
**MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY BOARD
BELMONT-HARRISON-MONROE COUNTIES**

Minutes of APRIL 15, 2025

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.

Members Present: John Carr, Joe Hise, Jacquelyn Knight, Naoma Kolgedy, James Leos, Richard Schenk, Joe Vavra, Nicole Weigand, Stephen Williams, Debra Yeater, Jayme Yonak

Members Absent: Lisa Carpenter, Caitlyn Romshak

Staff Present: Lisa Ward, Wendy McKivitz, Patricia Allen, Leann Cline, Lisa Jones, Rachel Scott-Roth, Judi Hanse

Preliminary

1. Chairperson Debra Yeater called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. Executive Secretary Judi Hanse called the roll of members. It was noted that a quorum was present.
3. Board Meeting Agenda – April 15, 2025 – **Naoma Kolgedy made a motion, seconded by Jacquelyn Knight to approve the April 15, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.** (copy attached)
4. Board Meeting Minutes – March 18, 2025 – **Richard Schenk made a motion, seconded by Naoma Kolgedy to approve the March 18, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.** (copy attached)

Finance Reports - Chief Financial Officer

1. **Presentation of Bills (April):** Ms. McKivitz presented the bills for the Board system for April totaling \$343,702.54. She reviewed the vouchers for payment. **Richard Schenk made a motion, seconded by Joe Vavra, to approve the April bills totaling \$343,702.54. The motion passed unanimously.** (copy attached)
2. **FY2024 and FY2025 Financial Reports**
 - a. **FY2025 Budget vs Actual Report – Board Revenue and Expenditures, and Cash Balance –** Ms. McKivitz presented the financial reports for FY2025 Board Budget vs Actual Report through March.
 - b. **FY2025 Budget vs Actual Report – Contracts and Services** - Ms. McKivitz presented the financial report for FY2025 Contract and Services Budget vs Actual Report through March.
 - c. **CY2025 Monthly Expenditure Report** - Ms. McKivitz presented the CY2025 Monthly Revenue and Appropriation Expenditures Report. This report shows the funding expenditures for the calendar year through December, 2024. **John Carr made a motion, seconded by Joe Hise to accept the Financial Reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.**

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3. Certification of funds R-2310-S049-S08.501 \$2,557,750.00 – Ms. McKivitz reviewed the certification of funds with the Board Members. **Jacquelyn Knight made a motion, seconded by Jayme Yonak to approve the Certification of funds for \$2,557,750.00. The motion passed unanimously.**
4. Additional Appropriation E-2310-S049-S54.011 \$2,557,750.00 Ms. McKivitz explained the additional appropriation with the Board Members. **John Carr made a motion, seconded by Jayme Yonak to approve the additional appropriation of \$2,557,750.00. The motion passed unanimously.**
5. Additional Appropriation E-2310-S049-S67.055 \$390,000.00 - Ms. McKivitz explained the additional appropriation with Board Members. **Richard Schenk made a motion, seconded by Nicole Weigand to approve the additional appropriation of \$390,000.00 and purchase of building at 104 Newell Avenue for \$390,000.00. The motion passed unanimously.**
6. Transfer Appropriation E-2310-S049-S63.000 to E-2310-S049-S60.003 \$1,430.16 Ms. McKivitz explained the Transfer Appropriation with the Board Members. **Stephen Williams made a motion, seconded by Jayme Yonak to approve the transfer appropriation of \$1,430.16. The motion passed unanimously.**

Community Partnerships/Announcements - Director Patricia Allen

1. Community Updates
 - a. Bipartisan Safer Community Act Grant\CISM Training – Ms. Allen stated that a Group Crisis Intervention & Assisting Individuals in Crisis program will be held on May 12, 13 & 14, 2025. This 3-day training will be from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Participants will gain skills to handle crisis professionally. This training will be helpful for Clinicians, EMS, Prevention, Peace Officers and Law Enforcement.

Executive Director's Report – Lisa Ward

1. **General Service and System Updates**
 - a. **Crisis Services** - Ms. Ward updated the Board on the recent efforts to facilitate access to inpatient care considering the recent closing of EORH. The closing of the EORH emergency room has left the county health officers with two options for medical clearance of both voluntary and involuntary clients. WVU Barnesville, and WVU Harrison, both of which have limited capacity in their respective emergency room departments. Ms. Ward and the Chief Officer of Coleman Health Services Kasey Osselborn met with administration from WVU Hospital - Reynolds and Wheeling - and are going to be working closely together on emergency room clearances and care coordination after discharge. Ms. Ward will also be attending a meeting with the Belmont County EMS and First responders on Wednesday April 17th at 6:00pm to hear concerns from the group and offer opportunities to partnership to ensure that our residents get access to emergency psychiatric inpatient care.

Ms. Ward met with representatives from the Administration of St. Clairsville Schools to discuss additional opportunities to bring free and available resources and services to the school district.

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This meeting was held on March 19th and Director Ward has not received any follow-up to date. NAMI, Julie Gomez Executive Director and staff also met with school officials and offered support and services to the school district on Thursday, April 10th.

b. Roundtables for Mental Health Awareness in the Community - Ms. Ward has called together a group of community providers to assist in the development of planning a series of roundtable discussions in Belmont County.

An invited audience will have the opportunity to provide feedback on what is going well and what needs to be better in the areas of mental health awareness, stigma and access to care. Ms. Ward spoke with OhioMHAS Director LeAnn Coryn who offered her team's assistance with the planning of these community-wide meetings. We will be connecting with Kevin Rigby, Prevention Program Specialist in the Office of Community and Family Resiliency on April 21, 2025. They will help navigate our work around a survey, gap analyses, and recommendations to support our counties with growing suicide prevention efforts.

c. State Budget and Legislative Update - House Passes Biennial Budget – HB 96 - On April 9th, the Ohio House of Representatives debated the state's biennial operating budget bill, Amended Substitute House Bill 96, before voting 60-39 to pass the bill along to the Senate. The final vote was largely on party lines, with Republican Representatives Dean, Gross, Ferguson, Stephens and Teska joining all the Democrats in opposing the bill. The bill will now officially move to the Senate for consideration, where the Senate Finance Committee has already begun unofficial hearings on the measure. The Senate is expecting to have a floor vote on their version of the bill by June 11. A conference committee will follow, with a vote on the conference report expected by June 25. The General Assembly must complete their work, and the Governor sign the bill, along with his veto message, by the end of the day on June 30, for the bill to be in place for the start of the new fiscal year on July 1.

SB 138 Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services Laws Hearing - SB 138 had a proponent hearing in the Senate Addiction and Community Revitalization Committee on Wednesday April 9th. OACBHA provided proponent testimony in support of the bill along with Teresa Lampl from the Ohio Council, and representatives from Ohio Alliance of Recovery Providers, Ohio Children's Alliance, and Ohio Community Corrections Association. Members of the Committee thanked those testifying for the work that occurred to get to a place of mutual support for the bill. We anticipate that the next hearing will be scheduled after the legislature returns from their two-week spring break.

HB 28 Elimination of Replacement Levies - HB 28 proposes to remove the option of putting a replacement levy on the ballot after October 1 of this year. The bill was passed in the House on March 19th after moving rapidly through the House Ways and Means Committee. It had its first hearing in the Senate Ways and Means Committee this week. It is unclear how quickly the bill will move in the Senate or whether it will be amended into the budget bill.

d. State Forensic Navigators - OhioMHAS is in the process of hiring Forensic Mental Health Navigators. This was one of the recommendations from the Governor's Work Group on Competency Restoration and Diversion. They will have the unique ability to leverage their knowledge and experience working in behavioral health systems to inform case navigation,

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remove barriers, and fill gaps as individuals navigate between courts, jails, communities, and RPHs. The FMHN will not directly provide treatment, but will understand treatment and court systems, including how to access, advocate, and navigate effectively with the overall intention of helping individuals navigate to the right environment for the right level of treatment in the most efficient manner possible. These positions will be employed by the RPHs and serve by hospital regions.

e. Liberty Manor Update - The Eastern Alliance COG was not able to come to an agreement with Perry Behavioral Health Services on the proposed operational facility budget for Liberty Manor. The COG is now working with Terry Russell and the Ohio Adult Care Facility Association to secure a provider for the facility by June 30th, 2025. Director Ward will be meeting with the COG and potential operators on Thursday April 17th at 11:30pm.

f. Community Champion Awards 2025 - This year's receipts for the 2025 Community Champion Awards will be the following individuals:

Multi-County: Marsha Woods, MSW, LISW-S, LICSW, ICGC-1 The Village Network IHBT Clinical Supervisor

Monroe County: Health Department Linda Masters - Administrator; Annie Worthington - Health Commissioner

Harrison County: Beverly Peach, President & CEO Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Central Ohio

Belmont County: Belmont County Coroner Dr. Amanda K. Fisher

A luncheon will be held on Tuesday May 6th at 12:00pm.

g. Board Membership Update

Executive Director Ward informed the Board that Jimmy Leos will term out in June of 2025.

We also have a need to fill in the following open membership slots:

- Belmont County Commissioners
- Mental Health Clinician -OhioMHAS
- Mental Health Family Member OhioMHAS
- AOD Clinician – OhioMHAS
- AOD Consumer- OhioMHAS

New Business

1. Nominations for Board Officers Meeting will be held Tuesday, May 13th at 5:30pm. Ms. Ward stated that the Nominating Board Membership Committee will meet. Representatives on that committee are: Jacquelyn Knight; John Carr; Naoma Kolkedy; Debra Yeater; Jayme Yonak
2. Belmont County Levy November 4, 2025. Ms. Ward commented that she is completing the paperwork for the renewal levy. **Joe Vavra made a motion, seconded by Jayme Yonak to authorize and direct the Executive Director and staff to submit the resolution of necessity seeking a renewal levy of 1.25 mills on November 4th, 2025 general election ballot and request certification from the Belmont County Auditor pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.03. The motion passed unanimously.**

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3. May is Mental Health Month Proclamation: Ms. Ward presented the Proclamation to the Board for proclaiming May is Mental Health Month. Richard Schenk made a motion, seconded by Naoma Kolkedy to approve the Mental Health Month proclamation for May, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Virtual Meeting Policy #01.02.04 - Ms. Ward reviewed the Virtual Meeting Policy with the Board Members. Jacquelyn Knight made a motion, seconded by Naoma Kolkedy to approve the Virtual Meeting Policy as presented effective April 16, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Health Officer for Coleman Health Services – Ms. Ward state that a new employee at Coleman Health Services has applied as Health Officer. Joe Hise made a motion, seconded by Jacquelyn Knight to approve Julia Przybysz LISW-S as a Health Officer for Belmont, Harrison and Monroe Counties. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

1. Board Committee List Review and Update – Ms. Ward reviewed the Board Committee List with the Board Members and asked if anyone wanted to add to a new committee or change there committee choice to feel free to let her know.
2. Update on Office Property at 104 Newell Avenue – Ms. Ward reported that she has been in contact with the St. Clairsville Board of Zoning Appeals in regards to the property located at 104 Newell Avenue. She will be meeting with the Board next week.

Ms. McKivitz commented that there will be a Finance Committee on Monday, May 12, 2025, at the MHR Board Office at 5:30 p.m. Representatives on that committee are: Richard Schenk; James Leos; Debra Yeater; John Carr; Joe Vavra; Naoma Kolkedy; Lisa Carpenter; Steve Williams.

Public Comment

There was none.

Adjournment - At 6:25 p.m., Richard Schenk made a motion, seconded by Naoma Kolkedy, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Debra Kaye Yeater

Debra Yeater, Chairperson

Jacquelyn Knight

Jacquelyn Knight, Vice-Chairperson

NEXT BOARD MEETING: TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025