



**Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 20th, 2020  
Board Meeting**

The Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Board held its Board meeting on Wednesday, May 20th, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Board office located at 5963 Boymel Drive in Fairfield, Ohio via Webex.

**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: Pastor Michael Bailey; Patricia Deis-Gleeson, BSN; Theodore Hunter, MD; President Wayne Mays; Deborah Stanton; Lonnie Tucker, CH, CSW; Father Michael Pucke; Sandra Smith; Christine Hacker, MSN; Mathew Himm; Kim McKinney, BSN, RN; Rev. Gary Smith; David Swigonski; Richard Bement; Rev. Vanessa R. Cummings; Kelsey Wargo, LPCC-S, CCTP-II; and John Silvani, RN, CARN, CAS, LCDC-II.

**Recognition of Guests via teleconference:**

Deanna Proctor, Access Counseling  
Pauline Edwards, Access Counseling  
Erin Day, Community Behavioral Health  
Lori Higgins, Envision  
Joyce Kachelries, Lifespan  
Jilland Holland, Sojourner  
Julie Herrmann, St. Joseph Orphanage  
Nichol Boberg, Talbert House  
Sheri Bartels, Transitional Living  
Wendy Waters-Connell, YWCA  
Diane Ruther-Vierling, YWCA  
Mother Suzanne LeVesconte

1.02 Agenda Review  
- *No changes*

1.03 Public Comments on the Agenda  
- *No comments*

## **2. Correspondence**

- 2.01 Lifespan Letter  
LifeSpan's Guardianship program is experiencing a shortfall in the amount of \$18,950. The Agency is requesting an increase for a total maximum contract amount of \$301,175 for FY20.
- 2.02 CBH Letter  
Community Behavioral Health's daily operations have been significantly impacted by COVID-19. The Agency has implemented a company-wide reduction in force to offset the losses. This has not impacted services provided.
- 2.03 St. Joe's Letter  
On July 1, 2020, St. Joseph Orphanage will become independent and operate as an Ohio nonprofit corporation under its new E.I.N. as SJO Kids, Inc., dba St. Joseph Orphanage.

## **3. Board Communication & Announcements**

### 3.01 Executive Director's Report

#### **I. Covid-19 – Federal, State & County**

Governor DeWine's stay at home order has now changed to strongly recommended staying at home. So far eight providers have received Payroll Protection Plan funding due to the financial impact of COVID-19.

Ohio is slated to receive a \$2 million Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAHMSA) grant. Butler County will receive \$43,000 in crisis service supports. This money still has not reached the BCMHARS Board.

Tiffany Lombardo, Envision Partnerships and Beckett Springs Hospital collaborated to create a proposal for a \$50,000 FEMA Emergency grant for behavioral health PR and education services.

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services had an \$8 million reduction in general revenue funds for FY20. Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) is absorbing the loss and not directly projecting cuts to the BH provider system or Board offices for FY20. The impact on state BH funding for FY2021 is still unknown.

#### **II. Board Budget Update**

There was a commission work group meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup>, which was open to all departments in the county. It was identified that there has been approximately a 20% reduction in county revenues due to less tax collections. The commissioners utilized a rainy day fund to shore up most of these losses but will still impose

about a 4.5% reduction this 2020 calendar year and about a 7.5% cut in calendar year 2021 across all departments including the BCMHARS Board.

III. **Levy Update**

Dr. Rasmus presented before the Butler County commission on May 18<sup>th</sup> concerning the 1 Mil Renewal Levy. He indicated he felt his presentation went well.

IV. **Training for Hispanic and Latino Service Providers During the Pandemic Emergency: The National and Latino Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network**

The National and Latino Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network is giving online trainings for Hispanic and Latino service providers during the pandemic. Four upcoming dates in May are: 21<sup>st</sup> (The Impact of a Pandemic of Latino Populations with Serious Mental Illness), 26<sup>th</sup> (Coping with Stress During the Pandemic), 27<sup>th</sup> (Communicating Death and Dying to Latino Families during a Pandemic), and 28<sup>th</sup> (PTSD and Trauma in Hispanic and Latino Military Families).

V. **Board Committee Information**

Ms. Deis-Gleeson shared the FY21 Board committee member information. It will be voted on in the June meeting.

VI. Leonard, Kimberly. **“Access to Mental Healthcare Is about to Get Harder, at a Time When Even More People Need Help.”** *Business Insider*, Yahoo News, 1 May 2020, [https://news.yahoo.com/access-mental-healthcare-harder-time-125000678.html?soc\\_src=newsroom&soc\\_trk=com.microsoft.Office.Outlook.compose-shareextension&tsrc=newsroom](https://news.yahoo.com/access-mental-healthcare-harder-time-125000678.html?soc_src=newsroom&soc_trk=com.microsoft.Office.Outlook.compose-shareextension&tsrc=newsroom)

The US has long faced a shortage of mental healthcare. The need for mental healthcare is increasing as people face grief, anxiety, and depression tied to the coronavirus pandemic, but fewer visits to counselors are happening because people are staying at home. Clinics and hospitals for people with serious mental illness and addictions are trying to get used to changes in how they care for patients. Clinics are facing financial challenges that threaten their ability to stay open. The coronavirus pandemic has forced people who need treatment for addictions and mental illnesses to go from in-person therapy sessions and group meetings to phone calls and video conferencing.

VII. Roberts, Caroline. **“Vaping and Coronavirus: 3 Doctors Weigh in on a Possible Link.”** *CNET*, 2 May 2020, <https://www.cnet.com/health/does-vaping-increase-the-severity-of-a-coronavirus-infection-three-doctors-weigh-in/#ftag=CAD-09-10aai5b>

Scientists are looking into any factors that may exacerbate the spread of the virus and the illness it causes. There hasn't been enough time to design reliable studies and collect data to see if there is a possible link between the novel coronavirus and vaping.

- VIII. Geall, Lauren. "**The 6 Best Mindfulness Apps Which Make Taking Care of Your Mental Health Simple.**" *Stylist*, 17 May, 2020 <https://www.stylist.co.uk/life/best-mindfulness-apps-meditation-self-care/358665>

Mindfulness apps are a great way to make self-care into a daily habit. The Calm app is a comprehensive mindfulness app which offers a range of different self-care tools including guided meditations, music to help focus, relax or sleep and video lessons on mindful movement and stretching. The Headspace app covers everything from sleep and fitness to self-esteem and stress. Shine is a mindfulness app that sends a daily motivational message along with research-backed tips on mental health. Reflectly uses artificial intelligence to help an individual "structure and reflect upon daily thoughts and problems." Aura is a personalized AI that provides short, science-backed mindfulness meditation exercises to suit an individual's self-care needs.

- IX. Bernstein, Elizabeth, "**The Science of Prayer,**" *The Wall Street Journal*, Dow Jones & Company, 17 May, 2020 <https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-science-of-prayer-11589720400>

A 2005 study in the *Journal of Behavioral Medicine* comparing secular and spiritual forms of meditation found spiritual meditation to be more calming. A 2004 study on religious coping methods in the *Journal of Health Psychology* found that people who approached God as a partner or collaborator had better mental and physical health outcomes than people who showed anger with God, felt they were being punished or abandoned, or who relinquished their responsibility and deferred to God for solutions.

- X. **Miscellaneous**

The Executive Director's (ED) Annual Performance self-appraisal will be sent via email on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. The board member ED evaluation will then be sent out by Survey Monkey. It will be due by June the 3<sup>rd</sup>. If board members prefer to print the Survey Monkey and mail it in via USPS, please have it in by June the 1<sup>st</sup>. The appraisal will be reviewed at the June 9<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

- XI. **Community Updates – Tiffany Lombardo and Scott Fourman**

The Board has been working with the Butler County coroner to get weekly updates on overdose deaths and suicides. There was a recent spike of overdose and deaths across the county the week of May 11<sup>th</sup>. Tiffany Lombardo is working with outreach partners to request additional Naloxone kits from the state.

Tiffany Lombardo, Martina Weber and Joanna Lowry are in the process of submitting for three federal grants: Victims of Crime, Comprehensive Opioid

Stimulant and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) (replacement for the COAP program), and the Rural Communities Grant with the Oxford Coalition. The abstract summaries will be supplied at the June board meeting.

Mr. Fourman shared that the hotline had 182 phone calls / texts in April, which included 134 crisis calls and 33 information/referrals. 59 calls were referred to the mobile crisis team. Call-ins are averaging 7.6 minutes.

Top three reasons CCI is called: suicidal ideation, psychosis, and behavior deterioration. 17 cases involved with CCI were referred to the hospital or placed on a 72 hour hold. CCI is actively involved with Ft. Hamilton's emergency room.

### **Consent Agenda**

- 4.01. Consent Agenda Items  
A. April 29th Board Meeting Minutes

*Ms. Stanton motioned to approve the items in the consent agenda. Mr. Silvani seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.*

### **5. New Business**

- 5.01 **Board Development Recommendation**  
Rubina Dosani has tendered her resignation effective the end of FY20 (June, 2020). There is a board opening. Mother Suzanne LeVesconte is the board development committee's recommendation.

*Mr. Himm motioned to approve the Board Development Recommendation. Ms. Stanton seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.*

- 5.02 **Budget Revisions**  
Access Counseling is an agency generated revision to change service budgets from various services. There is no change in the contract total. The total is not to exceed \$1,460,158.

Community Behavioral Health is an agency generated revision to change service budgets from various services. There is no change in the contract total. The total is not to exceed \$4,661,343.

Lifespan is an agency generated revision to increase guardianship services in the amount of \$18,950. The Guardianship total is now not to exceed \$301,175.

Transitional Living (TLC) is an agency generated revision to change service budgets from counseling and therapy to coordination, support and residential. TLC reduced the

contract by the federal funding source Title 20 in the amount of \$1,863. The total is not to exceed \$1,897, 577.

*Mr. Tucker motioned to approve the Budget Revisions. Ms. McKinney seconded the motion. Ms. Stanton abstained from the vote. The vote carried the motion.*

**5.03 March Financial Report**

In March, we were 75% of the way through FY2020. Total revenue collected is 78.89% from all Board funding sources. Total administration expenditures are 69%. BCMHARS Board reporting on the period of March and year to date 2020 contract payments and grand total is 56%. Current cash balance as of March 31, 2020 is \$20,866,764.

*Ms. Stanton motioned to approve the March Financial Report. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.*

**5.04 Program Narratives**

The program narratives are a part of the contract and explain the programs that are funded. Community Behavioral Health Jail Services Program has been updated for approval.

*Ms. Stanton motioned to approve the Program Narratives. Ms. Hacker seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.*

**5.05 Community First Pharmacy Agreement**

Community First Pharmacy is a licensed pharmacy by the Ohio Board of Pharmacy. The purpose of the \$30,000 agreement is to facilitate payment for subsidized substance use disorder treatment medication for clients who are incarcerated or who are unable to pay.

*Ms. Stanton motioned to approve the Community First Pharmacy Agreement. Ms. McKinney seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.*

**5.06 Fee for Service Contract**

Dr. Rasmus requested the Board to endorse the provider Fee for Service contract for fiscal year 2021.

*Ms. Stanton motioned to approve the Fee for Service contract. Father Pucke seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.*

5.07 **FCFC Collaborative Agreement**

The fee agreement is a yearly board allocation of \$25,000 to support personnel and administration costs for the Family and Children First Council.

*Dr. Hunter motioned to approve the FCFC Collaborative Agreement. Ms. McKinney seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.*

5.08 **Board Resolution for Levy**

The purpose of the 1.0 Million Levy Resolution of the Mental Health and Addictions Recovery Services Board is to continue to provide funding to essential mental health and AOD programs and services. Dr. Rasmus requested the Board to endorse the 1.0 Mill Levy Resolution.

*Ms. Hacker motioned to approve the 1.0 Mill Levy Resolution with modification. Rev. Smith seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.*

5.09 **Strategic Plan**

Dr. Rasmus reviewed the Board Strategic Plan which went into effect March 2019, gave a brief summary of the standards and identified the objectives. He indicated to the Board the status of the 83 standards in the plan was on target, with a majority of the standards either completed or ongoing.

5.10 **Reopening of Office Next Phase**

Dr. Rasmus has been working with Jim Evans to formulate a strategy to reopen the office that follows the recommendations of health professionals and Ohio Governor DeWine.

*Ms. Stanton motioned to approve the Reopening of Office Next Phase. Rev. Cummings seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.*

5.11 **Board Self-Assessment (For Information Only)**

Mr. Swigonski presented and reviewed the Board Self-Assessment results.

5.12. **State Hospital Report – Scott Fourman**

In fiscal year 2020 the State of Ohio has awarded Butler County an average of 4 civil beds and 12 forensic beds a day. This is a total of 16 beds. In the month of April the average was 1 civil bed and 15 forensic beds. Year to date was 1.6 civil beds and 15.7 forensic beds. The state hospital average in the southwestern collaborative is 86% forensic and 13% civil.

Twin Valley in Columbus has discontinued receiving civil admissions due to four staff and five patients testing positive for COVID-19.

5.13 **Vouchers and Payments Made by Direct Deduction**

Mr. Rhodus discussed the current voucher approvals and direct deductions.

*Ms. Deis-Gleeson motioned to approve Vouchers and Payments Made by Direct Deduction. Ms. Stanton seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.*

**6. Guest and Board Comments**

6.01 **Guest/Board Comments**

**7. Adjournment**

The next board meeting will be on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. via telephone conference & Webex so the Board can do its executive session to discuss a conditional release client and perform Dr. Rasmus's Executive Director Evaluation. Additionally, the Board will have a second June Board meeting on Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> unless Dr. Rasmus indicates the need to change this date and time.