

Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board Meeting
January 23, 2023
Minutes

- Present:** Anne Cobbin, Atty. Wm. Scott Fowler, Chief Bob Gavalier, Anna Howells, Brent Kelley, Anne Lally, Pat Sciarretta, Eric Ungaro, and Atty. Thomas Vasvari, Linda Warino, Robert Yallech, and Chelsey Zoldan-Calhoun
- Absent:** Rachel Chmielewski, Arnita Hampton, Bishop C.M. Jenkins, Ruth Mastriana, Bill Morvay, and Sylvia Scott
- Staff:** Duane Piccirilli, Brenda Heidinger, Mark Dunlap, Lee DeVita, Michelle Werth, Marla Golec, Tracy Moracco, and Jessica Makosky
- Guests:** Joe Shorokey (Alta), Tom Sanborn (Neil Kennedy Recovery Center), Suzette Miller (Mercy Health), Jionna Gillins (Mercy Health), Nancy Voitus (Catholic Charities), Jeff Magada (Flying High), Joe Caruso (Compass Family and Community Services), Marie Izzo Cartwright (Neil Kennedy Recovery Center)

Anne Cobbin, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Officer Reports

- **Chair Report**
 - None

17 – 2023: Motion: Linda Warino– to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2022, MCMHRB meeting. Seconded: Eric Ungaro...motion carried.

- **Treasurer Report**
 - Tom Vasvari reviewed the November and December 2022 Blanket List of Bills for the Mahoning County MHR Board. *Balance of General Ledger only reflects the cash balance and does not represent contractual appropriations through the end of SFY22.

18 – 2023: Motion: Tom Vasvari– to approve the November and December 2022 Treasurer’s Report and Blanket List of Bills. Seconded by: Eric Ungaro...motion carried.

Committee Report

- **Community Relations and Marketing Committee- January 9, 2023**
 - Duane reviewed the Community Relations and Marketing Minutes.
 - The committee discussed the upcoming renewal of the levy.
 - The members discussed marketing ideas such as billboards, internet advertisements, commercials, radio advertisements, yard signs, and materials such as pens.
 - The members discussed ways to reach all audiences in the community such as young voters, the Hispanic community, and the elderly.

19 – 2023: Motion: Scott Fowler– to allow the Executive Director to write letter to Mahoning County Commissioners to pass a resolution requesting the County Auditor certify the total tax valuation and dollar amount of revenue of the levy.. Seconded: Eric Ungaro...motion carried.

Executive Director Report

- See attached report
- Diversity Update- Valerie Burney
 - Continued Efforts
 - Working to complete OCPS (Ohio Certified Prevention Specialist Trainings), MHFA and Suicide Prevention Instructor Trainings,
 - Social Determinants of Health Grant in collaboration with Office of Minority Health (Youngstown City Health District)
 - Work with Mahoning County Public Health: Mental Health Information and Resources to Nursing Home Staff, YSU Nursing Students, next to Raphael's Cosmetology students (1/26)
 - Women of Worth Conference at Geneva Lodge in November (Was speaker and provided resources) Speaker/Trainer with Women of Worth Academy (once a month)
 - Worked with CIRV's Victims of Violence Christmas Outreach Program. Delivered Christmas gifts and resources to 12 families.
 - S.O.S. (Saving Our Seniors) Outreach – Upcoming “ We love our Seniors Event” on 2/16-Able to provide toiletries, socks, slippers for bags
 - Able to obtain food vouchers for seniors (Jewish Family Services)
 - Conducted training with City of Columbus Parks and Rec Directors and Staff on 1/20 (provided resources)
 - Upcoming
 - Black History Tributes to Pioneers in Black Mental Health:
 - Bishop Jenkins, Grace Evangelical Church
 - Takiyah Anderson, YUMADAOP
 - Dee Crawford, Community Affairs Director, WKBN
 - Clemate Franklin, new Director Youngstown Parks and REC Department
 - Community Resource Day at the YMCA (similar to Red Ribbon Day) – 3/4/23
- Update on MHRB scholarship criteria
 - The Board members discussed options to expand the criteria of the scholarship.
 - Students must be:
 - African American Mahoning County resident
 - Studying social work or counseling
 - Bachelors or Masters
 - Attending any college or University

23 – 2023: Motion: Eric Ungaro– to expand the MHRB Scholarship criteria to include any African American Mahoning County resident studying social work or counseling, attending any university or college.. Seconded: Chelsey Zoldan-Calhoun...motion carried.

Old Business

- Update on Neil Kennedy Recovery Services
 - Tom Sanborn updated the Board on recent events occurring at the agency.
 - Neil Kennedy Recovery Services is in discussion with Meridian Healthcare with plans for the existing buildings. Meridian HealthCare's Board will meet on January 25, 2023 to discuss their options.
 - All of the clients were smoothly transferred to Meridian or another treatment facility to continue care.
 - Most of the Neil Kennedy staff took employment positions at Meridian.
 - Fellowship Hall will continue to provide recovery meetings.
 - Two of the recovery homes and the Rush Blvd building were vandalized on 1/23, currently working with police and insurance.

New Business

- Rehire retired Board Probate Atty. Sam Amendolara effective February 1, 2023

20 – 2023: Motion: Anna Howells– to rehire Board Probate Atty. Sam Amendolara.. Secoded: Linda Warino...motion carried.

- Lease Agreements for Contract Agencies

21 – 2023: Motion: Scott Fowler– to approve 3 year lease agreements for contract agencies.. Secoded: Pat Sciaretta...motion carried.

- Lease Agreement for MHRB Office Space

22 – 2023: Motion: Anna Howells– to give the Executive Director authorization to extend the MHRB office lease for 5 years..Secoded: Eric Ungaro...motion carried.

- Housing Service Plan- Tracy Plouck
 - Duane advised the Board that after speaking with Anne Cobbin, Chair, he had signed the agreement for Tracy Plouck to conduct a housing survey and service plan in an amount less than \$8,000. This agreement is in conjunction with NAMI Ohio, Terry Russell Housing Initiative, which will pay half the cost.

Board Member Remarks

- None

Agency Remarks:

- Joe Shorokey, Alta, The addition to the 711 Belmont Ave location has begun. The 108 W Western Reserve Road Boardman/Poland location will have an open house on February 1, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Joe Caruso, Compass Family and Community Services, the agency received their CARF accreditation with only 2 recommended changes out of 2000+ standards. Joe has been attending the Youngstown Metropolitan Housing Authority meetings. Lamont at YMHA is committed to creating more affordable housing in the community. Compass has an emergency response team that is activated by the YPD. They have responded to 5 cases this year. These cases

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involve families who have experienced extreme traumas. They have referred the children involved in these cases to Alta.

- Nancy Voitus, Catholic Charities, is opening a second Voice of Hope shelter for women. It will be located in the former Daybreak building that they are leasing from Compass.
- Jeff Magada, Flying High, the Mahoning Valley Mobile Market serviced over 4,000 customers in the community since its launch in May. The mobile market has been well received by the community and he thanked the Board for all of their support. Flying High is using capital funds to build a 10 bed Recovery House on Bissel Ave and Bryson St. They hope to begin providing services in the spring. They are also working on the Kensington Ave and Bryson St location to provide job skill training.
- Suzette Miller, Mercy Health, Mercy is renovating the old VA building on Belmont Ave into an addiction recovery outpatient unit which should open in February 2023. Mercy is partnering with Lifepoint Health to open a new adult 72 bed mental health hospital. Mercy will be a 51% owner of this hospital, which will be operated by Lifepoint Health.

The next Board meeting will be held on February 27, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Minutes reported by:

Minutes recorded by:



Anna Howells
Secretary

Jessica Makosky
Accounts Clerk

Directors Report
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Street Outreach workers for Catholic Charites.

I have requested two street outreach workers from the State of Ohio PATH project that will focus on homelessness of people with possible drug and alcohol issues. If approved the positions will be funded for two years and placed at Catholic Charites, but will work closely with the Youngstown Health Department throughout the city. There is no local funding with this expansion.

Indigent Funding

The project with Mercy Health and our Board using a state allocation to divert people from the state hospital to Mercy continues to go well. We requested \$100,000 for the second half of the fiscal year and were informed we will receive \$68,800. This is less than the first half, but continues to be a great resource. This started as a safety net during COVID but the department is continuing it. It is best to keep people local if possible, and it provides another resource for Mercy Health.

The Terry Russell Housing Initiative

We had an outstanding meeting with Terry Russell, he is the Senior Advisor to the Ohio Branch of the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio. At the meeting held at our office we had representatives from Adult Care Facilities, OhioMHAS, The City of Youngstown and the County Continuum of Care, as well as board staff. Terry Russell has agreed to provide the board with a consultant to assist us in developing housing of all types. He also is working independently with local Adult Care Facilities about expanding in Mahoning County. He mentioned Tracy Plouck former director of OHMHAS as a possible consultant.

Brenda and I arranged for Tracy Plouck to meet with our primary providers and our Board staff members to discuss the potential consulting project. Tracy submitted a proposal, which is attached. I consulted with Anne Cobbin and we both agreed to move forward with the project. Lee will be coordinating it for the MCMHRB Board. NAMI will cover 50% of the cost.

State Highway Patrol

We supplied them with 100 copies of our Board brochures, 211 cards and contact sheets that we use for police training. They want to be able to provide them to people that they pull over if they believe there is an issue with drugs or alcohol for a referral. The 211 cards are helpful for all types of social services.

Monitoring of all property owned by the board and all capital projects funded by OhioMHAS

Lee will begin an annual inspection of the three facilities owned by the MCMHR Board which are Compasses' offices located on Youngstown Poland Road, Horizon House on South Ave, and The Community Center located on Fifth Avenue. In addition, all the capital projects funded by the state must be reviewed annually. There are 25 projects. A requirement of the capital grants is that, in addition to the need to continue providing mental health or addiction services the organization must maintain the property.

OhioMHAS Match Funds for Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) Supportive Housing Program (SHP) Grant

OhioMHAS has awarded the YWCA Barbara Wick Transitional Home \$28,000 to contribute to the 50% match requirement outlined in ODOD SHP application. These funds have been awarded for the funding category of Permanent Supportive Housing to initiate/maintain housing

program(s) for persons experiencing homelessness with a mental illness, substance use disorder and/or co-occurring disorder

Loss/Doss Team Update

We have received three referrals for support services to families from the Coroner's investigators (2 DOSS and 1LOSS). Team members were contacted in each case and follow-up was completed, with each of the 3 families.

Lowellville School Support

Alta Staff continue to work with the Lowellville Community as well as Cornerstone of Hope. Cornerstone is a Cleveland based agency funded in part through a grant we received from the Ohio Foundation of Suicide Prevention Program. Our staff also took part in a meeting with Lowellville School Staff and OhioMHAS leadership at Lowellville. The department has offered to provide funding for ongoing support for five years. I will update the board at the meeting.

Annual Supervision and Ethics Training

Our board has contracted with Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation to have Jayne Bonfini, PhD, Master Trainer Consultant, to do the training. Jayne has extensive experience and expertise in the field of mental health and substance use. The Zoom presentation will be held on March 15th 2023. There will be three hours of CEUs for Supervision and Three CEU's for Ethics. The cost will be \$25 for funded agencies of the board and county employees. \$50 for everyone else. Board members are free. Please see attached save the date which has been sent out to the community.

Black History Month Spots

Valerie Burney will once again be coordinating this event, which will utilize local leaders in PSA spots which will run on local TV stations and social media. Bishop Jenkins will represent the MCMHR Board, we will also have a city employee, county employee, someone from education, as well as the medical field

Save the Dates:

March 27th-30th CIT Class

March 15th Ethic and Supervision Training