



**Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 1st, 2020
Board Meeting**

The Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Board held its monthly Board meeting on Wednesday, April 1st, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Board office located at 5963 Boymel Drive in Fairfield, Ohio via telephone conference.

1. Call to Order

1.01 Board President Wayne Mays called the meeting to order.

Upon the call of the roll the following Board members were present via teleconference: Patricia Deis-Gleeson, BSN; Dr. Theodore Hunter; Lonnie Tucker, CHE, CSW; Father Michael Pucke; Christine Hacker, MSN, MH; Mathew Himm; Kim McKinney, BSN, RN; Rev. Gary Smith; David Swigonski; Rev. Vanessa Cumming, CAPP; and Kelsey Wargo, LPCC-S, CCTP-II.

Recognition of Guests via teleconference:

Deanna Proctor, Access Counseling
Pauline Edwards, Access Counseling
Lynn Harris, Access Counseling
Carolyn Winslow, Big Brothers Big Sisters
Pam Mortensen, Catholic Charities
Erin Day, Community Behavioral Health
Lori Higgins, Envision Partnerships
Joyce Kachelries, Lifespan
Nichol Boberg, Talbert House
Sharon Bartels, Transitional Living
Wendy Waters-Connell, YWCA

1.02 Agenda Review
- *No changes*

1.03 Public Comments on the Agenda
- *No comments*

2. Board Communication & Announcements

2.01 Executive Director's Report

I. Coronavirus Updates

Dr. Rasmus gave a brief update concerning the coronavirus. Ohio currently has 2,547 coronavirus cases, with 65 deaths and 679 hospitalized. Butler County currently has 43 cases, 1 death and 16 hospitalized.

House Bill 197 has had a number of amendments. Dr. Rasmus highlighted a few including number 5 (which extends the validity of licenses issued by state agencies to a 90 day window), number 6 (permits state boards, commissions, local and county governments and higher education boards to operate electronically), and number 9 (which gives the director of Medicaid additional flexibility to support the healthcare workforce and providers during this time of crisis, program and service flexibility). The amendments went into effect March 9th and expires in 120 days.

State departments have been instructed to look at a 20% reduction for fiscal year 2020.

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (ODMHAS) negotiated with Ohio telecommunication companies to waive disconnects and extend minutes. Nationally the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has a Keep America Connected pledge with 55 companies, not to terminate residential and business lines, which includes wireless options and create extra hotspots.

The Board staff have been conducting weekly teleconferences with the providers. They have a need for telephone and telehealth equipment, financial supports, PPE supplies, and volunteers. The providers are trending towards telehealth overall but are having difficulty engaging with young clients.

There continues to be Board staff at the office but the majority are working from home.

II. Telehealth

The Board will now pay for telehealth or telephone services as of March 1 from its provider system. The providers may bill for those services now but only those services that the Board supports for each provider with the Board as a payor of last resort.

III. Gregory, Andy. Alcohol is 'Unhelpful Coping Strategy' for Coronavirus Lockdown, WHO says. *The Independent*, Independent Digital News and Media, 27 Mar 2020, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/coronavirus-alcohol->

[world-health-organisation-drugs-addiction-mental-health-lockdown-a9428546.html](https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/2020/03/24/world-health-organisation-drugs-addiction-mental-health-lockdown-a9428546.html)

A new survey suggests that many turn to drugs and alcohol in times of crisis. The pandemic has caused two thirds of adults in the UK to feel anxious and worried. This poll was carried out before the full lockdown was introduced. Dr. Malik highlighted basic strategies to help people look after their mental wellbeing including eating healthy, exercise, and ensuring they get enough sleep and support.

- V. Callahan, Denise G. "**How Butler County Is Changing to Help Those Most Vulnerable in Coronavirus Shutdown.**" *Journal*, Staff Writer, 24 Mar. 2020, <https://www.journal-news.com/news/how-butler-county-changing-help-those-most-vulnerable-coronavirus-shutdown/EtqgRK2VMsPHJh8eiMGXzO/> Butler County business operators and officials are making changes to reach as many vulnerable citizens as possible. Health Commissioner Jenny Bailer has asked one of her staff members to coordinate agencies that help the elderly, homeless, those who suffer from mental illness and addiction, and the developmentally disabled. Scott Rasmus, executive director of the Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Board, said his staff is closely monitoring suicide prevention services, the Heroin Hopeline and other services. Mindy Muller, with the Butler County Housing and Homeless Coalition, said they have guidelines that are continually updated to all coalition members to try to lessen community spread. This includes training shelter staff to recognize the virus, screening for symptoms, and stringent cleaning protocols and precautions.
- VI. The Ohio Department of Medicaid and Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services will hold two identical webinar trainings on Wednesday, April 1 (12:00 - 2:00) and April 2 (10:00 -12:00) to provide technical assistance regarding the delivery of behavioral health services via telehealth. Both trainings will cover identical content and will be recorded and posted to the <https://bh.medicaid.ohio.gov/> website along with training slides. Each session is limited to 500 participants.

3. Consent Agenda

- 3.01 Consent Agenda Items
A. March Board Meeting Minutes

Dr. Hunter motioned to approve the items in the consent agenda. Ms. Hacker seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

4. New Business

4.01 Budget Revision Policy

A Budget Revision Policy was requested to include May for fiscal year 2020 to give additional time to the providers for needed services.

Mr. Himm motioned to approve the Budget Revision Policy. Ms. Deis-Gleeson seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

4.02 Access to Care During a Public Health Infectious Disease Outbreak Policy

The policy are guidelines for the Board's provider network to follow during a declared public health infection disease outbreak. They are made to be set in place to ensure appropriate access to behavioral health treatment services, while protecting the health of provider agency staff, clients and the community.

Mr. Himm motioned to approve the Access to Care During a Public Health Infectious Disease Outbreak Policy. Ms. Swigonski seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

4.03 BCMHARS Board Infectious Disease and Contagion Provider Network Policy

The policy are guidelines for the Board's provider network to follow during a declared public health infectious disease outbreak. They are set in place to protect the health of provider agency staff, clients and the community. These guidelines remain in place until the health emergency is lifted by the appropriate public health officials. The Board may revise or rescind this policy at any time.

Rev. Cummings made a motion to amend the policy to empower Dr. Rasmus to address legal requirements / other enhancements, which then can be sent to wherever needed before being brought to the Board to endorse retroactively. Rev. Smith seconded the motion.

Ms. Hacker motioned to approve the BCMHARS Board Infectious Disease and Contagion Provider Network Policy with the amendment. Rev. Smith seconded the motion with the amendment. The vote carried the motion with the amendment.

4.04 Telehealth Budget Allocation

This addresses the concerns that have been expressed during the weekly provider meetings. This supports the Keep America Connected and ODMHAS policy that have been implemented. This allocation of \$26,999 is distributed across our providers, weighted by their current budgets for FY2020. This funding is for telehealth including telehealth software, phones, and phone cards.

Ms. McKinney motioned to approve the Telehealth Budget Allocation. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

4.05 **Updated Emergency Coronavirus Policy – Temporary Policy to Protect the Health of Employees and the Community During the Coronavirus Outbreak**

The Emergency Coronavirus Policy was approved at the March board meeting. It was determined that home equipment can be used. Guidelines for Working from Home part A, paragraph E was added which states, “may request to use a Board laptop and other Board equipment while working at home, or may use your own electronic equipment. If you use your own equipment, you are solely responsible for its repair and replacement if necessary.”

Mr. Himm motioned to approve the Updated Emergency Coronavirus Policy. Rev. Cummings seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

4.06 **BCESC (Butler County Educational Service Center for MRSS (Mobile Response & Stabilization Service)**

This is a funding increase in the amount of \$34,510 for the multi-county amended agreement for crisis and crisis intervention. It is not to exceed \$259,443.

Mr. Tucker motioned to approve the BCESC for MRSS. Ms. McKinney seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

5. Guest and Board Comments

5.01 **Guest/Board Comments**

6. Adjournment

The next board meeting will be on Wednesday, April 15th at 6:00 p.m. via telephone conference unless Dr. Rasmus indicates the need to change this.