



WASHINGTON COUNTY  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD

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

Thursday, February 27~ 7:00 p.m.

Washington County Behavioral Health Board Office  
1115 Gilman Avenue, Marietta, OH 45750

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

The meeting was called to order by President Eric Fowler at 7:02 p.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Welcome and Introductions**

**Present**

Jarrett Barnhouse  
Michael Beardmore  
Karen Binkley, Ed. D.  
Eric Fowler  
Brett Nicholas  
Charles Pridgeon, Ph. D.  
Jim Raney, Ph. D.  
Larry Schwendeman  
Anthony Touschner  
Eric Johnston

**Absent**

Larry Hall

**Staff**

David Browne  
Hilles Hughes  
Miriam Keith  
Tara Plaugher

**Guests**

Richard Wittberg- CHIA  
Billie Welsh- Brandis Legacy  
Jovonnah Burns- PRS, MMH  
T'Analisha Mayo- L&P  
Courtney Clark- L&P  
Aleisha Roberson-Compass  
Linda Sistrunk- MMH  
Erin Taylor-Integrated  
Sherry Shamblin- Hopewell  
Michael Williams- MC  
Rhonda Steele- MMH  
Tammy Harris- PAX  
Emily Canaday- BHB VISTA  
Nicole Coil- County Law  
Janice McFarland- L&P  
Ron Feathers- Commissioner  
Candice Jeffers- Rigel

**IV. Public Statements**

County Commissioner, Rick Feathers introduced himself and shared his gratitude for his relationship with the Washington County Behavioral Health Board (WCBHB). Mr. Feathers mentioned sharing new and ongoing programs in the Washington County area funded by the Board during public speaking events over the past few months. Attendees seemed impressed by the amount of services that are now available since the passage of the Mental Health Levy.

County Commissioners recently signed a lease agreement with Integrated Health for the use of Muskingum Drive office space. Mr. Feathers thanked David Browne for all his help to shepherd the expansion of available mental health service providers in the area. Mr. Feathers shared that he is looking forward to working closely with the WCBHB in the next four years.

Washington County Prosecuting Attorney, Nicole Coil shared her interaction with the WCBHB started five years ago in regards to a challenging 812 fifth street location purchase and has since created a close supportive relationship with the Board. She gave kudos to David Browne for being a visionary in the behavioral health field for Washington County. She mentioned the Recovery Engagement Team and Compass Drug Court have become vital parts of Washington County and greatly respects the work of the WCBHB.

**V. Marietta Memorial Hospital**

Jovonnah Burns, Peer Recovery Supporter (PRS), representing Life and Purpose Behavioral Health and Marietta Memorial (MMH) Health System, shared a report of the first three months of active PRS services offered at MMH. Jovonnah shared that communications can be face to face or through phone conversation. Based on each patients desired road to recovery, she refers to residential treatment facilities, Compass Drug Court, the Recovery Engagement Team, Peer Recovery Supporter specialists, as well as in and out-patient services. She has completed twenty seven direct rehabilitation placements with clients and regularly does follow up calls after placement.

Linda Sistrunk shared that incorporating Peer Recovery Support Services at Marietta Memorial Hospital has allowed a unique collaboration between the Washington County Behavioral Health Board, Life and Purpose Behavioral Health, and the hospital. Linda stated that Jovonnah (Jo) has made integrating the service to patients stellar by offering a genuinely respectful, personalized, dignified experience. A year ago Marietta Memorial Hospital only offered geriatric psych services, but now offering a multitude of services focusing on behavioral health (covering mental health and addiction), including emergency room crisis services for patients, employee behavioral health services (including burnout), case management (available sixteen hours a day), home visits, community outreach and education, as well as nursing home exit planning. Jovonnah offering peer recovery support services at Marietta Memorial Hospital has truly changed the culture of the hospital by encouraging staff to incorporate alternative ways to

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interact with patients. Jovonnah will be providing training to all staff at Marietta Memorial Hospital on techniques to build rapport. Peer Recovery Support services have shown to be an irreplaceable service and a true asset to the community. Linda added that there is sometimes a line of patents waiting to see Jovonnah at the beginning of the day. There seems to be a need for peer recovery supporter services in the community and a full time position would be beneficial if funds became available.

Dr. Raney suggested that an article on Peer Recovery Supporter services offered at Marietta Memorial be published in the Marietta Times.

Eric Johnston suggested Board funds be made available to assist with the cost of placement at a treatment facility for individuals who do not have a source of insurance.

**VI. Agenda Revisions**

There were no revisions offered.

**VII. Approval of Minutes – January 23, 2020**

**Motion # 6.2020**

**It was moved and seconded (Dr. Pridgeon, Brett Nicolas)** to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2020 Board meeting. The motion passed with the following votes.

Barnhouse	Beardmore	Binkley	Fowler	Hall	Johnston	Nicholas	Pridgeon	Raney	Schwendeman	Touschner	White
Y	A	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Y= Yes

N= No

A= Abstain

**VIII. Treasurer's Report**

Mike Beardmore called attention to page one of the report, stating that the Hopewell Health annual payout of \$35,000 is to assist the REACH day treatment facility; in addition the first GOSH reimbursements have been submitted by Hopewell Health and paid! Continuing down the page there will be one more payment for Facebook management to finish out the agreement. On page three under administration shows a raise in expenditures due to three pay periods in the month.

**Motion # 7.2020**

**It was moved and seconded (Brett Nicolas, Larry Schwendeman)** to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion passed with the following votes:

Barnhouse	Beardmore	Binkley	Fowler	Hall	Johnston	Nicholas	Pridgeon	Raney	Schwendeman	Touschner	White
Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

**IX. Director's Report**

Eric Johnston asked for additional information on K-12 prevention funds. David Browne shared that roughly \$100,000 was made available for K-12 prevention that would pass through the Behavioral Health Board. After consulting with all six school districts several projects were chosen. All school districts have agreed to participate in a Communities That Care survey. Data from the Communities That Care surveys will assist in the pursuit of grants in the future. PAX Good Behavior Game, PAX Hero's training, and Collaborative Problem Solving training and consultation will be made available. Participation in the available options will be at the discretion of each school district.

**X. Deputy Director's Report**

Hilles Hughes shared that the short and long version of the annual Board reports have been completed and distributed to members of the Board and County Commissioners. Hilles thanked Emily Canaday for her assistance in creating the two documents. Two WTAP "anti-stigma" commercials are nearly complete and will be shared with the Board for viewing in March. Data is still being compiled for the epidemiology report showing statistics on substance use and suicide fatalities. A final report is expected to be shared during the April full Board meeting. Erin Taylor, representing Integrated Services, will be the next guest on the radio show "The 11<sup>th</sup> hour with Hilles Hughes" scheduled to air this Friday, February 28 around 11 a.m.

**XI. Prevention and Recovery Advocate**

Miriam added to her report that the Suicide Awareness Alliance (SAA) will be hosting a "Walk to Remember" on Saturday, May 2 starting at 9 a.m. on the Armory Lawn. The SAA committee is still looking for three speakers to share their story in the following categories during the bead ceremony at the event: Veteran lost to suicide, First Responder lost to suicide, and Survivor who attempted. Miriam asked if attendees know anyone willing to share a story please contact her.

The Staff reports were received and will be filed with the minutes.

**XII. Agency Reports**

- A. House of Hope** – Mike Dennis shared that the House of Hope will be extending days of operation to include Fridays on a trial basis. To offer additional days of operation the House of Hope staff will be splitting hours between the two staff members. If attendance shows the need for expanding hours the House of Hope may need additional funding to offset the cost of operation.

The Peer Recovery Supporter, Brandi Beaver, has been a wonderful support to members of the House of Hope and has integrated using the House of Hope of Washington County Facebook page to promote the peer run program.

Marietta College students are creating a video depicting the House of Hope program that will be uploaded onto the House of Hope Facebook page once completed. Mike Dennis encouraged attendees to “like” and “follow” the page.

- B. **EVE, Incorporated** – There was no representative from the agency in attendance. There was nothing added to the report.
- C. **Life & Purpose** – Janice McFarland shared that Life and Purpose now staffs three Peer Recovery Supporters.
- D. **The Right Path** – There was no representative from the agency in attendance. There was nothing added to the report.
- E. **Rigel/Oriana House**- Candice Jeffers, representative for Rigel Recovery Services in Reno and Rigel Recovery Residential Center (RRRC) in Marietta, shared that the Reno location will soon be offering mental health services to children. Rigel and RRRC are collaborating with Community Health Improvement Associates (CHIA) to offer two Peer Recovery Supporters that will be available to provide in-house Smart Recovery and other meetings at both locations.

Aleisha Roberson, representative for Compass Drug Court, shared that there are twenty four active participants; the program limit is currently thirty. Required documentation has been submitted to apply for Compass to become a certified docket; there are no updates on the certification process at this time. An application for a grant to assist with funding for the next two years has been submitted; there are no updates on the application at this time.

Aleisha shared an uplifting testimonial from a participant in the Compass program who had a positive interaction with the Peer Recovery Supporter while receiving services at Marietta Memorial Hospital.

- F. **Hopewell Health**- Sherry Shamblin shared the Board report, utilization report and the Recovery Engagement Team (RET) report. The RET is an integrated community unit comprised of a law enforcement officer, a Substance Use Disorder professional, and a Peer Recovery Supporter. The goal of the team is to support the prevention of substance use related deaths and to promote treatment for substance use disorders. Sherry stated that the RET report will be included with the monthly reports.

- G. **PAX-** Tammy Harris, PAX Coordinator, shared that there are trainings scheduled in March, May, and April including PAX Good Behavior Games training for new teachers and HERO training that will assist teachers on ways to interact with difficult behaviors by bringing out the hero in each child. Tammy met with REACH staff in Barlow to incorporate the PAX program in the youth partial hospitalization day treatment program.

There have been seven PAX “tools” trainings since August. PAX “tools” training can be incorporated in preschool, day care, after school programs and at home.

- H. **Community Health Improvement Associates (CHIA)** - Dr. Wittberg shared that he and David Browne are working with the County Commissioners to apply for additional grants. There are currently five Peer Recovery Supporters offering services throughout Washington County thanks to the collaboration with the Board.

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

### **XIII. Committee Reports**

- A. **Program Planning & Oversight** – Dr. Raney shared that the committee met on Tuesday, February 18, to discuss gaps in strategic planning, including transitional housing, and the 120 day notice to changes in contracts with service providers. The next Program Planning and Oversight committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17.
- B. **Community Relations** – Eric Johnston shared that the upcoming annual dinner scheduled for May 14 will be held at Washington State Community College, the meal will be pasta with salad, bread, drinks and dessert. The committee will meet again on March 10 to finalize the invitation list for the May event. The next public event will be a First Friday sponsorship in August.
- C. **AoD-** The committee is scheduled to meet prior to the full Board meeting on March 26, 2020.

### **XIV. Old Business**

- A. **Update on Behavioral Health Matters Articles-** The February article which was authored by Emily Canaday, spotlighted the House of Hope. The March article was authored by Dr. Dick Wittberg and focused on the Washington County AmeriCorps grants and what services the program offers to Washington County. The April article, authored by Miriam Keith will focus on the Suicide Awareness Alliance and postvention services.

**XV. New Business**

**A.** Erin Taylor spoke on behalf of Integrated Services, sharing that the program has been up and running in Washington County with referrals continuing to come in and services being provided for eight weeks now.

**B.** Eric Johnston asked how the Board plans to fill Miriam Keith's position once she retires at the end of May, 2020. David Browne shared that the position will be evaluated to see if current staff can manage some portions of the responsibilities that Miriam currently has. The Administrative Assistant, Tara Plaugher, will be taking on some of the duties in addition to recently taking on the management of the Recovery Is Beautiful Facebook page. If additional staff is needed, David Browne would like to fill the position based on the needs of the office.

**XVI. Good of the Order**

Dr. Raney asked attending behavioral health professionals if there is anything the Board should be doing to prepare for the Coronavirus. Michael Williams with Marietta College suggested preparing for depression from losing loved ones, or from experiencing long periods of isolation. Miriam Keith added that Washington County does have a Crisis Response Team available in the event that the virus does affect the area. The Washington County Crisis Response Team is a team of trained crisis intervention specialists who have received intensive training in the areas of trauma, post-traumatic stress disorders, and victimization.

President Eric Fowler and Dr. Karen Binkley shared their agreement that the meeting was great, possibly the best yet with positive stories shared!

**XVII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

***The March Meeting has been CANCELLED***

***The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 23, 2020  
7:00 p.m. at the Washington County Behavioral Health Board  
1115 Gilman Avenue, Marietta, Ohio 45750***

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tara Plaugher

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Board President Signature

