



# Richland County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board

## Meeting Minutes March 19, 2024

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**Present:** Sue Bemiller, David Krenrick, Mike Donahue, Christina Thompson, Jennifer Lemon, Elder Ron Moton, Carla James, Cindy Lewis, Sylvia Jordan, Jordan Wurthmann

**Excused:** Lonnie McGhee, Susan Lehr

**Unexcused:**

**Left Early:** Chris Mazzola – OhioMHAS, Todd Wroblewski

**Staff Present:** Sherry Branham, Carey Vogt, Angie Parker, Mike Sizemore

**Guests:** Chris Mazzola – OhioMHAS, Deena Hamilton, Todd Wroblewski

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### CALL TO ORDER:

Bemiller called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Board member roll call was recorded, and a quorum was established.

#### 1. **East First Street Renovation** – Sherry Branham

Chris Mazzola from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services spoke in detail with the Board of Directors about funding and planning for the Transitional Housing renovation at 87 E. First St. Once completed, it will be used for short term and long-term housing for residents who have recently been discharged from the State hospital, Crisis Stabilization Unit, or the local hospital. There will be 8 beds available for short-term housing consisting of 30-90 day lengths of stay. The other 2 beds will be designated for longer-term stays. The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services will be facilitating the funding for this project which is driven from Federal ARPA funds. The funds awarded for this project are \$1,100,000.00 with a 10% match. Chris also described that this project is a 10-year forgivable mortgage, and he has had a very good working relationship with the Board staff on this project.

Todd Wroblewski, the hired architect for this project presented several slides for viewing. These slides included blueprints, demolition and revision plans as well as other structural plans. Todd will be meeting with the City of Mansfield Department of Codes and Permits to discuss updating all building plans to code. This project will also include a new roof, an updated fire alarm and the replacement of the wooden deck on the east side of the building. Construction of this project is scheduled to begin in late spring or early summer of this year. The Board has a working relationship with Todd from his involvement in the planning of the New Beginnings campus at Catalyst Life Services. Chris Mazzola and Todd Wroblewski exited the meeting when finished presenting.

2. \* **Approval of Minutes** – Sue Bemiller

Bemiller called for a motion to approve the February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting minutes. Moton motioned to approve the minutes, Lemon seconded. Thompson mentioned that the virtual guests from February's meeting were not recorded in the minutes as being present virtually. Krenrick noted a spelling error in February's meeting minutes, and it was noted that it was not recorded when Sgt. Patrick Williams exited the Board room prior to beginning Executive Session at February's meeting. There were also some formatting issues that needed addressed. Wurthmann and Bemiller abstained. Minutes were approved pending the recommended revisions.

3. \* **Monthly Payables** – Sue Bemiller

Bemiller called for a motion to approve the Expenditures for February 2024. Donahue motioned to approve the Expenditures, Moton seconded the motion. There were no abstentions, and no discussion. Motion carried.

4. **Finance Manager (Associate Director/CFO) Report** - Carey Vogt

The cash position beginning balance at the end of January 2024 was \$6,255,684.66. In February, a total revenue of \$199,128.52 was added. Total expenses for this period were \$602,512.25, leaving the fund balance on 2/29/24 at \$5,852,300.93. This is a decrease of \$403,383.73.

Krenrick asked how well the contract agencies were providing general treatment services this fiscal year. It was mentioned that one contract agency looks to be under-billing. Krenrick expressed concerns about ensuring that enough services were being provided at this agency. It was mentioned by Branham and Board staff that most services provided by this agency are Medicaid billable services, which likely explains the under-billing. Billing staff at this agency has also changed. There are plans to address this with the agency due to a history of poor utilization of available funding and a lack of overall communication.

Vogt mentioned she was notified recently that SOS 4.0 is in the beginning stages of planning. There are several SOS engagements sessions scheduled in the coming months that Branham and Vogt are scheduled to attend. SOS 3.0 Carryover has recently been applied for.

5. **Executive Director's Report** – Sherry Branham

- **120 Day Notice and RFP Notice to Providers:** The new fiscal year budgeting process has begun. The 120-Day Notices and Requests for Proposals (RFP's) have been sent out. Service unit trends have been assessed in planning for the coming year. The deadline for agencies to submit their proposals is 4/26/24.
- **\*Eclipse – County Offices Closing April 8<sup>th</sup>. Need Board of Director's Vote for closure:** The North American eclipse will take place on 4/8/24 and Richland County Commissioners have scheduled to close county offices on this day. There is expected to be an influx of visitors from other communities to Richland County and other factors involved that may create an issue for residents. \*The Board took a vote to close the office for a paid calamity day on 4/8/24. Donahue motioned to approve the closure, James seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. Motion carried.

- OhioMHAS Board of Director's Application: There is an open seat on the Board for an Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services applicant. Deena Hamilton, a visitor at this meeting, has been recommended and has expressed interest in serving in this role. Deena is the founder of a local organization, Love On A Mission. Deena expressed her passion for advocating for the youth that this organization represents, and those with mental health struggles.
- Commissioner Appointee Board of Director's Application: A Board seat is also available for a Commissioner Appointee applicant. Sgt. Patrick Williams, Mansfield Police Department is very interested in filling this seat. This seat will replace the seat held by Sgt. Jon Ahles who retired from the Mansfield Police Department in March. The Ohio Ethics Commission is reviewing any potential conflicts of interest prior to appointment, due to the Board working with Police Department currently for Opiate Response Team and Homeless Response Team activities.
- Jail Services Contract: Behavioral Health services in the Richland County Jail are currently maintained by Catalyst Life Services. The MOU for these services with the Board, Catalyst Life Services and the Richland County Jail has not been updated since 2016. These services include psychiatric, and substance use disorder services. The Richland County Commissioners have had discussions with Branham about the Commissioner's medical services contract with an out of state vendor and how to proceed. The Commissioners indicated an "Inter-Governmental Agreement" between the Richland County Commissioners and this Board which has not yet been received.
- Ohio State Highway Patrol Mental Health Outreach Pilot: The Ohio State Highway Patrol met with Branham to discuss a proposal for a Mental Health Outreach Pilot program. This program would be like the workings of the current Opiate Response Team, only that it would focus on OVI offenses (Operating Vehicle Impaired). Currently there 22 Boards participating in this program. Branham is going to speak with local law enforcement leaders and other Boards participating in this program to gather their opinions and recommendations.
- Ad Hoc Marketing Committee: The Ad Hoc Marketing Committee and Housing Committee have been formed. Please contact Thompson and Krenrick to begin the planning processes.
- Upcoming Ethics Training: The Board Ethics Training scheduled for April has been approved by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. This is scheduled to take place at next month's meeting.
- Sterkel Park: A walkway to the walking path for the Sterkel Park development was decided against. The plan for the proposed walkway was to give access to individuals at Catalyst an opening onto the walking path. It was decided against to protect confidentiality. A suggested substitution by Newhope is a park bench. The total cost for the bench is \$14,000. The Board has a remaining amount of funds in Clearwater COG. There was a discussion amongst Board members and

Branham about the excessive expense of the bench, but members still want to make some contribution to this project. Donahue questioned if the Board could use a portion of the Clearwater COG funds to help with this.

- Affiliate Agency Requests: The Board has received 3 Affiliate Agency requests to be added to the 1-pager. Spero Health, Ohio Health Mansfield Behavioral Health Department and Akron Children's Behavioral Health Department. Former Director Trolian had given approval for Spero Health to be an affiliate, and Bemiller suggested that Spero Health be invited to an upcoming Board meeting. Branham also mentioned that Spero Health attend an Executive Director Clinical Leader's meeting. There are three Affiliate Agencies on the 1-pager that have been inactive and may soon be removed. A letter will be issued to these three to see if they are still interested in participating. Thompson suggested that the 1-pager be edited at some level due to the amount of information on it, to reduce overwhelm to anyone reading it. It was mentioned that edits and work to the 1-pager would be best addressed by the Marketing Committee.

6. **President's Report** - Sue Bemiller

There was discussion about future visits to contract agencies. This was an activity that had been done by the Board but has been on hold since COVID. The Board would like to start doing this again. Effort will be made to meet with their Boards to arrange this.

Moton expressed concerns over being specifically named in current lawsuit because he voted "no" in the vote to terminate Trolian. It was explained that he is named in the lawsuit only because the majority of the Board voted "yes". Bemiller mentioned that the current bylaws need to be revised. Board members are to review current bylaws and submit recommendations for updates.

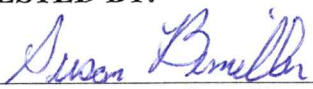
7. **Old Business**  
None Discussed.

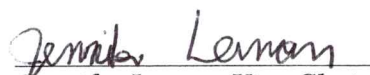
8. **New Business**  
None Discussed.

9. **Future Agenda Items**  
None Discussed.

10. **\*Adjournment**  
Bemiller called for a motion to adjourn. Wurthmann made the motion, James seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with no abstentions, and the meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM.

**ATTESTED BY:**

  
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Susan Bemiller, Chair

  
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Jennifer Lemon, Vice Chair