

Board Update

Mental Health & Recovery Services (MHRS) Board
Serving Coshocton, Guemsey, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble & Perry Counties
1500 Coal Run Road, Zanesville, Ohio 43701
Phone: 740-454-8557

Regular Board Meeting
Highlights
May 14, 2020

System Update

Board members heard a detailed report about contract service providers' operations during the COVID-19 crisis. Last month, the MHRS Board distributed to contract agencies \$1,239,672.56 in special funding to assist with keeping them whole during the current health/economic crisis.

All providers have remained open, offering help to persons with mental illness and/or substance use disorders. Clinicians are reaching out to clients with the message that they are not alone, and treatment options are available.

Some highlights about network operations (based on updates submitted to the MHRS Board):

- ✓ **Meeting Clients' Needs:** Service providers remain focused on continuing to meet clients' needs, which have been intensified due to pandemic stress. Fears about COVID-19 and isolation due to necessary physical distancing are causing increased stress and worsening of anxiety and depression and possible addiction relapses. Providers have implemented alternative methods of service delivery—including telehealth. However, they have also implemented protocols for helping those with limited access to the internet and/or limited data plans. It is anticipated that persons with mental illness and/or substance use disorders will need treatment and support services more than ever in the coming months.
- ✓ **Personnel:** Through the special funds from the MHRS Board and approved Paycheck Protection Plans through the Small Business Administration, contract providers have been able to bring back some workers who were laid off at the onset of the crisis. Some providers are also continuing their efforts to recruit additional clinicians and medical personnel.
- ✓ **Innovative Programming:** Contract service providers have been very creative in the ways they are using prevention professionals to further benefit the well-being of clients, families, and the general public during the pandemic. This includes contacts with parents and students to assist with solving problems they may be encountering with home-schooling assignments. Other prevention staff are using story-telling through Zoom or Facetime to provide information on coping skills and stress reduction. Several providers are offering Gentle Yoga relaxation exercises in the same manner.

MHRS Board News: ♦ Six out of nine MHRS Board staff members are working remotely from their homes and will continue to do so through May 31. The MHRS

Executive Director

Misty Cromwell

Board of Directors

Sherile Beardmore

Michael Bullock

Lana Carney

Diane Danaher

Jennifer Hanson

Sue Hoover

William Johnson

Dee Kinsel

Pamela Kirst

Jeff LeCocq

Kelly Lynch

Thomas Lynch

Dan Scheerer, M.D.

Beverly Steinbrecher

Board President

Jeff LeCocq

Board Vice President

William Johnson

The mission of the MHRS Board is to facilitate a Recovery-Oriented System of Care that promotes mental health and supports the recovery of each person who needs services for mental illness and/or addiction.

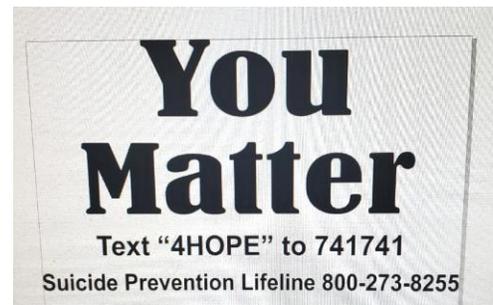
Board will fully reopen on June 1, with almost all staff returning to the office. Employee screening, thorough office cleaning, and social distancing protocols will be followed. ♦ MHRS Board Director Misty Cromwell has been involved in frequent statewide conference calls initiated by the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services and the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities. Discussions have been focused on:

- ✓ More flexibility in the use of State Opioid Response (SOR) funds.
- ✓ Advocacy work with state/national legislators about the need for additional investments in community mental health and addiction services to respond to the epidemic.
- ✓ Ongoing outreach to secure Personal Protection Equipment.
- ✓ Development of Isolation and Quarantine Zones.
- ✓ Exploring service provider viability around the state and looking at ways flexible funding can be used.

Suicide Prevention Coalitions

The MHRS Board’s Suicide Prevention Coalitions (SPCs) are continuing to bring awareness and prevention initiatives to their respective counties.

- ✓ Following a recent surge in deaths by suicide in Perry County over a span of about six weeks, the local SPC came together to push out more information. The Coalition also discussed with law enforcement a plan to ensure that reports are received in a timely manner so that a LOSS (Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors) Team response can be made.
- ✓ The Coshocton County SPC has been placing “*You Matter*” signs throughout the county since February. They recently purchased more signs to increase the visibility of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and Crisis Text Line.
- ✓ The Morgan County SPC is also purchasing some “*You Matter*” signs for their local communities.
- ✓ The Muskingum SPC and the Guernsey/Noble SPC are responding to community requests for information.
- ✓ ZOOM meetings for the Perry, Morgan and Muskingum Coalitions are scheduled to occur in May. The Coshocton and Guernsey/Noble Coalitions are maintaining communication through email.



Please check out the MHRS Board’s Facebook Page – www.facebook.com/MAMHRSE - for some excellent resource information related to COVID-19. May is “*Mental Health Month*,” so the Facebook Page also has regular posts from the campaigns of the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation and Mental Health America.

FinancialMatters

(Payments for Providing Mental Health & Addiction Recovery Treatment and Supports)

<i>A/P Date</i>	<i>In-Network Providers</i>	<i>Out-of-Network Partners</i>	<i>Total</i>
April 13, 2020	\$385,135.46	\$44,261.07	\$429,396.53
April 27, 2020	\$276,601.66	\$258,614.35	\$535,216.01
TOTAL	\$661,737.12	\$302,875.42	\$964,612.54

Board members also . . .

- ✓ Approved the MHRS Board’s Calendar Year 2021 Budget for the entire network of care in the amount of **\$9,482,385**.
- ✓ Reviewed the MHRS Board’s Calendar Year 2020 First Quarter Financial Reports (through March 30, 2020) that showed receipt of **\$3,089,325.59** (33.39% of total budgeted) and expenditures totaling **\$3,814,519.76** (21% of amount budgeted).

Appalachian Coalition for Children

MHRS Board Director Misty Cromwell is joining the newly-developed Appalachian Coalition for Children. The Mission of this Coalition is to bring Southeastern Ohio together behind a collective approach to improve the health and well-being of our region’s children. The Coalition will be comprised of representatives from MHRS Boards and Educational Service Centers in the Southeast Region of Ohio.

The Coalition’s goals are:

- ✓ To advocate for a strong state and federal response to the challenges wrought by COVID-19 on the mental and behavioral health needs of the children of Appalachian Ohio.
- ✓ To establish clear and comprehensive ‘asks’ of our regional, state, and federal leaders to ensure the survival, sustainability and growth of critical educational and mental health infrastructure in our region that supports the behavioral and public health of our children and their families.
- ✓ To establish an advocacy network that will seek significant and targeted novel investments from the State of Ohio and the Federal Government for child mental health and behavioral health in our region.
- ✓ To provide expertise and counsel, as requested, to the State of Ohio and Ohio’s Congressional delegation in the development of plans to address public and behavioral health for children in rural regions.
- ✓ To engage in strategic communication designed to draw attention to the crisis our region faces in addressing childhood behavioral health and to celebrate the actions of our frontline behavioral

and mental health professionals who have excelled in providing care to this vulnerable population under extreme adversity.

- ✓ To share best practices among our member Educational Service Centers and MHRS Boards, as well as our constituent school districts and mental health providers and partners, to provide the best possible services to the families of Appalachian Ohio.

The Coalition is committed to ensuring the children of Appalachia have the resources they need to overcome behavioral health challenges, because where you live shouldn't determine your access to care.

2020 Friends of Recovery

The MHRS Board is currently soliciting nominations of individuals to receive 2020 “*Friend of Recovery*” awards. There are so many people in our communities who have given of their time and efforts to support individuals on their mental illness and/or addiction recovery journeys. And, given the current unprecedented health/economic crisis, we also know there are many network employees AND key community partners who are deserving of recognition for helping clients and families get through these challenging times. If you know someone you would like to nominate, please complete the form in the following link <U:\MHRAC\FORM.NOMINATION.AWARD.2020.doc> and return it to Jamie McGrew by July 31. Jamie’s email address is on the nomination form. Recipients will be recognized at the September 30, 2020, meeting of the MHRS Board’s Quality Improvement & Recovery Advisory Council. Thank you!



The MHRS Board of Director’s Annual Meeting will be held on ***Thursday, June 11, 2020***. The meeting will include the Election of Officers for FY 2021 and the recognition of ***Perry County Representative Dee Kinsel*** and ***Noble County Representative Diane Danaher***, whose terms will expire on June 30, 2020. It is hoped this meeting can be held face-to-face at the MHRS Board office; however, that will depend on Governor DeWine’s ruling about crowd size when the state’s current order expires on May 29. More details to come.