



**Butler County
Mental Health & Addiction
Recovery Services Board**

**Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 16th, 2020
Board Meeting**

The Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Board held its Board meeting on Wednesday, September 16th, 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: Pastor Michael Bailey; President Patricia Deis-Gleeson, BSN; Theodore Hunter, M.D.; Wayne Mays; 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; Rev. Vanessa R. Cummings, CAPP; Kelsey Wargo, LPCC-S, CCTP-II; and John Silvani, RN, CARN, CAS, LCDC-II.

Recognition of Guests via Webex:

Erin Day, Community Behavioral Health
Jilland Holland, Sojourner
Wendy Waters-Connell, YWCA
Diane Ruther-Vierling, YWCA

1.02 Public Comments on the Agenda
- No comments

2. Consent Agenda

2.01 Consent Agenda Items

- A. August Board Meeting Minutes
- B. September MH Committee Meeting Minutes
- C. September ARS Committee Meeting Minutes

Rev. Smith motioned to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Hacker seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

3. Board Communication & Announcements

3.01 Executive Directors Report

A. Funding Update

The BCMHARS Board will not receive the withdrawal management funds from the FY20 through the collaborative but may come through the SOR (State Opiate Response) 2.0 funds. The Board did receive a disbursement of funds from ODMHAS (Ohio Department Mental Health and Addiction and Services). There were challenges with the GFMS (Grant Funding Management System). The State made a transition to the Ohio ID system, which is the Ohio identification system. The Board received tech support and the state funding allocations are coming to the Board now.

B. COVID-19 Update

Dr. Rasmus gave a brief update concerning COVID-19. Provider meetings are going from two Tuesdays a month to once a month via Webex to discuss needs, status and any concerns they may have.

C. MH Tax Levy Update

The levy meeting took place on September 15th, at 1:30 p.m. Proofs of the fact sheet, yard sign, billboard, 4x8 sign, and mask were shared. There will be 9 billboards north and 9 billboards south administered throughout the county for the campaign. There will be 5,000 hard copies of fact sheets, 500 yard signs, 2,000 masks and 100 double sided 4x 8 signs produced. The mailer and website is still being designed.

D. This survey study that included 1,441 respondents during the COVID-19 pandemic and 5,063 respondents from before the pandemic, concluded that depression symptoms were three times higher during the COVID-19 pandemic than before. Increased higher risk factors included lower income, having less than \$5,000 in savings, and having exposure to more stressors.

Prevalence of depression symptoms in US adults before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. (2020, September 2). JAMA Network | Home of JAMA and the Specialty Journals of the American Medical Association. https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2770146?utm_campaign=article_alert-open_access_feed&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=applenews

E. Dr. Thomas A. Vance of Columbia University suggests that Black Americans are 20% more likely to experience “serious mental health problems” than the general population. In light of mental health challenges, there are often economic and societal barriers that prevent access to proper mental health care, with 1 in 5 Black Americans living in poverty, mental health care can be economically unavailable for many. ABC News. (2020, September 5). *Black American anxiety*

at all-time high, experts say. <https://abcnews.go.com/US/black-american-anxiety-time-high-experts/story?id=72651176>

- F. A study of 2,000 employees conducted at the end of March, early April in Australia, France, Germany, New Zealand, Singapore, the UK and the United States showed that 2 out of 5 (41.6%) of respondents mental health has declined since the COVID-19 outbreak. The top five reasons for the decline were more anxiety (24%), more stress (20.1%), worry about losing their job (14.2%), being less busy (8.6%), and challenges of working from home (8.5%). Contributing factors to stress levels included contracting COVID-19, financial pressure, being stuck at home, loneliness/social isolation, and fears about job security. The data shows that companies and managers actions can improve the well-being and mitigate some of the negative effects of COVID-19 outbreak on workers. They can help employees deal with their mental health by communicating well, setting clear expectations and taking action to address the needs of their employees. *Confronting mental health crisis stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.* (2020, April 14) Qualtrics. <https://www.qualtrics.com/blog/confronting-mental-health/>
- G. Communities have faced mental health challenges related to COVID-19: associated morbidity, mortality, and mitigation activities. During June 24–30, 2020, U.S. adults reported considerably elevated adverse mental health conditions associated with COVID-19. Younger adults, racial/ethnic minorities, essential workers, and unpaid adult caregivers reported having experienced disproportionately worse mental health outcomes, increased substance use, and elevated suicidal ideation. The public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic should increase intervention and prevention efforts to address associated mental health conditions. Community-level efforts, including health communication strategies, should prioritize young adults, racial/ethnic minorities, essential workers, and unpaid adult caregivers. Czeisler, M. É., Lane, R. I., Petrosky, E., Wiley, J. F., Christensen, A., Njai, R., Weaver, M. D., Robbins, R., Facer-Childs, E. R., Barger, L. K., Czeisler, C. A., Howard, M. E., & Rajaratnam, S. M. (2020). *Mental health, substance use, and suicidal ideation during the COVID-19 pandemic* — United States, June 24–30, 2020. MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 69(32), 1049-1057. <https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6932a1>
- H. NAMI Walk
The 2020 NAMI Walk on October 10th will be a virtual event. If interested, please register online at <http://nami-bc.org/events/signature-events>. To join the BCMHARS Board team, please go to <https://www.namiwalks.org/team/40347>.
- I. First Responders – Week of Appreciation: September 20 – 26
First Responders Week of Appreciation is September 20 – 26. Due to COVID-19, the BCMHARS Board will be unable to show their appreciation in the traditional

way from years past. Joanna Lowry and Tiffany Lombardo are working on different and creative ideas for 2020.

J. 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 has been any overdose spike in the month of September and are on track to seeing double numbers from 2019. The coroner has reported a bad batch of fentanyl on the streets. Fentanyl test strips are available through the regional syringe exchange. There has been a difficulty getting Naloxone out into the community because of supply issues in the health district. Interact for Health is providing a grant to purchase a six month supply of Naloxone.

In April of 2020, a female who resided successfully in the community started having a physical reaction that was placing her physical health in danger. A medication change was necessary, which triggered negative symptomology. She became decompensated. She went to various hospitals and ended up at Christ Hospital. Dr. Friedman and Mr. Fourman have reached out to the State Hospital several times in May, June and July for a civil bed. Approval was received in August to send this patient to a State Hospital. On September 4, they were told there was no room at Summit but this patient could go to a State hospital in Cleveland.

4. Review of Committee Meeting

4.01 **September – MH Committee Meeting Review – Christine Hacker**

Ms. Hacker gave a brief update on the MH Committee meeting activities this month.

4.02 **September – ARS Committee Meeting Review – Mat Himm**

Mr. Himm gave a brief update on the ARS Committee meeting activities this month.

5. New Business

5.01 **Financial Report**

Mr. Rhodus provided an overview of the May financial report indicating the current revenue is 91.92%. The board administration costs are 86%. Year to date is 76%, with a current cash balance of \$19,340,311.

Mr. Rhodus provided an overview of the July financial report indicating the current revenue is 4%. The board administration costs are 7%. Year to date is 7%, with a current cash balance of \$17,828,792.

Mr. Silvani motioned to approve the Financial Reports. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

5.02 Budget Revision Policy

The last documented revision policy update was April 1, 2020 wherein the Board approved a budget modification for November through May of FY20. Currently, Dr. Rasmus requested a Board policy emphasizing a provider facilitated budget revision for the months of October, January, March and April of FY21.

Mr. Swigonski motioned to approve the Budget Revision Policy. Rev. Cummings seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

5.03 HRSA Contracts

The HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) grant was accepted at the August Board meeting. The \$1 million grant over three years began on 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.

Miami University will house a full-time project director's position. This position is a requirement of the grant. Miami University will make the position available once the Miami University Cost Reimbursement Research Sub-award Agreement is passed by the Board.

Epiphany Community Services will be working with the Oxford Prevention Coalition specializing in data collection, outcomes and evaluation for the grant.

Ms. Hacker motioned to approve the Miami University Contract. Mr. Himm seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

Mr. Tucker motioned to approve the Epiphany Community Services Contract. Rev. Smith seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

5.04 HRSA Job Description Update

Two Board employee job descriptions and compensation schedules were updated due to duties concerning grant support.

Mr. Tucker motioned to approve the job description updates. Mr. Silvani seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

Ms. Hacker motioned to approve the compensation schedule. Mr. Mays seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

5.05 Recovery Housing Ad Hoc Committee Selection Confirmation

The Recovery Housing RFP meeting will be Thursday, October 29th at 2:00 p.m. The Ad Hoc Committee members are Mat Himm, Kelsey Wargo, Rev. Smith and Father Pucke.

5.06 SOR Grant Award

The State is asking to spend down funds, rounding down into the end of SOR (State Opiate Response) year one. An allowable cost is PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and telehealth needs for providers. A request for a one time grant award in the amount of \$15,000 out of the SOR application to purchase additional PPE and telehealth accounts for CBH.

Dr. Hunter motioned to approve the CBH SOR Grant. Father Pucke seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

5.07 BJA Mentor Site Agreement

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. There are two outstanding grants that were applied for in the spring, both are pending. The COSSAP grant in the amount of \$900,000 for 3 years and the OVC (Office of Victims of Crime) grant in the amount of \$700,000 for three years. They are slated to begin on October 1.

Mr. Tucker motioned to approve the BJA Mentor Site Agreement. Mr. Silvani seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

5.08 Caring, Community, Collaborative (C3) Workshop Series – The Impact of Social Media and Technology on Youth

Caring, Community, Collaborative (C3) is holding a six week online workshop series from October 1st to November 5th, focusing on the impact of social media and technology on youth. They have asked the BCMHARS Board to participate in the virtual resource fair and to support the workshop with an allocation in the amount of \$1,000. To register online go to

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eh9sfsdi86219255&llr=jk b99fab>

Mr. Silvani motioned to approve the C3 Workshop Series allocation. Rev. Cummings seconded the motion. Mr. Tucker abstained. Ms. McKinney abstained. The vote carried the motion.

5.09 **Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities MOU**

OOD (Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities) is an employment program that assists persons with mental health disorders as the main obstacle for employment to receive assistance with workforce rehab. This program has vocational research counselors, job developers, and case managers. Its focus is towards long-term employment. The contract is in the amount of \$75,337.04.

Rev. Smith motioned to approve the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities MOU. Ms. McKinney seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

5.10 **FEMA COVID-19 Emergency Grant**

Butler County has received an emergency grant from FEMA due to COVID-19 in the amount of \$53,346.25. This will allow the Butler Behavioral Health's mobile crisis team to screen and refer those presenting with mental health challenges due to COVID-19 to the Health Now Program.

Mr. Silvani motioned to approve the FEMA COVID-19 Emergency Grant. Rev. Smith seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

5.11 **GMS Additional Considerations**

There have been ongoing challenges with GMS over the last fiscal year, which Board members have been made aware of, including the impact of the pandemic on capacity and productivity. There have been ongoing negotiations with Ft. Hamilton to cancel the lease and close the unit by the end of December 2020. Dr. Rasmus made a request to the Board to endorse the closing of GMS, to approve the expansion of group home beds and to change the reimbursement from per diem rate to cost based.

Dr. Hunter motioned to approve the closing of GMS. Mr. Silvani seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

Pastor Bailey motioned to approve the expansion of group home beds. Rev. Smith seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

Ms. Hacker motioned to approve the change in reimbursement from per diem rate to cost based. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

5.12 **Ben Ogles Agreement**

The Board has been utilizing Dr. Ogles extensively. There was a need to amend the FY21 agreement from \$1,500 to \$3,000.

Mr. Mays motioned to approve the Ben Ogles Agreement. Mr. Silvani seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

5.13 **Community Plan**

Each Board is required to submit to the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (ODMHAS) a Community Plan every two years. It is aligned with the Board Strategic Plan and the Community Health Improvement Plan that is done in collaboration with the health districts in Butler County.

Mr. Silvani motioned to approve the Community Plan. Mr. Mays seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

5.10 **State Hospital Report**

Mr. Fourman reviewed the August State Hospital Report. The August average was 1 civil and 12 forensic beds. The 2020 average was 1 civil and 12 forensic beds.

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.

Mr. Tucker motioned to approve the Vouchers and Payments Made by Direct Deduction. Rev. Smith seconded the motion. The vote carried the motion.

6. Guest and Board Comments

6.01 **Guest/Board Comments**

Rev. Smith shared his concerns about Shalom Ministry being closed due to COVID-19 and the impact that will have on the community this winter.

7. Adjournment

The next board meeting will be on Wednesday, October 21th at 6:00 p.m. via Webex unless Dr. Rasmus indicates the need to change this date and time.