**GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH**

**AND RECOVERY SERVICES**

**Jennifer Malainy 13244 Ravenna Road**

**Chairwoman of the Board Chardon, Ohio 44024**

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**Board Minutes June 15, 2022**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ann Bagley, Alberta Chokshi, Walter Claypool, Martin Fay, James Lee Holden, Vanessa Jensen, Kathy Johnson, Carolee Lesyk, Jennifer Malainy, Linda Miller, Gregory O’Brien, Steven Oluic, Michael Petruziello, Mary Ruth Shumway

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**GUESTS INCLUDE:** Kim Carter, Susan Parker, Alanna Sudberry (NAMI Geauga), Vicki Clark (Ravenwood Health), Mary Wynne-Peaspanen (Signature Health), Melanie Blasko, Charles Tong (Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers), Michelle Bertman (Catholic Charities), Andrea Gutka (WomenSafe), Shelly Lewis, Aimee Gilman (Geauga League of Women Voters), Valerie Clause (Karlovec Media Group), Becky Paris (Pinnacle Treatment Centers), Joy Black, Heather Weikum (Joy’s Place, Emerald Woods, Vron Place), Chris Steigerwald (Geauga SOGI Support Network), Mary Briggs (Geauga Public)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jim Mausser, Teresa Slater

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Ms. Malainy called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. She then stated that this meeting of the Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services is being held in public for the purpose of conducting the Board’s business. Public comments will not be taken this evening due to the extensive agenda and Executive Session.

Ms. Chokshi called the roll for attendance purposes and the following Board members were present: Ann Bagley, Alberta Chokshi, Walter Claypool, Martin Fay, James Lee Holden, Vanessa Jensen, Kathy Johnson, Jennifer Malainy, Linda Miller, Gregory O’Brien, Steven Oluic, Michael Petruziello, and Mary Ruth Shumway. Carolee Lesyk arrived at approximately 6:50 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

1. **APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM MAY 25, 2022**

Ms. Slater reported on some grammatical changes she made on the version that was sent to Board members. Ms. Miller commented that according to the Nominating Committee report, a proposed Slate of Officers for SFY2023 was supposed to be sent out with the Board packet for this meeting. Ms. Malainy deferred to Mr. Claypool on this issue. Mr. Claypool suggested staying with the agenda and discussing that later in the meeting where noted. Ms. Shumway moved to approve the Minutes with the changes that were made. Mr. Holden seconded the motion. **Voice Vote: Ayes-13; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

1. **CHAIRWOMAN’S REPORT**

Ms. Malainy reported that she and Ms. Shumway have been discussing putting together an educational retreat. Ms. Malainy said Ms. Shumway has some amazing ideas to further the Board’s knowledge of mental health and recovery services. She asked for another volunteer to work with Ms. Shumway to plan this day. If another Board member is interested in helping put this together, please let her or Ms. Shumway know.

1. **INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WRITTEN REPORT**

There were no questions about the written report.

1. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
   1. **Agency Relations**

There was no report.

* 1. **Finance**

Mr. Petruziello said the first Resolution came about as a result of the Budget Commission meeting on June 6th.

* 1. **Planning and Policies**

There was no report.

* 1. **Housing**

Mr. O’Brien will be scheduling a meeting with the county Administrator and one of the Commissioners to discuss housing. He has spoken with Mr. Mausser about presenting for consideration at a future meeting what steps need to be taken to set up a special fund for the Board to approve and set up with the county so the Board can begin allocating funds for housing. Many of the Board members have been involved in looking for available sites and believe there is a need for housing. Hopefully, the special fund can be set up soon so the Board can move some of its unencumbered funds and officially allocate funding for housing.

1. **BOARD REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS**
   1. **Resolution 22-06-1 Resolution Requesting a Reduction for One Year in the Collection of .25 Millage from the .50 Millage Set Forth in the Behavioral Health Care Levy**

Ms. Miller moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Bagley seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. O’Brien said this Resolution comes as a result of speaking with Mr. Petruziello in reviewing the carryover funds of the Board. It is evident that additional housing is needed in Geauga, especially in light of the financial and emotional expense of sending individuals out of the county. However, the Board will not get to any meaningful movement about housing until the next year. He feels it is prudent for the Board to not accept a portion of its tax revenue until a plan is decided upon. Hopefully, the taxpayer understands what the Board is trying to do.

Dr. Jensen asked if there has been any discussion about using some of the excess funds to bring in a specialized grant writer to help create some grant requests for proposals that would be innovative and creative, and ask local and outside agencies to put together various housing needs and options. Ms. Chokshi said that topic has been discussed and she assumes the Board will look at that during a future Board meeting.

Ms. Miller asked if this reduction will have any impact on the Homestead Act. Mr. O’Brien said it does not because the current levy is grandfathered in. It would then make sense that the Board would pursue a renewal levy as opposed to a new levy. This would also benefit the taxpayer because of the state tax credits. Mr. Mausser interjected that the Board has already passed a Resolution to put a renewal of this levy on the ballot in November. The next step is to ask the Commissioners to put this .5 levy on the ballot as a renewal. Ms. Malainy will need to sign some paperwork that will then be presented to the Commissioners. Mr. Petruziello said the Board has three opportunities to put a renewal levy on the ballot. Mr. Mausser said the clock is ticking because the deadline to put the renewal levy on the ballot is August 10th. Ms. Slater explained the process: The Board makes a request for the Commissioners to put the levy on the ballot, the Commissioners than ask the Auditor’s Office to certify the amount of funds that would be collected, the Commissioners then pass a second resolution to accept that amount and put the renewal levy on the ballot in November, and then the final paperwork, including the ballot language, is sent to the Board of Elections. This must all be completed by August 10th. Mr. Petruziello said it is his understanding that the Board has three opportunities to put this levy on the ballot – once in November and twice next year. Mr. Mausser said there may only be two opportunities depending on whether or not a primary election is held next year or if there is a special election.

Mr. Claypool said he keeps hearing the vague term “housing”. He said the Board has no plan for housing or even a definition of what housing means, and whether it would be a responsibility of the Board or the county to provide housing. He said the Board needs to have that conversation and see a plan before allocating tax dollars for something the Board has not yet defined. The whole Board should see a plan first and understand what the need is. That money should be returned to the taxpayers until there is a plan. Mr. Claypool further said this levy is taking in more tax dollars than what is needed, and he is in favor of giving some of that back. The Board needs to take a look at whether or not we need this whole levy and what the purpose of this money is. If the excess was not for housing, but for other purposes, and if the Board doesn’t need this much money for those other purposes, then the amount collected should be reduced**. Roll Call Vote: Ayes-13; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.**

* 1. **Resolution 22-06-2 Mobile Crisis and Crisis Response Funding Allocation**

Ms. Miller moved to approve the Resolution. Mr. Holden seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Mausser said these funds are to expand services provided by the crisis team to go into schools, homes, and the community. Mr. Petruziello asked what programs are being introduced in schools. Mr. Mausser said none. The funds are for a mobile unit that can respond to a crisis situation. Ms. Shumway asked if the Sheriff’s Loss Team would fall under this category since they are responding to crises, overdoses, suicides, and accidental deaths. Ms. Clark said Ravenwood does not receive any funding for this because the crisis team members are all volunteers. Ms. Shumway said the Board has been asked for several thousand dollars in funding. Ms. Clark said that would be to help with administrative costs.

Dr. Jensen the mobile crisis team is available 24/7 and is an important aspect of most counties because they help with crisis situations. She strongly supports funding this. Mr. Claypool said the Board needs to have a definition of what a crisis is. As an example, there may be a shooting and Ravenwood Health wouldn’t be responding to that type of crisis. Mr. Holden said the mobile team is who law enforcement would contact when they are called for a critical incident, such as someone who is out of control and experiencing a mental health crisis. The team takes over so that law enforcement is not tied up with transporting someone to a psychiatric unit or some facility. Dr. Jensen said the sheriff’s office or police department is often called first when someone is physically out of control, and if it is a mental health crisis, then a mental health expert is contacted to help the person get services or admitted to the hospital.

Mr. Claypool asked if these funds are given as a grant to be used however they want or is it for a specific purpose and if there are funds left over, are they returned to the Board. Ms. Clark said it is her understanding these funds are used to coordinate all of the crisis programs in the county and to help pay for therapists when they go out in the community and respond to a crisis situation or some type of tragedy. Mr. Claypool said the resolution refers to an expansion of the program. Mr. Mausser said these funds originally came to the Board as a grant to expand these services and this resolution is a continuation of those funds. This is now an allocation from the state and pays for the service to be available. Mr. Claypool would like to hear more about how this works. Dr. Oluic said the Interim Director’s Report was sent out last week and outlines what mobile crisis is and what the team does. Roll Call Vote: Ayes-13; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.

* 1. **Resolution 22-06-3 Evidence Based Prevention Funding for SFY2023**

Ms. Bagley moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Petruziello said he has a problem when the Board is talking about allocating funds and going into schools and other areas for matters that are parenting issues. He asked how a 5-year old can understand what a mental health issue is. That is the problem he is having with services to young children. He further said it is the parent’s responsibility to tell a child what is right and wrong behavior and not someone they don’t know. Until he sees the programs and understands what is going to be taught to a 5-year old child, he will continue to have a difficult time with that. The parents should be educating about what should be done rather than a stranger telling a child what is and isn’t acceptable. He then asked if anyone here would let their 5-year-old be indoctrinated by someone they don’t know. Ms. Clark said this program is only done with parental permission. Mr. Petruziello responded with what kind of parent does that. There should be mental health programs for parents about parenting. Several people responded that there are classes available.

Ms. Shumway said the Board not only addresses mental illness but also mental wellness, and should address mental wellness first to maybe alleviate mental illness. Mr. Petruziello said that all comes from the home. Ms. Shumway responded that if it was being done in the home she wouldn’t have a job. Ms. Johnson feels the Resolution should be tabled for the time being. She looked into all of these programs and tried to discern exactly what would be taught. She knows of two school programs and one community program that are linked to social emotional learning. She feels given the age of the children, the Board should have a good idea of exactly what is going to be covered and has more information.

Dr. Jensen asked Mr. Petruziello to avoid using words like indoctrinating children which implies that there is someone with a purposeful mission to indoctrinate kids into some religious or other type of cult. Dr. Jensen said she does not know the specific programs talked about here, but teaching five and six-year-old kids about healthy choices, how to solve conflict among their peers, how to express their feelings, is appropriate classroom information. As Ms. Shumway said, those in the field know these issues are not routinely talked about in many homes. Dr. Jensen said these programs are not talking about sex education or indoctrinating children into some cult. She referenced the Incredible Years program and teaching parents what is normal development for a child, and not the exaggerated issues that have been brought up. She is fine tabling this unless it creates a financial deadline issue. These are evidence-based programs that have reasonable research behind what is being done.

Ms. Shumway asked Ms. Bertman from Catholic Charities to describe the Incredible Years program, which was originally designed for the Help Me Grow and is provided to children in daycares and preschools. Ms. Bertman said the program’s goal is to keep problematic kids from being suspended and/or expelled. There is a lot of research showing how detrimental that can be to a child. When the program is being done, kids often forget about the case manager and just interact and talk to the puppet. Topics include how to talk to people nicely, conflict resolution, and how to be a good friend. There is a YouTube video made by Catholic Charities Geauga which shows the program and what happens when they go into day care centers. Ms. Miller asked if anyone can observe what happens. She observed this program several years ago and it was fun to see the interaction between the kids and the puppets. Ms. Bertman said the Incredible Years program is exceptionally helpful in keeping kids from being kicked out and from developing problems at a young age. Ms. Miller said she taught parent education several years ago at Catholic Charites and the only people who participated were parents who were court ordered to attend.

Mr. O’Brien asked how long they have been providing the early intervention program. Ms. Bertman responded at least 10 years. It is usually done during the school year, but some day care centers do have summer programming. Mr. O’Brien said he would like to pass this Resolution, especially in light of Dr. Jensen’s comments. He does understand Mr. Petruziello’s concerns, but feels there aren’t any issues with this program from what he has heard. If the Board wants to delay voting for a month so people have time to watch the YouTube video and talk to others, it can be tabled. If the majority wants to pass the Resolution, he is ready to do that. Ms. Bagley reminded everyone that the Board doesn’t typically meet in July, so it would be put off until August.

Mr. Mausser said this is an expansion of the program. The Board has already allocated over $100,000 for this program. These additional funds will allow the agency to provide the program in a few more daycares. Ms. Bertman said they have had more requests than what they can provide right now. Mr. Petruziello wanted to know who has asked for the program to be expanded. Ms. Bertman replied daycare centers and parents. Mr. Petruziello would like a list of those parents and an explanation as to why it is so beneficial to them. Ms. Bertman said she cannot due to confidentiality. She can ask some parents if they would be willing to speak with Mr. Petruziello. Mr. Petruziello again requested that some of the parents contact him and explain why it is so beneficial. Ms. Bertman said they have seen a three-fold increase in requests for consultation from families and parents due to difficulties with mental health. Mr. Petruziello asked what mental health issues does a 5-year old who doesn’t even know how to read yet have. Ms. Bertman replied that this comes out in their behaviors. Mr. Petruziello said behaviors are not a mental health issue. All children act out. Ms. Bertman said that is how problems come out with children who can’t articulate yet. Those behaviors put them at risk of being suspended and/or expelled, which can put them at greater risk later in life. This is a prevention program to intervene early before behaviors become too serious.

Ms. Bagley said she is retired from direct services, but still sits on several active committees in the county. She said this program is very highly regarded and respected by many professionals she knows. Dr. Jensen said those who work in the field see a lot of 3-5-year-old children with mental health issues. Sometimes they are biologically based. There are also children with anxiety, depression, acting out behaviors, and those parents don’t know what to do. Those kids need assistance and treatment. She has seen four-year olds who have been kicked out of several day cares. This program provides secondary intervention to kids who are at high risk and who need help so behaviors don’t continue to escalate. There is research to support those programs. Ms. Chokshi said when working with kids, you can see the behaviors as they begin and increase. If not addressed at an early age, more serious issues can develop in the adolescent or teen years. If services are provided at a much younger age, you can catch that and work with the child and the parents. She said you can take a case study and watch a child go from age to age and see how issues progress if they don’t receive treatment. Mr. Petruziello said mental health issues in the last 20 years have significantly increased. There are more mental health issues today then there ever were. He thinks some of these programs are causing issues to grow in children. Mental health problems are not being reduced, but are expanding. He feels something is systemically wrong. The root cause needs to be found and corrected or it will never be because more and more people are going into the system at a younger age.

Mr. Claypool referenced the fact that there are multiple agencies and programs on the Resolution. Funds are being allocated to Ravenwood for the Botvin Life Skills program to be provided in high schools. Funds are going to Catholic Charities for the Incredible Years program. Funds are being allocated to Ravenwood and Lake Geauga to provide the Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategic Program at Chagrin Falls Park. He agrees with Mr. Petruziello. He has 10 grandkids and raised five kids. If a 3 to 5-year-old child has a mental illness problem, there is a parenting problem. He said all 3-year-olds act out. That’s what kids do and parents need to correct that behavior. He would like to set aside this Resolution and do more research about the programs. Ms. Shumway said she doesn’t know any mother who goes to the hospital and delivers a baby that says she is going to mess this child up more than any kid has been messed up before. They haven’t been parented, so what parents don’t know they can’t teach their kids. You are blessed if you have had healthy kids. She had over 150 kids in Geauga last year and when you give a parent the tools, resources, and support, they implement those strategies. They want to have success in their family and are asking for help. She is not sure why the Board wouldn’t provide that help.

Dr. Jensen said there are many on the Board with many years of experience working with mentally and medically ill children. There are people on this Board who have said to her that her expertise, experience, research, and background means nothing because they have grandkids. She is really frustrated that certain individuals don’t want to take the opinions of the mental health professionals on this Board, who are donating their time to help the mental health of this community. Mr. Petruziello recently made a comment that society didn’t have these problems when men worked and women stayed home with the children. She found that remark to be personally offensive as a working mother and many on the Board are working mothers. To blame working women for the problems of mental health in this county was very inappropriate. She then called the question to vote to end the debate since there is a motion on the floor.

After discussion on the proper procedure, Dr. Jensen again called the question and moved to end the discussion. Dr. Oluic seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ayes-13; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.

Ms. Johnson then moved to table the Resolution until the next Board meeting. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ayes-5; Nays-8; Abstentions-0. Motion failed.

Ms. Chokshi then called the roll on the original motion by Ms. Bagley to approve the Resolution, which was seconded by Ms. Miller. Roll Call Vote: Ayes-8; Nays-5; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.

* 1. **Resolution 22-06-4 Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Linkages Grant Allocation for SFY2023**

Dr. Jensen moved to approve the Resolution. Mr. Holden seconded the motion. Discussion: Dr. Oluic said this is a good program. Roll Call Vote: Ayes-13; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.

* 1. **Resolution 22-06-5 Problem Gambling and Addiction Services Allocation**

Ms. Bagley moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Petruziello said there wouldn’t be a gambling problem if it wasn’t allowed in Ohio. Roll Call Vote: Ayes-13; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.

* 1. **Finance Reports**

Mr. Mausser reported that 75.2% of the administrative budget has been expended through May 31, 2022. He expects there to be around $110,000.00 remaining at the end of the fiscal year, which will be added to unencumbered reserves. This is due mainly to the open staff position. There were no expenses from the Community Education budget. The Calendar Year Budget expenses through May was just under $2.75 Million. The Auditor’s Unencumbered Funds Balance was just over $4 Million. He reported that the Cash Balances by Sources of Funds are all in order with no concerns. These allocations will continue to be reduced or zeroed out as we approach the end of the fiscal year. Voucher Recap #671 in the amount of $269,530.61 represents expenses from May.

1. **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Malainy reported that the attorney from the insurance company would like the Board to decide in open session who will attend mediation. The Board’s representative, Attorney John McLandrich, said the discussion must be strictly limited to the topic of who will represent the Board in mediation. There cannot be a quorum, because that would be a violation of Ohio Sunshine Laws. He further said it is very important that mediation be productive and different views can be represented, but ultimately those who attend should represent a majority opinion so they can reach a resolution. There should not be a secondary mediation amongst the Board members and he doesn’t want to be paralyzed by so many differing opinions that they can’t move forward to a potential resolution.

Ms. Malainy said it would probably be wise to have three or four people. The Board’s previous legal representative suggested that Ms. Malainy attend, unless other Board members feel differently. She then yielded the floor for a motion, second, discussion and decision.

Dr. Jensen asked to speak with Ms. Malainy privately for a few minutes about an email she received relating to this matter, but which shouldn’t be talked about in open session. Ms. Malainy responded no and the Board will remain in open session. Ms. Malainy said the Prosecutor’s Office has advised her to stick to this topic only. Dr. Jensen said she received an email today from Attorney Wieland who said the Board should not discuss this today at all under any circumstances. Dr. Jensen said that maybe some things have changed since Ms. Malainy’s conversation with Attorney Wieland. Ms. Malainy replied that is not correct. Attorney Wieland advised Ms. Malainy to speak with Attorney Kathleen Minahan for clarification about this. The Board’s new representative, Attorney McLandrich, advised her that this is exactly what should be done.

Mr. Claypool said the Prosecutor’s Office represents the Board and any advice coming to any individual is inappropriate. If the Prosecutor’s Office wants to advise the Board, it should come to whole Board, not just an individual Board member. Anyone on the Board can speak with any of the attorneys, but any advice should be given to the whole Board. Mr. Petruziello asked if Dr. Jensen is the only Board member who received this email from the Prosecutor’s Office. Dr. Jensen said she and Ms. Malainy received it. Attorney Wieland said she spoke with Attorney Minahan who made some suggestions. Dr. Jensen had spoken with Attorney Minahan because she had a question about some of the materials. Mr. Petruziello again asked if she was the only Board member who received that email. Dr. Jensen reiterated that she spoke with Attorney Minahan about the materials sent so she would know what was going to be discussed in mediation so she could decide if she wanted to go. Dr. Jensen was told that the materials were public record. Attorney Minahan said she would like to have two representatives with different perspectives about the situation, so that whatever was mediated would hopefully come back to the Board and there would be a resolution. The timing of this email was this afternoon and recommended that Dr. Jensen, Ms. Malainy and someone else should attend. Ms. Malainy said she was never told about this and the email was a total surprise. She spoke to Attorney Minahan who said she was not in the decision-making process about having Dr. Jensen participate, and this was a unilateral decision made by Attorney Wieland.

Mr. Holden asked for the date and time of the mediation. Ms. Malainy responded it is scheduled for June 29th at 10:00 AM at 200 Public Square in Cleveland. Dr. Oluic asked those who have been involved in mediation in the past to raise their hand. Ms. Chokshi suggested choosing two state appointees and two county appointees to represent the differing opinions of the Board. Mr. McLandrich told Ms. Malainy it is great to have differing opinions, but it should not be someone who is going to be fighting amongst other Board members and paralyzing the Board from making any decision. According to Attorney McLandrich, the people chosen should represent the majority of the Board. Ms. Malainy then asked what the Board would like to do.

Ms. Johnson recommended that Mr. O’Brien help lead this discussion. Mr. Claypool suggested that Ms. Malainy participate because she has a legal background and because she has information about this issue. Mr. O’Brien said he is not going to waste his time in mediation until he is guaranteed that the Board will have a special meeting with the Board’s legal representative in executive session to get the mediation parameters. Otherwise, it would be a waste of everyone’s time and money. He respects those having fringe opinions, but if there has to be a resolution, he wants to see what that resolution would look like at both ends. Several Board members agreed. Ms. Malainy replied since that can’t be talked about this evening, she then recommended holding a special meeting for that purpose and having Attorney McLandrich present. Mr. O’Brien said if his involvement will bring resolution and stability to the Board, he is happy to do that provided he come out of that meeting that a majority of the Board in is agreement about what those agreed on what those two different ends look like. Mr. Petruziello suggested putting off deciding who should participate. Ms. Malainy said that can’t be done because she was told the decision must be made by Friday. Mr. Petruziello would like Mr. Holden to participate in mediation. Ms. Malainy said so far, Mr. O’Brien, herself, and Mr. Holden have been named. Ms. Chokshi suggested that Dr. Jensen participate.

Dr. Jensen said she feels some of the information the Board used to make decisions and take various actions was not fully accurate. She said those issues should be resolved before going into mediation. She then asked if that is something Mr. O’Brien can address. Dr. Jensen said the Board has two different views that were based on certain information they were told. She doesn’t think the Board has the whole story. Ms. Johnson said when looking for the most agreeable of Board members appointed by the state, she would recommend choosing Ms. Chokshi. Mr. O’Brien said the Board needs to have all the facts before the Board can make a sound decision on the outcome. He said the Board will make any decision based on what has been presented by Ms. Malainy, what has developed individually, then discuss those issues, and come to a resolution they can vote on in a public meeting. Ms. Malainy said the Board’s attorney will have a statement of facts for the Board to review.

Mr. Claypool moved to appoint Ms. Malainy, Ms. Chokshi, Mr. Holden and Mr. O’Brien as Board representatives in mediation. Mr. O’Brien disagreed and said in an effort to start bringing the Board together, there should be two appointees from each appointing authority, as at least a symbol of moving forward as one Board in the near future, and his recommendation is to include Dr. Jensen.

Mr. Claypool said he objects to Dr. Jensen participating. Not for personal reasons, but because she has demonstrated regularly that she is disruptive and not a team player. He has an issue because when you go into mediation situation like this, everyone needs to be on the same page in public to show a unified front, but can disagree behind closed doors. Having a disruptive person in that session would be counterproductive. Dr. Jensen responded that the Board needs to be clear about who the disruptive person was at the last meeting and it wasn’t her. There are multiple issues this Board has. She has participated in many professional mediations and in court proceedings. It is her understanding that this will be a true mediation, and the only person speaking will be the mediator. She is fine to not be involved, but she does feel there should be two people who believe what Mr. Adams told the Board and two people who want to believe the things said about Mr. Adams.

Mr. O’Brien expressed his great displeasure and took umbrage with Mr. Claypool’s personal attacks towards anyone on the Board. He further said that Mr. Claypool does this often and is very hypocritical when doing that. Mr. O’Brien feels Dr. Jensen would be an excellent choice if she is willing to serve. She is a strong advocate in what she believes. He reiterated that any four people participating in mediation will have the directive of knowing the facts and understanding what the majority of the Board would support when this comes up for vote. Mr. O’Brien said he doesn’t need to be at the mediation. He is comfortable with Mr. Holden and the other members who have been identified as supporting that mission going into mediation and coming to a resolution. Nothing is going to be resolved until it comes back to the Board for a vote.

Ms. Malainy commented that she was given the directive to speak on behalf of the Board on this matter. She then found out that Dr. Jensen was speaking to the attorneys and they were making decisions, not just having conversations. She is not sure Dr. Jensen is a person who takes directives as exhibited by what she has seen.

Mr. Petruziello said he understands Mr. O’Brien’s concerns, but it is very concerning to him that Dr. Jensen received an email and Ms. Malainy received an email this Board knows nothing about. It would not have been a big deal if the email had been sent to all Board members. He said this is not about Dr. Jensen, who has integrity and is very professional, but feels that was inappropriate for Attorney Wieland to do. Dr. Jensen replied she doesn’t know why Attorney Wieland chose to do that. Dr. Jensen had contacted Attorney Minahan to ask if the information she was given on behalf of the Board was public record because she didn’t know what all was sent by Ms. Malainy. Attorney Minahan then sent the information to Dr. Jensen. She didn’t feel it was appropriate to include everyone because the Board members have been told not to send email to the whole group. Attorney Minahan asked for Dr. Jensen’s opinion and she shared some of her thoughts about the way the Board is split and that there are different versions/views of what occurred. Today, out of the blue, Attorney Minahan sent an email to Dr. Jensen and Ms. Malainy to see if Dr. Jensen was willing to participate in the mediation session. Ms. Malainy said when she asked Attorney Minahan who decided to include Dr. Jensen on that email and to be involved with mediation, she was told it was not her, but Attorney Wieland and Dr. Jensen. Ms. Malainy finds it very concerning that the Board’s lawyer at that time would say that and now Dr. Jensen is saying something else. Dr. Jensen said she asked Attorney Wieland to clarify what she should do in a meeting if executive session is not following the rules of executive session and what she should say. Attorney Wieland advised her with some wording to use for that purpose according to Robert’s Rules and the Ohio Revised Code.

Mr. Claypool said he is regularly slurred in public, and takes umbrage with what Mr. O’Brien was saying. He and Dr. Jensen banter back and forth and he is ok with that. He knows that he can be a disruptive force. He has every right to speak out when there is an individual who is going into a very tense situation and making sure we have the right outcome. He doesn’t take anything personally and doesn’t dislike Dr. Jensen. Dr. Jensen then said she is removing herself from this conversation. Mr. Claypool went on to say for clarification that this is not a courtroom situation and is not two sides proving what is right or wrong. They are going into a mediation session which has already determined there is going to be an action taken. Mediation is used to determine what the resolution will be. Not back and forth and he said she said. That conversation has already taken place. Dr. Oluic agrees there should be balance in mediation. He feels there will be some candid discussion when the attorney is here and as this moves forward. He would like to see some balance in who participants as a way to move forward.

Ms. Malainy asked someone to make a motion because this needs to be done by Friday. Ms. Slater said Mr. Claypool did move to have Ms. Malainy, Mr. O’Brien, Mr. Holden and Ms. Chokshi represent the Board in mediation. Ms. Johnson suggested adding another state appointee to that list. Mr. Claypool revised his motion to include Ms. Miller on the mediation team. Ms. Miller said she is not able to be participate in mediation. Mr. Fay said he would be willing to go.

Ms. Malainy said there have been some issues and she cannot sit in a room with certain people or spend a significant amount of time and asked the Board to reconsider including Mr. Fay. Mr. O’Brien wanted to address this issue now that it has been brought up. The issues Ms. Malainy speaks of as it relates to Mr. Fay and what Mr. O’Brien has read in the press. He doesn’t keep up with social media but he did read Beekeeper Mike’s comments. Ms. Malainy said the Board needs to stay on this issue. Mr. O’Brien replied that he was called upon to speak and wants to address her accusations against Mr. Fay. He went on to say that he has known Mr. Fay for 20 years, he has been an AA sponsor for a decade, he has never raised his voice to anyone, let alone a female, except to be assertive and listened to. The fact that Ms. Malainy is making allegations that in some way Mr. Fay overtly made any aggressive action toward Ms. Malainy is unbelievable. Having said that, if Ms. Malainy feels uncomfortable with Mr. Fay serving as a state representative, he respects that opinion. Ms. Malainy said she can have a police officer there so that there is no problem. Mr. O’Brien said to stop with the police officers which is, in his opinion, not based on anything rational. The fact that there is a sheriff’s officer sitting here instead of out protecting and serving the public is a complete waste of funds and time. Ms. Malainy said the officer is protecting and serving her as a member of the community. Mr. O’Brien responded by saying that having an officer here for this meeting instead of serving and protecting the public is an onslaught of wasteful funds and he feels sorry for that aspect of the situation. Mr. O’Brien said he will yield the floor, but his opinion is if given a choice, he would much rather have two state appointees and two county appointees, or even three and three. If Mr. Fay is volunteering, Mr. O’Brien said he is a rational voice and should attend if he is willing to devote that amount of time. Ms. Malainy said she is fine with that because she can work on the details behind the scenes.

Ms. Shumway said she is a state accredited mediator. In this process, you will not go in to make decisions, but to get guidelines and bring that back to the Board. She is not sure why all of these people would need to miss work. She suggested have one state and one county representative. Ms. Malainy said a motion was made, which was subsequently amended. She then asked if there was a second on that motion. Ms. Johnson then seconded the motion. For clarification purposes, the motion was restated that the following Board members will attend the upcoming mediation session regarding Mr. Adams on June 29th at 10:00 AM: Ms. Malainy, Ms. Chokshi, Mr. Holden, Mr. O’Brien, and Mr. Fay.

Ms. Chokshi asked if the Board is doing this now because we have to or would it be wise to wait for the attorney to explain what the parameters are. She feels the Board should hear what the attorney says and then take the vote about who should attend. Mr. Claypool said his understanding is that the attorneys are pressing to have these names by Friday. Ms. Malainy replied that is correct. Mr. Claypool then asked if the names could be revised after meeting with Attorney McLandrich to discuss the parameters to make sure everyone is on the same page. It may then be appropriate to revise who the representatives will be. Ms. Malainy feels that would be ok. Ms. Bagley commented that mediation is two weeks away and asked if the Board understands why they need the names by Friday. Ms. Malainy replied she was told that one of the stipulations from the mediator was they needed the names by a certain date. There are other stipulations that need to be discussed with the Board’s attorney in a special meeting. Mr. Petruziello suggested giving them the names now, and then the Board could change who is going after meeting with the attorney. Ms. Bagley asked if that means the Board will be submitting a list of tentative names, that can be changed based on the presentation by the attorney. Mr. Holden said this is two weeks away and people have to adjust their schedules. He suggested giving the attorney these five names and if someone can’t make it, then another Board member can be chosen to attend. It would only give people less than a week to adjust their schedules if the Board waits to vote on who should attend until after the special meeting. Ms. Malainy will let the attorney know the names are tentative at this time, but that might change. Roll Call Vote: Ayes12; Nays-1; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. **Nominating Committee Report – Proposed SFY2023 Slate of Officers**

Mr. Claypool said he was not in the country when he was advised of the need to move forward. He did reach out to the heads of the standing committees and asked Mr. Holden, Ms. Johnson, and Ms. Chokshi to be on the Nominating Committee. He suggested some dates to meet but have not yet received any responses. He said the Bylaws allow the Board to move the annual meeting to July. He believes that given everything that is going on and to get through the challenges the Board currently has going, to change leadership now might be harmful. That would give the Board time to evaluate who they want to nominate and to get through the challenges they currently have. Mr. Claypool asked what the Board would like to do.

Ms. Chokshi feels the Board should stick with what the Bylaws say should be done. Ms. Malainy was given the information from the Bylaws at the May 25th meeting, which spells out the time frame. There had been the time to follow that, but the Board did not follow that time frame. Since the Nominating Committee is part of the Board, notice has to be made of the date and the discussion done in public. The other alternative would be to make recommendations/nominations from the floor in this public session since notification has already been made that this would be discussed. This way the Board is still within the timeframe and the issue would not carry over into July. The current officers are done in June. Mr. Claypool responded that is a good alternative. He clarified that moving the annual meeting would not be an exception because the Bylaws allow for that to be done. It is up to the Board as to how to move forward. His opinion is that the public would be best served by not disrupting the Board by changing now, but waiting until July.

Ms. Shumway asked for clarification on how it was decided who would be on the Nominating Committee. Mr. Claypool responded that he did as Chair of Planning and Policies, he asked Ms. Johnson to serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee. Ms. Johnson replied that she would need to think through this and would like to do as Mr. Claypool suggested and move this until July. She would like the opportunity to discuss this with the Nominating Committee. Ms. Bagley said the Bylaws may say that the annual meeting can be moved, they also say that officers are done at the end of June. She thinks the Board needs to have open nominations this evening.

Ms. Bagley moved to elect Dr. Oluic as Chair, Ms. Miller as Vice Chair, Mr. Petruziello as Treasurer, and Ms. Chokshi as Secretary. Dr. Jensen seconded the motion. Mr. Claypool said the Board is in the middle of a discussion and making nominations now would be out of order. Ms. Chokshi said the Board needs to move forward tonight, because the current officer terms end on June 30th. Dr. Oluic asked if it is possible to extend the terms of the current officers for one month. Mr. Claypool responded yes, it is. Several Board members feel that could and should be done. Dr. Lesyk said there is no precedent for that. Mr. Claypool said there is no precedent for what the Board is going through. Ms. Bagley said the Bylaws don’t say that moving the end date of terms can be done. Mr. Claypool then reviewed the Bylaws to see what can be done.

During that time, Board members were talking amongst themselves. Dr. Jensen said it is her understanding that there is a motion and a second on the floor. Mr. Claypool again stated that the motion was out of order because the Board is in the middle of a discussion about the nominating process. It can’t be made in the midst of a discussion, but must wait until the Board is out of that discussion. Mr. Claypool said the annual meeting section doesn’t reference any expiration of the current officer terms. The process is that the annual meeting can be moved so the Board can go through the nomination process. Ms. Slater said officers are appointed on a fiscal year basis which ends June 30th. Mr. O’Brien said the Bylaws stated that nominations for any office can be made from the floor. Ms. Chokshi said if it is done tonight that would alleviate any issues, since it was not done in the time frame and manner specified by the Bylaws. She then outlined the normal process and stated that nominations can be made from the floor tonight, especially since the fiscal year ends on June 30th.

Mr. Claypool said Section 4.4 state that officers will serve for one year or until a successor is chosen. He said the fiscal year end doesn’t have anything to do with how the Board manages this. Mr. Claypool said he hasn’t found the section about officers, but pursuant to Ms. Chokshi’s suggestions, the Board could make nominations from the floor, and then decide what to do with those nominations moving forward. Dr. Lesyk said the Board would still not have enough time when following how it has traditionally been done and outlined in the Bylaws. Mr. Claypool said there would be enough time if the annual meeting is moved, because the Bylaws give the Board the authority to do that. Dr. Jensen stated that Ms. Slater read something that talked about the terms officers serve. Ms. Slater responded the Board votes on the slate of officers for a specific time frame, which is the end of the fiscal year – June 30th.

Mr. Claypool asked how many members are in favor of moving the annual meeting to July and how many members are in favor of taking nominations from the floor and voting on a slate of officers tonight. Ms. Chokshi reminded everyone that when last year’s proposed slate of officers was submitted, there was a nomination from the floor. In that instance, the Board voted on that nomination and who was listed on the slate. Mr. Claypool asked what the effective date of the decision is. Several Board members said it would be July 1st.

Ms. Chokshi asked whether or not there is already a motion on the floor. Ms. Slater said Ms. Bagley moved to appoint Dr. Oluic as Chair, Ms. Miller as Vice Chair, Mr. Petruziello as Treasurer and Ms. Chokshi as Secretary, Dr. Jensen seconded the motion, and Mr. Claypool said that motion was not appropriate since the Board was in the middle of a discussion about it. As the Nominating Committee Chair, Mr. Claypool said the Board can go ahead and make nominations from the floor as a slate of proposed officers or for each position separately. Ms. Johnson pointed out that the motion on the floor was from one person, and she is opposed to that being done. Mr. Claypool again said that motion was out of order because the process says that nominations will be taken from the floor and he suggested doing that for each position.

Dr. Lesyk moved to nominate Dr. Oluic for Chair. Mr. Claypool then moved to nominate Ms. Malainy for Chair. Mr. Claypool reminded the Board that there is normally a whole process that is gone through for this purpose. He said the vote can be taken tonight if that’s what the majority of the Board would like to do. Mr. Claypool then asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. Holden nominated Mr. Claypool. Dr. Lesyk nominated Ms. Miller for Vice Chair. Mr. Claypool then asked for nominations for Secretary. Dr. Lesyk nominated Ms. Chokshi. Ms. Malainy nominated Ms. Johnson. Mr. Claypool then asked for nominations for Treasurer. Mr. O’Brien nominated Mr. Petruziello. Mr. Petruziello nominated Mr. Holden.

Mr. Claypool asked if the Board needs to vote on the chair of each committee. Ms. Slater said the Chair assigns those appointments. Everyone is on at least one committee except Dr. Jensen, who has not yet been assigned to a committee. Ms. Slater said the Chair can change those appointments at any time. Each Chair can make its own committee assignments. Ms. Bagley called the question. She said it is time to end the discussion and vote. Mr. Claypool is looking to make sure the Board won’t be violating any rules proceeding in this manner.

The Board discussed taking a short break and Ms. Malainy called the meeting to recess at 7:40 PM. The Board was out of recess and back in Open Session at 7:50 PM. Ms. Malainy asked Mr. Claypool what he found out. Mr. Claypool replied that he found no reason or anything about the process in the Bylaws as to why Board members can’t vote tonight if the Board so choses. If not, it can be done another date. He asked if anyone has an opinion on the matter. He further said there are members that want to have a vote tonight and asked if there is anyone who doesn’t want to do that. Dr. Lesyk would like to vote tonight and other members concurred. Some voiced their opinion to wait. Ms. Malainy asked if a vote should be taken. Ms. Bagley said it seems as if the Board should move ahead with this tonight. Ms. Malainy then said each officer will be voted on separately and will take office on July 1st.

The following persons were nominated for Chair: Dr. Steven Oluic and Ms. Jennifer Malainy. A roll call vote was taken. Dr. Oluic was voted in to serve as Chair from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Ms. Malainy said it has been her honor over the past year to expose truths. That’s what she does and what she is good at doing.

The following persons were nominated for Vice Chair: Ms. Linda Miller and Mr. Walter Claypool. A roll call vote was taken. Ms. Miller was voted in to serve as Vice Chair from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

The following persons were nominated for Secretary: Ms. Alberta Chokshi and Ms. Kathy Johnson. A roll call vote was taken. Ms. Chokshi was voted in to serve as Secretary from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

The following persons were nominated for Treasurer: Mr. Michael Petruziello and Mr. James Lee Holden. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Petruziello was voted in to serve as Treasurer from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

1. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**
   1. **Joy Black – Emerald Woods**

Ms. Black said she is in her 31st year of providing services and housing for disabled and mentally ill individuals, or anyone who needed it. It has been rewarding and over the years, mental health has become very important to her. Ms. Black introduced her daughter – Heather Weikum - who has taken over the business the last three years. She has a doctorate in naturopathy. She has also started a Christian-based home school program.

Ms. Black distributed information about two of her residential facilities. She said mental health problems came to light in her facilities many years ago, including people who were living on the streets, not getting their mediation, did not have clean clothing, or personal care items. There were no services in the community to help them. She runs three homes. The 16-bed home has an equal mix of elderly individuals and people with mental illness. It is heartwarming to see the young and the old interacting and caring for each other as a family would. They can provide hospice care and end of life care at Joy’s Place. Early on, they were getting residents from Hopewell, saw some things they were doing, and decided they needed to provide more services than just meals and a roof for their clients. Out of that came the dream of Emerald Woods, which was originally to be a $4,000,000 facility called Fields of Troy. She also runs a six-bedroom residential facility at Metzenbaum. Her goal is to help clients learn about their diagnosis and medication, help them learn how to communicate with their providers, and that their disease is part of their life but not all of their life.

The agency receives referrals from the Veterans Administration, doctors, family members and other places. Ms. Black said she gets phone calls every day from family members and social workers about someone who needs housing and help that can’t be provided in their home. She said it is very difficult for a family member to see their loved one suffering with a mental illness and not know what to do and how to help. Housing and family are very important. At Emerald Woods, they try to help individuals on a short-term basis and get them back home. She said the Board has funded residents in her facility and she is grateful for that support. They are not always successful but do they best they can, when they can, for as long as they can. She gave some examples of the clients they serve and what services they provide.

Ms. Black said Vron Place is a five-bed home for mentally ill individuals and is the least expensive home she runs. One of the things done by her daughter was to set up a budget to run the facility. It is expensive and that is one of the reasons they can’t serve everyone. The cost at Joy’s Place is $3,400.00 per month, which includes 24-hour care. The cost at Emerald Woods is $2,700.00 a month. Residents participate in a therapeutic riding program, are taken to the library, have a membership at the YMCA, and are involved with the community in many other ways. When Covid shut everything down, they took residents to the local parks and other places that were available. They did not close any of their facilities as a result of Covid. The cost includes food, transportation, and many other services. She is hoping that the State will increase the amount of SSI payments to at least $1,4000.00 per month. The current monthly reimbursement rate is $1,100.00, which is not really enough to provide good quality care.

Ms. Shumway asked if Ms. Black has approached Family First Council for funding for some of the people in the homes that are Geauga residents. Ms. Black responded that she has not. She did not realize they have funds available for this purpose. Ms. Shumway replied that they do have funding from the Board for adults.

Mr. Petruziello asked about their home at Metzenbaum. Ms. Black said they rent one of the homes there. Mr. Petruziello asked what funding they get to help with costs. Ms. Black said she does receive funding for people placed by Metzenbaum. A lot of the residents are on a waiver program. Mr. O’Brien asked if that facility is full. Ms. Black said they have two open beds right now. They were full their first year and opened two years ago. Ms. Shumway asked whether or not the residents pay to stay at the facilities. Ms. Black said they have two residents who are on the RSS program who receive $1,100.00 a month and they have accepted that as payment in full. Payment for other residents come from the VA. Some have family trusts. Ms. Shumway said for those who don’t, the Board voted for Family First Council to having funding for Geauga county residents. If there is a Geauga resident that fits the Board’s criteria, she hopes Family First Council would fund that person. If they don’t, Ms. Shumway asked Ms. Black to let the Board know. Mr. Petruziello said he has a son who receives SSI and it is only $700.00 a month. Ms. Black said as a result of the pandemic, she has had to change how they do business and now do many things differently. They had a very difficult time keeping staff. She has received a lot of support from the community.

Ms. Malainy thanked them for coming to the Board and for doing what they do. Dr. Oluic asked if the home next to hers at Metzenbaum is empty. Ms. Black said there are residents living in that home and she thinks it is full. It is operated by Jewish Family Services.

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSIDER THE EMPLOYMENT AND/OR APPOINTMENT OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 121.22(G)(1)**

Ms. Malainy announced that she would like to invite Leila Vidmar into Executive Session to discuss possibly appointing her to an interim staff position. She then moved to enter into Executive Session and invites Leila Vidmar to join the Board in Executive Session to consider the employment and/or appointment of a public employee pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1). Ms. Shumway seconded the motion. Discussion: Ms. Chokshi asked if there should be two motions – one to agree to allow Ms. Vidmar into Executive Session and then another to enter into Executive Session. Ms. Malainy said it is up to the Board how the Board wants to do this, but she just reiterated what the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney advised her to do. Mr. O’Brien said the Chair can bring anyone into Executive Session, so there doesn’t need to be a separate motion for that. Ms. Bagley asked if any other people were considered for the interim position. Ms. Malainy said that will be discussed in Executive Session. Roll Call Vote: Ayes-12; Nays-1; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.

The Board then went into Executive Session at 8:15 PM. The Board came out of Executive Session and was back in to Regular Session at 9:15 PM. Mr. Claypool moved to hire Leila Vidmar as Interim Director on a part time basis for a period to be determined. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll Call Vote: Ayes-12; Nays-0; Abstentions-0. Motion approved.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Petruziello moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Lesyk seconded the motion. The meeting was then adjourned at 9:17 PM.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Ms. Teresa Slater**

**Secretary/Receptionist**

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**Ms. Jennifer Malainy**

**Chairwoman of the Board**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Ms. Alberta Chokshi**

**Secretary of the Board**