

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

Dr. Steven Oluic
Chairman of the Board

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Board Minutes

APRIL 16, 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, Teresa Slater

GUESTS: Melanie Blasko and Charles Tong (Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers), Kathy Franz (Geauga League of Women Voters), Kristy Mowry (Red Tulip Project), Vicki Clark (Ravenwood Health), ND Howard (GCTP), Angi Daugherty (Family Pride), Tia Lawrence (Torchlight Youth Mentoring Alliance), Mary Wynne-Peaspanen (Signature Health), Jim McCaskey (Munson Township), David McCaskey (Claridon Township), Michelle Bertman (Catholic Charities)

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 and the following Board members were present: Reba Dykes, James Lee Holden, Kathy Johnson, Douglas Lundblad, Steven Oluic, Michael Petruziello, Mary Ruth Shumway and Patricia Varanese. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM MARCH 26, 2025

Mr. Holden moved to waive the reading of and approve the Minutes as presented. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-8; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Oluic welcomed everyone in attendance. He commended staff for receiving approval of the Board's 2026 budget from the Geauga County Budget Commission and reported that the TLC expansion is progressing well.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Lakomiak provided the following updates:

Budget Commission: Director Lakomiak and Mr. Mausser attended the Budget Commission hearing on April 7th, and the Board's 2026 Calendar-Year Budget was unanimously approved. Auditor Walder and Prosecutor Flaiz praised the board, and Director Lakomiak thanked Mr. Mausser, whose knowledge of the Board's finances and operations is invaluable.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Several events are being planned, including the promotion of 988 and the sponsorship of a putt-putt golf fundraiser at Chip's Clubhouse in conjunction with Torchlight on May 30th.

Board Training: After the meeting is adjourned, board members will receive training on ethics, conflicts of interest, and contracting.

SFY2026 RFPs: The Board received over \$5,000,000 in funding requests for the next fiscal year. Four new agencies submitted requests for new programs.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Programs & Policies

Ms. Johnson reported the committee met Monday evening and reviewed the following: an updated open meetings policy; a new pandemic/infectious disease policy, which the committee did initially approve with some changes (said changes were substantial and the committee decided to review the policy further next month); a satisfaction survey to solicit feedback from clients/consumers. The next meeting is May 19th.

B. Fiscal & Capital

Ms. Dykes reported there was no meeting in April. The next meeting is May 5th.

VI. BOARD REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Open Meetings Act Policy

Mr. Holden moved to approve the policy. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. Discussion: The policy has been reviewed and approved by Prosecutor Wieland. This will memorialize the Board's compliance with the Ohio Sunshine Laws in a policy. It was first enacted as a procedure in 2010. There is no longer a requirement to notify newspapers. Posting meeting dates and times on the Board website is sufficient, although staff will continue sending information to local newspapers. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-8; ABSTENTIONS-0; NAYS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

B. Resolution 25-04-1 Allocation of 2024-2025 State Opioid and Stimulant Response Funds

Mr. Holden moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. Discussion: This funding was initially awarded to Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers, Ravenwood Health, Red Tulip Project, and Family Pride. Each agency had unexpended SOR 3.0 NCE funds. OhioMHAS approved distributing the remaining funds to Lake-Geauga, Ravenwood, and Red Tulip. Family Pride's unexpended funding was negligible and will be allocated to the other three agencies. Ms. Shumway would like the Board to be notified if the funds are reallocated in amounts different from what is shown in the Resolution. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-8; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

C. Resolution 25-04-2 Shelter Plus Care Funding

Ms. Shumway moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. Discussion: These funds supplement rents for individuals at the apartment building. Occupants contribute to their rent on a sliding scale basis. Ravenwood Health operates the facility and administers the program. The apartments are considered permanent housing, and individuals can age in place as long as they qualify for a supported environment. Staff is on-site at the apartments. Payments to Ravenwood are made on a reimbursement basis up to the amount awarded. Ms. Dykes said both of the HUD grants are for supportive community housing and work similar to a Section 8 voucher. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-8; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

D. Financial Reports

Mr. Mausser reported on the following for March:

- 67.9% of the Board's administrative budget for SFY2025 has been expended.
- Geauga County calendar year expenses through March were just over \$1.72 million.
- Auditor's SFY2025 Unencumbered Fund Balance at the end of March was slightly over \$2.7 million.
- Voucher Recap #705 for March: \$466,336.50.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business discussed.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Lundblad mentioned the Drug Overdose and Suicide Fatality Review Board, created by the Commissioners, in light of the suicide death of a 75-year-old man last month in the Brown Barn Park. Ms. Maneage reported that it was the fifth suicide of this year. Mr. Petruziello would like staff to report on this issue monthly.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ravenwood Health is hosting a Community Summit: Strategies for Employee Wellness to address mental health in the workplace. The event will take place on May 15th from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and costs \$60.00. Basil Place Farm & Venue is donating the use of its facility for this event.

Jim McCaskey: He was part of the budget commission review and said the Board set the bar high. Regarding the recent suicide, that is the third one at the same place. He mentioned reaching out to first responders who usually respond first at the scene of a traumatic event. Director Lakomiak said the Board and the Munson Fire Department have been working together to host first responder events. Mr. McCaskey noted a first responder event on April 30th hosted by the LOSS Team.

Dave McCaskey asked if Geauga has an Assisted Outpatient Treatment program where someone could be placed through a civil commitment by the local probate court. Director Lakomiak responded that all counties are required to have this program available. Geauga has policies and procedures for that purpose and is ready to proceed if the situation arises. This has not yet happened in Geauga. There is a similar program in place for juveniles. Board staff will reach out to Mr. McCaskey regarding the Assisted Outpatient Program.

Dr. Oluic was at an event last night where someone spoke about how great the Geauga LOSS Team is and said they want to replicate it in Lake and Ashtabula. The board's goal is to have a mental health court in the county.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Holden seconded the motion. The meeting was then adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Teresa Slater
Administrative/Office Manager

Steven Oluic
Chairman of the Board

James Lee Holden
Secretary of the Board