

Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board Meeting  
October 24, 2022  
Minutes

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- Present:** Rachel Chmielewski, Atty. Wm. Scott Fowler, Chief Bob Gavalier, Anna Howells, Bishop C.M. Jenkins, Ruth Mastriana, Pat Sciaretta, Eric Ungaro, and Atty. Thomas Vasvari, Linda Warino, Robert Yallech, and Chelsey Zoldan-Calhoun
- Absent:** Anne Cobbin, Brent Kelley, Anne Lally, Bill Morvay, and Sylvia Scott
- Staff:** Duane Piccirilli, Brenda Heidinger, Mark Dunlap, Marla Golec, Lee DeVita, Michelle Werth, Tracy Morocco, Jessica Makosky, and Valerie Burney
- Guests:** David King, Angela DiVito, Joe Shorokey, Sheila Donnadio, Vince Brancaccio, Dean Monteleone, Timberly Robinson, Nancy Voitus, Tony Marr, Darla Gallagher, Robert Vukovich, Beth Stutzman, and Joe Caruso

Anne Cobbin, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

**Officer Reports**

- **Chair Report**

- Duane Presented CIT Officer of the Year award to Sergeant Robert Vukovich formerly of Mill Creek Metro Parks Police Department. Sergeant Robert Vukovich thanked the Board for the award and for providing the community with CIT training.
- Resignation of Board Member Victor Daprile

**09 – 2023: Motion: Pat Sciaretta– to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2022, MCMHRB meeting. Seconded: Bob Gavalier...motion carried.**

- **Treasurer Report**

- Mark Dunlap reviewed the July, August, and September 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.

**10 – 2023: Motion: Bishop Jenkins– to approve the July, August, and September 2022 Treasurer’s Reports. Seconded by: Anna Howells...motion carried.**

**11 – 2023: Motion: Linda Warino– to approve the July, August, and September 2022 Blanket List of Bills. Seconded by: Bishop Jenkins...motion carried.**

**Committee Report**

- **Program and Policy Committee (October 17, 2022)**

- Chelsey Zoldan-Calhoun reviewed the minutes of the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. She reported that Angelica Diaz, Executive Director and Joel Montaz, Program Coordinator, both of Organizacion Civica y Cultural Hispana American (OCCHA) reviewed the programs of OCCHA including:

- Clothing Room – open every day; donations from the community
  - Food Pantry – with 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest people can get food 1 or 2 times per month
  - Youth Programs – Summer Camp (52 students/5 field trips) & Scholarships (13 given out to those of Latino descent)
  - Partnership with Youngstown City Schools – parent/child working on scrapbook 10 sessions, while educating parents why they need to engage with schools, attend parent/teacher conferences, etc.
  - Hispanic Health Program with Mercy Health, mobile medical van will start visiting OCCHA at least monthly
  - Translation services for behavioral health appointments are utilized by Alta, Compass, Meridian, and Valley Counseling
  - Received grant from Ohio Office of Latino Affairs to provide a Mental Health Navigator Program (one of 7 grants in the state). This program will assist Hispanic and multi-cultural communities and their families to inform of options and refer to services to meet their needs. The program can coordinate appointments and translation services for the individuals as well. This program has worked with 46 Mahoning County Residents since March of 22
  - OCCHA currently employs two people who work with clients on a variety of needs of referrals (see attached 2022 YTD report).
- Joe Caruso, CEO, Compass Family and Community Services, presented information to the Committee Members on the Permanent Supportive Housing programs that Compass offers in Mahoning County.
    - Madison Commons, while Compass is a 45% owner of the property, Meridian HealthCare manages the property. Duane informed the committee that Meridian HealthCare would be asked to report on their housing programs at a later date.
    - Gardenview Apartments. This facility is not HUD subsidized. It is located above the Crisis Stabilization Unit at 286 Broadway Avenue, Youngstown Ohio. There are 15 units in this dorm style living apartments with individual bedrooms, two kitchens and a dining/living common area. The residents are all SPMI clients that may have a housing authority debt, criminal background or other challenges that prevent them from getting into a HUD subsidized apartment. The facility has been updated with new flooring, artwork in common areas. New furnishings are still needed. Rent is currently 30% of income less other expenses, so an average of \$195.00/month. They allow a 7.8 cubic foot refrigerator in each room. Janitorial is in 3 days a week, also a resident manager makes sure the bathrooms, and laundry supplies are stocked (these items are provided by Compass). Residents get medication and other supports from Crisis

Center Staff. The residents are able to attend any activities that Crisis Center and Burdman Center residences plan. Most clients are engaged with Compass or CSN for case management and/or services. Each room is furnished a bed frame, mattress, night stand, lamp and closet with shelves. Staff will work with residents to assist with linens.

- Riverside Manor – This is a HUD Subsidized project. This project is efficiency apartments. Each has a bedroom/living room combination, with a kitchen/dinette area, and bathroom. The residents are SPMI as well as SUD in this PSH. As the apartments are located in a food desert area of the community, Compass provides a van to take everyone shopping at least once a week. This facility is a \$156,509.93 loss for Compass. The residents here are easily preyed upon, so Compass has worked with YPD, and they drive through a couple of times a day. Each unit is provided with refrigerator and stove, washer and dryers are provided in the community room. HUD reviews the property annually to their standards. Compass does a quarterly inspection to work with the residents and ensure success with the HUD inspection. Eight of the 19 residents at this facility receive services from Compass. Services cannot be a requirement of maintaining housing.
- Parkside Manor (aka Veritas) – this facility needs the most work, and also has the most debt at over \$178,279.64. This is dorm style living with a men & ladies room on each floor, also common kitchen space, eating area, and living space. This is also a HUD Subsidized facility. HUD values it at \$730.00/month, most of the residents pay \$190.00/month with rest to be subsidized by HUD, however HUD only pays \$100.00/month per resident as the rest is retained for the mortgage debt. This facility requires 24/7 staffing. Tile and boiler system need additional repairs. Compass has used almost all the reserves to redo two of the bathrooms, which were critical. Most of the rooms have been painted. New common area furniture is needed. Each room is furnished with a bed frame, mattress and a lot of built in shelves, closets in the room for storage. Residents may have a TV in their room. There are washers and dryers provided in the laundry room. The dining room has eight locked refrigerators with two residents sharing each one.

#### **Executive Director Report**

- Duane introduced the new Chief Clinical Officer, Beth Stutzman, Psy.D.
- See attached report

#### **Old Business**

- Diversity Update- Valerie Burney reported on the following community activities:
  - Red Ribbon Week- at the YMCA on October 15<sup>th</sup>. The Board and many local agencies set up tables in the lobby of the YMCA during a morning of basketball

- tournaments. Meridian, Alta, Help Network, YUMADAOP, and OhWow provided information to the children and their family's in-between tournaments.
- Domestic Violence symposium being hosted October 25<sup>th</sup>
- Women of Worth- serving single women with sons in the criminal justice system, the kick off for this year will be November 17-19<sup>th</sup> at the Lodge at Geneva on the Lake
- Continued work on the Social Determinants of Health grant. Development of the "Take That Step" Campaign
- Continue training for Ohio Certified Prevention Specialist
- Developing a calendar for 2023 of events and trainings

### **New Business**

- Alta- Approve \$75,000 capital match
  - Duane reviewed that this funding was previously awarded for a project at Alta Camp Challenge. Due to issues with Youngstown zoning the funding was moved to a replacement project at Campus of Care

**12 – 2023: Motion: Robert Gavalier– to approve the reallocation of the funds to the new project at Campus of Care. Seconded by: Tom Vasvari...motion carried.**

- Vince Brancaccio- MCHOP Program
  - Vince introduced Timberly Robinson who is in charge of housing programs:
    - Timberly reported that the MCHOP Program helps those who are homeless, have been hospitalized, or have been in jail, transition into permanent housing. The program helps supplement the cost of rent to the tenant. Tenant pays 40% of their income toward rent. They currently have funding for 10 units. They have 6 occupied, and 4 applicants currently seeking housing.
    - MCMHRB members asked questions regarding the program, and expressed that they would like to see more people living with behavioral health conditions housed under this and other programs.

### **Board Member Remarks**

- None

### **Agency Remarks:**

- Vince Brancaccio, Help Network, updated the Board on 988. They are currently working with 911 to direct calls to 988 when needed for a warm handoff.
- Dean Monteleone, Neil Kennedy Recovery Center, No comments at this time.
- Sheila Donnadio, Coleman has added an additional day of co-occurring treatments. They are now on Monday and Wednesday.
- Joe Caruso, Compass Family and Community Services is struggling with providing housing to clients. The demand for housing has increased but there aren't many rental homes available in the community.
- Angela DeVita, Coalition for a Drug Free Mahoning County had 26 Gatekeepers trained for QPR Suicide Prevention, 2/3 of them have recently recertified and DFMC is supporting them to provide training in the community. Eastern Ohio Area Health Education Center (AHEC) is currently developing a database of local professionals that are willing to be a resource to the students in a variety of expertise areas.

- Nancy Voitus, Catholic Charities is struggling with housing as well. They have the resources to help clients but there is no available housing.
- Darla Gallagher, Meridian is also dealing with housing issues. They are having problems placing their clients.
- Joe Shorokey, Alta needs additional employees, especially clinical. There are over 300 kids who currently need services. Joe and Duane met with legislators and discussed their need to be able to provide potential employees with a more competitive wage and benefits such as tuition reimbursement.
- Tony Marr, Clever, Clever provided the Board with a marketing report. In the last 28 days our social media had a reach of 8,000 and engagement of 2,300. They are currently trying to reach the Hispanic community through social media. They completed Artwork for Overcome Overdose event. They are working on a few projects- NE Ohio Adoption Services- November social media awareness campaign to honor National Adoption Awareness Month. Take That Step which is a full branding/marketing that includes a website, social media marketing, and a marketing campaign with LOUD 102.3., also the SAMHSA/SOR 2.0 Ohio Crisis Assistance and Training Program- developing concepts for television and radio, helping produce multilingual social media digital campaign and developing materials for NAMI to publish.

The next Board meeting will be held on November 28, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Minutes reported by:

Minutes recorded by:



Anna Howells  
Secretary

Jessica Makosky  
Accounts Clerk

## **Directors Report**

October 24, 2022

### **Culture of Quality**

We were officially notified that we received a three year Accreditation as a Culture of Quality Board. Great work Lee and everyone involved. The review team stated in the report "The Board is to be applauded on an outstanding review. This was a recertification, but with several new staff and a number of new changes at the Federal, State and Local Levels, the team was well prepared.

### **Campus of Care Open House and Ribbon Cutting**

This event held on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 was outstanding. Each of the Agency involved were able to highlight their services to not only the Governor but to Director Lori Criss (OhioMHAS) and several other Cabinet level officials. The Governor was very impressed and expressed his continued commitment to the project.

Dr. Criss is making arrangements to return to Mahoning County and spend a day meeting with Agency Directors and Board Staff.

### **Veterans Honors Court/the Honorable Judge Anthony D'Apolito**

Brenda assisted the Judge and his staff with a grant for his Honors Court. It was awarded in the amount of \$750,000.00 over four years. Brenda will update the Board at the Meeting

### **Recovery Rally**

The Recovery Rally was a huge success. There were over 15 agencies present distributing material on their agencies. In addition the response from the community was outstanding.

### **Grief Support Group Facilitation Training**

One of the gaps in services that came out of the recent Suicide Facility Review Committee was the lack of Grief Support Groups. Under our free service contract with Cornerstone of Hope we are able to offer training free to the community to train grief group facilitators. The training will be on November 10<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### **Capital Grants**

Mark and I are working with the Capital Office at the State Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services on submitting our priorities for the next several fiscal years. Mark will be presenting agency applications to the Ways and Means Committee next month to be reviewed and submitted to the board to approve the ranking before final submission.

### **340 Regional Meeting**

Brenda and I along with several agencies directors participated in the regional meeting in Akron to talk about ORC 340 (this is Chapter 340 of the Ohio Revised Code, which governs Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Boards). The meeting turned out to be more of a strategic planning meeting for the department. I hope the conversation will continue with the department. I will update the board at the meeting.

**Local Mental Health Boards to Meet with Legislators (This has been cancelled)**

**The local state representative were not able to attend.**

~~The Trumbull, Mahoning, Columbiana and Ashtabula Counties' Mental Health and Recovery Boards will be hosting a Legislator's Coffee Hour.~~

I plan to set up a meeting for Mahoning County elected officials after the election. I will have our Agency Directors attend as well, to have an open discussion about current issues, and not just address 340

**COLD WEATHER AWARENESS WALK.**

I am coordinating a Cold weather walk with Catholic Charities and the Mahoning County Continuum of Care to raise awareness of our homeless programs and the homeless. It will be on December 1<sup>st</sup>. More details to follow

**Annual Holiday Event**

The event will be held at the B&O from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. We will include Board Members, Board Staff, Agency Directors and the Board President from their Agency as well as the County Officials. An invitation will be sent out soon.