

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

Dr. Steven Oluic
Chairman of the Board

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Board Minutes

November 13, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Reba Dykes, James Lee Holden, Kathy Johnson, Carolee Lesyk, Douglas Lundblad, Steven Oluic, Michael Petruziello, Mary Ruth Shumway, Patricia Varanese

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Alberta Chokshi

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

GUESTS: Vicki Clark (Ravenwood Health), Newell Howard (GCTP), Kristine Frankenberry (NAMI Geauga), Angi Daugherty (Family Pride), Angel Burton (WomenSafe)

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

Chairman 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: Reba Dykes, James Lee Holden, Kathy Johnson, Carolee Lesyk, Douglas Lundblad, Steven Oluic, Michael Petruziello, Mary Ruth Shumway, and Patricia Varanese. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited.

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 16, 2024

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

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dr. Oluic reported that the renovation and expansion of the Transitional Living Center has begun. The facility is a good reflection of the staff, Board and the community. He also thanked the voters for passing two levies, which reflect their compassion, empathy and care for the most vulnerable in our communities.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Lakomiak provided the following updates:

SOS 4.0: This year, agencies could apply for these funds independent of boards. The awards were announced yesterday. Geauga's agencies were again funded - Red Tulip Project, Lake Geauga Recovery Centers, Ravenwood Health, and Family Pride. None of them were awarded the amount requested. In the past, Geauga agencies received approximately \$1.4 million every year. The award notice listed the amount but not what was funded, so agencies do not know which programs to move forward with. The grant year is October 1st to September 30th. Director Lakomiak will keep the Board apprised as she receives more information.

Regional Crisis Response Center: In 2023, the Board entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with surrounding counties to determine whether it would be beneficial for Geauga to participate in this project. To date, OhioMHAS has not established crisis rates, so this project has been put on hold until those rates are determined.

First Responder Wellness Initiative: Board staff partnered with the Munson Fire Department to provide this training. Steve Click from Columbus talked about first responders' physical, emotional, spiritual, mental, and social wellness. It was very well received, and more training and events will be held. Several people reached out afterward about how to access services. There has also been discussion about holding a debriefing for those who attended. The NOVA training includes debriefing models, and Director Lakomiak has received this certification.

Suicides: There have now been 14 suicides this year. Looking at the data in Geauga County, Suicide rates are highest in March. Representatives from ManTherapyOhio will attend the January Suicide Prevention Coalition to brainstorm ideas for targeted outreach to males in March. Their promo items are geared toward men. Several of their items were on display. Everything received was free, thanks to the efforts of Michelle Maneage. The Board and Suicide Prevention Coalition will be hosting a large community event and are in the process of planning.

Transitional Living Center Expansion: The groundbreaking ceremony went well, and work on the site began immediately afterward. Several representatives from OhioMHAS and Geauga County attended.

Stepping Up: Due to the sequential mapping, several priority areas were identified – housing, transportation, mental health stabilization, and detox services. **Housing:** an unsheltered point-in-time count is conducted every January as a requirement of HUD. A point-in-time count was also done in June, resulting in 22 unsheltered individuals and 46 sheltered individuals. Data about housing will be gathered from various agencies, and the findings will be put into a formal report for the community. It will take a coordinated effort with the entire community to help meet the housing needs in Geauga. **Transportation:** there has been discussion about lower rates for seniors, how rides/routes are scheduled, having passes, the number of routes, and comparing programs throughout the state. **Mental Health Stabilization:** Expanding the TLC and existing contracts with area hospitals for inpatient care will help meet this need. **Detox Services:** there are no inpatient detox facilities in Geauga. Medication-assisted Treatment for opiate withdrawal is available through Ravenwood Health and Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers. They cannot provide alcohol detox but can provide MAT services afterward. Alcohol detox needs to be monitored in a medical facility. If someone is in alcohol withdrawal, they should go to an emergency department, where they must be admitted medically.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Programs & Policies

Ms. Johnson reported that the committee has not met since the last Board meeting.

b. Finance & Capital

Ms. Dykes reported that the November meeting was canceled.

VI. BOARD REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS

a. Acknowledgement of Geauga County Single Audit for Calendar Year 2022

The Board is included in Geauga County's Single Audit conducted by the State Auditor. This information is presented to the Board annually as part of the Culture of Quality best practices. The link to review the complete audit for Geauga County was given. There were no findings against the Board. The State Auditor is working on the 2023 audit, which will be shared with the Board when received.

b. Financial Reports

Mr. Mausser provided the following updates:

- 28.6% of the Board's administrative budget was expended through October 2024.
- 2024 County Calendar Year Expenditures were just over \$6.47 Million through October.
- The Auditor's Fund Balance at the end of October was just under \$2.7 Million.
- Voucher Recap #700 for October - \$821,477.84.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business discussed.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Generator: As part of the BSCA grant, staff has discussed purchasing a generator so the administrative offices could serve as a space for agencies to conduct business when the power is out. There have been two tornadoes recently that disrupted operations for several days. Two generator quotes were included in the meeting packet. Mr. Petruziello moved to purchase the Koehler Generator as specified from Advanced Tech & Electrical for \$34,673.59 and up to \$2,000 for any upgrades needed to the gas meter and line. Ms. Shumway seconded the motion.

Discussion: The generator would be installed on a cement pad behind the electric panel room in the back of the building. Mr. Holden would like to see another Generac quote and another Koehler quote.

Recommendation: Mr. Petruziello rescinded his original motion and tabled the matter until additional quotes are received from Shepp Electric and Portman Electric. The money to purchase a generator will come from unencumbered funds.

Copier: The current Canon copier was purchased in 2013. This model has been discontinued and it is difficult to find parts. A quote of \$8,570.92 for a new Canon copier was received from Lake Business Products. This price is the government rate obtained through the National Association of State Procurement Officials. Mr. Mausser said the Board could either purchase it outright or enter a lease. A maintenance agreement would be purchased at a cost of about \$80.00 a month, including maintenance of the machine and a certain number of copies. The monthly fee would be the same whether the copier is leased or purchased outright. The break-even point is 44 months, so purchasing would be more fiscally advantageous. There is a five-year warranty. **Mr. Petruziello moved to purchase the Canon imageRUNNER Advance DX**

C5800 copier from Lake Business Products. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ayes-9; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Oluic thanked Director Lakomiak and the staff for their efforts to have a forensic monitor help Geauga residents who are in the state hospital. Director Lakomiak said Ravenwood Health is now providing counseling to individuals at Northcoast. The goal is to help individuals get released quicker and establish a relationship with providers and the services they will need when back in the community.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted by:

Teresa Slater
Administrative/Office Manager

Steven Oluic
Chairman of the Board

James Lee Holden
Secretary of the Board