



WASHINGTON COUNTY  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD

[www.wcbhb.org](http://www.wcbhb.org)

Thursday, December 15, 2022 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Meeting held In-person

1115 Gilman Ave. Marietta, OH

**I. Call to Order, Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Treasurer Jarrett Barnhouse at 6:01 p.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Welcome and Introductions**

**Present**

Alicia Abramski  
Larry Hall  
David White  
Jarrett Barnhouse  
Robert Marion  
Laura Knab/Silwani  
Beverly Prigge  
Jim Raney  
Tony Tuschner

**Absent**

Eric Fowler  
Mike Beardmore  
Brett Nicholas  
Larry Schwendeman

**Staff**

David Browne  
George Goddard  
Tara Plaugher  
Heather Parcell  
Tim Hahn

**Guests**

Mike Dennis - House of Hope  
Joel Erb, House of Hope  
Jovonnah Mayo – Marietta Health System  
Lynda Sistrunk – Marietta Health System  
Carla Archer – Compass Drug Court/Oriana House  
Ashley Rosenberg - Rigel Recovery/Oriana House  
Doug Pfeifer – Life & Purpose  
Jennifer Simmons, FCRC

**IV. Public Statements**

There were no public statements offered.

**V. Agenda Revisions**

There were no agenda revisions offered.

**VI. Approval of Minutes – October 27, 2022**

***Motion #42.2022***

It was moved and seconded (Laura Silwani, Alicia Abramski) to approve the October 27, 2022 Board meeting minutes. The motion passed with the following votes:

| Abramski | Barnhouse | Beardmore | Fowler | Hall | Marion | Nicholas | Prigge | Raney | Schwendeman | Silwani | Tuschner | White |
|----------|-----------|-----------|--------|------|--------|----------|--------|-------|-------------|---------|----------|-------|
| Y        | Y         |           |        | A    | Y      |          | Y      | Y     |             | Y       | Y        | A     |

Y= Yes

N= No

A= Abstain

## VII. Treasurer’s Report

Members of the Board held a brief discussion on the November treasurer’s report, the December report will be included in the January Board packet.

### **Motion # 43.2022**

**It was moved and seconded (Laura Silwani, Robert Marion) to accept the Treasurer’s report and disbursements. The motion passed with the following votes:**

| Abramski | Barnhouse | Beardmore | Fowler | Hall | Marion | Nicholas | Silwani | Raney | Schwendeman | Silwani | Touschner | White |
|----------|-----------|-----------|--------|------|--------|----------|---------|-------|-------------|---------|-----------|-------|
| Y        | Y         |           |        | Y    | Y      |          | Y       | Y     |             | Y       | Y         | Y     |

## VIII. Director’s Report

There was no report submitted for December.

Director, David Browne introduced a new staff member, Tim Hahn that has filled the second Assistant Director position. Tim has an extensive background in residential treatment, and youth developmental services working at Presley Ridge (now known as Harmony Ridge) and providing youth services in West Virginia Schools as a Behavioral Health Specialist. Dave assured the board that staff are settling in nicely.

## IX. Staff Reports

Assistant Director, George Goddard informed the board that the Community Assessment Plan survey helped to identify challenges and gaps in the continuum of care in Washington County. Some of the major challenges are identified as: mental, emotional, and behavioral health conditions in children and adults; children in out-of-home placement; and adults with serious mental illness and substance use disorders. The major gaps identified include a lack of crisis services and shortages in the mental health and substance use disorder treatment workforces. The deadline for the submission of the assessment and plan is January 31, 2023. A draft of the CAP will be shared with the Board for review.

The SOS 3.0 RFP is now closed for applications. To date, we have received 2 RFPs, one from Memorial Health Systems for Peer Recovery Support and the other from JFS for Prevention Services. Application has been made to OhioMHAS for this allocation and provider applications are being reviewed.

In August, Life & Purpose submitted a proposal requesting start-up funds to support the start-up of Mobile Response Stabilization Services (MRSS) infrastructure in Washington County. The MRSS program offers in-home service to children experiencing a non-emergency crisis. The proposal was forwarded to the State in August. The Board received notice this week of a State grant of \$113,620 available to draw down for MRSS infrastructure.

The WCBHB just released an RFP for the purpose of soliciting applications to set up a Washington County affiliate for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). The RFP is posted on the WCBHB website with links to the application document. The deadline for NAMI Affiliate proposals is January 13, 2023.

Staff reports will be filed with the minutes.

## X. Agency Reports

- A. **Hopewell Health**- There was no representative in attendance. There were no updates to the report or questions offered.
- B. **House of Hope**- Mike Dennis added to his report that the House of Hope received another grant that will go toward the purchase of a new van.
- C. **Life & Purpose Behavioral Health** - It was discussed that L&P is continuing to explore implementing MRSS (Mobile Response Stabilization Services) but awaiting funding approvals to be completed through Ohio MHAS.
- D. **Memorial Health Systems** – Jovonnah Mayo and Lynda Sistrunk discussed the services they have been providing through Marietta Memorial and that the peer support services have had contact with over 6000 people in 2021/2022 and that 45% of contacts accepted information about treatment options.
- E. **Rigel/Oriana House**- Ashley Rosenberg of Rigel stated that they are at capacity and have reallocated beds to level 3 care. Carla Archer representing the drug court discussed that they have started an alumni group that meets on the first and last Saturday of the month. It was also discussed that the graduates are looking to do a graduation project, something bigger than a community service project. Wants to work with the community to make a better place.
- F. **The Right Path** – There was no representative in attendance. There were no updates to the report or questions offered.
- G. **PAX** - There was no representative in attendance. There were no updates to the report or questions offered.
- H. **Family Counseling & Rehabilitation Center of Ohio (FCRC)** - Jennifer Simmons shared that Family Counseling & Rehabilitation Center of Ohio has had the Driver Intervention Program (DIP) for 3 years but, struggles to receive referrals with the exception of WV clients that are coming to FCRC for their classes. She also shared that she is an approved provider for Intensive Home-based Treatment (IHBT). IHBT is a mental health service designed to meet the needs of youth with serious emotional disturbances who are at risk of out-of-home placement or who are returning home from placement. Jennifer Simmons shared that although she is one of the few providers able to provide this service in the entire state of Ohio, she is receiving no referrals for the service.

The agency reports that were received will be filed with the minutes.

## XI. Committee Reports

**A. Program Planning & Oversight/Community Relations** – Laura Silwani shared that the Program Planning and Oversight Committee meeting had a great turnout. The committee decided to table the House of Hope relocation discussion as there was no impending need to require the purchase of a new building. Doug Pfeifer of L&P Services, Inc. also appeared before the committee to request an advance on the Life & Purpose contract as allowed under board policy and in accordance with the current contract. Attendees were in agreement to support the Executive Director’s advancement of \$25,000 to Life & Purpose and to bring the discussion of an additional \$25,000 advance to the full board. Laura invited Board members to attend the next meeting scheduled for January 12, 2023, at 5:15 at the Board office.

**XII. Old Business-**

There was no old business discussed.

**XIII. New Business**

**A. Life & Purpose Advance** – A discussion was held for providing L&P Services, Inc. with an additional \$25,000 advance due to a lag in reimbursements from Medicaid and Private Insurance as well as a lag in Medicaid's approval of qualified/credentialed staff has led to low billing. L&P is requesting the advancement to avoid a disruption of services that could occur as early as this month. Several committee members expressed serious concerns as to the long-term viability of providing services due to the cash flow issues they are experiencing.

**Motion #45.2022**

**It was moved and seconded (Laura Silwani, Dr. Raney)** to ratify the \$25,000 advance previously given as allowed under board policy in accordance with the current contract with L&P and, provide an additional \$25,000 advance to L&P bringing the total advancement to up to \$50,000. The motion passed with the following votes:

| Abramski | Barnhouse | Beardmore | Fowler | Hall | Marion | Nicholas | Prigge | Raney | Schwendeman | Silwani | Touschner | White |
|----------|-----------|-----------|--------|------|--------|----------|--------|-------|-------------|---------|-----------|-------|
| Y        | Y         |           |        | Y    | Y      |          | Y      | Y     |             | Y       | Y         | Y     |

**XIX. Good of the Order**

George encouraged service providers to share upcoming events, trainings, or programs they would like to highlight by sending the information to Heather Parcell to share on the Behavioral Health Board’s social media platforms.

**XX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

*Next Meeting:*  
**January 26, 2023**

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Tara Plaugher/Heather Parcell**

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Board President Signature