

HAMILTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES BOARD

Minutes of the Board of Trustees

Thursday, January 16, 2025

I. Call to Order

- A. The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order (Gabelman) at 8:40 a.m.

II. Attendance

- A. Board Members Present: Thomas Gabelman (Chair); Gary Powell (Vice-Chair); Ashlee Young (Secretary); Charles Collins, MD; Gwen DiMeo; Sandra Driggins-Smith; Lee Harrill; Gregory Hogg; Hillary Wishnick, PhD
- B. Board Members Absent: Matt Curoe (Exc.); Traci Henry (Exc.); Hannah Lewallen (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 November 21, 2024 Board of Trustees meeting.

Motion Approved

IV. President's Report

1. January is Substance Use Disorder Treatment Month

Substance Use Disorder Treatment Month (Treatment Month), launched in January 2025, supports individuals contemplating or seeking help for substance use, practitioners in the field, and the loved ones of those affected. The goals are to eliminate stigma surrounding treatment, including medications, encourage those on their treatment and recovery journey, and promote best practices in screening, intervention, and treatment by healthcare providers.

2. Guide for 988 vs. 911 Usage

SAMHSA issued a new Practical Guide, [Advising People on Using 988 Versus 911: Practical Approaches for Healthcare Providers](#), to help healthcare providers and patients understand when to use the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline for behavioral health support versus 911 for physical emergencies. The guide offers practical strategies, clear explanations, real-world scenarios, and addresses common concerns to reduce confusion. By following these actionable steps, the guide aims to ensure timely, appropriate responses to both behavioral health crises and physical emergencies, fostering better outcomes and strengthening the continuum of care.

V. Opportunity for Public Comments

- A. Patricia Bowling, a resident of Hamilton County and a volunteer sidewalk counselor for the Pro-Life community, spoke before the Board about the work she does in front of Planned Parenthood. Specifically, she came to address the Board and ask if the Board would be willing to make an exception to our Parking Resolution and grant two disabled volunteers and their drivers preauthorization to park in our parking lot, which borders Planned Parenthood. She also asked if we would consider parking privileges for other volunteers. Our board chair, Tom Gabelman, advised Ms. Bowling that while

he appreciates her passion, the Board will not grant preauthorization pursuant to the HCMHRSB Parking Resolution.

Ms. Bowling asked if we were aware that a medical waste van affiliated with Planned Parenthood had previously parked in our lot. LaNora Godfrey, our President/CEO, advised Ms. Bowling that there is no preauthorization for them to park in our lot and we would address this with the appropriate parties.

VI. Board of Trustees

A. December 2024 Financial Statements

Steve Rokich reviewed line items for the period.

Revenue: Levies increased by \$528K; Inter-County Revenue increased by \$2.7M. \$110K (4%) was for CY 2023 and \$2.6M (96%) was for CY 2024.

Expenses: Agency provider contract payments totaled \$5M during the month of December; \$20K (0.4%) were for CY 2023 and \$5M (99.6%) were for CY 2024.

B. Action Items

1. SUD Bridge Funding

HCMHRSB proposes to address a one-time funding gap resulting from the SOS4 Grant decrease to Hamilton County providers.

The RSO Committee recommends the Board of Trustees approve an increase of \$1,823,440 to the following providers to be used for the period January through December 2025.

AGENCY	AMOUNT
Addiction Services Council	\$125,000
Center for Addiction Treatment	\$244,678
Central Clinic/Outpatient Services	\$79,000
Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health	\$32,000
The Crossroads Center	\$412,630
First Step Home	\$149,000
Prevention FIRST!	\$18,000
Talbert House	\$482,974
UMADAOP	\$280,158
TOTAL	\$1,823,440

100% of this allocation increase will be funded by the Health and Hospital Levy.

Motion Approved

2. School Based Services

UMADAOP is requesting additional funding to support school based treatment and prevention services for youth with behavioral health needs.

The RSO Committee recommends the Board of Trustees approve an increase of \$298,000 to Urban Minority Alcohol and Drug Addiction Outreach Program of Cincinnati, covering the period through December 2025.

100% of these services will be funded by Mental Health Levy funds.

Motion Approved

3. Landlord Incentive Program

OhioMHAS has allocated an additional \$22,350 to HCMHR SB for the Landlord Incentive Program.

The RSO Committee recommends the Board of Trustees approve an increase of \$22,350 to Excel Development through June 2025.

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

Motion Approved

4. JOURNEY Engagement

The JOURNEY Program's Youth Engagement Coordinator position is being transitioned from Hamilton County Job and Family Services to New Path Child and Family Solutions to serve the needs of transition age youth.

The RSO Committee recommends the Board of Trustees approve an increase of \$58,975 to New Path to support this position, effective January 1 through December 2025.

100% of this position will be funded from the Mental Health Levy.

Motion Approved

5. Crisis Services

Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health is requesting an additional allocation of \$81,804 for mental health services and \$112,500 to support substance use disorder services to meet the increasing needs of individuals seeking behavioral health services.

The RSO Committee recommends the Board of Trustees approve an increase of \$81,804 for mental health services and \$112,500 for SUD services, \$194,304 total to Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health covering the period through December 2025.

The Mental Health allocation \$81,804 for this project will be funded by the Mental Health Levy and the SUD portion (\$112,500) for the project will be funded by the Health and Hospital Levy.

Motion Approved

VII. Other

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

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Gabelman
Chair

Ashlee Young
Secretary