

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

Dr. Steven Oluic
Chairman of the Board

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Christine Lakomiak
Executive Director

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Board Minutes

January 15, 2025

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Alberta Chokshi, Carolee Lesyk

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

GUESTS: Allison Wilson (Geauga Maple Leaf), Tia Lawrence (Torchlight Youth Mentoring Alliance), NP Howard (GCTP), Mary Wynne-Peaspanen (Signature Health), Melanie Blasko (Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers), Gail Roussey (Geauga League of Women Voters), Angi Daugherty (Family Pride), Kristine Frankenberry (NAMI Geauga), Scott Smith (NAMI Geauga), Andrea Gutka (WomenSafe), Vicki Clark (Ravenwood Health)

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

Acting Chair Mr. Holden called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM. Mr. Holden then called the roll for attendance purposes, and the following Board members were present at that time: Reba Dykes, James Lee Holden, Kathy Johnson, Michael Petruziello, Mary Ruth Shumway, and Patricia Varanese. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited. Douglas Lundblad and Steven Oluic arrived at 6:14 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 13, 2024

Mr. Petruziello moved to waive the reading of and approve the Minutes as presented. Ms. Shumway seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-6; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

New Staff Member: Director Lakomiak introduced Danette Richards as the Accounting & Grants Specialist. Danette then introduced herself and provided some professional and personal background.

House Bill 257: Last week, legislation was signed allowing public boards to meet virtually if they so choose. This bill will take effect in 90 days. The State Board Association will guide how to do this. Boards can opt in or opt out and will need to vote on whether or not to meet virtually. Director Lakomiak was asked if boards can take a hybrid approach, and she will find out.

Legislative Day on January 28th: Director Lakomiak will attend legislative day and has appointments scheduled with Senator O'Brien and Roegner and Representative Fowler-Arthur and Demetriou. She listed some of the advocacy talking points.

Suicide Prevention Efforts: The Live Well Festival for Better Living will be held on June 4th at Claridon Woodlands Lodge. The event will include a BBQ, music, prizes, raffle baskets, speakers, and information about resources available in Geauga.

Non-Medicaid Medical Necessity Audits: The program audits are almost done. Once they are completed, a more in-depth report will be provided.

Internal Policy Updated: Geauga youth assessments at the Lake County Detention Center; Benefit Handbook for individuals who receive Board subsidies; Hospital Access Program.

Annual Reports: Data for the OhioMHAS Community Action Plan, Crisis Services Plan, and Progress Report Scorecard are being collected. When the reports are completed, more information will be provided.

TLC Progress: There are bi-weekly meetings with the architect and contractor. Several Board members have been spending a lot of time on this project, and the staff is grateful for their help. Progress has slowed due to the weather, but it is moving forward. Pictures of the project were shared.

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dr. Oluic wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked those who attended the meeting. He feels this will be a great year. It is exciting to see something getting done. When completed, the TLC will be a state-of-the-art housing facility for those who need it.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Programs & Policies

Ms. Johnson reported the committee met on December 16, 2024. They received updates on the OhioMHAS/HUD recovery housing grant and the second BSCA grant. They also reviewed the updated benefit handout for clients and the sliding fee scale and fee policy. The January meeting was converted to a special board meeting to review and update many other policies.

B. Fiscal & Capital

Ms. Dykes reported the committee met on January 6, 2025. They reviewed a new charge of the committee, which was presented and approved at the special board meeting. They also reviewed some of the resolutions to be voted on this evening and the financial reports.

VI. BOARD REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS

Director Lakomiak said the Fiscal & Capital Committee recommends approval of these resolutions based on their discussion at the last meeting.

A. Resolution 25-01-1 Acknowledgement of County Budget for Calendar Year 2025

The passage of this Resolution memorializes the fact that the Board has been made aware of the calendar year budget submitted to and approved by the Geauga Budget Commission annually. 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 25-01-2 Board Office Generator Installation

The issue of purchasing a generator for the Board's administrative offices was discussed last month. Three quotes were submitted, and the staff was asked to solicit two more. The last quote received was significantly lower. The Fiscal & Capital committee recommends awarding the purchase and installation of a generator at 13244 Ravenna Road to Shepp Electric. Mr. Petruziello 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 25-01-3 Ravenwood Health SOS 4.0 Budget Allocation

Agencies could apply directly for SOS 4.0 funding this year instead of boards submitting applications on their behalf. No Geauga agency was fully funded for the programs they provide using these funds. Ravenwood Health's management team did a lot of work on continuing services paid for with this money, but they don't have enough funding to provide all the programs. They received \$482,000 less than requested and would need to reduce or eliminate programs. Ravenwood is asking the Board to help with an additional \$122,500 for medication and peer support during groups. This issue was discussed extensively at the Fiscal & Capital meeting, and they recommend approval of this Resolution. Ms. Johnson moved to approve the Resolution. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Petruziello commented that grant funding will continue to be reduced or eliminated. Agencies must examine their budget and determine where funds can be saved. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-8; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

D. Resolution 25-01-4 Board Crisis Stabilization and Hospital Inpatient

Director Lakomiak referenced this matter in her report. Inpatient hospitalizations have increased substantially. When looking at the numbers in Geauga, she believes there hasn't been an amount this high in many years or maybe ever. In the past, the Board set aside funding that was not fully used for this purpose. A grant was applied for in her first year here, and we could not use it all. Last year, the whole allocation was used. Those funds have already been depleted this year halfway through the fiscal year. Director Lakomiak has asked for additional funding for the hospital access program, and those funds would be used first. One of the most significant factors is that the state hospital is full of forensic patients and is no longer available for civil patients. Mr. Holden moved to approve the Resolution. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. Discussion: Director Lakomiak said this crisis is statewide, and boards are advocating for some state funds to be more flexible. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-8; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

Director Lakomiak reported that the Family First Council had been seeing a decrease in the number of youth who needed residential treatment. FFC mentioned this last year during the SFY2025 allocation process. They had carryover funds at that time and would review their

financial situation halfway through this fiscal year. FFC still has carryover funds available and will not need to collect the second-half allocation of \$137,500 from the Board. Other counties nationwide continue to have high needs, but Geauga hasn't in the last few years. This may be a result of increased trauma therapy, in-home services, Youth Group Home utilization, or OhioRise. The continuum of care in this community is unparalleled.

E. Insurance Overview for 2025

This information is provided to the Board annually, outlining the current insurance coverage and including any recommendations from our insurance agent. One policy renews in March, and the other two in June.

F. 120 Day Notice Review

Pursuant to ORC 340.036(D), the Board is required to notify any entity it contracts with of the potential for funding changes in the upcoming fiscal year. The notification must be sent at least 120 days prior to the end of each contract.

G. Financial Reports

Mr. Mausser reported on the following for November and December:

- 43.4% of the Board's administrative budget was expended for the first half of SFY2025.
- Geauga County calendar year expenses through December were just over \$7.38 Million.
- Auditor's Fund Balance through December was slightly more than \$2.8 Million.
- Voucher Recap #701 for November: \$411,518.91
- Voucher Recap #702 for December: \$500,509.55

VII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business discussed.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business discussed.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

NAMI Geauga Executive Director Kristine Frankenberry introduced Scott Smith. He joined the agency in December as the Program Manager. He previously worked at Crossroads Health.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO ORC 121.22(G)(1) TO CONSIDER THE COMPENSATION OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE OR OFFICIAL

Ms. Shumway moved to go into Executive Session to consider the compensation of a public employee. Ms. Dykes seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-8; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.** The Board went into Executive Session at 7:04 PM. The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to Regular Session at 7:20 PM.

RESOLUTION 25-01-5 COMPENSATION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Dr. Oluic moved to provide a \$5,000 bonus to Director Christine Lakomiak to be paid in February. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-8; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Holden moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Shumway seconded the motion. The meeting was then adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Teresa Slater
Administrative/Office Manager

Steven Oluic
Chairman of the Board

James Lee Holden
Secretary of the Board