

Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board Meeting  
September 28, 2020  
Minutes – via Zoom video/conference Call

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- Present: Jim Bertrando , Marilyn Burns, Anne Cobbin, Victor Daprile, Rocco DiGennaro, Atty. Wm. Scott Fowler, Bill Gambrel, Anna Howells, Anne Lally, Sylvia Little-Scott, Ruth Mastriana, William Morvay, Sue Paluga, Eric Ungaro, Atty. Thomas Vasvari, and Linda Warino
- Absent: Chief Bob Gavalier and Bishop C.M. Jenkins
- Staff: Duane Piccirilli, Brenda Heidinger, Mark Dunlap, and Jessica Makosky
- Guests: Vince Brancaccio, Mandy Shina, Darla Gallagher, Suzette Miller, Carolyn Givens, and Joe Shorokey

Anne Lally, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**08 – 2021: Motion: Thomas Vasvari – to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2020, MCMHRB meeting. Seconded: Anne Cobbin...motion carried.**

**Officer Reports**

**A. Chair Report**

- Resignation of Pat Sciaretta and Carl Alexander.

**B. Treasurer Report**

- In the absence of Bob Gavalier, Treasurer, Mark Dunlap, reviewed the Treasurer's report for July 2020 and August 2020 for the Mahoning County MHR Board. He also reviewed the Blanket List of Bills for July and August 2020. \*Balance of General Ledger only reflects the cash balance and does not represent contractual appropriations through the end of SFY20.

**09 – 2020: Motion: Anne Cobbin – to approve the July 2020 and August 2020 Treasurer's Reports as well as the Blanket List of Bills for July and August 2020. Seconded by: Eric Ungaro...motion carried.**

**Committee Reports**

- Ways and Means Committee (September 21, 2020)
  - Support the application of Oh Wow! to OhioMHAS in the amount of \$75,000.00 in Resiliency grant funds.
  - Accept the Specialty Docket grant funding from OhioMHAS for Judge Sweeney's Mental Health Court in the amount of \$5,172 and provide funds to the court.
  - Increase the ceiling amount that Duane can approve without prior Board approval from \$5,000.00 to \$22,000.00 for CARES funding.
  - Discussion of increasing the Executive Directors purchase authorization without prior Board Authorization.

**10 – 2020: Motion: Thomas Vasvari – to approve the Oh Wow Resiliency grant application to OhioMHAS in the amount of \$75,000.00. Seconded by: Anne Lally...motion carried.**

**11 – 2020: Motion: Anna Howells – to approve the Specialty Docket grant funding for Judge Sweeney’s Mental Health Court of \$5,172.00. Seconded by: William Morvay...motion carried.**

**12 – 2020: Motion: William Morvay – to approve increasing the ceiling amount of CARES funding that Duane can approve without prior Board approval from \$5,000.00 to \$22,000.00. Seconded by: Anne Lally...motion carried.**

**13 – 2020: Motion: Linda Warino– to approve an increase in the amount the Executive Director can spend without prior Board authorization from \$5,000 to \$25,000.00. Spending must be reported to the Board at the next meeting. This motion will be reviewed annually by the Board. Seconded by: Marilyn Burns...motion carried.**

#### **Executive Director Report**

- See attached report
- Duane and Brenda will have a meeting with Mercy Health leadership and OhioMHAS on 9/30/20 to discuss the fall projected potential suicide spikes due to COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **Old Business**

- None

#### **New Business**

- Add to the existing MHRB Sunshine Law Policy the following statement regarding public comments at board meetings.
  - While the Ohio Open Meeting Act does not require a public body to allow public comment, the Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board Chair will consider all written requests for comment and determine if and when they will be heard.

**14 – 2020: Motion: Marilyn Burns – to add public comment statement to MHRB Sunshine Law Policy Seconded by: Thomas Vasvari...motion carried.**

- Add COVID-19 Coronavirus Sick Time Policy Addendum to MHRB Personnel Manual.

**15 – 2020: Motion: Anna Howells – to add COVID-19 Coronavirus Sick Time Policy Addendum to MHRB Personnel Manual Seconded by: Anne Cobbin...motion carried.**

- Appointment of Health Officers
  - Change Susan Flora- Burnett, LSW - from Compass Family and Community Services (as currently listed) to Catholic Charities Regional Agency

**16 – 2020: Motion: Bill Gambrel – to approve the change in Health Officer Susan Flora-Burnett LSW from Compass Family and Community Services to Catholic Charities Regional Seconded by: Thomas Vasvari...motion carried.**

#### **Board Remarks**

- None

#### **Provider Remarks**

- Joe Shorokey, Alta Care Group invites the Board to the Campus of Care opening at 10:00 a.m. on Friday October 2, 2020. Alta was given the full amount of their resiliency grant, they are utilizing it for fixing the gym floor, IT and phone systems He reminded Board of the work going on for the Ohio RISE (resilience through

Integrated Systems and Excellence) Medicaid managed care initiative. A focus of this program will be on youth mobile crisis response and care coordination.

- Vince Brancaccio, of Help Network reports there were 2500 calls a week at the peak of the pandemic. Currently they are receiving 1500 calls weekly. This was a 132% increase, a 25% increase in Mahoning County, 36% of them are suicide related calls. They are seeing a lot of calls are requesting food assistance.
- Carolyn Givens, reported that Neil Kennedy is working on a Zen garden at their facility which will be dedicated to Jerry Carter, former Director. They have experienced a small decline in their census. A new CEO, CFO and IT Director are all being hired by Gateway (parent organization). They continue to raise funds for the new wing at the Rush Blvd. location. Fellowship Hall is still closed and they hope to reopen it by the end of October.

**16A – 2020: Motion: Thomas Vasvari – to nominate William Morvary to fill the Member at Large Position on the Executive Committee vacated by resignation of Patricia Sciaretta. Seconded by: Anna Howells...motion carried.**

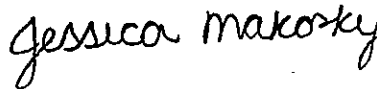
The meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Minutes reported by:



Ruth Mastriana  
Secretary

Minutes recorded by:



Jessica Makosky  
Accounts Clerk