

Members Present: Albert Barber, Denise DePerro, Dina Douglas, LaTesha Dukes, Elaine Harlin, Audrey Kessler, Jeff Langstaff, Iris Meltzer, Emily Schmidlin, Jennifer Schumm

Members Not Present for Board Meeting: Roy Mosley, William Nome, Valerie Root

Board Staff Present: John Garrity, Karyn Kravetz, George DeBord, Terra Howell-Muth, Rebecca Rood, Joshua Collins, Gina Dufour, Laura Dotts

Guests: *Children's Advantage*: Kathy Regal; *Coleman Health Services*: Hattie Tracy, Bill Russell; *Axess Family Services*: Mark Frisone, Greg Musci, Crystal Ashire; *Townhall II*: Tamera Hunter, Bob King; *Hope Town*: Ted St. John; *Community Member*: Fred Ahrens

The quorum was met with 10 members present.

Iris Meltzer called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Elaine Harlin was sworn in as a board member.

#### INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Introductions and rollcall
2. Staff reports: Regional/state/local issues
  - a. Director's Report: A Director's Report was included in the Board mailing the week prior to this meeting. A copy of the report is on file with these minutes.

There were no expenditures on the Crisis Center project in February. Only levy dollars have been spent to this point in the progression of the new Crisis Center.

As was discussed at the February Board meeting, we are interested in transferring the building that the Board currently owns, the new crisis center building, and the two parcels of land they are situated on to Coleman Health Services at a date in the future after the completion of the entire project.

The Board requested and was awarded an additional \$116,402 in Recovery Housing funding from OMHAS that was not being used by other Boards.

The boards of directors of Children's Advantage and Axess Family Services have announced a merger of the two behavioral health non-profit organizations. Directors Kathy Regal and Mark Frisone will provide an update during the CEO/Executive Director Agency Reports.

The Shooting S.T.A.R. Bookshelf (Start, Talking, About, Recovery) is a donation through Family Solution Finder Learning Centers of 1,200 fully vetted Addiction Self-Help books. The purpose is to increase awareness of recovery through learning, reduce stigma, and create steppingstones for community collaboration

Please welcome our newest Board member, Elaine Harlin, to the Mental Health and Recovery Board. Elaine is a resident of Mogadore and has extensive experience working in behavioral health and addiction services.

- b. Community Relations Report: A Community Relations report was included in the Board mailing the week prior to this meeting. A copy of the report is on file with these minutes. Karyn Kravetz reported.

Karyn and Gina Dufour attended several community meetings. Karyn has applied for mini grants to use on 988 awareness.

- c. Director of Compliance and Quality Improvement Report: A report was included with the Board mailing the week prior to this meeting. A copy of the report is on file with these minutes. Rebecca Rood reported.

The agency responses for State reports due in February were timely reported.

Board outcomes forms for the first half of FY25 have been sent to agencies in the new Excel format.

Rebecca created contracts that were approved by the Board in February.

To maintain compliance, the Board will conduct our annual tornado and fire drills with staff in March, and we will also review our safety policy.

We are asking for approval of the following policy updates.

- ~ Public Records Request F&OP 11 – This is an update to an existing policy. The content has not been modified; only the policy dates have been revised to keep it up to date.
- ~ Public Comment Policy GP 1 – This is an update to an existing policy. The content has been updated with the addition of a sentence that prohibits disruptive behavior. The policy dates have also been revised to ensure the policy remains current.
- ~ Indemnification Against Liability for Board Members and Employees GP 4 – This is an update to an existing policy. The content has not been modified; only the policy dates have been revised to keep it up to date.
- ~ Paid Leaves of Absence PP 25 – This is an update to an existing policy. The content has been revised to allow both sick leave and vacation leave to be taken in  $\frac{1}{4}$  hour increments, rather than requiring a full hour. The policy dates have also been updated to keep the policy current.

d. Clinical Manager's Report: A report was included with the Board mailing the week prior to this meeting. A copy of the report is on file with these minutes. Terra Howell-Muth reported.

Terra is continuing to work on creating a clinical audit process for contract agencies. She hopes to get an initial audit completed before the end of FY 25.

OMHAS approved an additional funding allocation for the Hospital Access program (uninsured inpatient psychiatric hospitalization funds) of \$80,000 (original allocation was \$88,800). To date, we have approved (used) \$130,400, so we have \$38,400 left for the remainder of the FY.

Terra is working with the Portage County Health District to finalize plans for starting a Suicide Fatality Review Board/Overdose Review Board. She is hoping to have the first meeting in Summer 2025.

NAMI Family Support group will restart on 3/13/2025 at 6:30pm at the MHRB office. They are hoping to resume Family-to-Family by Fall 2025.

Terra is facilitating several upcoming trainings.

3. Committee Reports:

a. Finance Committee: Audrey Kessler reported on the committee meeting that was held just prior to this meeting. A copy of the meeting report, invoice lists, and agenda are on file with these minutes. 2 motions will be presented to the board.

b. CEO/Executive Director Agency Reports:

*Children's Advantage and Axess Family Services:* Kathy Regal and Mark Frisone reported on the upcoming merger of the two agencies. The agencies' boards have met and discussed the merger and both boards will be voting on the merger later this month.

*Coleman Health Services:* Bill Russell reported. The agency board met. They updated insurance policies and contracts. Jeff Langstaff asked how federal cuts to veterans' services might affect the crisis project.

*Townhall II:* Tammy Hunter reported.

- The agency BOD last met on 2/24/25
- The agency has been actively receiving on-site IRT calls from Kent EMS/PD. 4 overdoses around the university in the last 3 weeks.
- The agency continues hiring clinicians for the Ravenna location and their schedules are filling up fast.
- The agency met with Ohio MHAS for 988 vision planning
- The agency is now a credentialed VA provider for MH and SUD treatment.

*Hope Town:* Ted St. John reported on the agency. Construction continues, they are waiting on inspections. They hope to open the new building in May. They plan to begin ASC Certification courses soon and have begun establishing collaboration with businesses and found funding that could be used for stipends.

4. Public Comment: None.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Approve Agenda

MOTION I Albert Barber moved to approve the agenda. Elaine Harlin seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 10 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

2. Minutes

MOTION II Denise DePerro moved to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2025, board meeting. Audrey Kessler seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 4 Nay: 0 Abstain: 6 – not present at February meeting.)

3. Business items

a. Approve Financial Motions

MOTION III Audrey Kessler moved to approve all invoices paid in February 2025. Albert Barber seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 10 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION IV Audrey Kessler moved to allow the Executive Director to contract with Axess Family Services to provide recovery housing in Portage County with added State funding dollars.

Vendor	Contract	Proposed Not to Exceed Amount	Grant Period
Axess Family Services	Recovery Housing	\$116,402.00	1/1/2025-6/30/2025

Jeff Langstaff seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 10 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

b. Approve Revised Policy

MOTION V Audrey Kessler moved to approve the revised Paid Leaves of Absence PP 25 Policy as presented. Jennifer Schumm seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 10 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION VI Audrey Kessler moved to approve the revised Public Comment Policy GP 1 Policy as presented. Albert Barber seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 10 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION VII Audrey Kessler moved to approve the updated Indemnification Against Liability for Board Members and Employees GP 4 Policy as presented. Denise DePerro seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 10 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION VIII Audrey Kessler moved to approve the updated Public Records Request F&OP 11 as presented. Jennifer Schumm seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 10 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

c. Approve Transfer of Property

MOTION IX LaTesha Dukes moved to approve that the Lovers Lane building that the Board currently owns, the new crisis center that is being built, and the 2 parcels of land that they are situated on, be transferred to Coleman Health Services at a date in the future after the completion of the entire new crisis center project. Jeff Langstaff seconded. Discussion: John Garrity, responding to questions, clarified the advantages of transferring the property and the financial investment that CHS has in the property. He also clarified that it is not unusual for the board to assist the provider agencies to purchase property. Motion carried. (Aye: 10 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

d. Appoint Health Officers

MOTION X Jeff Langstaff moved to remove the persons listed below as a Portage County Designated Health Officer: Doreen Swedik, Carmella Hill. Meghan Lopez. LaTesha Dukes seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 10 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION XI Jennifer Schumm moved to appoint the following employees of Coleman Health Services as Portage County Designated Health Officers: Bill Russell, Colton Jenkins, Jennifer Fike. Jeff Langstaff seconded. Discussion: The board was informed about these employees' current duties. Motion carried. (Aye: 10 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

4. Comments by board members: None

5. Executive Session: Not needed.

6. Adjournment:

MOTION VIII Albert Barber moved to adjourn. Jeff Langstaff seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 10 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Dotts

SIGNATURES  
x Laura Dotts  
x Denise Schumm  
x Jeff Langstaff