



## Richland County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board Meeting Minutes May 21, 2024

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

**Excused:** Sylvia Jordan, Deena Hamilton, Lonnie McGhee, Cindy Lewis

**Unexcused:**

**Left Early:**

**Staff Present:** Carey Vogt, Angie Parker, Scott Basilone, Mike Sizemore

**Guests:** Jeff O'Brien, Crystal Shaffer

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

Bemiller called for a motion to approve the April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting minutes. Moton motioned to approve the minutes, Lemon seconded. There were no abstentions, and no discussion. Motion carried.

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

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

3. **Associate Director/CFO Report** - Carey Vogt

- **Cash Position:** The cash position beginning balance at the end of March 2024 was \$4,966,390.15. In April, a total revenue of \$2,856,559.05 was added. Total expenses for this period were \$1,022,479.99, leaving the fund balance on 4/30/24 at \$6,800,469.21. This is an increase of \$1,834,079.06.
- **SOS 3.0 Carryover:** The final NOSA for SOS carryover funds has been approved. The Richland County Department of Job and Family Services will be holding a peer recovery supporter training that will occur in the near future. Funds from SOS 3.0 carryover are

allocated toward funding for SUD which includes continued services and new training for Peer Recovery Supporters. Lehr asked if only Catalyst Life Services employees will be able to attend the training, or if it will be opened to the greater community. Thompson asked if this training will fund a new staff member or an existing staff member and also asked if once the grant is exhausted if this position will remain staffed or if it will be eliminated. Krenrick raised the questions that since Peer Recovery Support is a Medicaid billable service, would the staff member be able to bill for subsidy services and would this be considered double dipping. He also asked that if Medicaid billing began, could this staff member bill for more than the position would cost. Responses from Branham will be made to address these questions.

- SOS 4.0: SOS 4.0 will be on the horizon soon. Lehr mentioned a recommendation for services to be included in this grant application once it is received. There may be something that could be built into this to fill community gaps. Please reach out to Lehr for additional information on this subject.

- SFY 2025 Budget Update: All RFP's from contract agencies were submitted prior to the deadline and they are currently under review. The Board is currently reviewing programs and models for the agencies and evaluating general treatment service unit trends from past years. The Board is awaiting funding from the state to be provided. This funding was scheduled to be supplied by mid-May.

Lehr asked about the current use amounts of agency allocations for this fiscal year and Parker stated this was also under review. Parker added that there is a contract agency that has been under billing this year and will not meet their allocation for this fiscal year. This agency has been in communication with the Board about this.

The Board is planning to have a Joint Committee meeting in early June to discuss work and efforts amongst several committees.

- Wood Pointe Update: The new Wood Pointe pilot program is scheduled to begin July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 and will include Case Management services for residents.
- Lot across the street: The lot across the street that will be used to build on is now officially owned by the Board.
- Introductions and updates: Jeff O'Brien and Crystal Shaffer gave introductions to the Board Members. Both Jeff and Crystal have been appointed by the Richland County Commissioners as incoming Board Members who will begin their term July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Unfortunately, Sgt. Patrick Williams from the Mansfield Police Department was not approved to join the Board. This result came from a notification from Commissioner Cliff Mears, after advice was received from the Ohio Ethics Commission. The reasoning behind this finding is that the Board pays officers from this department in their assistance with the Homeless Response Team (HRT), making appointment incompatible. The Board is looking at potentially adding a retired police officer to avoid any potential conflicts.

May is Mental Health Month events are going well. Staff from the Board have been present for proclamations and community events. Family Life Counseling has an event scheduled on May 24<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM. The name of this event is "Lunch in the Park with Family Life Counseling" and will be held at the gazebo on the square.

Ohio's 2024 Mental Health and Addiction Conference "Building the System of Care" is scheduled for June 3-4<sup>th</sup> at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus. The Board has a few seats available for those to attend. Please reach out if interested in attending.

4. **Director of IT** – Angie Parker

- **Medicaid Data:** Historically the Boards in the State of Ohio have had access to data exchanges between themselves and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS). This allowed for Boards to get weekly Medicaid claims data on their clients to allow for proper community planning and to get accurate data on services delivered along with payment for those services. OhioMHAS has provided several tools for Boards to work through daily processes. One manually performs an eligibility determination on enrollments from agencies to verify if a client is Medicaid or not through an application called the I-Portal. Another tool is an ability for Boards to submit an eligibility file inquiry on multiple clients at once which has been a critical part of determining Medicaid eligibility on clients with current or past claims to ensure correct payment.

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, following a Director's call the day before, all functionality from OhioMHAS became unavailable for use by the Boards. There was a notice sent out by the Director of OhioMHAS on May 10<sup>th</sup> stating that there were confidentiality concerns around Boards having access to what they had historically accessed before. The file trading system and the I-Portal were reinstated on May 13<sup>th</sup> with the understanding that they would only be available for a 90 day time period. This decision is currently under review by the State and is being reviewed by legislators and legal counsel. If no other determination has been made by the end of the 90 day window, Boards will have only 1 way of determining a client's Medicaid eligibility through a website named PNM (Provider Network Management) which holds the MITS eligibility search for manual client eligibility search. Some Boards in the State do not have PNM capability and must rely on I-Portal searches for eligibility determination.

Krenrick asked what triggered a decision like this so fast, and Lehr asked if there had been a data breach of any kind this month. Parker referenced the newly added Medicaid file system that began on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 named OMES (Ohio Medicaid Enterprise System) which to date has had 2 data breaches. The greatest difficulty with exclusively using the OMES system has been making sense of newly added Medicaid acronyms and codes that did not exist before. This has created a statewide challenge in determining a client's true eligibility status for Behavioral Health coverages. Unless this situation comes to a resolution, many Boards will see a financial impact due to incorrect payments for client's services. Director Cornyn from OhioMHAS will be addressing this with the Boards at the Director's meeting on Thursday May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

5. **Program Update** – Scott Basilone

- **Meetings with Providers:** Branham introduced Basilone to contract and affiliate agencies and asked them if they would like to meet to discuss their programs and services. The agencies were very receptive to meeting with Basilone to discuss their programs and services. To date Basilone has met with Catalyst Life Services, the Community Alternative Center (CAC), Community Action for Capable Youth

(CACY), NAMI Richland County. He will be meeting with Healing Hearts Counseling Center tomorrow and will also be meeting with Project One. Basilone has been collaborating with others at agencies and within the Board office to gather data for the Community Plan.

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

- **Nominating Committee:** Bemiller explained the policies for the Nominating Committee and discussed Officers and Roles for those positions. Board members filled out nomination ballots for those they chose to nominate and placed them in the ballot box. These nominees will be voted on at the next Board meeting. Lehr mentioned that the Board was looking for candidates for the Nominating and Executive Committee.
  
- **Personnel Committee:**
  - **\*Executive Session – To discuss the employment of a public employee:** Bemiller called for a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the employment of a public employee. Donahue made the motion, James seconded. There were no abstentions and no discussion. The motion carried. A roll call was taken and all approved. At this time staff members and guests exited the Board room before Executive Session started at 6:22 PM. Once concluded, staff members and guests were called back into the Board room where Bemiller called for a motion to come out of Executive Session. James made the motion, Wurthmann seconded. There were no abstentions and no discussion. The motion carried. Roll call was taken and all approved.

7. **Housing Committee Update** – Dave Krenrick

The proposed Housing Committee met for the first time last month to discuss community needs and will be meeting at the Board office on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM. Krenrick emphasized the importance of adequate housing for the individuals served in this community with the understanding that public funds are being used. Please reach out if you wish to attend.

8. **Old Business**

Thompson withdrew her name from the Marketing Committee, but Donahue may choose to sit on this committee.

9. **New Business**

None Discussed.

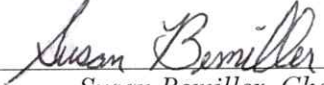
10. **Future Agenda Items**

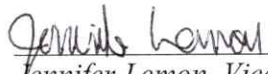
Wurthmann discussed the need for a Governance Committee to better address and plan for the structure of the Board. He mentioned that other Governance Committees do this to strengthen their organization. Bemiller mentioned that By-Laws are also due for revision.

11. \*Adjournment

Bemiller called for a motion to adjourn. Wurthmann made the motion, Thompson seconded the motion. There were no abstentions, and no discussion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

**ATTESTED BY:**

  
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Susan Bemiller, Chair

  
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Jennifer Lemon, Vice Chair