**GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH**

**AND RECOVERY SERVICES**

**Jennifer Malainy 13244 Ravenna Road**

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

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**Board Minutes August 18, 2021**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ann Bagley, Alberta Chokshi, Walter Claypool, Martin Fay, James Lee Holden, Kathy Johnson, Jennifer Malainy, Linda Miller, Gregory O’Brien, Steven Oluic, Michael Petruziello, Leila Vidmar

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Carolee Lesyk, Mary Ruth Shumway

**GUESTS:** Mary Wynne-Peaspanen (Signature Health), Kim Carter (NAMI Geauga), Vicki Clark (Ravenwood Health), Melanie Blasko (Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers), Angela Daugherty (Family Pride)

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

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

Ms. Malainy called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM. She would like to allow public comments for ten minutes sometime during the meeting, maybe at either the beginning or the end. Mr. Claypool then moved to allow public comment for ten minutes at the beginning or end of meetings. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES. MOTION APPROVED.** Ms. Malainy will keep track of the time. Mr. O’Brien suggested having a sign in sheet for those who would like to speak. Ms. Slater said a section could be added to the Attendance Sheet for that purpose.

Ms. Vidmar called the roll for attendance purposes. The following Board members were present: Ann Bagley, Alberta Chokshi, Walter Claypool, Martin Fay, James Lee Holden, Kathy Johnson, Jennifer Malainy, Linda Miller, Gregory O’Brien, Steven Oluic, Michael Petruziello, Leila Vidmar.

1. **SWEARING IN OF REAPPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS**

Ms. Slater delivered the Oath of Office to Ms. Alberta Chokshi, who was reappointed by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023, and Mr. Gregory O’Brien, who was reappointed by the Geauga County Commissioners effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025.

1. **APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES FROM JUNE 16, 2021**

Mr. Claypool moved to approve the Minutes as written. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **VOICE VOTE: AYES-11; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-1. MOTION APPROVED.**

1. **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Ms. Malainy thanked everyone and said she is excited to be in this position. Ms. Slater will send out the current committee assignments for Board members to review.

1. **CEO REPORT – WRITTEN REPORT**

Mr. Adams referred to his written report about the state budget and said some of the allocations the Board will vote on this evening were a result of that budget.

Mr. Adams reported that the state has been negotiating an out of court settlement, separate from the state and national opiate lawsuits. Boards should eventually be involved in that process. The current plan is to create regional councils again to fund drug and alcohol services. Additional details are included in Mr. Adams’ written report.

The state has also allocated about $84 Million to OhioMHAS to be used in the community to provide drug, alcohol, and mental health services. At this time, there is only a broad plan of how these funds can be utilized. There are several big funding projects the state will be implementing in a short amount of time. The infrastructure money will also be part of that funding process.

In regarding to the opioid settlement, Ms. Miller asked if boards will be paying for OneOhio, who will receive 55% of the funds. Mr. Adams responded that they will be paid employees. No legislation has yet been passed so there is no structure in place to apply for those dollars, although there is a formula of how much funding will go to various entities.

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

Ms. Miller had nothing new to report.

* 1. **Finance**

Mr. Petruziello had nothing new to report.

* 1. **Planning and Policies**

Ms. Vidmar reported that the committee met prior to this meeting about conducting a 360 evaluation of Mr. Adams. She then provided a brief overview of what was discussed. Two types of evaluation processes were reviewed. Two quotes were received from each company - one with a coaching element and one without coaching. The benefits of both approaches were discussed. The recommendation was to move forward with an evaluation that did not include coaching. There was a split decision between which company to choose – Telos or SurveyConnect.

The pricing and evaluation styles were given to the Board members for review. The Board would choose which individuals to have rate Mr. Adams and the classification groups of question sets. The Telos survey would be done via email and SurveyConnect would be completed online. Telos includes various tips from each response. SurveyConnect provides an overview by category and percentages. Mr. Mausser asked if other county departments use a 360 evaluation. Mr. Petruziello suggested asking for a list of entities each company has worked with as references.

Mr. Claypool said Telos is a consulting company that would like to create an ongoing relationship with the Board which is long term. He said the evaluation results would be given to Mr. Adams and only a summary report given to the Board. With SurveyConnect, the Board is the customer. They both have different approaches and represent different ends of the spectrum. The Board can decide which questions to use and can identify different categories, such as members, providers, and county entities. Mr. Claypool said his personal preference is to keep it simple by using SurveyConnect. Other Board members suggested conducting the more high-end evaluation to get better results. Ms. Chokshi said Telos would give more feedback and information and tips of what to do.

Mr. Claypool said he and Ms. Vidmar picked two good companies. He said the Board should learn a lot by going through the 360 evaluation process. Mr. Petruziello asked if the survey data received will be the property of the Board and if the Board can look at the survey results and verify it. Both Mr. Claypool and Ms. Vidmar asked that question. Telos said that would need to be discussed with Mr. Adams since the information is confidential. Otherwise, the Board would only receive a summary overview and not the individual comments. Mr. Petruziello said any confidential information could be redacted. He would like to see the comments and the raw data. Mr. Petruziello asked if we have a copy of each company’s contract to review. Ms. Slater said the contract would not get sent to the Prosecutor and Auditor until a company was chosen. Mr. Claypool said there are questions about confidentiality for both companies. Mr. O’Brien said there should be a fair amount of confidentiality in place in order to get an honest review.

It was decided to table this matter until both companies have been contacted regarding the confidentiality questions the committee would like to have answered. A list of references will also be requested, in particular any with a mental health background. Mr. O’Brien said he would be willing to help review and contact any references received.

* 1. **Housing**

Mr. O’Brien said there has been no movement except for what Mr. Adams has sent out. Mr. Adams then reported that we are waiting to hear the results of the Court hearing about Metzenbaum. There were two issues – the EPA and the Cleveland Foundation. Mr. O’Brien said based on the CEO Report, there is a need and we are at a point that we need to talk about any opportunities that may be available.

Mr. Adams reported that the Board will be able to apply for additional capital dollars after the first round of funding. This is the first time money for capital funds has become available in a long time and that can be used in a way we need regarding housing. Ms. Bagley asked if it doesn’t work out with the Metzenbaum property, could these funds be used to build on Board property. Mr. Adams replied he has made subtle inquiries after receiving the money for the youth group home. The state is looking at residential treatment facilities also and the Board could potentially have three projects receive funding. He was told that the Board could increase its initial request of $500,000 and that we could submit second and third priority projects that will likely be funded. This is an amazing time to look at services that could impact people for generations. We need to discuss this housing opportunity and look at options.

Ms. Bagley had recommended moving Housing from ad hoc committee to a standing committee. She feels the Board should probably vote on that. Mr. Adams said if the Board wants to proceed with this suggestion, he can put together a charge of committee for Planning and Policies to review and then the Board could vote on it. Mr. Claypool asked why that should be done. Ms. Bagley responded because there is such an incredible need in the community and there is now funding that could possibly support that. Mr. Claypool asked what is the need – is it 50 people, 100 people, elderly people? Dr. Oluic said there is tremendous documentation about the need from Ravenwood Health. Mr. Claypool replied that he has not seen any data. Dr. Oluic said that is why the housing committee was established in the first place. Mr. Claypool then asked to be shown that data. Mr. Adams said some of the wait list information has been given to the committee along with other information. The state keeps track of how many people are waiting for housing. Transitional youth housing, metro housing, and senior housing are not the populations we serve. We do have what the wait lists are for housing for particular individuals, along with people who are over or under housed because we don’t have a niche service here. Individuals who don’t get as much treatment or care if not living in a house with more services end up in the hospital, in jail or on the street.

Mr. Claypool asked where this need is coming from and commented that we must not be treating the cause of the problem. He then talked about what is happening in San Francisco. Dr. Oluic said Geauga cannot be compared to San Francisco. Mr. Claypool then asked what the reason is for the housing need and if it is drug abusers and alcoholics. We need to get to the root cause and not focus just on the outcome. Mr. Petruziello said Metzenbaum no longer houses the mentally disabled and they need that assistance. Mr. Claypool responded that society doesn’t have the responsibility to take care of everyone, but our reaction is to want to take care of the world. Mr. Petruziello said there are people in our county who need that assistance. Mr. Claypool said to go out and build housing is irresponsible and we should not do knee jerk housing.

Dr. Oluic asked who has seen the data and several people responded they have. Ms. Slater will send out the last information received by the committee again. Dr. Oluic then asked how many people get sent out of county. Mr. Adams responded that a lot do. If we have someone with severe and persistent mental illness, they are not going to find a single bedroom in Geauga because we have the highest rent in the state. Those needs are still out there. This isn’t about individuals going out to an apartment who can go to work, it is the people that need services in their homes who are not going to be cured and they need care. We have some housing for those individuals, but have had a shortage for decades and haven’t had the funding available. It is really hard on families with teenagers or adults who are sick and are not going to be cured. Mr. Petruziello said the Metzenbaum facilities would be very appropriate for the Board’s needs. Mr. Claypool again asked what the need is. The state changed the way Metzenbaum houses clients who must now be out in the community. Mr. Holden asked how we know there is a need if we don’t know the number.

Mr. O’Brien said it is not being suggested that the Board get into the housing business. We could help out a small number of people, but will not solve the whole problem. When talking about root causes, we know individuals with mental health and addiction need help, and there will be a period of time where people need our help. We can hopefully offer 6/8 beds so a family doesn’t have to go out of county to receive help. Mr. Claypool said he is fully in support of using Metzenbaum facilities. His reaction was to creating a full-blown committee. Mr. O’Brien said maybe we could change the lives of 6,8, and maybe more people. The point he is trying to make, without jumping to this broad conclusion, is that we are talking about people who cannot help themselves and families who can’t help themselves.

1. **BOARD REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS**
   1. **Resolution 21-08-1 Specialized Docket Allocation to Geauga County Court of Common Pleas**

Mr. Adams included a summary of each resolution in his written report. This allocation comes from the Supreme Court. The first graduate is now volunteering at the drug court. Ms. Miller moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Bagley seconded the motion. Discussion: Ms. Miller said Geauga had an event on the square to recognize the drug court and the work they are doing. Mr. Claypool asked if we know what that cost. Mr. Adams said these funds pay for treatment. Mr. Claypool said he has talked with Judge Trebbitts about the process and how many people make it through. The cost is extremely high and the number was low of how many were successful at that time. Mr. Claypool questioned why this is in existence when there are other programs that work better. We should constantly be asking this question. The drug situation has not improved much. Mr. Petruziello suggested we ask for feedback from the court. Mr. Adams said the Board had to apply for the money initially but it is now an allocation. As a part of this year’s funding, the Supreme Court has engaged Wright State University to do research and look at every drug court in Ohio to come up with best practices. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-12; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

Mr. O’Brien would like staff to ask the Prosecutor for an opinion as to whether we need to do a roll call vote for resolutions or if we could do a voice vote.

* 1. **Resolution 21-08-2 Approval of Youth Group Home Funding**

Mr. Adams said these funds were included in the system of care resolution passed in June and is used for services provided at the youth group home administered by Ravenwood Health. Mr. Petruziello asked how many youth are in the home today and how much is the total budget for the home. Ms. Clark said there are probably eight right now. The usual average is between 10 and 12. The annual budget is approximately $900,000. Ms. Bagley said this facility keeps children local which is huge. Ms. Miller moved to approve the Resolution. Mr. Petruziello seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-12; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

* 1. **Resolution 21-08-3 SAMHSA Emergency Covid-19 Crisis Funding Supplemental**

Mr. Adams said Resolutions 3 and 4 go together. Resolution 3 is for the current fiscal year funds received from the Collaborative. Resolution 4 refers to funds received from the state in SFY2021 and extends the time frame to use this pool of funds. Mr. Petruziello asked about the increased amount. Mr. Adams responded that the consortium decided how to use the funds and who could use them. Mr. Claypool asked if the funds could only be used for Covid expenditures. Mr. Adams said the funds can be used for broader purposes, such as emergency services to continue since the state has released the Covid requirement. Mr. Claypool said this is why in Chesterland he is voting no on taking this money because it is going to bankrupt everything. When this was allocated in the first round by the State, an addiction to this money was created. He said Covid has went away and asked to be shown where the new variant is. He objects to this money for that reason.

Ms. Martin-D’Arienzo said there have been 6 overdoses in the first 3 months alone this year, we had 6 for all of 2020, and a 180% increase in 2-1-1 crisis calls for therapy.  These funds will be used for a coordinator in response to the increased need for mental health services and the increase in youth suicides. Mr. Petruziello said Geauga has a health director who is putting out fearmongering information, although virtually nobody is dying from the variant. He thinks this Board should send a clear message to Mr. Quade to keep his personal opinions out of the school and the public domain. Mr. Quade posted that if someone doesn’t get the vaccine, your insurance company should cancel you. Mr. Petruziello said this Board is dealing with the crisis caused by people like him who put fear into others. Mr. Claypool said if we are seeing an increase in services, we should get the funds from other organizations. This is federal funding that is being handed out like candy and we get addicted to this money. This goes back to what the cause is and seeking funding from the appropriate authority. Ms. Martin-D’Arienzo responded that she hears what Mr. Claypool is saying. The concern is that we are past prevention and we need this money right now because we have this problem. How to prevent problems in the future is a different matter.

Mr. Adams said the funds have been used to expand crisis services to the schools. It helps fund a crisis coordinator for the schools to make sure each school has the availability to access services. Virtually every school has been touched with these dollars during a crisis. Mr. Petruziello stated again that one of the root causes of this problem is our health director. He thinks the Board should send a letter about causing people stress and strain and making comments that people should lose their insurance.

Ms. Bagley asked where these funds would go back to if we don’t spend them. Mr. Adams said they would be returned to the Collaborative. Mr. Claypool said we will never have enough money to meet all the needs and we can’t constantly abuse our taxpayers this way. Mr. Mausser said the funds would get redistributed to another county. Ms. Miller called the question and moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Vidmar seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-8; NAYS-4; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

* 1. **Resolution 21-08-4 SAMHSA Emergency Covid-19 Crisis Funds Allocation Date Extension**

Ms. Chokshi moved to approve the Resolution. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. Mr. Adams said this Resolution extends the date for when the funds can be used. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES-11; NAYS-1; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

* 1. **Financial Reports**

Mr. Mausser reported that 82% of the Administrative Budget and $432.00 of the Community Education Budget was spent in SFY2021. The remaining funds will be added to the Board’s unencumbered reserves. He reported that so far in SFY2022, 10.3% of the Administrative Budget has been spent and there were no expenditures from the Community Education Budget. The County Calendar Year budget expenditures were $3,657,856.70 through July. The Unencumbered Balance as of July 31st was $3,618,766.90. Most of the allocations shown on the Cash Balances by Source of Funds are zeroing out for the end of fiscal year, although he won’t close out the accounts until October.

Mr. Claypool asked what the carryover generally is. Mr. Mausser responded that it is about $3.6 Million. Mr. Claypool asked if the Budget Commission has said anything about that balance. Mr. Mausser said the budget hearing is scheduled for the end of September. Mr. Claypool then asked what the run rate is. Mr. Mausser said the unencumbered balance is the run rate and unexpended funds will roll back into that account. Mr. Claypool asked if the monthly expenses are around $300,000. Mr. Mausser said it can vary widely but the average would be around $600,000.

Mr. Mausser reported on the Vouchers for June and July and explained Ravenwood Health’s quarterly payments for crisis, hotline, and other services.

1. **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business discussed.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Fay asked if we have a list of places or the number of people who are on a waiting list for housing. He feels that information would be very helpful to the Board and would include important data. Mr. O’Brien thinks it was sent out to everyone. Ms. Slater will send it out again to make sure everyone does receive it.

Mr. Petruziello asked Mr. Adams if a copy of his book could be made available to the Board. Mr. Adams said he is under obligation with the publisher. It is available online for $495.00. Mr. Petruziello moved that the Board purchase two copies of Mr. Adams’ book. Mr. Claypool seconded the motion. **VOICE VOTE: AYES-12; NAYS-0; ABSTENTIONS-0. MOTION APPROVED.**

Ms. Miller reported that the HUB and its committees are back on track. One of the committees met last week and is working on first responder recognition in September. Another committee is working on programming at the library in October, November and December.

Mr. Claypool said on Tuesday, the Commissioners passed a motion to write a letter to the Health Commissioner regarding the promotion of bad information and the impact it has on this organization. Many townships are doing the same thing. The Geauga Health District Board is meeting next week on Wednesday at 5:00 PM at Building 8. He said this Board is impacted by the decisions of the health board. Their office is still closed to the public. You must make an appointment and have to wear a mask. Mr. Claypool moved that the Board write a letter to the health district board asking that information distributed be based on science and appropriateness. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion.

Discussion: Dr. Oluic said he doesn’t necessarily disagree, but he doesn’t want to be incendiary. Mr. O’Brien would like to see some of what was posted by Mr. Quade, and if true as stated, he would be willing to join in this effort. He asked if this was on Mr. Quade’s personal platform. Mr. Claypool said his values and beliefs are reflected on his page. Mr. O’Brien said if the posts are outside of work on his personal platform, he’s not sure that the group can take any adverse action. Dr. Oluic suggested sending a letter from the Board expressing their concerns.

Mr. Claypool said his commentary is aimed more at health board policies which are directing Bainbridge and West Geauga schools to require masks. Mr. Petruziello said Mr. Quade has the Metropolitan Housing Authority in knots and the schools are in the same situation. Mr. O’Brien said he respects Dr. Oluic enough to have him write a letter that would be sincere. Mr. Claypool said the letter should include the fact that the mental health board is impacted by his decisions and to please use care because his recommendations carry weight.

After discussion, it was decided that Dr. Oluic will draft a letter and send it to the Board tomorrow for feedback. The Board will then hold a special meeting on Monday, August 23rd at 6:00 PM to review and vote on whether or not to send said letter to the Health Commissioner.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Oluic moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Vidmar seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 PM.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

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**Ms. Teresa Slater**

**Secretary/Receptionist**

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**Ms. Jennifer Malainy**

**Chairman of the Board**

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**Ms. Leila Vidmar**

**Secretary of the Board**