



Richland County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board Meeting Minutes March 18, 2025

Present: Jennifer Lemon, Mike Donahue, David Krenrick, Jeff O'Brien, Lonnie McGhee, Carla James, Deena Hamilton, Crystal Shaffer, Sylvia Jordan, Bret Snavely, Attorney Heather Cockley

Excused: Susan Lehr, Elder Ron Moton, Jordon Wurthmann

Unexcused:

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

Guests: Aubrie Hall, Nichole Peters

CALL TO ORDER:

Lemon 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. **Welcome and Swearing in of Attorney Heather Cockley** - Sherry Branham and Carey Vogt

Attorney Heather Cockley was given the oath of office to begin her term on the Board of Directors. She pledged the oath of office in the presence of the Board of Directors. The oath of office was administered by Carey Vogt.

2. **National Alliance on Mental Illness Presentation**– Aubrie Hall

The National Alliance on Mental Illness is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization with over 600 affiliates nationwide. NAMI Richland County began their service in the late 1990's, began the Family-to-Family class in 1999 and obtained 501(c)3 status in July 2001. The mission of NAMI is to improve the quality of life, ensure dignity and respect for persons with mental illness, and to support their families.

NAMI Richland County has many up-and-coming program additions that were all discussed briefly with the Board of Directors. The programs and efforts mentioned were NAMI Connections, Peer-to-Peer, Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT), Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), Family-to-Family, NAMI Provider, Ending the Silence, NAMI On Campus, a youth support group and The Bandana Project. Changes and updates to ongoing programming are also taking place to ensure a better reach for those served. Additional programs and presentations are also being added including NAMI Stigma Free which is a workplace focused program, NAMI Homefront to assist veterans, collaboration with OSU Mansfield and Avita Hospital for

National Alliance on Mental Illness Presentation continued –

easier care navigation by using HIPAA compliant referral systems, and the first NAMI walk is scheduled for Saturday May 31st.

Meetings with State legislators have been underway to discuss House Bills concerning individuals who are declining in their mental health and NAMI Ohio has asked Aubrie to give a presentation on “Capacity Building”. Training is also being developed for CIT advisory staff, corporate businesses and call-in supports.

3. * Approval of Minutes – Jennifer Lemon

Lemon called for a motion to approve the February 18th, 2025 meeting minutes. Donahue motioned to approve the minutes, Shaffer seconded the motion. O’Brien abstained from the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

4. * Monthly Payables – Jennifer Lemon

Lemon called for a motion to approve the Expenditures for February 2025. Donahue motioned to approve the expenditures, Krenrick seconded the motion. Shaffer abstained from the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

5. Associate Director/CFO Report – Carey Vogt

- Cash Position: The beginning balance at the end of January 2025 was \$5,759,664.33. In February, a total revenue of \$88,963.05 was added. Total expenditures for this period were \$334,790.88, leaving the fund balance in our operating fund on 2/28/2025 at \$5,513,836.50. This is a decrease of \$245,827.83.
- Finance Committee Meeting update: The Finance Committee met last week to discuss several things. The Request for Proposal analysis for SFY2026 has been completed and \$40,000.00 in additional funding for SFY2025 was awarded to the Access to Wellness Program. These funds will be designated to Catalyst Life Services who facilitates this program. Mike Donahue, Chair of the Finance Committee, praised committee members for their collaboration and commitment.

6. Director of Information Technology Report – Angie Parker

The Board office has changed Internet Service Providers (ISP’s). This was a welcomed and needed change. The new Internet Provider is Spectrum which offers support for technical issues and this change brings a \$50 per month savings.

Seitz Solutions worked with Parker on technical work to apply this change which went smoothly.

7. Manager of Clinical Programs and Services Report – Scott Basilone

- Community Assessment Plan and Outcomes Report (CAP): The Community Assessment Plan was completed for Calendar Year 2024. Program Outcomes for this period were shared with the Board of Directors in detail which focused on different metrics and data points that are required by the State.

Data points reviewed included but were not limited to Speed of Access to Care, Average Wait Time, Days from Referral to Admission Residential, Number of Reported Overdoses and other points. Graphs were also provided.

- 3.0 No Cost Extension: The SOS 3.0 No Cost Extension has been applied for and we are waiting to hear further. The grant period for this is Federal Fiscal Year 2025 which begins 9/30/2024 and ends 9/29/2025. The amount applied for is an additional \$169,304.00. These funds will be allocated to Catalyst Life Services, Family Life Counseling and Board Administrative costs. These funds will help agencies cover Medicaid gaps. The application is under review by the Fiscal Department.

8. Executive Director's Report - Sherry Branham

- Medicaid Expansion/Medicaid: Statewide concerns have been raised about potential cuts to Medicaid Expansion eligibility. This has caused some unease within the system and OACBHA (Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities) is working to bring Mental Health and Recovery Boards together for advocacy efforts against cuts to Medicaid. State legislators have advised that if cuts are made on the Federal level, then cuts will likely be made at the State level. Language around the loss of Federal Medicaid is noted as related to the proposed biennial budget. State legislators are aware of the effects of this should cuts take place. Medicaid is a critical payor within the system, and advocacy efforts will continue to oppose cuts. There were discussions amongst Board members about this concern.
- Proposed House Bill 28 - Levy Language Renewal vs Replacement and Board Licensing Recovery Housing liability costs and concerns: House Bill 28 is proposing to discontinue Levy "Replacement" option. Renewal and New levies will still be options. This raises a concern because Replacements are easier to pass than New levies and A Renewal may not provide the funding that is needed to sustain the system at its current level of care. The Levy will be on the ballot in November.
- Proposed HB58- Board Licensing Recovery Housing- Liability and Cost Concerns: Also proposed by House Bill 58 is the requirement of Boards to do annual inspections of Recovery Houses and to make Boards responsible for investigating Recovery House licenses and issues within the houses. This is problematic and Branham recommended that the language be changed to "optional" instead of "mandatory" which would allow the Boards to determine what is best in each respective county.
- Intent to Purchase: Intent to Purchase Service are scheduled to be sent out to agencies on Friday. A unit analysis was conducted based on years past trends and the Board included notice of what will be available to submit proposals on.
- Transitional Housing Program: This is the Adam and Amanda Center and notice will be going out on Friday for agencies interested in running the program. The Board has requested agencies who intend to submit a proposal to submit a proforma/budget on the financial support they would need to manage the property.
- Marketing Committee Update – Website and Contract Agencies: Ads are now running for the Richland Recovery Network which has been an effort of the Marketing Committee. Director Branham and Basilone met with DRM to discuss progress on the

Richland Recovery Network website. Contract agencies were given questionnaires to assist with website construction.

- Portfolio Assessment Estimated Completion Date – April 25, 2025: Architect Todd Wroblewski gave a portfolio assessment due date of 4/25/2025. This assessment highlights needed repairs and upgrades to Board owned housing. Chris Mazzolla from OhioMHAS toured the Transitional Housing Program facility and is pleased with the results.

9. President's Report – Jennifer Lemon

Lehr had mentioned that the Slate of Officers will be due soon and Board members should be prepared by the May meeting for the vote in June.

10. Old Business

None discussed

11. New Business

None discussed

12. Future Agenda Items

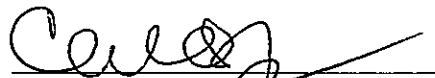
Spero Health is scheduled to present to the Board of Directors at the April meeting and meetings are scheduled to resume at the Main office.

13. *Adjournment

Lemon called for a motion to adjourn. Krenrick made the motion, James seconded the motion. The motion passed with no abstentions. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM.

ATTESTED BY:


Jennifer Lemon, Chair


Carla James, Secretary