

HAMILTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of the Board of Trustees

Virtual GoToMeeting

Thursday, March 18, 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@hcmhrsb.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; Patrick Garry; Linda McKenzie; Regina Moore; Mary Oden, Ph.D.; Jonathan Steinberg, Ph.D.; Christine Wilder, M.D.

B. Board Members Absent: Gary Powell (Exc.); Ashlee Young (Exc.)

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

III. Approval of Minutes:

A. A motion was made (Steinberg) to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting.

Motion Approved

IV. Education Report:

Jonathan Steinberg, Ph.D. presented the advantages and limitations of behavioral telehealth. Some advantages include increased accessibility for clients, increased client engagement, additional insight into clients' lives, and similar outcomes to in-person appointments. Some of the limitations include constraints on non-verbal communication, possible lack of confidentiality, lack of availability of lab work and other somatic interventions, and difficulties in assessing and responding to suicidality. There are situations where in-person meetings are desirable including peer support, group therapy and when a client is unable to afford the technology required for telehealth.

V. President's Report:

A. Levy Updates

Both the Mental Health Levy and the HHIC (Health Hospital and Indigent Care) levy will be on the ballot in 2022. The mid-term review of the mental health levy has been completed and the mental health sub-committee issued their report to the full Tax Levy Review Committee (TLRC). The sub-committee was very complimentary of the HCMHRSB staff and operations. The report indicates the current level of spending is not sustainable going into that next levy period and the levy will require some type of increase to sustain services. The need for services is expected to increase beyond the current level as issues related to the pandemic have taken a toll on the mental health of many individuals. The full TLRC committee accepted the recommendation, and the recommendation will be forwarded to the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners. It is expected that a consultant will be brought on board at the end of 2021.

The mid-term review for the HHIC Levy is next week. The primary focus of the HHIC Levy is Children's Hospital and University Hospital as they receive the largest share of the levy. All HHIC money received by HCMHRSB is used to support substance abuse services. The demand for these services has grown considerably. However, it is unknown whether the need for more services will translate into an increase of HHIC funds for HCMHRSB as the demand for HHIC funding is very competitive.

B. Awareness Initiatives

March is problem gambling awareness month. The goal of this national awareness campaign is to increase public awareness of problem gambling, the availability of prevention, treatment, and recovery services, and to encourage health care providers to screen clients for problem gambling. HCMHRSB funds local agencies to provide evidence-based prevention and treatment services for problem gambling. For more information, visit www.beforeyoubet.org or call RHAC (Recovery Help Access Center) at 281-7442 for assistance and direction.

C. Capital Funding

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services' (OhioMHAS) Bureau of Capital Planning and Management has awarded a Capital grant to Talbert House for Biennium 2020-2021 in support of building infrastructure for Hamilton County's Behavioral Health Services Continuum of Care. The Talbert House permanent supportive housing project will include 58 apartment units that will house individuals and families at risk of homelessness (50 one-bedroom units and 8 two-bedroom units). The Talbert House project is projected to cost \$10M of which they will receive \$500,000 in capital funding. To receive this funding the agency is required to execute a 30-year forgivable mortgage.

VI. Finance Committee:

A. March 2021 Financial Statements

Anna Dowell reviewed line items for the period.

Revenue: State General Revenue Funds increased by \$692K. Block Grant (BG) Funds increased by \$1.1 million. Inter-County Revenue increased by \$597K.

Expenses: Agency provider contract payments totaled \$2.3 million during the month of February; \$294K (13%) were for CY 2021 services and \$2 million (87%) were for CY 2020.

B. Action Items

1. Emergency Crisis Grant

HCMHR SB was awarded an additional \$126,485 from OhioMHAS to provide crisis services to individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including those with a severe mental illness or SUD, individuals not diagnosed with a severe mental illness, and healthcare workers.

The Finance Committee recommends the Board of Trustees approve an increase to Central Community Health Board for \$85,377 and an increase to Central Clinic for \$41,108.

100% of this project will be funded by OhioMHAS.

Motion Approved

2. Community Transition Program Funds (CTP)

HCMHR SB receives Community Transition Program funding to provide treatment and recovery supports for clients with a substance use disorder (SUD) and/or severe mental illness (SMI) for ex-offenders.

The Finance Committee recommends the Board of Trustees approve an increase of \$59,617 for Talbert House. The funding period is CY 2021.

100% of this project will be funded by OhioMHAS.

Motion Approved

3. JOURNEY Housing Services

HCMHR SB contracts with St. Joseph's Orphanage to provide housing and supportive services for transition-age youth in four apartment buildings as part of the JOURNEY to Successful Living program.

The Finance Committee recommends the Board of Trustees approve an increase to St. Joseph Orphanage of \$42,000 for funding covering the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

100% of this project will be funded by Mental Health Levy funds.

Motion Approved

4. DSA COVID-19 PPE

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) has awarded HCMHR SB \$10,000 to assist emergency housing providers with funding to purchase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

The Finance Committee recommends the Board of Trustees approve a \$5,000 increase in funding for Tender Mercies, and a \$5,000 increase in funding for Lighthouse Youth Services in SFY 2021 covering the period January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021.

100% of this project will be funded by OhioMHAS.

Motion Approved

5. DYS System of Care Redistribution

Claims for all services eligible for Department of Youth Services (DYS) funding 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 that the Board of Trustees approve an increase of \$24,790 for Crossroads Center and \$20,851 for Glad House for CY 2018.

The funding source is unspent DYS System of Care funding.

Motion Approved

VII. Other:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Gabelman
Chair

Judge John O'Connor
Vice-Chair