health, OhioMHAS 988, and our Board are working closely together. Some boards have stopped funding local hotlines and rely solely on 988. Our center is unique since Ravenwood Health manages calls for other agencies such as WomenSafe and JFS after-hours calls. The Board would like agencies to include 988 when advertising CopeLine.

Social service workers were offered many wellness opportunities during Appreciation Week in September. We received positive feedback from those who participated.

The Board received a grant for the video/audio system, which can be used in various ways. Staff and agencies can use the conference room to provide education, training, conferences, etc., in person or virtually. This can result in cost savings to agencies in travel and training expenses. Our first training, which was held in person and virtually with the new equipment, was held on September 25th. It was called "Making Connections: Engaging Families in Client Care."

A first responder wellness event featuring nationally known Steven Click will be held on November 8th at the Munson Town Hall. It is being provided in collaboration with the Munson Fire Department and our Board.

Case Western Reserve University will hold a training here on October 30th about mental health/substance use disorders and dual diagnosis. This is free training, and 5 CEUs will be offered. You can visit the University's website to learn more and sign up.

Suicide statistics for Geauga – 13 lives have been lost to suicide in 2024. Historically, in Geauga County, suicides are higher in March and men over 50. We are planning an increase in activities for suicide prevention and education in February and March, including billboards, a resource fair targeting individuals over 50, and financial resources that are available in Geauga County. The

Suicide Coalition's website is being revamped. The ESC has offered to collaborate with the Board on this campaign.

Bi-partisan Safer Communities Act Grant: These funds were awarded to MH & RS Boards by OhioMHAS to help communities prepare to address behavioral health preparedness and response after a natural disaster, terrorism event, etc. Different response teams are available in Geauga County, and we have worked on the policies and procedures for each team and included how to interact with each other during the response. The staff has been working with the Loss Team, Sheriff's Office, agencies, and Geauga County Department of Emergency Services to include a coordinated behavioral health response in emergencies.

Grant dollars are used to pay for several leads to attend NOVA (National Organization for Victim Advocacy) training. There is also an advanced course on crisis intervention. Participants in each course will receive a certification. Funds will also expand the 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training to include all law enforcement and first responders. We are working with Ravenwood Health and other agencies to create a condensed version for probation officers, court staff, prosecutor's office, and other entities that would benefit from it. This need was identified in our Stepping Up Sequential Mapping workshop.

The funds were also used to purchase vests for team members, ID badges, backpacks, crisis cards, brochures, go packs, de-escalation/intervention supplies, and crisis action plan cards for leaders with strategic messaging. Mr. Lundblad asked how a response is activated. Director Lakomiak explained that the LOSS team is deployed to help loved ones after a suicide and the crisis response team to events in the community. The Geauga County Department of Emergency Services is the entity that would activate the countywide plan.

Non-Medicaid medical necessity program audits for 2024 have been scheduled.

Transitional Living Center Expansion: Owner-Architect-Contractor meetings are held weekly. The groundbreaking ceremony will take place on November 4th at 11:00 am. More information will be sent out.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Programs & Policies

Ms. Johnson reported that the new committee met on Monday to review and approve a Charge of Committee, a compilation of the charge of committees from Planning and Policies and Agency Relations. The document was sent to Board members in their packets. They also reviewed a draft of the Emergency Response Plan, as behavioral health needs to be included in the countywide plan.

b. Finance & Capital

Ms. Dykes said the Finance and Capital committees were merged into one. They will meet in November to work on a committee charge.

VI. BOARD REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS

a. Resolution 24-10-1 Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Capital Grant Award MH-1361 FY23-24

Mr. Holden moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-8; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

b. Resolution 24-10-2 Permanent Supportive Housing Grant Award

Ms. Johnson moved to approve the Resolution. Mr. Holden seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-8; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

c. Resolution 24-10-3 Approval of Auditor's Certificate of Funds Then and Now for Transitional Living Center Expansion and Renovation Contract

Mr. Holden moved to approve the Resolution. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-8; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

d. Financial Reports

Mr. Mausser provided the following updates:

- 21.8% of the Board's administrative budget was expended through September 2024.
- 2024 County Calendar Year Expenditures were slightly over \$5.62 Million.
- The Auditor's Fund Balance at the end of September was just over \$2.41 Million.
- Voucher Recap #698 for August - \$586,122.12.
- Voucher Recap #699 for September - \$592,411.78.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business discussed.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Copies of the newly executed inpatient agreements with Bluestone Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Hospital, Geauga Medical Center, and Behavioral Health Unit were included in the Board Members' packets. Highland Springs and C.H. Everett House were also included. Funding for inpatient hospital stays is allocated through Resolution 24-05-1 System of Care Funding Allocations for SFY2025. All agreements are first approved by the Prosecutor's Office and certified by the Auditor's Office before signature.

The November Board meeting will be on the 13th instead of the 20th. There will not be a meeting in December.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Holden moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. The meeting was then adjourned at 7:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Teresa Slater
Administrative/Office Manager

Alberta Chokshi
Acting Chairman of the Board

James Lee Holden
Secretary of the Board