

The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Allen, Auglaize, and Hardin Counties Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., at the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board Office in Lima, OH.

**Members Present:** Aaron McLaurine, Mary Early, Priscilla Burt, Amber Martin, Jody Shaw, Barb Link, Chad Dunlap, Robert Warren, Brooke Featheringham, Tracy Wright, Tyler Smith, Jim Bronder

**Members Absent:** Amy Freymuth, Arlett Pollock-Evans, Kim Everhart

**Staff:** Tammie Colon, Kelly Monroe, Sheri Strawn, Amy Morman, Katie Walker, Trisha Smith

**Visitors:** Melissa Hauenstein, Mercy OBOT; Rick Skilliter and Beth Miller, PASS; John Bindas, Amy Miller and Larry James FRC; Judy Lester and Michelle Stockwell, SAFY; Melanie Woods, Mercy Health; Margaret Lawrence, Coleman Health Services; Brooke Sites, Lighthouse; Chelsea Rue, Brightview, Matt Bell

Jim Bronder called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Amy Morman gave the Oath of Office to Tyler Smith for his new term on the Board.

Barb Link made a motion to approve the July 19, 2023, minutes with Chad Dunlap seconding. Motion passed. (See attached)

Tammie introduced Trisha Smith as our new Office Manager.

**Presentation:** N/A

### **New Business**

Robert Warren made a motion to amend the FY2023 We Care Regional Quality Recovery Housing contract by an additional \$30,061. Russ overspent on his contract this year, and the Board is making him whole, however the Board has created a spreadsheet for him so that he will always know what his balance is when he submits his expenses each month to decrease the likelihood of overspending in FY24. Tyler Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed by roll call vote. (See attached)

Mary Early made a motion to amend the FY2023 Purchase of Service budget by an additional \$5,600. These funds were additional funds from the state for Indigent Patients for local private hospitals such as Mercy Health. Aaron McLaurine seconded the motion. Motion passed by roll call vote. (See attached)

Barb Link made a motion to amend the FY2024 Purchase of Service budget by an additional \$205,000 and not to exceed \$3,252,377. The breakdown is as follows:

- \$70,000 is for the Allen County Sheriff for medically assisted treatment navigation services in the jail.
- \$85,000 is for a work study program with The Ohio State University allowing us to provide paid internships to students who agree to work along side our current School Navigators providing additional support to the schools and gain interest in the Community Behavioral Health field.

- \$50,000 is for coordination of student interns providing school navigation services. These funds will benefit students to develop their continued education and keep them in our behavioral health system. The initiative will target juniors in college that are focusing on social work, and this will allow them to do internships through OSU. The funds will be paid to the university and be applied to the students' accounts. The state recently announced their Great Minds initiative which is a similar statewide model to what we have developed locally. We are looking at how to connect students with this program to preserve the use of local dollars when we are able. Allen County JFS will also be contributing through various programs available to youth working in Allen County under Ohio Means Jobs. Mary Early seconded the motion. Motion passed by roll call vote. (See attached)

Aaron McLaurine made a motion to approve the Monthly Board Reports for June and July 2023 as presented. Priscilla Burt seconded the motion. Motion passed by roll call vote. (See attached)

## Reports

Bills for Payment: Bills for payment were recognized and signed off by the present board members for the period of July 20, 2023 – August 10, 2023.

### Legislative Report:

Tammie reported that there are several bills being considered that impact our field:

One proposed bill will require Boards to oversee the operation of crisis centers and mobile crisis teams in collaboration with the 9-8-8 administrator. Sets wireless charge at 10 cents per pre-paid customer and specifics authorized uses of revenue which includes the hiring of staff at local alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services boards and the department of mental health and addiction services to oversee the 9-8-8 hotline and assist the 9-8-8 administrator.

Senate Bill 9 is being considered for Medical Marijuana to become a treatment option for opioid use disorders. This bill would add opioid use disorder to “qualifying medical conditions” as well as any condition that a physician find would be relieved by medical marijuana commerce. This bill also includes additional oversight to monitor this change in treatment method.

HB82 School Coaches is proposed to require school athletic coaches to complete a mental health training course approved by Ohio MHAS.

Levy: Talking points for September meeting: Tammie will be sharing talking points to provide community education about the board and the services it funds in preparation of our upcoming levy in the coming days. We are gearing up for the Levy renewal to be on the ballot in November. She explained that you can't persuade folks to vote “Yes” but you can provide education on how it supports community behavioral health services.

901 South Main – surveyed: Garmann Miller, who is the architect the board has contracted with, will be surveying this property to explore the feasibility of the project we are considering for. We are not sure if this property will be large enough for what we want to do.

Overdose Awareness grant: The Board will be receiving \$15,000 from the state to promote Overdose Awareness. We are going to promote it through billboards, an Overdose Awareness Day event will take place on the square in Lima on August 31<sup>st</sup>, Kenton Health Department will be having an event in

September which PASS is working with them on now. The board partners with Activate Allen County to provide information and resources at their block parties, including naloxone distribution.

September is Suicide Awareness and Prevention month. Each county has a suicide coalition working on a plan to raise awareness in their community. In Hardin Co., they will be joining forces with ONU at their Glo Run/Walk on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Allen County is planning a Suicide Remembrance walk on September 30<sup>th</sup> from 10-12 at the Ottawa Metro Park. Auglaize County is working on various other projects for suicide awareness.

Veterans Booth at Allen County Fair: The Veterans reached out to us to see if we would like to set up shop with them at the Allen County Fair to provide local resources and support to local veterans.

Tammie mentioned that she reached out to an individual for the Crisis position. This individual is to let her know by tomorrow August 17, 2023. If that person is not interested, we will be posting this position.


Tammie also mentioned the Board is purchasing an App from Ascend that will allow the Board to communicate with individuals who sign up to receive notifications regarding increase potential of overdose and other public health updates. There will be research, articles and upcoming events on this App as well.

**Next Meeting**

Next board meeting will be held on September 20, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the Board office in person.

**Adjourn**

Chad Dunlap made a motion to adjourn at 10:00 a.m. with Priscilla Burt seconding. Motion passed.

  
Board Member

  
Reporting Secretary