

HAMILTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of the Board of Trustees

Thursday, October 19, 2023

I. Call to Order:

- A. The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order (Gabelman) at 8:35 a.m.

II. Attendance:

- A. Board Members Present: Thomas Gabelman (Chair); Ashlee Young (Secretary); Matt Curoe; Gwen DiMeo; Sandra Driggins-Smith; Gregory Hogg; Jonathan Steinberg, Ph.D.; Christine Wilder, M.D.
- B. Board Members Absent: Gary Powell (Vice-Chair) (Exc.); Traci Henry (Exc.); Mary Ellen Malas (Exc.); Linda McKenzie (Exc.)
- C. Staff Members Present: LaNora Godfrey; Linda Gallagher; Jenny Heizman; Steve Rokich; Denise Garrett; Ann Briccio

III. Approval of Minutes:

- A. A motion was made (Gabelman) to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2023 Board of Trustees meeting.

Motion Approved

IV. President's Report:

A. Recovery Friendly Hamilton County

HCMHR SB has partnered with Hamilton County Public Health to implement Recovery Friendly Hamilton County (RFHC), a pioneering harm reduction initiative. Recognizing that more than 75% of Americans dealing with SUD are part of the workforce, RFHC focuses on empowering local employers in Hamilton County with tools and resources to address substance use disorder (SUD) among their workforce while dispelling the stigma surrounding addiction and recovery. By combining their resources and expertise, HCMHR SB and HCPH will make a significant impact on SUD in the workplace by supporting local employers.

B. Journey to Successful Living- Independence City

Journey to Successful Living, in collaboration with various organizations like Job and Family Services, New Path, Talbert House, and others, organizes an event called Independence City. This event challenges youth aged 14-21 to navigate the complexities of adult life, including financial responsibilities, parenting, and essential life skills. With the support of staff, partner organizations, and family, Independence City provides a hands-on experience for youth to prepare them for independent living, emphasizing the importance of overcoming challenges and making responsible choices.

C. October Celebrates Behavioral Health

October is a significant month for behavioral health awareness. World Mental Health Day, observed on October 10th, highlights mental health as a universal

human right. The World Health Organization (WHO) advocates for increased access to education, income generation, housing opportunities, and social support to combat the mental health crisis. Additionally, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) observes Youth Substance Use Prevention Month in October. Prevention efforts are crucial, especially among young people, as early substance use increases the risk of addiction. HCMHRSB invests in school-based and community-based prevention initiatives to raise awareness, educate, and enhance protective factors, ultimately preventing alcohol or drug addiction.

D. Take Back Day

DEA National Rx Take Back Day, held on October 28th, provides an opportunity for the public to dispose of unused, unwanted, or expired medications, reducing the risk of substance misuse and abuse. This initiative aims to educate the public about the potential dangers of keeping unused medications at home. By encouraging people to safely dispose of medications and raising awareness about prescription drug abuse, Take Back Day contributes to the overall efforts to combat substance misuse in the community.

E. Dr. Kamaria Tyehimba, Vice President of Talbert House, presented an overview of the Engagement Center's recent operational activities.

The Engagement Center, operated by Talbert House, is a 20-bed post-overdose withdrawal management residential facility offering several levels of clinically managed withdrawal services. Recently, services were expanded to include treatment for stimulant addiction and alcohol use disorder. In 2022, the center served 522 clients, with 78% reporting multiple drug use and 79% having both a substance use and mental health diagnosis. Client stays ranged from 4 to 24 days, with the majority (74%) staying for 4 days. All successful discharges had appointments for the next level of care (intensive outpatient) and 70% of the clients leaving the center were connected with a Peer Recovery Coach. The Engagement Center is currently working on plans to increase the number of beds from 20 to 24 and to develop protocols for accepting clients using Benzodiazepine.

V. Opportunity for Public Comments

- A.** Paul Haffner, Lighthouse Youth & Family Services, announced that Bonita Campbell was promoted to Chief Operating Officer.
- B.** Gloria Walker, NAMI, announced that twice a week NAMI holds a support group meeting for family members of those with mental illness.
- C.** Patrick Garry, Prospect House, commented on National Rx Take Back Day and wanted to make everyone aware that District 2 has a drop box available year round to drop of Rx medication.

VI. Finance Committee:

A. September 2023 Financial Statements

LaNora Godfrey reviewed line items for the period.

Revenue: Levies increased by \$19.8M. Second half real estate settlement for MH levy were posted. State General Revenue Funds increased by \$1.4M. Block Grant Funds increased by \$587K. Inter-County Revenue increased by \$192K.

Expenses: Auditor & Treasurer Fees increased by \$226K. Agency provider contract payments totaled \$4M during the month of September; \$4M (100%) were for CY 2023.

B. Action Items

1. MHC's Special Docket Recovery Support Funds

HCMHRBSB has been awarded \$11,636.00 in additional funding for SFY 2024 by Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) through the Mental Health Block Grant. These funds are designated for the provision of treatment and recovery supports for clients involved with Mental Health Specialized Dockets certified by the Ohio Supreme Court.

The Finance Committee recommends the Board of Trustees approve an increase of \$11,636.00 to Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services for funding covering the period from July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023.

100% of this project will be funded by OhioMHAS.

Motion Approved

2. Community Transition Program Funding (CTP)

For SFY 2024, HCMHRBSB was allocated \$350,000 from OhioMHAS for the Community Transition Program (CTP), to be used to provide treatment, recovery supports and administrative costs at the provider level, for clients with a substance use disorder (SUD) and/or severe mental illness (SMI) who are released from Ohio prisons.

The Finance Committee recommends the Board of Trustees approve funding to the following agencies for funding covering the period July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. The remaining balance will be allocated in January 2024 to be expended between January 1, 2024-June 30, 2024.

Agency	Proposed Increase
Addiction Services Council	\$40,134.19
Central Clinic/MHAP	\$2,500.00
Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health	\$92,500.00
Talbert House SUD	\$33,134.19
Talbert House MH	\$1,000
UMADAOP	\$5,731.62
Total	\$175,000

100% of this project will be funded by OhioMHAS.

Motion Approved

3. SFY 23 PATH Grant

Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCBHS) was able to provide additional services for clients participating in Projects for Assistance Through Transition from Homelessness (PATH) and requires an increase in the amount of \$9,895.

The Finance Committee recommends the Board of Trustees approve an increase of \$9,895.00 to GCBHS for the period January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023.

100% of this increase will be funded by OhioMHAS.

Motion Approved

4. FFY 2023 OOD Behavioral Health Vocational Project

The Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) contracts with the HCMHR SB to provide vocational/employment and rehabilitation services to individuals with mental health issues and/or drug and alcohol addictions as well as individuals with developmental disabilities. The local project is a partnership between the HCMHR SB, Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities (DDS), Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries (OVGI), Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCBHS) and IKRON. The HCMHR SB received a total of \$407,811.84 in federal funds to support the administrative services supporting the project. A total of \$11,138.76 will need to be allocated to Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services (GCBHS) for the period January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023 in order to bring the administrative allocations in-line with the FFY 23 OOD contract.

The Finance Committee recommends the Board of Trustees approve an increase for GCBHS in the amount of \$11,138.76 for the period January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023.

OOD will fund 100% of the increase.

Motion Approved

VII. Other:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Gabelman
Chair

Ashlee Young
Secretary