

Members Present: Albert Barber, Hal Farrier, Janice Hambleton, Audrey Kessler, Jeff Langstaff, Iris Meltzer, William Nome, Jennifer Schumm, Emily Schmidlin, Scott Swan

Members Not Present for Board Meeting: Denise DePerro, LaTasha Dukes, Roy Mosley

Board Staff Present: John Garrity, Karyn Kravetz, George DeBord, Rebecca Rood, Luke Barker, Linda Hankins, Laura Dotts

Guests: *Children's Advantage*: Kathy Regal, Bob King, Beatrice Florida; *Coleman Health Services*: Bill Russell; *Axess Family Services*: Mark Frisone, Will Konbau, Anne Face, Angela DeJulius, Crystal Aleshire; *Townhall II*: Tammy Hunter, Kurt Ruehr; *Hope Town*: Ted St. John

William Nome called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Introductions and rollcall

The Quorum was met with 10 members present.

2. Staff reports: Regional/state/local issues

- a. Director's Report: A Director's Report was sent out in the Board mailing the week prior to this meeting. A copy of the report is on file with these minutes. John Garrity reviewed and updated the report.

AxessPointe continues to expand their Harm Reduction Services and have doubled the number of clients served from 40 to 80 in the past year. The program would be best served by the addition of a Peer Recovery Support Specialist. The Board typically provides this funding for 12 months until the peer specialist can bill Medicaid fully for their services. We request an additional amount of \$35,801 for a peer position.

Hope Town also continues to expand the Peer Recovery Support Services provided to clients in their Recovery Housing programming. We request \$69,138.00 in levy dollars for the period of January 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024 for peer recovery support services until they can bill Medicaid fully for their services. This funding will complement the Recovery Housing contract and services we currently have with Hope Town funded with state dollars.

Children's Advantage had requested additional financial assistance in a cash advance for operational expenses as they await the receipt of additional funds they anticipate from several sources. This request was withdrawn at this time.

The new crisis center will be located at 3920 Lovers Lane on land owned by the Mental Health & Recovery Board. However, there is a 1.32-acre parcel adjacent to the Board's property that is owned by the Portage County Commissioners. We were interested in acquiring this piece of land, as doing so would allow us to build the new CSU without disrupting services to clients at the present CSU. We met with UH Portage executive staff to discuss the possibility with them of the Board using that land. Unfortunately, that is not a possibility.

Once again as a reminder, the City of Kent is recommending that every business works remotely on April 8 due to the total eclipse. All the hotels are sold out, and large crowds and congested traffic are expected. The eclipse is during the afternoon, but there may still be traffic issues in the evening. We recommend holding our meeting on April 15th.

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

We joined Townhall II in hosting the Youth Leadership Summit. Over 70 students from Portage schools attended.

We will be offering an Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) Therapy training for the agencies this spring through the Institute for Creative Mindfulness. EMDR is one of the most researched and utilized methods in the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other forms of human distress connected to trauma and adverse life experiences.

Attended the MLK Breakfast and the Portage Housing Summit. Distributed over 100 gun locks at the Sportsman Dinner along with suicide prevention information. Also attended the Streetsboro Wellness Fair and distributed children's mental health information & 988 wristbands to families.

Created jail re-entry information packets to be distributed at the Reed Memorial Library.

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

The NOSA from the State for the SOS3 year 2 contracts were received. Contracts went out to the agencies this morning.

Rebecca verified with Fonda from OACBHA, the Board's Culture of Quality site survey will be held on the 26th and 27th of February 2024. The half-hour interviews will be scheduled with an agency representative and a governing Board representative.

The Mental Health Board needs to make all Governing Board members aware of available DEI education. To satisfy this Culture of Quality requirement, Laura emailed everyone with the new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training link. The DEI training is from OhioCASA.org, it is a free online course. The Board Staff has completed their required DEI training.

As part of our ongoing work with Culture of Quality Certification, we are asking approval of the following policy.

~ MP 16: Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator

This is a new draft policy that was added as part of the requirements of the Culture of Quality.

- d. Clinical Manager's Report

A report was emailed and mailed out in the Board mailing the week prior to this meeting. A copy of the report is on file with these minutes. Luke Barker reported. He is working on the AOT process. No complaints received in the last year rose to the board level – they were resolved at the agency level.

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. 9 motions will be presented for approval.
- b. CEO/Executive Director Agency Reports:

Children's Advantage: Kathy Regal and Bob King gave an expanded presentation on their financial improvement strategy. Their handout is attached to these minutes.

Coleman Health Services: Bill Russell reported.

- AFIA gave a presentation to the agency's board providing updates on the process of implementing our new electronic health record (set for 7/1/24 implementation)
- Huron Group gave a presentation and update on our Strategic Planning process. A retreat for key participants will be held in March.
- Reviewed the 2023 company tax return
- Discussed the posting of 2 new administration positions: Vice President of House Services and Chief Operating Officer

Family & Community Services/AxessPointe: Anne Face reported.

Townhall II: Tammy Hunter reported.

- Townhall's BOD met on 1/22/24. They added a new board member, Stephanie Orwich, LPCC and ED of the Performance Collective. They will also be voting in 2 new main board members this month and 3 new foundation members.

- New building update – floors are completed, and they are scheduling a move in for prevention. They have requested bids on the small ADA compliant bathroom project which they are struggling with due to its small size. Larger projects seem easier to schedule.
- They are going to purchase a harm reduction vending machine. Thanks to the MHRB for their backing on this.
- They are opening our doors to walk-in assessments M-F 9a-5p.
- They are also offering walk-in MAT appointments as they'll.
- They are working on implementing round 2 of our DEA youth baseball program in the Ravenna School District.
- They received a grant from Theystern Reserve ESC to run group counseling in Crestwood.

Hope Town: Ted St. John reported on the agency. Ted reported about three things: number one, he updated everyone on the purchase agreement that they have in place to buy the old fire station and Windham to be used for central headquarters for Hopetown as well as Hope On Wheels social enterprise and eventually Recovery community organization. Number two, Ted shared with every one his appointment to the state Board of Directors for the OneOhio foundation. And, number three, the Hope On Wheels transportation service program was a finalist at the Ohio Recovery Housing conference this year.

4. Public Comment: No comments.

Hal Farrier left the meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Approve Agenda

MOTION I Scott Swan moved to approve the agenda. Al Barber seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 9 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

2. Minutes

MOTION II Al Barber moved to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024, board meeting. Audrey Kessler seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 6 Nay: 0 Abstain: 3)

3. Business items

a. Approve Financial Motions

MOTION III Audrey Kessler moved to approve all invoices paid in January 2024. Janice Hambleton seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 9 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION IV Audrey Kessler moved to allow the Executive Director to contract with ACESSPointe to provide Harm Reduction Services with levy dollars in the amount of \$35,801 for a period of February 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024.

Vendor	Contract	Not to Exceed Amount	Grant Period
ACESSPointe	Harm reduction services	\$35,801.00	2/1/2024-6/30/2024

Jennifer Schumm seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 9 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION V Audrey Kessler moved to allow the Executive Director to contract with Hope Town to provide Peer Services to clients in their Recovery Housing programing using Levy dollars while Hope Town becomes able to bill peer services.

Vendor	Contract	Proposed Not to Exceed Amount	Grant Period
Hope Town	Peer Services	\$69,138.00	1/1/24-6/30/24

Scott Swan seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 9 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION VI Audrey Kessler moved to allow the Executive Director to contract with Children's Advantage to utilize state funding for TIP Specialized Case Management; and funding from StarkMHAR for Early Childhood Mental Health -ECMH. Both are from FY23 contracts that were unused.

Vendor	Contract	Proposed Not to Exceed Amount	Grant Period
Children's Advantage	TIP Specialized Case Management	\$24,471.10	1/1/24-12/31/24
Children's Advantage	ECMH	\$5,429.88	1/1/24-12/31/24

Jeff Langstaff seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 8 Nay: 0 Abstain: 1)

MOTION VII Audrey Kessler moved to allow the Executive Director to contract with Coleman Health Services to utilize state funding for Crisis Intervention Services from FY23 that was unused.

Vendor	Contract	Proposed Not to Exceed Amount	Grant Period
Coleman Health Services	Crisis Intervention Services	\$2,700.00	1/1/24-12/31/24

Jennifer Schumm seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 9 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION VIII Iris Meltzer moved to allow the Executive Director to contract with DS Architecture for services on the Crisis Center project with levy dollars.

Vendor	Contract	Proposed Not to Exceed Amount	Grant Period
DS Architecture	Professional services on the Crisis Center project	\$50,000.00	1/1/24-12/31/24

Janice Hambleton seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 9 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION IX Audrey Kessler moved to allow the Executive Director to contract with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities -OOD to make the second half fiscal year match using levy dollars.

Vendor	Contract	Proposed Not to Exceed Amount	Grant Period
OOD	Contract match for current fiscal year	\$49,702.86	1/1/24-9/29/24

Jeff Langstaff seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 9 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION X Audrey Kessler moved to allow the Executive Director to contract with Townhall II to utilize state funding for non-Medicaid AOD from FY23 contracts that were unused.

Vendor	Contract	Proposed Not to Exceed Amount	Grant Period
Townhall II	Non-Medicaid AOD services	\$20,250.29	1/1/24-12/31/24

Jennifer Schumm seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 9 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION XI Audrey Kessler moved to allow the Executive Director to sign an MOU with Coleman Health services to receive state funding for the Capital Crisis Services project.

Vendor	MOU	Proposed Not to Exceed Amount	Grant Period
Coleman Health Services	Non-Medicaid AOD services	\$2,500,000.00	1/1/24-12/31/24

Janice Hambleton seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 9 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

b. Approve Policy Updates

MOTION XII Iris Meltzer moved to approve the MP 16 Civil Rights Coordinator V-A.17 policy. Jennifer Schumm seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 9 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

4. Comments by Board members:

Iris Meltzer reminded the board that last month she urged the Executive director to provide comment regarding the draft Gender Transition Care Rule 5122-26-19 as proposed by the Ohio Mental Health and Substance Abuse Department. The state agency received hundreds of statements from across the state. The agency withdrew their proposal.

Al Barber asked for an update on the building purchase and HVAC replacement. John Garrity said the building purchase closed on February 2. The replacement of the HVAC units on the roof is in process.

5. Executive Session: Not needed.

6. Adjournment:

MOTION XIII Jeff Langstaff moved to adjourn. Scott Swan seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 9 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Dotts

SIGNATURES

X *Audrey C. Woods*
X *Jennifer M. Hamblin*
X *William Rone*