**GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH**

**AND RECOVERY SERVICES**

**Ann Bagley 13244 Ravenna Road**

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

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**Board Minutes June 16, 2021**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ann Bagley, Alberta Chokshi, Walter Claypool, Kathy Johnson, Carolee Lesyk, Jennifer Malainy, Linda Miller, Gregory O’Brien, Steven Oluic, Michael Petruziello, Mary Ruth Shumway, Leila Vidmar

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Martin Fay, James Lee Holden

**GUESTS:** There was no attendance taken of other meeting participants

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jim Adams, Savannah Florkowski, Amie Martin-D’Arienzo, Jim Mausser, Teresa Slater

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Ms. Bagley called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM and said the June 16, 2021 meeting of the Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services is held in public for the purpose of conducting the Board’s business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. No public comments will be taken at this time.

Ms. Vidmar then called the roll for attendance purposes. The following Board members were present: Ann Bagley, Alberta Chokshi, Walter Claypool, Kathy Johnson, Jennifer Malainy, Linda Miller, Gregory O’Brien, Steven Oluic, Michael Petruziello, Mary Ruth Shumway, Leila Vidmar. Dr. Lesyk was not present for roll call, but was able to participate after the meeting began.

Ms. Shumway asked for the volume to be increased as high as possible to better hear those who are participating at the Board office. Mr. Claypool moved to allow public comment. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. Ms. Bagley said she doesn’t understand because that’s not how we hold the meetings. Mr. Claypool said the Board controls the meetings and he just made a motion. The motion is on the floor and it can be discussed and/or voted on. Ms. Bagley asked if there was any discussion. Mr. Claypool said there are a number of people here today, that given a certain set of rules, such as three minutes, being civil and that sort of thing, we can allow the public to be able to comment on some of the topics the Board will be discussing today. That would be appropriate because they are the people who pay for our salaries and a lot of the services being offered. Mr. Petruziello said there are 26 people at this meeting and more are coming. He thinks the public has the right to make any comments about any presentations made tonight. Ms. Miller suggested that comments be limited to a certain time frame. Ms. Bagley asked what that limit would be. Mr. Claypool suggested three minutes as long as the comments are civil, to the point, and appropriate. Ms. Shumway asked if there is a time limit to the overall discussion about a particular topic. We could go a long time if everyone gets to speak for three minutes. Ms. Bagley said the presenters were told they would have 20 minutes for their presentation and there would then be 10 minutes for questions. **VOICE VOTE: AYES-10; NAYS-1; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

1. **APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM MAY 19, 2021**

Ms. Miller moved to approve the Minutes as written. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. There was no discussion and a vote was then taken. **VOICE VOTE: AYES-11; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

1. **SOGI PRESENTATION**

Chris Steigerwald: She distributed some handouts for the presentation. She retired from the fields of child development and child welfare after 37 years. Her last position was with the Juvenile Court and CASA, a program that provides services for abused and neglected children. In 2019 she reached out to a counselor at Ravenwood Health asking about resources for an LGBTQ family member. She was told that other than individual counseling, there were not any support services in our county. She spent the next several months reaching out to a lot of different people, including people at the public schools, social service agencies, and the courts. She heard the same message that there is a desperate need for support for individuals, families, youth and agencies. She got a group together who agreed to be on the board and they started meeting in January of 2020. They are the only organization addressing this topic in Geauga County. They are trying to meet the need, but they are not an activist group. Their mission is to discover what the needs are in this community and to meet people where they are at on this complicated and confusing topic. They did not bring this topic to Geauga County. It has been here, it’s all over the news, it’s everywhere. She has met youth who know a lot more about this topic than she does. The group feels there is a responsibility to deal with this in a factual and healthy way. People have reached out and asked for help. A high school support group was started knowing that there are a lot of high school kids dealing with this. When the organization’s name got out, she starting receiving emails from middle school parents asking for support for themselves and their kids. As a result, a youth support group was developed which is facilitated by professional counselors. They are here to respond to the needs in the community and do their best to try and serve. She is proud of SOGI’s board, which includes a variety of people and perspectives. She asked everyone to keep an open mind, listen to the information from the other presenters, and read the information distributed. She said there are biological reasons that these changes occur and it is not a choice most of the time.

Dr. Vanessa Jensen: She is a pediatric psychologist and a board-certified child and adolescent clinical psychologist. She is one of the founding board members of SOGI. She was asked by Chris Steigerwald to make a presentation and she will speak from her heart and her beliefs. She does not represent Cleveland Clinic. They do support her work with this organization, but she does not speak on their behalf. She feels blindsided by this group. She is a Geauga resident. She lives in this community, practices in this community, and pays for the activities of the Board with her taxes, along with her husband and daughter. She moved here by choice because she loves this area and met some very good friends. She was told no public comments could ever be made at this meeting. Somehow the agenda changed and a bunch of folks were invited. She watched a lot of shaking heads and very upset people as Ms. Steigerwald was speaking. She is not an activist but is an advocate for her patients. She takes really good personal care of all her patients, including medical care involving sexual orientation and gender identity. She is required by law to collect that information on all patients, not to be nosy but because that affects healthcare. People with different sexual orientation and gender identities, different races, different ethnicities, have different healthcare needs. She didn’t invent transgender folks and gay people. She is a straight white woman who is married to a very Republican engineer. It is not about her but is about this community. She has testified in the House and the Senate about these issues. Young people want to leave this community as fast as they can because they don’t feel supported. All they are doing is supporting the needs of our kids. Parents come to her in distress about their children being transgender or gay. No parent would choose this for their child. Most people she knows would not choose to be gay, lesbian or transgender. Kids have come to her and asked for help to not be transgender or attracted to the same sex. Life would be so much easier. People don’t choose hard paths. She helps people figure out how life works best for them. Conversion therapy doesn’t work. She invited anyone to reach out to her personally at any time to speak about any of these issues. She is here to help the community she lives in, as a SOGI member, a doctor, a 30-year staff member at Cleveland Clinic, who is involved at the state and national level.

Natalie Naumann: She has lived in Geauga for 40 years. She is a transgender woman who transitioned ten years ago after 50 years of hiding, denial, marrying a woman and living in agony with this her whole life. All she could do in 1960 was bury her feelings. She was an electrical engineer for Stanley, Black & Decker designing power tools. As she neared retirement, she decided to build a big house on a large lot where she could just be herself and nobody could see her. She was the loneliest person you would know. She started getting physically sick and had issues no one could figure out. A friend suggested she look into transgender, which she had never heard of. She researched transgender and everything she read was exactly her. She is not the only person on this planet who feels this way. Being an engineer, she made a project plan and budget, figured out what to do, and proceeded and here she is today. She is engaged to a wonderful man who is a physicist and they will be married in September. She has never been happier or felt more normal or more like herself in her entire life. Living with a woman and wishing she was her the whole time was horrible. If there is a way to “cure” this in the womb then do it. She is not advocating this lifestyle. She is finding older people coming out who have hidden their identity their whole life. She serves as the Secretary for SOGI, oversees the website and keeps things in order. She has a flag on her house and is a Republican. This is not political. There should be no issue with helping people. When a young kid goes on YouTube and gets some notion in their head that they are this and that, and goes to their parents, they need help. She is here to help parents find a place to have discussions and choose the right path for them and their children.

Minna Zelch - SOGI Board Member: She is a Geauga resident and the parent of two kids. The oldest is in high school and is part of the LGBTQ community, who has known her entire life that she is different from the majority of her peers and other people around her. She was always kind of different and they loved her the best way they knew how. It was around intermediate school when she finally had the language to figure out that she is part of the LGBTQ community. When she told them, both parents responded that they love her and will do whatever they can to help her. Personally, they didn’t know what they were going to do. This is not something a person would choose because life is going to be harder. She started researching and found there was nothing for her, her husband, daughter, or son. They started looking around and asking people who knew others but who really didn’t want to talk about it. People don’t want to talk about this because they are scared and don’t feel safe. It took a long time to find help and resources. The most support they received was from their church, who were incredible, and treated them like family. They probably would not still be here if it wasn’t for their church. It is heartbreaking to see their kids going through this and not having any help to turn to. They found counselors and help and starting researching and reading and learning all they could. They love Geauga and moved here intentionally, but they had conversations with both of their kids that maybe they shouldn’t tell people, and when they leave Geauga and move somewhere safe they call tell people who they are. Her daughter told her many times how dehumanizing it is to have to lie about who she is and that she has to pretend. It made her feel worthless and like a nobody. She realized her daughter was hurting terribly and needed to talk to other kids and that they needed to support her and let her live as who she is. They came to the realization that their daughter knows she is LGBTQ the way their son knows he is left handed. No one told them this, that’s just how they were born – how they were made and they couldn’t change it if they wanted to. Becoming a part of the Geauga SOGI network was crucial to them as a way to have Geauga County be safe for their kids and all the LGBTQ people who live here to get together and talk about it. She met with a mother just today whose child came out who asked when SOGI will meet again because her family needs someone to talk to.

Dr. Vanessa Jensen: She is not here to be an activist. She is not here to make people into anything, but to make people feel safe in the community we live in. She has worked with a number of families with various religious backgrounds and their churches want to help them be a part of their religious community. You may hear that they are going into schools and trying to make kids transgender. A lot of schools don’t want to use the “s” word, but kids know more about sex then we did at their age. She would love to see all parents talk to their kids as she does about sex, openly and honestly, and about how to be safe and healthy. A lot of families are not comfortable with this subject matter and that’s ok. Her first goal is to work with families and talk with parents who are not comfortable speaking about these things with their kids. She asked if we really want schools talking to kids about sex. She would prefer that it happen in the home or church, but there are kids who need a safe space who aren’t safe to talk at home. Schools come to her and ask her to talk with teachers so they understand what to do if a child says they may be transgender. Schools shouldn’t do things that parents don’t know about. We need to find better ways to work together so kids who are struggling have avenues and they know they have an outlet where they can figure things out, and do not have to be secretive and go online or talk to adult strangers. She then thanked the board for having them come this evening.

Ms. Bagley said now is the time for questions.

Mary Ruth Shumway: She said the current Kaplan M-CAT study books describe gender as a self-rated score from 0 to 100 in masculinity and femininity independently. If this is the medical clarification of gender, how is it possible for someone to transition at school age or are we using incorrect language. Dr. Jensen replied that she is not aware of that rating system being used as to how masculine or feminine you are. When someone comes in with a young child who is behaving in a way that is not consistent with their birth genitals, the majority of those kids are not going to grow up and transition their gender. That applies more when older kids who for many years have behaved in a manner not consistent with their birth gender. She then talked about the idea that there are two binaries - male and female and then a whole range in between. On one of those scales, she is not the most feminine, but would probably score a little more masculine side. There are people that believe that someone is not just male or female and there is a lot of in between. There are a number of people like Minna’s child and Natalie who are very clear about this. Someone may be born with male parts but the brain is female or vice versa.

Ms. Shumway asked if Dr. Jensen was familiar with the book titled *Irreversible Damage.* Dr. Jensen replied yes she is and that the book talks about the issue of regret. If you look at the data, the number of individuals who regret transitioning is less than 1% for those who had surgery, and less than 1.5% of those who transition at all levels, so the regret level is very low for those who choose to transition completely. If you look at any other medical procedure someone goes through, the level of regret for post medical care for surgery, chemotherapy, etc. it is more like 15-25%. It does happen and that is why she does not advocate cutting off body parts or even recommend hormones for young children. Those avenues are for older children who are able to make that decision and who have full parental support and consent. Ms. Shumway said the data is showing that hormones given to youth going through puberty is the number one cause of suicide in that age group. Dr. Jensen said she would challenge that. There is a large number of suicides in transgender youth in general whether on hormones or not. There is medication called puberty blockers that is used to slow down puberty. Her daughter started to go through puberty at age eight to stop that for a couple of years until she got older. Hormones for her daughter slowed puberty. This is done in a very small select number of children.

Dr. Betsie Saltzberg, child advocate and child psychologist: Dr. Saltzberg had some information she wanted to present to the audience. Dr. Jensen said this time is for questions about SOGI. Dr. Saltzberg asked if Dr. Jensen agrees with certain statistics from 2016 to 2021 regarding the percentage of individuals who regret transitioning, and the fact that there are 330 million people in the United States. She also made some additional comments. Dr. Jensen asked the Board Chair to clarify that this time was to be used for questions about SOGI and she would rather wait to hear a lecture at a separate time. Ms. Bagley said that is correct and asked if there were any other questions about the presentation. Dr. Saltzberg proceeded to say that 99% of people are not LGBTQ and Ms. Bagley again asked if she had any questions about the presentation.

Mr. Claypool said he is the one who instigated this conversation to begin with and had some questions. He then stated that he is upset with Cleveland Clinic. He is 70 years old and he was asked what sex he was born as. Ms. Bagley asked if he has a question about the presentation. Mr. Claypool said he did file a complaint about that because it is not science and because he feels those types of questions destroys trust. He said SOGI national and international is an activist organization. Dr. Jensen said they are not affiliated with the national or international organization. Mr. Claypool said they should change their name then. Dr. Jensen said SOGI comes from a medical term they are being forced to use by the government. The Joint Commission and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid requires them to gather information on sexual orientation and gender identity on all patients. That is required data they have to report on. Mr. Claypool said we need to start pushing back because our culture is being destroyed by this kind of thinking. Ms. Steigerwald said they decided not to be part of the national organization because they wanted to tailor this group to meet the needs of this community. SOGI is a new acronym, just like LGBTQ. Dr. Jensen said that is something they may need to rethink if they are going to be associated with the national group.

Mr. Claypool said we didn’t set aside enough time and he appreciates SOGI representatives coming to the meeting and their openness and honesty when presenting. He said many people are really concerned about our kids. Adults can make their own decision and this represents a very low percentage of people. Kids’ brains are not yet wired to make that type of decision. Most of the time when they have issues about their sexuality, they are going to work it out. This issue has been around since biblical times. He heard comments that there was nobody to go to about this subject matter. Ravenwood Health regularly counsels people with psychological issues. Ravenwood can identify the problem or the mental illness and they can help someone work through that. He asked why there is the need for SOGI when we have counseling available.

Dr. Jensen said being transgender or gay or lesbian is not a mental illness. Individuals who feel different or are different in a variety of ways have a higher level of stress and often feel internal distress. The counselors at Ravenwood have an excellent reputation and she often refers people there. Until about five years ago and even now, if a parent thinks their child might be transgender and calls someone, the majority of licensed and board-certified child psychologists will say they don’t know what to do and there are very few who feel comfortable advising families. She doesn’t advocate. Her message is to slow down and work on getting help to deal with this and not give hormones to someone who is 14.

Mr. Petruziello asked when is it appropriate to give hormone treatment to a child of 3, 5, 8 years old. Dr. Jensen replied never at those ages. Mr. Petruziello asked what happens if a 3-year old boy has a mother who wanted a girl and dresses him in girl’s clothes, he asked if that is the problem of the parent and not the child. Dr. Jensen responded sometimes that is correct. Mr. Petruziello then asked how do you determine what the root cause is. He has seen this himself. He asked who gives the professionals the authority to decide when children get hormone treatments and when they don’t. Dr. Jensen answered that she counsels parents on how to have a happy kid, to let kids be kids, and to let them work it out. Mr. Petruziello said kids are being educated with SOGI that there is male and female and everything in between and stated that there is no in between. Dr. Jensen replied that parents come to them and she advises parents how to help their child live a happy life and to love their child no matter what. The goal is not about trying to make kids into anything.

Kathy Johnson: She said 80/90% of kids who identify as transgender will not grow up to be transgender. Dr. Jensen said that is correct. Ms. Johnson then asked if it is ever appropriate to give hormones. Dr. Jensen said puberty blockers are given to kids who are in such emotional distress that they are suicidal or in extreme mental distress, and who have never been comfortable in their gender. There is a set of very clear criteria with a series of tests and exams. The age of majority in most places is 16. They must also meet five other criteria and need informed consent from both parents. The child has to be in psychotherapy for at least a year, be “out” to the world, and have no mental illness that would preclude them from making that decision, and who are mentally mature enough to make that decision. She would never go against the parents even if only one said no.

Chris Steigerwald: She said Dr. Jensen is talking about her role as a child psychologist at the Cleveland Clinic. Her role in SOGI doesn’t include any of what she talked about. SOGI is a community support group for kids and parents. They are not going into schools. Mr. Claypool said there was recently an event at the library that was advertised which included a movie called “Prom”. Ms. Steigerwald said every other month Geauga SOGI sponsors a topical discussion night. Watching “Prom” was included in that particular discussion night. Mr. Claypool said “Prom” advocates for being gay and young minds who are still trying to figure it out see this movie which romanticizes being gay and kids then want to be cool, so it appears as if they are advocating this lifestyle. Ms. Steigerwald replied when she watched the movie, she saw kids who were in distress and who experienced rejection.

Mary Ruth Shumway: She is currently with CASA in Geauga and does a significant amount of outreach in schools and used to work with a group called Circles. She asked one of the principals today who said the number one group of children who are teased and tormented are those with sexual identity issues. There are kids who are struggling with this and they need to have these conversations. She said SOGI does not go into the schools and have conversations, but they are a place where the schools know they can refer these kids to.

Patti: She said she has also studied neuroscience. All the emotional stuff aside, Nikita Khrushchev, back in the 80s, when there were gay kids in schools everywhere, he had a checklist of how to tear America apart from the inside out, and one is the normalization of homosexuality and the way to do that is to use our public institutions to spread this idea. She doesn’t want to see this body or her tax dollars contributing to the normalization of homosexuality. If people need help they should get it and she knows help is available for families and kids. She doesn’t understand why this group wants to associate with the Board. Ms. Bagley said the Board does not have an association. Patti asked what they are seeking from the Board and what the goal of this presentation is. Ms. Shumway said we do have a relationship according to the Maple Leaf and who say Ravenwood Health is asking for reimbursement of services from the Geauga County Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services, so we are paying for services.

Dr. Jensen said they do not provide mental health services through Geauga SOGI to anyone. One of the jobs of her monitoring position is to assure there are trained professionals, and counselors from Ravenwood participate that know how to run and monitor support groups, but they do not provide therapy. Mr. Petruziello asked if Ravenwood employs anyone in SOGI. Mr. Adams said they do not. Dr. Jensen said two Ravenwood staff have two hours allocated a month to facilitate the groups. Ms. Johnson said Ravenwood Health is listed as a collaborative partner on SOGI’s website.

Greg O’Brien asked members of SOGI if there is any program for kids under 18 where the parents would have to give consent. Dr. Jensen said that would be for medical care or hormone therapy. Teens in high school can attend the support group but middle school students must have parental consent. Mr. O’Brien’s understanding is that this opportunity is offered to high school students. Ms. Steigerwald said she has developed contacts at different schools about kids who are struggling, but it is up to the youth or the family to contact them and find out more. Mr. O’Brien commented that he hears what Mr. Petruziello is saying and somewhat agrees, but he doesn’t hear anything remotely offensive to what SOGI is doing. There were some underlying issues beyond their program, and some of that discussion was addressed today.

Ms. Shumway asked if the group is in any elementary school and offered to the students. Ms. Steigerwald said they are not in any of the schools. The support groups are held in other locations. Ms. Shumway commented that anyone could attend a virtual meeting. Ms. Steigerwald replied there was an event hosted by the library, so if anyone was interested in attending the virtual presentation, they had to contact the library. It was promoted as a community education program. Ms. Bagley said kids younger than high school needed parental permission. Ms. Shumway asked how you would filter a virtual meeting. Mr. O’Brien said kids can access hundreds of thousands of resources online.

Mr. Petruziello asked who funds SOGI. Ms. Steigerwald said they get donations from individuals. They did receive a grant from a private family foundation for $2,000. They currently have around $3,000. All those involved are volunteers. They are registered through the Secretary of State, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Attorney General.

Jim McNeill: There was some discussion of what the mission is. He believes the real mission is recruitment. It is a one-way service that affirm delusions immediately which relegates them to a hookup service. He gained his perspective by studying Dr. Martin Luther King, who believed that LGBTQ is not a civil rights issue and that unnatural desires are culturally implanted and unsubstantiated by biochemistry. Dr. Jensen questioned the Board Chair that she thought this was supposed to be civil discourse and she should not be accused of pandering. Ms. Bagley responded that is correct and asked if he had a question for the presenters. Mr. McNeill said Dr. King felt this was a mental illness. Ms. Bagley again asked if he had a question for the presenters. Mr. McNeill said there is no question. This is public comment. Ms. Bagley said we are not going into public comment at this point and again asked if he had a question. He then asked the presenters why they made the statement that participants are only getting support and not counseling. He said support is recruitment. Mother: She said the kids spend most of their time playing games together in a safe place where they can talk.

Woman in Audience: She commented that the group says they are not in the schools, but they do have contact with counselors who would then direct kids to their group. She then asked if they ever try to counsel kids out of this choice. Chris Steigerwald said they have professionals on their board, who are not providing professional services, but are there to make sure everything is handled in the most appropriate way. They are not counseling youth to be in or out, but are providing a place for kids to talk about how they feel, and are not trying to convince anyone one way or the other.

Dr. Jensen: She has testified on the science of this issue and about how different hormone exposures affect our brains in different ways. She finds it offensive to be accused of pandering and to not be able to have civil discourse. She does counsel folks about thinking through this issue and to explore every possible way to help kids live the way they are.

Ms. Bagley said we will not all agree on this issue. SOGI was asked to tell us about themselves and they have done that. There has been an opportunity for questions and the Board needs to move along. She thanked the SOGI representatives for the presentation and helping us know more about you.

Johnathan Broadbent: He has a little different perspective on this. He has spent the last several months in and out of public school districts addressing issues like critical race theory, all kinds of sexual education, and social emotional learning. He came here today to listen in because he finds the timing of this discussion dubious to say the least. He asked what the impetus was for considering SOGI at this time. He does feel there are kids that would benefit from help. It seems as if this is an area where we shouldn’t be meddling as adults. Kids routinely figure things out for themselves. Adolescence and puberty are really awkward times in life. He has been told that critical race and sexuality are being pushed for political purposes. He also hears from people who are gay or transgender and have expressed similar concerns. He is very cautious and very concerned at the timing of this conversation.

1. **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Ms. Bagley reported that she has been reviewing the policy manual and found several places where the Board is not in compliance. She gave some examples at a Planning and Policies meeting. She will continue to review the manual in an effort to make sure the Board is following its policies. She is open to including other people and feels it makes good sense to include other Board members so they can be compliant with current policies and discuss updates to any policies if needed. Ms. Shumway asked if Ms. Bagley would highlight her findings and send that to all Board members, who responded that she did create a document with that information and will send it out.

1. **CEO REPORT – WRITTEN REPORT**

Mr. Adams said we usually take the month of July off and reconvene in August for the next Board meeting. There may also be the need for some committee meetings. Mr. Claypool reminded everyone that the ability to meet via Zoom ends on July 1st. Mr. Petruziello moved to end Zoom meetings. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. Discussion: The question was asked if that means we are banning the ability of Planning and Policies to meet via Zoom. Mr. Claypool replied yes because the law prevents it. He has been told that the proposed language to extend that ability will be coming out of the budget. Ms. Shumway asked if that means the Board will have to meet in person. Mr. Claypool replied that applies to all public meetings. Mr. O’Brien said he is not sure if committees are subject to that. Mr. Claypool said any committee or subcommittee is a public body. As of July 1st, Zoom is no longer an option. Mr. O’Brien replied that Mr. Claypool is correct in that subcommittees are public bodies also and need to follow the same Sunshine laws.

1. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
   1. **Agency Relations and Finance**

Neither Ms. Miller nor Mr. Petruziello had any updates to report.

* 1. **Planning and Policies**

Ms. Vidmar said the committee met about the 360 evaluation. She and Mr. Claypool met briefly prior to this meeting about that issue. She did receive a quote from Telos who made a presentation at the last committee meeting.

* 1. **Housing**

Mr. Adams said he just spoke with the Director from Metzenbaum on Monday. Ms. Shumway said she has been told there is a waiting list for housing. Mr. Adams replied that there has always been a waiting list for housing.

1. **BOARD REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS**
   1. **Resolution 21-06-1 Recovery Housing Allocation to Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers SFY2022**

Mr. Adams said these allocations came out after the state budget and are funds that must be used for specific purposes. This resolution pertains to recovery housing with Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers.

Ms. Johnson said she read all of these resolutions and has the following questions: 1. Who determined the assignment of these funds; 2. What is the grant process; and 3. Who assigns these funds to specific agencies without Board jurisdiction. Mr. Adams responded that every resolution is different in that the grant is designed for a specific need and a particular program. The mobile crisis funding is allocated to Ravenwood Health since no other agency provides that program. The housing allocation is a specific pool of money that should be directed to Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers who provides the majority of recovery housing. Mr. Adams said sometimes a grant is automatically renewed or included in the state budget.

Mr. Claypool asked since these are allocations are line items in the state budget, will the agency still receive the money. Mr. Adams replied not necessarily. We can return or not accept an allocation, but since we desperately need housing, he would be hard pressed to tell the state why the funds are being rejected. Most of these allocations are targeted for specific purposes. SORs is a good example of targeted funding and multiple agencies received those funds. Mr. Claypool asked if the Board voted no on using the funds for this particular purpose, would they have the option to use the money for another purpose. Mr. Adams said no they would not. Mr. Claypool then clarified that the authorization to expend funds in accordance to the resolution is just up to what is allocated.

Dr. Oluic moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-12; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

* 1. **Resolution 21-06-2 Mobile Crisis and Crisis Response Funding Allocation**

Mr. Adams said this grant amount is a reduction from what he actually applied for. Additional crisis services will be targeted because there has been an increase in mental health and drug and alcohol crises. There are several small pools of money for crisis services and there are slightly different ways about how each allocation can be used. This allocation goes to Ravenwood Health because they already provide crisis services, including going onsite to see an individual, sending a team into a school or a home. An assessment on the person in psychiatric crisis is done to determine what should be done next. Mr. Mausser said during this fiscal year, every board in the state received this allocation. Mr. Adams said this is one of the red line item allocations included on the funding spreadsheet that had not yet been allocated.

Ms. Shumway asked if this is the mobile crisis team that would be sent if a person overdoses at home. Mr. Adams probably not in that scenario. Ms. Martin-D’Arienzo said that would be the quick response team which is supported by SOR funding. This mobile crisis team would be dispatched to a school at the request of the superintendent if a student passed away, and would also provide services to the family and first responders.

Dr. Lesyk moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Chokshi seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-12; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

* 1. **Resolution 21-06-3 Evidence-Based Prevention Funding for SFY 2022**

Mr. Adams said these funds were originally a grant for prevention services and must be used for evidence-based practices. A majority of the money goes for services provided at Chagrin Falls Park Community Center.

Dr. Lesyk moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Vidmar seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-12; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

* 1. **Resolution 21-06-4 Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Linkages Grant Allocation for SFY2022**

Mr. Adams said this allocation is for services that are provided at the Geauga Safety Center. Mr. Petruziello asked if services have increased or decreased. Mr. Adams replied this is not the only pool of funds used to provide services, but that services in the jail have increased over time. Mr. Claypool said we are giving away the same amount of money year in and year out. He asked if this money is well spent for drug addiction and mental illness. Ms. Martin-D’Arienzo said this is one of the programs where outcomes for criminal justice are super good. Mr. Petruziello responded that those are the types of programs we want to put money into. Ms. Martin-D’Arienzo said multiple measures are used and outcomes are submitted to the state. Mr. Claypool would like to know if the outcomes would be any different whether we are spending a lot of money compared to not spending any money.

Dr. Oluic suggested that someone from the Safety Center could come in and talk about that. Mr. Claypool commented about the changing population in the jail. Ms. Martin-D’Arienzo replied that we want to be able to provide services to people in the jail and do an evaluation when the person is released to provide additional treatment if needed. Ms. Shumway asked what we are following to know that these programs work. Ms. Martin-D’Arienzo replied that getting someone help and into treatment also saves taxpayer dollars. Ms. Shumway asked how long individuals are being tracked. If only for one year the outcomes should be significantly positive but may be different after three years. Mr. Adams replied that is true of any service.

Dr. Oluic moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-12; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

* 1. **Resolution 21-06-5 Problem Gambling and Addiction Services Allocation**

Mr. Adams said this allocation must be given to an agency that has the qualifications to provide the service. Mr. Petruziello moved to approve the Resolution. Dr. Oluic seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-12; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

* 1. **Resolution 21-06-06 Shelter Plus Care Funding**

Mr. Adams said this is one of the longest grants the Board has received and is used to provide housing subsidy. Mr. Mausser said this Resolution was voted on last month, but there was no motion or second. Ms. Miller moved to approve the Resolution. Dr. Oluic seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-12; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

* 1. **Resolution 21-06-7 Grant Award for SFY2022**

Mr. Adams said the Board tabled this Resolution last month so they could get some additional information. Mary Wynne-Peaspanen and Stacy Noyes are here this evening to answer any questions the Board has.

Ms. Miller moved to approve the Resolution. Dr. Lesyk seconded the motion. Discussion:

Mr. Claypool said he still opposes this Resolution unless he hears from Signature Health directly that they are not working with SOGI and to make sure they are not in our schools talking with kids about LGBTQ subjects. Their presentation talked about abstinence, but there were some inferences about other topics and he wants to know more about what is discussed in school.

Mary Wynne-Peaspanen and Stacy Noyes, along with President Jonathon Lee, are present on behalf of Signature Health. Stacy Noyes said she provides three days of programming in schools and talks about pregnancy prevention, sexually transmitted infections and HIV. She does use inclusive language in her presentation, but does not bring SOGI into the school because it is not part of what she presents from a safety and medical standpoint. Mr. Claypool asked if this is something parents are aware of and if parents can either opt in or out. Stacy Noyes said the presentation is usually given in ninth grade and up.

Ms. Shumway asked what happens when kids want to discuss oral and anal sex. Stacy Noyes said discussion about oral, anal and vaginal sex is geared toward prevention. Mr. Claypool said if the topic of anal sex or vaginal sex or oral sex comes up, his thought would be to refer them to their parents, since they are not subjects that should be discussed by someone who is not the parent. He said it is very easy to infer a set of values to young kids, but that is the purview of a parent and not a stranger coming into a school. Stacy Noyes said she always encourages family involvement, but young folks deserve the right to have safety information. Information found on the internet can lead to pornography and can really harm a child with aggressive messaging. Mr. Claypool commented that it is a complex time we live in and unfortunately all parents aren’t as watchful as they should be.

Mary Wynne-Peaspanen said they are not providing instruction but are discussing the ways that diseases can be sexually transmitted. She has been an educator for more than 35 years and this information has been provided in the schools now for many, many years. Geauga County has one of the lowest teen birth and teen pregnancy rates in the state. She believes it is because they have been in schools. Stacy receives glowing letters from school administration because they value what the agency is providing.

Ms. Johnson said during the agency’s initial presentation, the presenters were asked a question about SOGI and the response was surprising. The response included a firm belief about comprehensive sexuality, and she has concerns about that information being a part of the presentation. Stacy Noyes said she does wish she had more time to instruct about safety and prevention. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-10; NAYS-2; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED**

* 1. **Financial Reports**

Mr. Mausser reported that 73.6% of the Board’s administrative budget was expended through May. There should be funds remaining in this line item at the end of the fiscal year, which will be rolled into Unencumbered Reserves. There were no expenditures from the Community Education Budget in May. The County Calendar Year Budget shows expenditures of $2,547,268.81 through May 31st. The Auditor’s Unencumbered Fund Balance at the end of May was $3,906,893.26. That amount will be reduced based on the resolutions passed this evening. All negative figures on the Cash Balances by Source of Funds will either be zero or a positive amount by the end of the fiscal year.

* + 1. **Voucher Recap**

Mr. Mausser said the staff reached out to Assistant Prosecutor Susan Wieland about whether Board members need to vote on the voucher recaps. She said that Board members do not have to do this because they vote on each resolution. He will continue to include this report for informational purposes.

1. **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business discussed.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. **Nominating Committee Report – Proposed SFY2022 Slate of Officers**

Ms. Chokshi said the committee met to establish a Slate of Officers SFY2022. The proposed slate was mailed separately and included in the meeting packet. The nominating committee was comprised of Ms. Vidmar, Mr. O’Brien, Mr. Petruziello, Ms. Miller and Ms. Chokshi. Ms. Chokshi moved to accept the following Slate of Officers for SFY2022: Chair – Ann Bagley; Vice Chair – Steven Oluic; Treasurer – Michael Petruziello; Secretary – Leila Vidmar. Dr. Lesyk seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mr. Claypool nominated Jennifer Malainy as Chair and Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. Ms. Shumway asked if all the other proposed officers would remain the same. Mr. Claypool said he would like to vote for each office individually. Mr. O’Brien moved to table the proposed Slate of Officers and Ms. Shumway seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-12; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION PASSED.**

The Board members then voted on each nominee separately: Ms. Bagley received five votes and Ms. Malainy received seven votes for Chair, Dr. Oluic received all Ayes and one Abstention for Vice Chair, Mr. Petruziello received all Ayes for Treasurer, and Ms. Vidmar received all Ayes for Secretary.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Oluic moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

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**Ms. Teresa Slater**

**Secretary/Receptionist**

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**Ms. Ann Bagley**

**Chairman of the Board**

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

**Ms. Leila Vidmar**

**Secretary of the Board**