

**HAMILTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES BOARD**

**Minutes of the Board of Trustees**

Virtual GoToMeeting

Thursday, January 21, 2021

**I. Call to Order:**

A. The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order (Gabelman) at 8:30 a.m.

B. Virtual Meeting Information:

Consistent with Am. Sub. H.B. 197 and H.B. 404, this meeting was held virtually; providers and public can access virtual Board meetings through the HCMHRSB Facebook page located at: <https://www.facebook.com/HCMHRSB/>.

Providers and public can submit questions/comments after the meeting to Chevelle Sizemore at [chevelles@hcmhrrsb.org](mailto:chevelles@hcmhrrsb.org).

**II. Attendance:**

A. Board Members Present: Thomas Gabelman (Chair); Judge John O'Connor (Vice-Chair); Mary Ellen Malas (Secretary); Matthew Curoe; Mark Davis; Gwen DiMeo; Regina Moore; Mary Oden, Ph.D.; Gary Powell; Jonathan Steinberg, Ph.D.; Christine Wilder, M.D.; Ashlee Young

B. Board Members Absent: Linda McKenzie (Exc.)

C. Staff Members Present: Patrick Tribbe; Erik Stewart, Ph.D.; Anna Dowell; Linda Gallagher; LaNora Godfrey; Jenny Heizman; Renee Kopache; Ann Kuhn; Tony Reyes; Chevelle Sizemore

**III. Approval of Minutes:**

A. A motion was made (Gabelman) to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting.

**Motion Approved**

**IV. Presidents Report:**

**A. Announcements**

Patrick Tribbe has announced as of February 2021, Mark Davis and Johnathan Steinberg will resume presentation of Educational Reports.

The Mental Health sub-committee of the Tax Levy Review Committee met on December 29, 2020 for a mid-term review of the Mental Health Levy. The mid-term review was scheduled for the previous year but had to be postponed due to difficulty scheduling public meetings during the pandemic. The mid-term review provides the Tax Levy Review Committee with a look at how levy funds have been used so far and an idea of funds that will be necessary at the end of the current levy

period. During the review, MHR SB staff provided a summary of the current and future financial status as well as future planning goals. At this point, MHR SB is on track with expectations. During the review period, provider agencies were compelled to provide many treatment and support services via telehealth. Agencies were able to transition quickly with financial support from the CARES Act funds provided by the Board of County Commissioners. CARES Act funds also provided free personal protective equipment (PPE) that enabled providers to maintain residential services and continue to make personal contact with hard to access clients. MHR SB has received positive reports regarding our assistance to providers and the mid-term review was positive overall. The Mental Health Levy will be on the ballot again in 2022.

**B. Awareness Initiatives**

Last year HCMHR SB was able to receive the second part of a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant for the RSP (Regular Services Project). RSP funds are disaster relief grant funds awarded after a presidential disaster declaration, in this case for COVID-19. Four provider agencies have applied for these funds. The focus will be to provide high intensity, low volume individual services to individuals directly affected by COVID-19, such as providing non-clinical assessment, resource linkage, and educational and supportive contact.

**C. GOSH System**

The MHR SB transition to the GOSH system for claims management is proceeding smoothly and ahead of schedule. HCMHR SB was able to obtain the necessary computer server equipment earlier than expected and has already completed the transition from vendor servers to HCMHR SB's servers. Vendor servers will be returned next month.

**V. Mental Health and Addiction Services Committee:**

**A. Deferred to Finance**

**VI. Finance Committee:**

**A. Anna Dowell reviewed line items for the period**

Revenue: State General Revenues Funds increased by \$1.9 million. Block Grant (BG) Funds increased by \$1.6 million.

Expenses: Agency provider contract payments totaled \$12.3 million during the months of November and December, \$12.2 million (99%) were for CY 2020 services and \$143k (1%) were for CY 2019.

**B. Action Items**

**1. Talbert House CARES Allocation Adjustment**

As part of it's CARES Act Plan, the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners (HCOCC) provided \$2.6 million in CARES funding to HCMHR SB to allocate to

provider agencies that had incurred increased expenditures due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. All provider invoices for reimbursement have been submitted and processed. Some agencies did not use all their available CARES allocation while Talbert House submitted expenses exceeding their allocation.

The Finance Committee recommends the Board of Trustees approve an increase of \$15,877.47 in Talbert House's CY 2020 CARES allocation to fully utilize the available CARES funding.

100% of this expense will be funded by the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners as part of their CARES Act Plan.

**Motion Approved**

## **2. CURES Redistribution**

Claims for all services funded through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century CURES Act (CURES) have been submitted by agencies and processed. Some agencies did not use all their available allocations while others provided services exceeding their allocated funding. Board of Trustees action is necessary to increase allocations to those agencies that produced services exceeding their allocations to reimburse them for those services and fully utilize the available funds.

The Finance Committee recommends the Board of Trustees approve an increase of \$11,424.02 for The Crossroads Center for CY 2021. In accordance with OhioMHAS guidelines, the funds will be disbursed by June 2021.

The funding source is unspent CURES funding.

**Motion Approved**

## **3. Suicide Prevention Coalition Grant**

HCMHR SB has been awarded a continuation mini-grant from the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation (OSPF) to strengthen the Hamilton County Suicide Prevention Coalition's efforts to review, improve, and implement plans to address suicide (prevention) in Hamilton County.

The Finance Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve an increase of \$2,500 to Talbert House to be used for the Hamilton County Suicide Prevention Coalition Grant. The funding period is November 2020 through September 2021.

100% of this project will be funded by Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation.

**Motion Approved**

## **4. K-12 Prevention Grant**

In SFY 2020, HCMHR SB was awarded a one-time grant of \$1,073,147 by OhioMHAS for Prevention services in grades K-12 in Hamilton County School Districts and Community Schools. This grant is to be used to provide evidence-based prevention

programming to help children build resiliency to better cope with life stressors thereby reducing the likelihood of developing substance use disorders, mental illness, or other related illnesses.

The Finance Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve an increase of \$23,236 for Prevention First! For school-based prevention services. The funding period is January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021.

100% of this allocation increase will be funded from OhioMHAS.

**Motion Approved**

#### **5. Behavioral Health Criminal Justice Linkage (BHCJ) Grant Carryover**

HCMHR SB requested and has been provided authorization to spend balance funding of \$95,830.98 from a SFY 2014 Behavioral Health Criminal Justice Linkage (BHCJ) grant by Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS). This award serves men and woman with a behavioral health diagnosis who are involved in the criminal justice system.

The Finance Committee recommends the Board of Trustees approve an increase of \$95,830.98 to Talbert House's calendar year 2021 contract. In accordance with OhioMHAS' guidelines, the funds will be spent by June 2021.

100% of this project will be funded by a grant received from OhioMHAS.

#### **6. PATH Grant**

HCMHR SB contracts with Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCBHS) to implement the Projects for Assistance through Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program. PATH serves homeless individuals and those at risk of becoming homeless, who have serious mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders in Hamilton County. Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (Ohio MHAS) funds this program and has allocated additional funding for Hamilton County for SFY 2021.

The Finance Committee recommends the Board of Trustees approve an increase of \$10,200.70 to Excel's allocation through March 31, 2021.

The total increase of \$7,650.53 will be funded by OhioMHAS and the match of \$2,550.17 will be funded by the Mental Health Levy.

**Motion Approved**

#### **VII. Other:**

**A.** There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.