



**Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 19th, 2020
Board Meeting**

The Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Board held its Board meeting on Wednesday, August 19th, 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 Patricia Deis-Gleeson, BSN called the meeting to order.

Upon the call of the roll the following Board members were present via Webex: President Patricia Deis-Gleeson, BSN; Theodore Hunter, M.D.; Wayne Mays; Deborah Stanton; Lonnie Tucker, CH, CSW; Father Michael Pucke; Sandra Smith; Christine Hacker, MSN; Vice President Mathew Himm; Kim McKinney, BSN, RN; Rev. Suzanne LeVesconte; Rev. Gary Smith; David Swigonski; Richard Bement; Kelsey Wargo, LPCC-S, CCTP-II; and John Silvani, RN, CARN, CAS, LCDC-II.

Recognition of Guests via Webex:

Brandy Slavens, Access Counseling
Carolyn Winslow, Big Brothers Big Sisters
Lori Higgins, Envision
Joyce Kachelries, Lifespan
Jilland Holland, Sojourner
Sheri Bartels, Transitional Living
Wendy Waters-Connell, YWCA
Diane Ruther-Vierling, YWCA

1.02 Agenda Review
- *No changes*

1.03 Public Comments on the Agenda
- *No comments*

2. Swearing in of Board Members

2.01 **Rev. Suzanne J. LeVesconte**
Rev. Suzanne J. LeVesconte was sworn into office by Judge Randy T. Rogers.

3. Board Communication & Announcements

3.01 Executive Directors Report

A. State Funding Update

The BCMHARS Board has received the same amount of funding as FY20. The Board has an undetermined amount of funding thus far for PATH (Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) funds, Continuum of Care, State GRF (General Revenue Fund) funds, State Community Investments and Crisis Flex Funds. The Board is still waiting for SOR (State Opiate Response) funds for FFY21 and FFY22.

B. COVID-19 Update

Dr. Rasmus gave a brief update concerning COVID-19. He continues to meet with the providers two Tuesdays a month at 1:30 p.m. via Webex to discuss needs, status and any concerns they may have.

C. NAMI Annual Awards Celebration

The NAMI Annual Awards Celebration is Thursday, August 20th, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.

D. Eve Whitmore works as a clinical psychologist in Stow, Ohio and Mark Whitmore is an associate professor in the College of Business Administration at Kent State University. They have recently been studying misinformation and confirmation bias regarding COVID-19. Denial is a construct used in psychology to describe how people deal with reality, also called defense mechanisms. Denial is a way for an individual to defend themselves against anxiety. When individuals are experiencing periods where there is a lot of anxiety and it is a perceived threat, the person develops a strategy to protect themselves, their sense of security and safety. Marples, M. (2020, August 16). **Some people are in denial about the pandemic. Here's**

why. CNN. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/16/health/pandemic-covid-19-denial-mental-health-wellness/index.html>

E. As of August 4, 2020, the Butler County General Health District recently reported for confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases and deaths the following: 2,804 cases with 59 deaths. (n.d.). Welcome to Butler County Health,

OH. <http://health.bcoho.us/CovidReportButlerCounty.8.4.2020.pdf>

F. A map representative of the COVID-19 cases in Butler County as of July 15, 2020 (n.d.). Welcome to Butler County Health,

OH. <http://health.bcoho.us/Updated%20COVID%20Map%208.13.20.pdf>

- G. Mentor site for BJA and COSSAP Peer Recovery grantees
The BCMHARS Board has been recognized nationally by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and Comprehensive Opiate Stimulant Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) as a mentor site to other grantees.
- H. Community Update – Tiffany L. and Scott F.
The Board has been working with the Butler County coroner to get weekly updates on overdose deaths and suicides. There have not been any overdose spikes in the month of July and are on track to seeing similar numbers as 2019. There have been some anomalies and spikes in hospital room visits with COVID crisis emergencies, but not in deaths. The fact that other counties have been seeing a significant increase in spikes and rates, is a testament that the Butler County systems currently in place are working.

The Hamilton County Public Health has returned with the syringe exchange mobile service in July. The van is at the Middletown site every Tuesday in the morning and Fairfield in the afternoon. There were 332 visits, which were duplicative. In the month of July they were able to exchange 22,000 syringes and distributed along with 2,000 fentanyl test strips.

The Beckett Springs Hospital crisis team is fully staffed. They are running at high capacity with their in-patient unit accepting new types of clients, dual diagnosis and mental health clients.

Atrium Hospital's psychiatric unit received new renovations and is developing a high acuity unit. There will be 9 beds and 18 regular psyche beds. They are getting ready to expand due to a high demand for psyche bed and psyche services.

Ft. Hamilton Hospital is transferring clients out of the ER to hospitals in Montgomery County, Greene County and Indiana.

Mr. Fourman has been working with Erin Day and staff at Community Behavioral Health, making sure their Connections Program is operating at full maximum capacity.

Blue Ridge Vista has a new substance abuse unit. Greater Miami Services are running at 10 beds and are currently having issues getting at full capacity due to mold issues.

There was a long term patient at Summit, who is now stabilized and living at Melon Ridge. This individual had a relapse in the spring and was admitted at Christ for several months. Dr. Friedman is requesting a civil bed at Summit. Everything Summit has requested has been done and they are at an impasse. The State has been contacted. Summit has suggested an evaluation to see if the client is appropriate for submission to the state hospital system.

Mr. Fourman is involved with the hospital committee and is working with Bob Baker, chief of forensic services. His focus is on how to make more civil beds available.

Mr. Fourman has been working with Lifespan and the guardianship program. There is a new probate judge. There will be a conference plan meeting late in the year to cover agencies understanding of the laws, the process, and their roles concerning guardianship.

4. Consent Agenda

4.01 Consent Agenda Items

A. June Board Meeting Minutes

Mr. Himm motioned to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Stanton seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

5. New Business

5.01 Plaque – Wayne Mays and Rubina Dosani

Dr. Rasmus recognized President Wayne Mays and Rubina Dosani for their service provided to the Board.

5.02 HRSA Grant

The HRSA Grant is a \$1 million grant over three years starting Sept. 1. It will be focusing on opiate addiction (prevention, treatment and recovery services) in the Oxford Township area. The Board is one of only two grantees in the state of Ohio that received the HRSA Grant. This is a consortium effort. Joanna Lowry will be working with Miami University, Talawanda, McCullough-Hyde Hospital, Partner Solutions, and the Oxford Prevention Coalition.

Ms. Stanton motioned to approve the HRSA Grant Budget. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

Mr. Silvani motioned to approve the HRSA Grant. Ms. Stanton seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

5.03 Recovery Housing RFP

The original Recovery Housing RFP was approved in January and rescinded in April due to COVID-19. It has been decided to reinstate and move forward with the Recovery Housing RFP. The timeline is as follows: Interested party deadline of September 9th; Question and Answer period ends on October 1st; submission deadline of October 5th; the Ad Hoc committee will review the submissions on October 29th; and final acceptance will be approved in the November Board meeting. Funding will be designated on January 1st.

All meetings will be via Webex. They will be posted on the Board calendar and website. Please submit all questions to RecoveryHousing@bcmhars.org.

Mr. Himm motioned to approve the Recovery Housing RFP. Ms. Stanton seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

5.04 **YWCA – Board’s ODMHAS Capital Project Priority**

The YWCA submitted an application for the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (ODMHAS) Community Capital Project to construct a three story building to provide 45 apartments to individuals at risk of homelessness.

Ms. Stanton motioned to approve the YWCA Capital Project as the Board’s Capital Priority with state funds for FY21-22. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

5.05 **MHARS Levy**

The Board has had two Levy meetings via Webex. The PAC currently has \$17,000 and is still taking donations, with a target goal of \$45,000. A check or money order may be made out to Citizens 4 Community Recovery. An issue number has not been announced. Dean Langevin will be ordering clings, masks, mailings, signs, and billboards. The Butler County Sheriff has agreed to allow the Board to use his likeness in support of levy promotions.

5.06 **Pitney Bowes Agreement**

The 5 year lease on the Board stamp machine has expired. To address cost savings, a 36 month lease was created.

Ms. Stanton motioned to approve the Pitney Bowes Agreement. Mr. Himm seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

5.07 **TLC Princeton Road Lease Agreement**

The TLC Princeton Road Lease Agreement is for a term of two years for the purpose of residential and outpatient behavioral services at the annual base rental of one dollar.

Ms. Silvani motioned to approve the TLC Princeton Road Lease Agreement. Ms. Stanton seconded the motion. Mr. Mays abstained. The vote carried the motion.

5.08 **Affirmative Action Plan**

HR Consultant, Jim Evans, updates the Board’s Affirmative Action Plan annually. The cost is \$500.

Mr. Himm motioned to approve the Affirmative Action Plan invoice. Ms. Stanton seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

5.09 **Week of Appreciation Grant**

OACBHA will provide the Board with a \$1,500 grant to support and recognize first responders and those who work directly with individuals struggling to overcome addiction.

Ms. Stanton motioned to approve the Week of Appreciation Grant. Ms. McKinney seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

5.10 **State Hospital Report**

Mr. Fourman reviewed the July State Hospital Report. The July average was 1 civil and 12 forensic beds. The 2020 average was 1 civil and 12 forensic beds. Summit currently has 86% forensic beds, 13% civil and 1% from other board areas.

Concerning COVID-19, the state psychiatric hospital report, three staff at Twin Valley have tested positive with one exhibiting symptoms and one patient who tested negative.

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

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

Ms. Stanton motioned to approve the Vouchers and Payments Made by Direct Deduction. Mr. Tucker 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 Wednesday, September 16th at 6:00 p.m. via Webex unless Dr. Rasmus indicates the need to change this date and time.

Ms. Stanton motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Himm seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.