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

Minutes of JULY 15, 2025

Tuesday, July 15, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.

Members Present: John Carr, Joe Hise, Jacquelyn Knight, Lori Mann, Richard Schenk, Joe Vavra, Stephen Williams, Debra Yeater, Jayme Yonak

Members Absent: Lisa Carpenter, Naoma Kolkedy, Caitlyn Romshak, Nicole Weigand

Staff Present: Lisa Ward, Wendy McKivitz, Patricia Allen, Lisa Jones, Judi Hanse

Preliminary

1. In the absence of the Chairperson, the meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m. by Vice-Chairperson Jacquelyn Knight.
2. Oath of Office – Lori Mann – OhioMHAS – Oath of Office was administered by Board Member Joe Vavra
3. Executive Secretary Judi Hanse called the roll of members. It was noted that a quorum was present.
3. Board Meeting Agenda – July 15, 2025 – **Debra Yeater made a motion, seconded by Joe Vavra to approve the July 15, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.** (copy attached)
4. Board Meeting Minutes – June 17, 2025 – **Debra Yeater made a motion, seconded by Jayme Yonak to approve the June 17, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.** (copy attached)

Finance Reports - Chief Financial Officer

1. **Presentation of Bills (July):** Ms. McKivitz presented the bills for the Board system for June totaling \$316,134.91. She reviewed the vouchers for payment. **Steve Williams made a motion, seconded by John Carr, to approve the July bills totaling \$316,134.91. The motion passed unanimously.** (copy attached)
2. **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 June.
 - b. **FY2025 Budget vs Actual Report – Contracts and Services -** Ms. McKivitz presented the financial reports for FY2025 Contracts and Services through June.
 - c. **CY2025 Actual Expenditures – Board Level -** Ms. McKivitz presented the financial report for CY2025 Actual Expenditures – Board Level through June.
Joe Vavra made a motion, seconded by Richard Schenk to accept the Financial Reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Certification of Funds – ARPA Construction** - Ms. McKivitz stated the need for the Certification of Funds to Coleman Health Services for R-2310-S049-S08.501. **Richard Schenk made a motion, seconded by Debra Yeater to approve the certification of \$2,016,500.00. The motion passed unanimously.**

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4. Additional Appropriation – Ms. McKivitz explained the additional appropriation for the ARPA Construction pass through funding to Coleman Healthcare. **Richard Schenk made a motion, seconded by Joe Vavra to approve the additional appropriation of \$2,016,500.00 for E-2310-S049-S54.011 Contract Services. The motion passed unanimously.**

Director Systems of Care – Patricia Allen

1. **Community Roundtables Update** – Ms. Allen stated that the Community Roundtable Meetings were held in the Belmont County locations such as St. Clairsville, Martins Ferry, Barnesville, Powhatan Point, Colerain, (was to be Bellaire but no one showed to let in so held a brief meeting on the street). St. Clairsville reps from John Husted and Sec. of State's office, and Frank Hoagland attended. Other notables: Wilson funeral home, school counselor for Harrison, acting dean OUE, parent/community member who lost son to suicide, and a local pastor attended. Also in attendance was NAMI, CARES, TCHC, SE, Neuro, DD/Cluster, FCFC, Coleman, HD, ESC, Belmont County Commissioner Dutton, Ohio Hills, and MHR Board member Jacquelyn Knight.

Takeaways: Lack of knowledge about local resources, even from professionals; challenges in navigating the system; childcare and work obligations; fear recurring theme.... Not know what to say, where to refer, or how person may act or react; understanding that MI and SUD are brain disorders/disease, shame associated with having illness and seeking treatment

Future planning: Connecting with faith community; partnering with Wilson Funeral home (education/support); increase public awareness ("Just Say No" approach); identifying "informal" community leaders; outreach to non-traditional sites (food pantries, libraries, etc.); training of support staff; transportation: "instead of them coming to us, why don't we go to them?"

2. **3rd and 4th Quarter Strategic Plan Update** – Ms. Allen reviewed Quarter 3 & 4 of the FY25 Strategic Plan with the Board Members.
3. **Overdose Awareness Day 2025** – Ms. Allen stated that the MHR Board was awarded \$20,000, partnering with CARES, and all 3 county Health Department's for events. A meeting on Friday for planning and coordination. Monroe County is scheduled for Thursday, August 28, 2025, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Riesbeck's Parking Lot Woodsfield.

Executive Director's Report – Lisa Ward

1. General Service and System Updates
 - a. **FY2026 State Allocations Formula** – Ms. Ward commented that the allocations from the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health were finalized after the signing of the biennial budget by Governor DeWine on June 30th. The Department shared their formula for the block grant allocations which included 9 different data points for calculation with population size accounting for 40% of the allocation within each of the separate block grants. As of today, few are still waiting on a few of the federal grant allocations to be

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determined.

- b. **2025 Levy Update** – Ms. Ward updated the Board Members regarding the MHR Board’s upcoming levy. The Belmont County Renewal Levy motion to proceed has been filed with the Belmont County Board of Elections. The levy committee will meet in August to review marketing materials and proposed strategies for the campaign.
- c. **Community Capital Plan Request for 2027-2032** – Ms. Ward informed the Board that a Community Capital Plan Request was submitted to the Department of Behavioral Health for one million dollars to support the construction and development of 24 permanent supportive housing units in Washing County. These housing units would be open to any Belmont, Harrison and Monroe County residents meeting eligibility criteria. This project would be in collaboration with the Washington County Mental Health and Recovery Board, the Muskingum area Board, NAMI Ohio and New Housing Ohio.
- d. **HB 96 Biennial Budget Veto Override Votes** – Ms. Ward shared the letters she sent to Representative Ferguson and Representative Moore urging them not to support the override votes of the Governor’s vetoes of property tax revisions that were included in HB 96. If the vote is successful to override the Governor’s vetoes, it could disrupt local mental health and substance abuse services in our counties and across the State of Ohio.
- e. **Country Garden Manor contract update** – Ms. Ward informed the Board members that the Department of Behavioral Health has proposed a contract for the operations of Country Garden Manor that has an increased cost of \$ 300,000.00 for fiscal year 2026. The Eastern Alliance Council Of Governments is meeting with Attorney David Moser to determine how to move forward.

New Business

- 1. **New Housing Ohio dba Liberty Manor Contract** - Ms. Ward reviewed the FY2026 contract for Liberty Manor. **Steve Williams made a motion, seconded by Jayme Yonak to approve the New Housing Ohio Contract dba Liberty Manor for up to \$399,360.00. The motion passed unanimously.**
- 2. **Coleman Health Services 1ST Amendment Contract FY2026** – - Ms. Ward reviewed the first^t FY2026 contract amendment for Coleman Health Services. **Joe Hise made a motion, seconded by Joe Vavra to approve the 1st Amendment to the FY2026 Coleman Health Services Contract for up to \$125,000.00 for the purchase of inpatient services in Ohio for residents of Belmont, Harrison and Monroe Counties. The motion passed unanimously.**

Old Business

- 1. **Building at 99 North Sugar Street** – Ms. Ward reported that the realtor plans to hold an Open House on July 20th at the building.

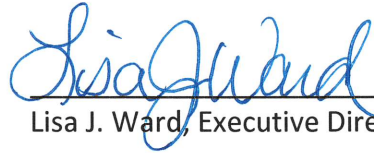
Public Comment

There was none.

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Adjournment - At 6:32 p.m., Richard Schenk made a motion, seconded by Joe Vavra, to adjourn the July 15, 2025 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.



Lisa J. Ward, Executive Director



Caitlyn Romshak, Chairperson



Jacquelyn Knight, Vice-Chairperson