

**ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 27, 2022**

**ADAMHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

J. Robert Fowler, Ph.D.	Patricia James-Stewart, M.Ed., LSW
Ashwani Bhardwaj	Daniel Kelly
Reginald C. Blue, Ph.D.	Katie Kern-Pilch, ATR-BC, LPC-S
Erskine Cade, MBA	Steve Killpack, MS
Sadigoh C. Galloway, MSW, LSW, LICDC-CS	Rev. Max M. Rodas, MA
Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr.	Harvey A. Snider, Esq.
Gwendolyn A. Howard, LSW, MSSA	

**ABSENT:** Bishara W. Addison, Gregory X. Boehm, M.D., Basheer Jones, Sharon Rosenbaum, MBA

**BOARD STAFF PRESENT:** Scott Osiecki, Chief Executive Officer, Carole Ballard, Erin DiVincenzo, Tami Fischer, Cheryl Fratalone, Madison Greenspan, Felicia Harrison, Bill Hebble, Anthony Henderson, Woo Jun, Linda Lamp, Vicki Roemer, Jessica Saker, Allison Schaefer, Starlette Sizemore, Maggie Tolbert

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair, J. Robert Fowler, Ph.D., called the General Meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

**2. AUDIENCE INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. William Tarter, Jr., Fellow, The Center for Community Solutions, and 2nd Vice President on the Executive Committee, Greater Cleveland NAACP, requested to speak as a private citizen and not a representative of his employer. Mr. Tarter, Jr. inquired as to who in attendance has watched a webinar and had a telephone call come in; or had a child approach to ask you something that is an absolute emergency. Some individuals may have to pause what they are watching, and assure themselves that they will finish viewing the webinar or meeting at a later time or would like to review a portion of a meeting over and over again. He reported that in each of these scenarios, video minutes of a meeting would be helpful.

Mr. Tarter, Jr., thanked the Board and staff for purchasing Owl cameras for livestreaming Board meetings. He reported that this is a tremendous step forward in increasing accessibility and highlighted that staff does a good job in external outreach, however, livestreaming the Board meetings will bring an additional level of accessibility to the work being done. Mr. Tarter, Jr., shared that posting a video recording would complement livestreaming and that posting the meeting video recording would be tremendous for Cuyahoga County residents, whose financial support contributes to the Board's work.

Mr. Tarter, Jr., understands that there are concerns about the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and information protection. He also shared copies of the Ohio Attorney General Sunshine Law Manual, which specifically highlights the relationship between the Ohio Sunshine Laws and HIPAA. Mr. Tarter, Jr., reported that at the beginning of each Cuyahoga County Council meeting, a reminder is read by the clerk. This disclaimer is helpful to presenting organizations to be cognizant of sensitive information that they may not want to mention during the meeting. He reported that he would support a similar disclaimer at the beginning of the ADAMHS Board meetings.

Mr. Tarter, Jr., reported that there are ways to protect the privacy of individuals whose stories contribute to Board discussion. If a person working with an organization does not wish to provide verbal testimony, they can provide written testimony to the organization that can be read by the clerk, which protects their face and identifiable information. In conclusion, there are ways that citizens and advocates can work together with the Board to expand accessibility through meeting recordings posted on the website; and volunteered to assist to ensure this accessibility is accomplished.

*[Mr. Erskine Cade, MBA, Mr. Ashwani Bhardwaj and Reginald C. Blue, Ph.D., arrived.]*

**3. OATH OF OFFICE**

Ms. Kelli Perk, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney – Civil Division, from the Office of Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael C. O'Malley, administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Sadigoh C. Galloway and Mr. Daniel Kelly.

Ms. Galloway indicated that she has been working in the field of mental health and substance use for the past 14 years and is passionate about policies, procedures, and standards in the field; and learning about what goes along with the ADAMHS Board.

Mr. Kelly stated that he is employed with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD). He reported that he raised four children on his own and believes "that the man upstairs placed him at CMSD to help out, so he is hoping to help out at the Board and not cause any harm." Mr. Kelly reported that this is his second job; and that his first job was to build skyscrapers for 30 years. He has been retired for 14 years.

Dr. Fowler thanked them for introducing themselves; and welcomed them to the Board.

#### **4. RECOGNITION OF CLIENT ARTWORK DISPLAY: JULY 2022**

Ms. Madison Greenspan, External Affairs Officer, highlighted the work produced through the art therapy programs at FrontLine Service and Stella Maris, and introduced the representatives in attendance – Mr. Guy Vincent, a fine arts and arts educator from FrontLine Service, and J. Subsinsky, a licensed professional counselor and art therapist from Stella Maris, who were awarded Certificates of Participation for their impressive artwork displays.

On behalf of the FrontLine Services' art program, Mr. Vincent thanked the Board for their support of the art programs and stated that it is a phenomenal opportunity to engage with individuals in a very wide spectrum throughout the city, which is an amazing sight to behold the creativity that comes from a wide variety of talented artists. He reported that he has been doing this for a number of years and it never ceases to amaze him regarding the quality of artwork and the creativity and self-expression that comes out of the art sessions.

On behalf of Stella Maris' art program, Mr. Subsinsky, thanked the Board for all they do for the community. He reported that at Stella Maris, the staff incorporate art therapy into every level of care from the residential Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP), Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) and through individual art therapy sessions. Mr. Subsinsky reported that it has been a phenomenal experience to work with individuals to communicate their experiences through their artwork; and thanked the Board for displaying the artwork, not only online, but also in person.

#### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the June 22, 2022 General Meeting were approved as submitted.

#### **6. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Dr. Fowler reminded all in attendance that the new Owl cameras are extremely sensitive to sound. He also thanked the Board for entrusting him with the position of Board Chair and recognized his esteemed predecessor, Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., who has done so much for the Board, over a number of years; and requested all to acknowledge his contributions.

Rev. Gohlstin thanked the Board for working with him as they have provided direction to this agency. He stated that he is at a crossroads today as to whether he will stay on the Board or not because he does not like some of the things that are now beginning to take place. He stated that he is present to protest; and has asked some other people to come and protest; and were to arrive shortly. He reported that Serenity, a new agency that was funded as of January 1, 2022 and placed on six month probation, was given \$700,000 to perform prevention activities in our community. He stated that they are working in a community that as of March 4, 2021, from a survey released by Case Western Reserve University, 66% of the citizens of Cleveland, Ohio are functionally illiterate and in some communities 95%, for instance the west side, Ward 5 and Ward 7. That means individuals cannot read, write or do math at a fourth grade level. Also, 25% of the people in the City of Cleveland are without high school diplomas. Those who do have high school diplomas within the City of Cleveland are not given diplomas because of their academic achievements, but because of their presence. These are some of the kinds of things that we are working with in our community when working with people.

Rev. Gohlstin stated that because of that, we have a student population that is of a threat, under stress, being molested; and Serenity contracted with the Board to do a prevention program. He stated that they contracted at \$700,000 to serve 25 individuals, but served 900 individuals in the City of Cleveland that were under stress, out of one community, for the most part, and were in a position to go into other schools in our community to help young people who are struggling with anxiety, fear, stress, trauma – young women who

are being raped, molested by family members – that will end up in our system eventually, if not treated at this level. He stated that this agency has seen fit, with Serenity passing their probation as of June 30, 2022 – with some problems – they had some adjustments to make, however, now this agency is cutting them by \$300,000. They were due another \$350,000 and being given \$50,000. Rev. Gohlstin stated that “he talked with Mr. Scott Osiecki, Chief Executive Officer, who assured him that while as Chair, that if, and when they passed their probationary period, he would fund them. Otherwise, he needs to develop a working relationship with the truth because he is a liar and the truth is not in him.”

Dr. Fowler stated that Rev. Gohlstin was out of order and that this discussion should transpire during the Finance Report, when a discussion of Serenity Health and Wellness Corporation will be had.

Rev. Gohlstin also reported that State Representative, House District 12, Juanita O. Brent, was present to discuss some funding opportunities.

## **7. DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION (DEI) IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE UPDATE**

Mr. Osiecki reported that he is proud of the work that has been done in this area and of the ongoing commitment from our Board of Directors, staff, provider network and community. As a reminder, the ADAMHS Board of Directors unanimously approved a three-year DEI Strategic Implementation Plan for the Board as well the public behavioral health system at the June 22, 2022 General Meeting. The ADAMHS Board views DEI efforts not as a set-aside but as part of all operations, hence the goals of the DEI Strategic Implementation Plan are an overlay to the ADAMHS Board 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. The overlay complements the strategies outlined in the Board’s Strategic Plan with the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Mr. Osiecki reported that creating the plan was the first step, having it approved was the second step, and now it is time to implement it. He stated that we are hoping to again work with REdCon on the implementation phase for at least the first year. Staff has been working with REdCon to identify critical areas where we need support; and we are expecting to bring a proposal before the Board in September. Mr. Osiecki reported that he is happy to report that we have moved immediately on a few areas of implementation.

Mr. Osiecki stated that REdCon completed a review of the Board’s Request for Proposal (RFP) for CY2023 funding through a DEI lens before it was issued. The goal was to ensure that the Board’s RFP process is equitable and is following DEI practices. REdCon has developed a new RFP scoring rubric; and staff are in the process of testing it. REdCon will be providing all staff with a training on bias and selection bias and the RFP review team will receive specialized training prior to their review of the proposals.

Mr. Osiecki also wanted to remind everyone that our Eliminating Structural Racism Advisory Group will be meeting virtually on Monday, August 1, 2022, and that this group is a direct way for the community and providers to be involved and have access to DEI education and tools to help within their own organizations. He highlighted that additional information can be found on our website.

## **8. NEW POLICY STATEMENT REVIEW**

Mr. Woo Jun, Director of Risk Management, presented the following two new policy statements:

- Compliance Assessment Policy; and
- Funding Requests for New Programs Made Outside of Request for Proposal Period Policy.

Mr. Jun reported that the Compliance Assessment Policy is to ensure that providers funded by the ADAMHS Board are in compliance with their Core Contract. The ADAMHS Board enters into Core Contracts with providers to deliver mental health, addiction, prevention, treatment and recovery support services for Cuyahoga County residents. It is the policy of the ADAMHS Board that providers with a Core Contract have Annual Compliance Assessments to ensure compliance with the terms of their contract. All programs within the Core Contract will be subject to these Assessments. However, new programs will be subject to a Condensed Compliance Assessment to provide feedback during the probationary period for new providers and/or new programs.

The Funding Requests for New Programs Made Outside of Request for Proposal Period Policy is to ensure that programs funded by the ADAMHS Board are considered in a fair and efficient manner; and to provide a clearly defined process and time period for consideration of funding. Periodically or when the need arises, the ADAMHS Board conducts an RFP for mental health, addiction, prevention, treatment and recovery support services. It is the policy of the ADAMHS Board that only proposals submitted, reviewed, and awarded during the Board’s advertised and stated submission window of time shall be considered for funding. Requests for funding for new programs that are outside of this window will not be considered unless the requestor can satisfy the following criteria:

- The proposed program must fill an identified service gap within the ADAMHS Board's funding priorities.
- The proposed program must have a clearly defined number of expected clients to be served and a concrete plan to reach that number.
- The proposed program and the organization must show evidence that it has been up and running for at least 12 months.
- The proposed program must be provided in a location within Cuyahoga County identified as an underserved location.
- The proposed program must be current with its licensing and/or certification requirements with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS).

Given these are new policy statements being reviewed, a reading at two General Board Meetings is required prior to an official vote for adoption.

## **9. FINANCE REPORT**

Ms. Felicia Harrison, Chief Financial Officer, highlighted the Vouchers, Contracts and Amendments as listed below.

Ms. Harrison reported that the Administrative Budget that was approved for CY2022 was \$7,374,726.62, and for June Actual YTD 2022, the total expenses were \$3,602,717.60; that is roughly 49% of the total Administrative Budget. As a result, the Board is on track with expenses for the first six months.

The Funding Source Budget to Actual YTD, June 2022, displays the Board's total revenue budget for administrative operations and grants. The total revenue expected to be received from Federal, State and local levy funds is \$73,853,249; and through the end of June 2022, the Board has received \$58,724,609.19. The bulk of these funds consists of the Board's annual amount from the County levy subsidy of \$43,463,659 and includes the increase of \$4.1 million from Cuyahoga County starting in 2021. Ms. Harrison reported that 80% of the budget has been received.

The Revenues By Source By Month report reflected that in June 2022, the Board received revenues of \$2,239,841.57. As a result, the Total Revenues By Source By Month is \$58,724,609.19.

The ADAMHS Board Budget vs. Actuals for 2022 reflect that June YTD Actuals is \$37,374,203.59 that is roughly 44% of the Board's anticipated expenditures for the calendar year. Ms. Harrison noted that the Diversion Center's expenditures are reflected on this report.

Revenue and Expenditures All Accounting Units By Month January through June 2022 includes administrative accounts as well as grant accounts. The total expenditures for June 2022 is \$6,964,465.70; bringing the total expenditures for CY2022 to 37,374,203.59. This total includes the ADAMHS Board's Administration, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) Grant, the State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant and Other Grants.

The Revenues and Expenditures Grants YTD, June 2022 YTD reflects the Grant Accounting Units that include the OOD Grant, Other Grants and SOR Grant. The total expenditures for grants YTD is \$2,453,976.25.

The Cash Flow Report, June 2022 shows the 2020 Actual, 2021 Actual and YTD thru June 2022. This report shows a comparison of the available beginning balance, total available resources, expenditures and available ending balance. The available ending balance through June 2022 is \$62,940,518.82 and includes the County levy funds, which will be spent down throughout 2022.

The Diversion Center Revenues and Expenditures YTD June 2022 YTD reflects a total of \$2,548,041.39. Revenue of \$1,198,191.09 was received during June 2022 for a total YTD June 2022 Revenue of \$2,114,624.95.

Ms. Harrison reported that the Opioid Settlement Expenditures Budget is \$10,501,207 and for Quarter 2 – 2022, the total opioid expenditures were \$9,507,760; that is roughly 91% of the total Opioid Settlement Expenditures Budget. Ms. Harrison highlighted that the contract term was extended until December 31, 2022.

**Motion to approve Resolution No. 22-07-01.** MOTION: S. Killpack / SECOND: M. Rodas / AYES: A. Bhardwaj, R. Blue, E. Cade, S. Galloway, B. Gohlstin, G. Howard, P. James-Stewart, D. Kelly, K. Kern-Pilch, S. Killpack, M. Rodas, H. Snider / NAYS: None / ABSTAIN: None / **Motion passed.**

**10. CONTRACTS:**

1. US DHHS Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) Jail Diversion Grant – \$330,000
  - FrontLine Service - \$260,340
  - CWRU Begun Center - \$66,000

Ms. Carole Ballard, Director of Education and Training, reported that SAMHSA funding is intended to divert adults with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) from jail by providing an alternative. Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) P.L.U.S. provides law enforcement officers a consistent diversion point for a warm handoff to behavioral health providers who can provide a secure environment that is less restrictive than a hospital and/or jail. Service gaps include a need for immediate stabilization/pharmacological management, a comprehensive behavioral health assessment, and linkage to treatment within 48 hours of admission. The need for “no wrong door” alternative for crisis calls and enrollment in the project is voluntary. Two beds are to be set aside for CIT P.L.U.S. referrals. This award represents the fifth year of a five-year project totaling nearly \$1 million. To date, referral mechanisms have been piloted and refined. Both City of Cleveland and suburban Law Enforcement Officers have received training and information regarding the project’s target population and the availability of the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU). Referrals began to increase as officers recognized the CSU as a potential diversion point for clients with SMI. COVID-19 restrictions reduced the number of total beds at the CSU throughout most of 2021-2022; however, two beds remain reserved for CIT P.L.U.S. referrals.

The CIT P.L.U.S. Jail Diversion Pilot Project provides referral/linkage and support services to persons in crisis who are diverted from jail by using alternative resources such as the CSU. Mental health staff as well as Peer Support Staff from FrontLine Service work collaboratively with law enforcement staff. The ADAMHS Board retains \$3,660 of the award to fund mandatory attendance at any in person grantee meetings. Board staff are requesting Board approval to accept the funds from SAMHSA in the amount of \$330,000 and to contract with FrontLine Service in the amount of \$260,340 and CWRU Begun Center in the amount of \$66,000 for the fifth year of a five-year project, September 30, 2022 through September 29, 2023.

2. Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) Training – \$340,000
  - Ms. Lili Gray, Senior National CPP Trainer - \$50,000
  - Dr. Nicole Tefera, Senior National CPP Trainer - \$50,000
  - TBD - \$240,000

Ms. Ballard reported that the goal of the Cuyahoga County Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) Program is to ensure children’s optimal development and future success by addressing their early emotional, social, and behavioral concerns. The Cuyahoga County ECMH Program seeks to improve the health of young children and their families by expanding the practice capacity for 50 Early Childhood clinicians by offering a free training and supervision opportunity in CPP Certification. CPP is an intervention model for children aged birth-5 who have experienced traumatic events and/or are experiencing mental health, attachment, and/or behavioral problems.

CPP training will be available to interested ADAMHS-funded Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) providers as well as other county professionals looking to amplify their ECMH practice. System leaders, supervisors and direct staff serving children ages 0-5 will be encouraged to take the training and may apply through an application process. Through the ADAMHS Board, Invest in Children, and other community partner networks, special efforts will be made to market the opportunity to practitioners of color in the region, to increase the diversity of professionals able to address the community’s needs. CPP will consist of three learning sessions conducted by two trainers, Ms. Lili Gray and Dr. Nicole Tefera and will be attended by more than 50 participants from ECMH providers.

- Learning Session 1: July 25, 2022 – July 29, 2022
- Learning Session 2: January 17, 18, 20, 2023
- Learning Session 3: July/August 2023 with the exact date to be determined (TBD)

Trainers will also host CPP clinical consultation calls for providers twice per month and CPP supervisor consultation calls once per month. The objective is to offer training in CPP to 50+ ECMH practitioners in and outside of the ADAMHS Board-funded ECMH network, leading to completion by the close of 2023. Board staff are recommending the Board to

accept funding in the amount of \$340,000 from the Mt. Sinai Foundation, Bruening Foundation, and Woodruff Foundation for the CPP Training program for the period July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023 and to enter into a contract for \$50,000 each with Ms. Lili Gray and Dr. Nicole Tefera.

3. The Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) Tool Usage Renewal for the 2022-2023 School Year
  - Aperture Education Services - \$7,050

Mr. Anthony Henderson, Jr., Chief Compliance Officer, reported that the DESSA is a web-based set of instruments that consists of strength-based assessment components for school-age children. There are four instrument versions in use with two instruments designed for children in kindergarten through 8th grade and two instruments designed for high school age children. For each grade range of students there is a short screening instrument with eight questions (DESSA-mini) and a comprehensive instrument with 72 questions (full DESSA) for use with children who demonstrate the need for additional social-emotional training. All four instruments measure eight key social-emotional strategies to yield social-emotional competence and resilience. For students who demonstrate educational needs in learning one or more of the eight social-emotional strategies there are curriculum materials on-line for training to those needs. These materials include research-based interventions, a video library and ongoing support and technical assistance. The web-based system allows unlimited screenings per child, assessments and access to strategies per license/student. This will allow access to the DESSA tool for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year.

The Board purchased the DESSA in 2016 as a means to measure performance outcomes for the school-based initiative and subsequently, the alcohol and other drug prevention agencies. During CY2019, due to the success of the web-based system, the Faith-based agencies were included as part of the program to measure the performance. The DESSA-mini instrument, while effective at measuring social emotional learning, does not provide the detail needed for monitoring Board funded Substance Use Disorder (SUD) prevention programs. Beginning in 2021, SUD prevention service providers are monitored using an instrument developed in-house so the number of licenses needed has been reduced. This contract in the amount of \$7,050 is for the term of August 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023.

4. Mobile Response Stabilization Services (MRSS) Funding For Non-Medicaid Youth
  - Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau (JCB) - \$113,338

Ms. Erin DiVincenzo, Director of Prevention and Children's Behavioral Health Programs, reported that MRSS is a 24/7 crisis service where a team of two providers responds in person within 60 minutes for youth up to age 21. The crisis is defined by the youth and/or family according to the MRSS model. MRSS can provide up to four to six weeks of in-home de-escalation and stabilization. The MRSS team works within the family system to create safety plans, teach skills, provide peer support and link to ongoing services to prevent future crises and reduce the need for out-of-home treatment. The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) selected Aetna Better Health of Ohio to implement the Ohio Resilience through Integrated Systems and Excellence program (OhioRISE), serving as the specialized managed care organization for the state's children with the most complex behavioral health needs. MRSS is an evidenced based and trauma informed statewide service, included in OhioRISE coverage by July 1, 2022. It will have a statewide, centralized call center to triage and dispatch calls to local certified MRSS providers. MRSS teams are comprised of licensed supervisors, licensed therapists, certified peer supporters and have access to a nurse practitioner or psychiatrist.

The ODM has allocated this funding for non-Medicaid eligible youth receiving MRSS Services. A review of utilized funds will take place mid-year, at which time additional allocations may be made. Bellefaire JCB will launch a pilot MRSS team in August 2022 to provide services Monday through Friday between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. The Bellefaire JCB MRSS team will consist of one to two licensed supervisor clinicians, three to four licensed therapists, two to three Qualified Mental Health Specialists, and one certified peer supporter. Bellefaire JCB anticipates the pilot MRSS program will expand hours and staffing patterns to include weekend hours at six months of operations and be operational 24/7 within one year of initial MRSS certification. MRSS will be provided to any Cuyahoga County family with youth up to 21 years of age experiencing a self-defined crisis. This contract in the amount of \$113,338 is for the term of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

5. Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS): Specialized Docket Support – Payroll Subsidy – \$535,000

- Cleveland Municipal Court - \$200,000
- Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court - \$210,000
- Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court-Juvenile Division - \$80,000
- South Euclid Municipal Court - \$45,000

Ms. Allison Schaefer, Director of Adult Behavioral Health Programs, reported that as part of the State of Ohio SFY 2016-2017 biennial budget, the Ohio Legislature appropriated funds to OhioMHAS to assist specialized dockets with their operational costs in an effort to increase and expand these programs statewide. In State Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018, OhioMHAS pushed the funds directly to the courts in one lump payment per Court. The Department allocated these funds to ADAMH/CMH Boards beginning with SFY 2019.

These funds assist Drug Courts and Specialized Docket Courts to direct offenders with a mental health and/or SUD diagnosis to appropriate supervision and treatment resources in the community, thereby reducing commitments to the prison system. The primary legislative intent of these funds is to assist courts with their payroll costs for specialized docket staff. Historically, over 95% of reported expenditures were for payroll costs. However, feedback received from these courts was a desire to have more flexibility for the use of these funds. Therefore, allowable expenses now include behavioral health treatment services, medication-assisted treatment (MAT) medications, urinalysis, and recovery supports. For expenditures other than payroll costs, these funds may only be used for individuals who are under the jurisdiction of the Court, and who have been admitted to the specialized docket. The only exception to this is diagnostic assessments to determine program eligibility. Clinical services, including MAT, must be provided by agencies certified by OhioMHAS. The Board was requested to accept Specialized Docket Support funds in the amount of \$535,000 from OhioMHAS, and to approve agreements with the above-named Courts for Specialized Docket support in the amounts designated for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

6. Accepting Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) Health Equity and Cultural Competence (HECC) Funding – \$32,280

OACBHA received a grant of \$400,000 to be distributed among the state's ADAMHS Boards to support HECC projects. OACBHA solicited plans for HECC projects from all Boards. The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County had six projects selected for funding, at a total of \$32,280. These projects were proposed because they fit the funding request type and amount, and address action items within the Board's DEI Strategic Implementation Plan. Specific vendors will be selected later. Funded requests and amounts include:

- Job Description Review to Identify Bias/Improve Equitable Hiring
  - o Consultant to conduct review of a random sampling of job descriptions from the provider network, looking for bias and providing recommendations to support more equitable hiring and employment practices. After the review, the consultant will submit a general report of suggested improvements that the ADAMHS Board can make available to all providers.
  - o Funding request amount: \$2,880
  - o Cost estimate: approximately 30 descriptions (or 70 pages) at \$180 per hour (\$2,520) plus report writing (2 hours, \$360)
- Workforce Review to Identify Gaps/Establish Baseline Data for Equitable Hiring
  - o Consultant to conduct a workforce diversity analytics survey or process to capture the current demographics and credentials of our provider network and how they compare to the Northeast Ohio labor market.
  - o Assess baseline data on the filled/vacant positions within the local provider network.
  - o After the assessment, the consultant will submit a report clearly showing all data plus an analysis of gaps/needs and recommendations.
  - o Funding request amount: \$6,000
  - o Cost estimate: based on a mid-point average cost of market research for a localized industry or field
- Translation of Documents
  - o Translation of major documents into top non-English languages spoken in Cuyahoga County (Spanish, Arabic, Polish).

- o Includes Strategic Plan Executive Summary (2 pages), Provider Network Guide (4 pages), Client Rights documents (5 pages), educational flyers (10 pages), annual report synopsis (4 pages), etc., plus printing.
- o Funding request amount: \$4,750
- o Cost estimate: 25 pages x 3 languages at \$50 per page (\$3,750) + printing (\$1000) = \$4,750
- Outreach to Marginalized Communities
  - o Consultant to identify “influencers” in marginalized communities in Cuyahoga County and develop partnerships with them to better communicate the work and impact of the ADAMHS Board.
  - o The ADAMHS Board has supporters and champions who have helped make grassroots harm reduction efforts and other community-level initiatives a success, and would like to grow the pool of supporters to reach into new neighborhoods, populations, etc.
  - o The consultant would be a trusted member of the community who has deep, meaningful and countywide connections, an understanding of mental health and addiction, and strong organizational skills to establish lasting relationships and communication channels between the ADAMHS Board and previously undeserved or marginalized groups.
  - o Funding request amount: \$14,400
  - o Cost estimate: \$80/hour for 30 hours/month for 6 months = \$14,400
- Visual Representation of Board Diversity
  - o Graphic designer to create a visually interesting depiction/chart of the diversity of our staff and Board of Directors.
  - o The diversity of our Board of Directors and staff is a strength that can be highlighted to encourage additional participation at the leadership, workforce, and client levels of our system.
  - o Funding request amount: \$500
  - o Cost estimate: based on reasonable cost for the creation of an infographic in multiple digital formats
- Develop Workforce Recruitment Materials for Provider Network
  - o Consultant to create print, digital and video educational materials to assist providers with diverse recruitment strategies.
  - o Deliverables would include brochures, social media posts, short (1-3 minute) videos.
  - o Funding request amount: \$3,750
  - o Cost estimate: based on similar consulting contracts, \$150/hour for 25 hours total = \$3750

Board staff requested the Board of Directors accept OACBHA HECC funding in the amount of \$32,280.

7. State Opioid Response (SOR) 2.0 Carryover: Harm Reduction Pilot Project – \$1,148,724.75
- Ohio Department of Health (Kloxxado kits) - \$390,000
  - Ohio Department of Health (Naloxone kits) - \$450,000
  - Brave Technology Coop - \$147,000
  - AEK Illinois Supply Company and/or Reach for Tomorrow (Emergency Cabinet) - \$84,600
  - Area Wide Inc. Naloxone Vending Machines - \$62,124.75
  - Program Administration (TBD) - \$15,000

Ms. Greenspan reported that OhioMHAS has offered the Board one-time, SOR 2.0 Carryover funding, to be spent by September 29, 2022 when federal funding for SOR 2.0 ends. Funding must be expended according to SOR funding restrictions, to address Opioid or Stimulant Use Disorders. Harm reduction resources will be purchased during the funding period, to be made available throughout the upcoming months. These include the following:

- Overdose reversal kits (Narcan [4 mg] and Kloxxado [8 mg])
- Naloxone emergency cabinets to be placed in the community for rapid access and bystander rescue
- Naloxone vending machines to make free kits available to the community as a preventive measure
- Program administration/maintenance fees to ensure restocking and tracking of kits
- The Brave app, an alert system for individuals using substances, which enables persons to contact 911 in the event of a medical emergency
- Overdose sensors and buttons that can be placed in high incidence overdose areas that alert emergency services or bystander rescuers in the event of an overdose.



As many as 24,000 overdose reversal kits will be available and up to 100 individuals per day are expected to utilize the app once localized. The Board was requested to accept OhioMHAS SOR 2.0 Carryover funding in the amount of \$1,148,724.75 for the term of September 30, 2021 through September 29, 2022.

#### 8. Sponsorships

- Front Steps *Home for All Ball*, October 15, 2022 - \$1,000

Front Steps Housing and Services is an organization passionate about affecting change in the community by ending the cycle of homeless. Through its facility, programs and services, Front Steps provides critical resources needed to establish security and stability. From there, residents can begin the healing process and rebuild their lives with a goal of achieving their personal best. The *Home for All Ball* is Front Steps largest fundraiser and will be held on October 15, 2022 at Windows on the River. Silver Sponsor Benefits (\$1,000) include the following:

- o 6 event tickets
- o Company link and logo on Front Steps' website
- o Company name listed in advance publicity
- o Recognition of sponsorship in social media posts
- o Logo in event program

- Epilepsy Association's Race the River, September 18, 2022 - \$1,000

The ADAMHS Board previously sponsored the Epilepsy Association's Run at the \$1,200 (2018) and \$850 (2019) levels. The 2020 event was canceled and the 2021 event was held outside of Cuyahoga County. This year, the Supporter Sponsorship amount is \$1,000 and the event will be held at Merwin's Wharf. Benefits of the Supporter Sponsorship:

- o 1 Social media mention leading up until race day
- o Company name on fundraiser t-shirt
- o Complimentary registration for 2 participants
- o Company name on official race registration website
- o Distribution rights of company promotional items or promotion materials included in runner bags
- o Company recognition during opening announcements
- o Company name on all marketing materials including email communications
- o Listing in the 2022 Annual Report

- State of African American Disparities Virtual Conference: *State of COVID on African American Disparities*, August 12, 2022 - \$1,000

The Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition is the first coalition in the state of Ohio dedicated to addressing African American disparities in education, employment, housing and health by working to educate, advocate for and empower communities. The goal of the conference is to examine how political and social policies have impacted COVID-19 disparities in the African American community. The conference will examine the state of COVID-19 on disparities by exploring the impact on the community through historical documentation, breakout sessions and personal testimonies. The \$1,000 Bronze Sponsorship provides:

- o Logo on program book and marketing materials
- o Session presenter

- Recovery Resources Annual Run for Recovery, August 13, 2022 - \$1,000

Recovery Resources, a contract provider of the ADAMHS Board, will hold its Annual Run for Recovery on Saturday, August 13, 2022, at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. The purpose of this event is to increase awareness that recovery from alcohol and other addictions is possible and to raise funding to support the programs offered by Recovery Resources. The ADAMHS Board previously sponsored the Run for Recovery at the \$1,000 Sprinter Level, which includes the following benefits:

- o Registration for four participants (value \$100)
- o Listing on all event promotional materials

- o Listing in all event press releases
- o Logo recognition including:
  - Crain's Cleveland Business (2x) and Recovery Resources Website
- o Listing Recognition Included:
  - Social media
  - Email updates
  - Runner t-shirts
  - Race day banner and signage

**Motion to approve Resolution No. 22-07-02.** MOTION: P. James-Stewart / SECOND: K. Kern-Pilch / AYES: A. Bhardwaj, R. Blue, E. Cade, S. Galloway, B. Gohlstin, G. Howard, P. James-Stewart, D. Kelly, K. Kern-Pilch, S. Killpack, M. Rodas, H. Snider / NAYS: None / ABSTAIN: None / **Motion passed.**

Dr. Fowler reported that before we move on to the next item on the agenda, he wanted to comment that he has been a member of this Board for probably, well over 20 years and Chair for 27 days now. Never has he witnessed such an outburst of one individual against a colleague and indicated that he will not tolerate another such outburst from anyone. Dr. Fowler emphasized that he hates to have things go in this direction, but it looks like it is forced upon him. He stated that it is very unbecoming and will not be tolerated. In the event that someone tries to attack a colleague in the future, that individual will be excused from the meeting. If the individual does not comply with that, he will simply discharge his obligations to just convene the meeting and everyone will go home and nothing will be funded. After a brief discussion of this matter, Dr. Fowler requested that everyone needs to stick to the facts and do away with personal outbursts and personal attacks; and keep it professional and civil.

#### **11. CONTRACT AMENDMENTS:**

1. Amendment to Resolution No. 21-06-03, Continuation and Enhancement of NEO Collaborative Crisis/Information/Referral/Support Hotline Services and Advertising Campaign with SAMHSA Supplemental Emergency COVID-19 Funds – \$144,266 No-cost Term Extension
  - FrontLine Service - \$62,133
  - Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition - \$10,000
  - Geauga County MHARS Board - \$72,133

Ms. Harrison reported that the Board serves as the Fiscal Agent for the NEO Collaborative, which includes Cuyahoga, Lorain, Lake, Geauga, Ashtabula and Summit Counties. In 2020, OhioMHAS received a \$2 million SAMHSA grant for Emergency COVID-19 funding to address mental health and SUD during the COVID-19 pandemic. Each collaborative originally received \$309,383 of this award from OhioMHAS. The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County's share of these funds was \$51,563.83 and was used to contract with FrontLine Service to expand its Hotline by an additional Full Time Equivalent (FTE). In February 2021, OhioMHAS received an additional \$2,859,647 in SAMHSA Supplemental Emergency COVID-19 Funds, with a total of \$457,270 allocated to the NEO Collaborative. The Board's share of this supplemental funding is \$72,133 for services, and as Fiscal Agent will receive \$76,230 for the NEO Collaborative advertising campaign. The Board contracted with FrontLine Service and Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition to use its allocation for this funding.

FrontLine Service will continue the expansion of Cuyahoga County's 24-Hour Suicide Prevention, Mental Health and Addiction Crisis/Information/Referral Hotline: 216-623-6888 by retaining the 1 FTE staff member to continue assisting in answering calls and screening individuals utilizing the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) tool to identify and direct individuals impacted by COVID-19 to the appropriate levels of care, and utilize a Peer(s) to follow-up on calls made to the Hotline regarding COVID-19 related issues. The Peer would provide support and work with FrontLine Service staff to coordinate additional services if needed. The Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition will continue to provide support groups for individuals affected by COVID-19, including Long Haulers, Survivors and Individuals who Lost Family/Friends.

2. Amendment to Resolution No. 22-04-03, Change in Start Date to Provision of Sober Living Options for Felony Offenders under the Supervision of Cuyahoga County Probation – \$100,000 (pooled)
  - Cleveland Treatment Center (CTC)

- Stella Maris

The Corrections Planning Board has funded, or shared funding with the Board for Sober Living services since 2015. At this time, the Corrections Planning Board desired to continue this service in the amount of \$100,000 through June 30, 2024. The Sober Living program is a collaboration between the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court/Corrections Planning Board (CCPB), the ADAMHS Board and the "Master" provider(s) who will work with Sober Houses to provide this service in Cuyahoga County. The target population of Sober Living is SUD diagnosed individuals. In the original pilot, almost 100% of Court referrals for Sober Living had an Opioid Use Disorder diagnosis. The length of stay in a sober house is not to exceed three months unless there is a case conference held, and the stay authorized for an extension.

3. Amendment to Resolution No. 19-11-04, Returning Home Cuyahoga Housing Pilot Program and Shelter Jail Diversion Services – \$588,561.09
  - Emerald Development and Economic Network, Inc. (EDEN, Inc.) - \$245,838.60
  - FrontLine Service - \$342,722.49

This Pilot program will utilize a "Housing First" model combined with comprehensive wraparound services to provide a venue for chronically homeless Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (MHDD) offenders to obtain permanent supportive housing within the community. The target population often experiences periods of significant incarceration and hospitalizations. This Pilot program will not only assist the MHDD Court in better understanding the housing needs of the MHDD population, but it will also encourage the local housing community to work with criminal justice agencies to provide reliable stable housing that reduces recycling and recidivism—a significant goal of the Cuyahoga County Stepping Up Taskforce. This program, once fully operational, will reduce the existing incarcerated population within the Cuyahoga County jail.

Amending the end date of the funding period through June 30, 2023, (previously ended on June 30, 2022), and adding new funding for EDEN, Inc., in the amount of \$245,838.60 and FrontLine Service in the amount of \$342,722.49. The purpose of the funding is to provide appropriate housing through EDEN's scattered site housing and wraparound supportive services through FrontLine Service. EDEN will provide rental assistance and start-up costs to purchase furniture and other housing needs. Services to be provided by FrontLine Service include case management, shelter diversion, peer support and care coordination. FrontLine Service staff will work closely with EDEN, MHDD Court Docket staff and the Probation MHDD Unit. The Board is serving as the fiscal agent for the Corrections Planning Board (CPB) with CPB monitoring the program.

4. Amendment to Resolution No. 22-04-03, Intensive Special Needs Child Care (SNCC) Services for Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) – \$108,000
  - Achievement Centers for Children - \$21,600
  - Applewood Centers, Inc. - \$21,600
  - Beech Brook - \$21,600
  - Murtis Taylor Human Services System - \$21,600
  - OhioGuidestone - \$21,600

UPK is a county-wide initiative to increase the rates of school readiness by enhancing access to mental health services in classrooms of low-income and moderate-income families within Cuyahoga County. The agencies specializing in Intensive SNCC Services for UPK will help pre-school teachers manage behaviors and provide support to students with special needs while remaining in typical childcare settings.

Board staff is requesting to amend Resolution No. 22-04-03 to remove Positive Education Program (PEP) as a contractual party. PEP declined the contract because they do not have capacity to participate in the Intensive Special Needs Child Care Services for UPK program through the ADAMHS Board from July - December of 2022. The Intensive SNCC Services for Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) increases inclusion of children with identified disabilities, special needs, or challenging behaviors. These are children ages birth to six who are at-risk of suspension or expulsion when served in typical childcare settings. Clinicians provide observation and assessments in the classroom setting with children experiencing severe behavioral concerns. Service duration is four to six hours a week for up to 12 weeks. The

goal is to provide specialized modeling, coaching and intervention strategies to the caregiver and/or classroom teacher that supports the student's developmental growth.

5. Amendment to Resolution No. 21-11-07, Prevention Services for Serenity Health & Wellness Corporation – \$50,000

Ms. Harrison reported that the AXIOS Program, conducted at John F. Kennedy High School, is a year-round, afterschool mentoring program that provides substance use prevention, wraparound and therapeutic services. AXIOS will primarily target at-risk/high risk African American youth, aged 14 to 17, in grades 9 through 12. AXIOS addresses the misuse of drugs, including prescription drugs, and combines life skills training, work experience and school credit by placing youth in internships related to their current or prospective studies. Additionally, AXIOS will pair at-risk/high risk youth with life coaches, who will provide support, serve as role-models, and provide guidance in all aspects of their lives.

The ADAMHS Board is providing an allocation of \$50,000 to Serenity Health & Wellness Corporation (Serenity) for prevention services to be billed through Great Office Solutions Helper (GOSH) to be in line with our other prevention providers. Serenity was provided with startup funding to assist with start-up costs, hiring staff, and other program costs for the first half of the year.

6. Amendment to Resolution No. 22-01-04, Multi-System Adults Wellness Enhancement Project (MSA)  
- The Centers - Not to exceed \$1,022,031

Funding was provided by OhioMHAS to develop a strategic approach (individualized by community) to strengthen system collaboration to support long-term wellness for adults with frequent psychiatric hospitalizations touching multiple human services and/or criminal justice systems. The ADAMHS Board received \$340,677 for SFY2022. The ADAMHS Board was notified by OhioMHAS that additional funds of \$681,354 were added to the MSA Project for SFY2023. The Centers uses this funding to support the stabilization of high utilizers of the behavioral health system. This program services clients with two or more psychiatric hospitalizations in the past year, who have touched one or more systems, including criminal justice, developmental disabilities, aging (over 65), homeless, or veteran systems.

7. Amendment to Resolution No. 22-04-03, Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) – No-cost Term Extension  
- Bellefaire JCB

ODM has extended the use of funding for implementation activities through SFY 2023. Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau will launch a pilot MRSS team in August of 2022 to provide services Monday through Friday between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. The Bellefaire JCB MRSS team will consist of one to two licensed supervisor clinicians, three to four licensed therapists, two to three Qualified Mental Health Specialists, and one certified peer supporter. Bellefaire JCB anticipates the pilot MRSS program will expand hours and staffing patterns to include weekend hours at six months of operations and be operational 24/7 within one year of initial MRSS certification. MRSS will be provided to any Cuyahoga County family with youth up to 21 years of age experiencing a self-defined crisis.

Rev. Gohlstein reported that this is intended again, the inequities that are perpetrated against our community. We represent 30% of the population of Cuyahoga County and most times we get less than 5%. These people are living in a city that is the most racist city, the most impoverished city in the country, replacing Detroit as number 1. The most racist city number 2 in the nation, the 3<sup>rd</sup> most miserable city to live in in the United States and the first most miserable city to live in in the City of Cleveland. These people are doing a bang up job, beginning to relieve and release some of the tension in our city. Some of the things they are doing will eventually lead to a decrease in violence in our city, which Cleveland is one of the most violent cities in the country, the 3<sup>rd</sup> most violent city, and the first most violent city in the State of Ohio. This is the kind of work that is going on with these people. Secondly, there was a commitment made to him as chair to fund these people if they completed probation at the \$700,000, and that is why he is asking that this be lifted and taken back. Rev. Gohlstein stated "do what you want to do, but I will tell you that I was at times, in the past, when Representative Congressman Louis Stokes was living, I represented him at certain functions and he taught me something. He said that there are people who are good to have as friends. There are people who are good not to have as enemies and there are people who are not good to have as enemies and have as friends. I am the type of person

to have as a friend and not as an enemy. This agency is blatantly disrespected and lied to; and I am prepared to leave this Board. I am ready to fight you from the outside than inside. I am a community organizer.” Dr. Fowler responded that no one wants to fight him; and that he believes they want to give justice where justice is due.

Mr. Osiecki responded that he respectfully wanted to tell Rev. Gohlstin that he was really offended and did not appreciate being called a liar. He stated that he does not appreciate being called a liar during a public meeting by someone that he has known for over 30 years and considered a mentor to him. He stated that that is not a very nice thing to do to anyone. Mr. Osiecki stated that he is aware that Rev. Gohlstin is an advocate for the community, which is fantastic, and Rev. Gohlstin and he have had many conversations over the past years, especially with him as Chair, and that he would expect more respect because he has always provided Rev. Gohlstin with dignity and respect. Secondly, what Rev. Gohlstin is speaking of is not accurate, because he does not have all the facts and that he would have appreciated a telephone call to discuss the decision that was made so that he would have known all the facts rather than just listening to one side, as well as having Serenity contact Cuyahoga County Council to follow up with Mr. Osiecki as to why we were defunding this contract, which the Board is not.

Mr. Osiecki reported that he would like to explain the facts to the Board. He stated that to attack him personally like that, just because Rev. Gohlstin is not in agreement with this business decision that not only he has made, but the rest of the staff has made is just not fair. First of all, to clear up the facts, Ms. Sara Brown signed a 12 month contract for \$350,000, and this Board approved this contract. Her program, just like any other program that was new, was placed on a six month probationary period. The \$350,000 was for startup funds, which was on a cost reimbursement schedule. To date, she has not used all these funds, and presently has \$81,000 in unspent funds. Secondly, her contract is not being reduced at all because her contract is for \$350,000; and she has admitted to the Board that she may have misinterpreted the contract and admitted that she signed the contract for 12 months at \$350,000. Board staff are actually recommending an increase of \$50,000 to her, which would give her a total of \$400,000 through December 31, 2022. He reported that Rev. Gohlstin indicated, as well as Ms. Brown has indicated that they have provided over 900 students that have received one or more prevention services from the AXIOS program. However, the reports submitted by Serenity to the ADAMHS Board indicate that only 163 unduplicated students were served in the first half of calendar year 2022.

Although Serenity passed the probationary period, there were many concerns raised and several of these concerns could have been brought to the Board to end the contract at that time. However, staff did not do this based on Rev. Gohlstin's recommendation of Serenity, as well as the Board's efforts to offer services to an underserved population. The ADAMHS Board approved \$350,000 for Serendipity. Ms. Brown approached the Board as Serendipity, not Serenity in November 2021. In December 2021, the Board received notification via email from Ms. Brown that she was changing the name of her organization from Serendipity to Serenity and that she was moving offices. Board staff brought the name change to the Board for approval. In March 2022, we received a call from Ms. Holly Rothem-Bell requesting verification that her Employer Identification Number (EIN) number was not being used by Ms. Brown as she is the owner of Serendipity. Ms. Holly Rothem-Bell and Ms. Brown were partners, but separated and the AXIOS Program was developed by Serendipity and that Serenity has no right to use this program. Serendipity indicated that they have the intellectual rights as since it was developed under her business. The Board's Risk Manager, Mr. Woo Jun, followed up and spoke with both legal representatives of Serendipity and Serenity. As a result, it was inconclusive as to whether Serenity or Serendipity actually owned the intellectual rights to use the program. Since nothing was conclusive, the Board continued with the contract and this matter was not brought to the Board's attention.

In April 2022, the Board received two separate complaints about Serenity, which were not able to be substantiated because the complainants did not want to go any further with them. One was from a former staff member that called the Board to indicate that she was not getting paid an hourly rate promised by Ms. Brown and that Serenity was using Board funding for other programs, such as their adult programs. The second was from an individual that stated they worked for Serendipity and never for Serenity and that his name was being used in a proposal by Serenity to obtain additional funding. On June 23, 2022 Serenity received the Board's GOSH training, whereby it was indicated that they would be moved to billing for services rather than cost reimbursement. On July 6, 2022, the ADAMHS Board arranged and confirmed a Zoom meeting for July 12, 2022 with Ms. Brown to discuss a recommendation to provide an additional \$50,000 and that she would transfer from a cost reimbursement method to a billing for services method through GOSH. When Board staff entered the meeting, they were informed that Ms. Brown would not be in attendance. Board staff

were later informed via email that Ms. Brown was unable to attend the scheduled meeting as she needed to take a COVID-19 test because she had attended an event earlier in the day. This meeting was scheduled in advance. Then Board staff received an email from Ms. Brown asking for clarity as to what was discussed with her staff. Board staff scheduled another appointment and she was not available to attend. As a result, Board staff scheduled another meeting for July 21, 2022, which was a date and time that Ms. Brown specified.

Also, during the probationary period, there were many times when Ms. Brown was unable to make the probationary meetings. Board staff also discovered that Serenity was awarded a grant of \$900,000 from the Ohio Department of Education, \$300,000 per year for three years for a program that is very similar to the program that the Board is funding. Ms. Brown has been informing people that we are providing \$700,000 to garner additional funding from other organizations. The Board also has been informed by a church that Ms. Brown is informing potential funders that the Board has cut her funding by \$350,000 to gain additional support. As an FYI, we need to realize that the average amount of funding that other prevention programs receive from the ADAMHS Board is approximately \$90,000 per year and all billing is through GOSH. Ms. Brown forwarded correspondence to the Board requesting an additional \$69,000 on top of the recommended \$50,000 with no explanation as to how she would spend the funding. The letter also acknowledged that Serenity misunderstood the terms of the contractual agreement; and based upon further discussion, staff is not inclined to change the recommendation of \$50,000. When looking at all other prevention providers, Shaker Heights Youth Center is in an entire school district – Serenity is in one school, that does not even have 900 students enrolled – so serving 163 students for \$350,000 and the Board is requesting to add another \$50,000 – is well beyond any other prevention program that this Board has ever funded. Part of the staff's decision, it was stated that after the probationary period, Board staff would discuss Serenity receiving the additional funding. As a result, the Board is still providing \$400,000 that Ms. Brown has access to for the remainder of 2022. This has nothing to do with skin color, race, or underserved populations. These are facts that Board staff have considered and reviewed based on recommendation. Mr. Osiecki followed through as he promised Rev. Gohlstin he would.

Rev. Gohlstin stated that Mr. Osiecki was absolutely right and that this issue was discussed the first of June. He reported that Mr. Osiecki shared with him before June that there were some problems with Serenity, however, if they passed probation, he would fund them. This was a conversation between he and Mr. Osiecki. He reported that Mr. Osiecki came to him and shared that Serenity passed probation and that he would fund them. Rev. Gohlstin stated that he was under the impression that they would be funded \$350,000. Dr. Fowler was not privy to this conversation. Rev. Gohlstin stated that he is the oldest member on the Board and has always operated with integrity, representing the Board and his community, and that he was not going to misrepresent anything. The other window dressing kind of stuff that they got caught up in, Ms. Brown came from Florida with the program and solicited funding and entered into a partnership with another person and they fell out. This has nothing to do with us, the name change has nothing to do with the Board, who owned the program previously has nothing to do with us. She had the program. Rev. Gohlstin shared with Mr. Osiecki what they wanted to do and how they wanted to do it and they had begun to move to partner with Job Core, with Coach Gwinn, with Glenville High School also, to begin to make a dent in some of the problems that they were having in the east side of Cleveland especially, but in Cleveland period. Because of the kind of data that Rev. Gohlstin shared with everyone and if we are going to treat an agency like this, that is making a difference, even at say 163, they contracted for 25, but they served 163 and, in some instances, they took money out of their own pocket to ensure that some students got fed. There were students walking around with all their clothes on their back, so that they would not get raped when they went home. There are some things, some hard core kind of stuff going on that Serenity has put a lid on and in the process of recovering and building people for the future. Rev. Gohlstin shared that these were conversations that the CEO and he had and were in agreement with.

Mr. Osiecki responded that he did not say \$700,000. He stated that staff would look at additional funding for Serenity once their probationary period was complete. Mr. Osiecki stated that the two of them have different recollections of the discussion. Rev. Gohlstin asked if Mr. Osiecki was calling him a liar. Mr. Osiecki stated that he did not call Rev. Gohlstin a liar, and was discussing this respectfully and expected the same from him, given their history. Dr. Fowler reported that this conversation should be had in private and that there was not a need to lift this request from the identified amendments.

**Motion to approve Resolution No. 22-07-03.** MOTION: H. Snider / SECOND: K. Kern-Pilch / AYES: A. Bhardwaj, S. Galloway, G. Howard, P. James-Stewart, D. Kelly, K. Kern-Pilch, S. Killpack, M. Rodas, H. Snider / NAYS: R. Blue, E. Cade, B. Gohlstin / ABSTAIN: None / **Motion passed.**

*[Mr. Erskine Cade, MBA, Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., and Rev Max M. Rodas, MA, left the meeting.]*

## **12. DISCUSSION AND DECISION OF RECORDING BOARD MEETINGS**

Mr. Osiecki reported that at the June 22, 2022 General Meeting, it was suggested that the Board have a discussion and decision on recording its Board Meetings. Since the Board has been meeting by Zoom for over a year and a half, the community has had easy access to our meetings. A few members of the community were requesting that we live stream, record and post our meetings. Mr. Osiecki recommended that the Board live stream meetings, but not record them. That way, members of the community could log in to witness the workings of the Board. He also shared that he believes that the ADAMHS Board is the only Board in Cuyahoga County, as well as any ADAMHS Board in the State to provide livestreaming. As a result, Mr. Osiecki does not recommend recording and posting the meetings because of the following:

*[Mr. Erskine Cade, MBA, returned to the meeting.]*

- The ADAMHS Board deals with sensitive issues – not with general issues.
- The Board often has clients and family members attend the meetings that share information, but unfortunately because of stigma they do not want to be identified. Board staff know this because when events transpire – clients and family members let Board staff know that they do not want to be photographed or identified.
- Because stigma still exists – having the meetings recorded and posted will limit people's participation in meetings.
- Detailed minutes can be found on the Board's website.
- Mr. Osiecki spoke to two members of County Council, and they agreed that the ADAMHS Board should not record and post its meetings.
- Mr. Osiecki also spoke with Mr. John Corlett, from the Center for Community Solutions, and he agrees with livestreaming and understands why the Board is being cautious about recording and posting as we seek to balance the competing demands of transparency and privacy. Particularly when so much discrimination and stigma continue to be directed towards people with behavioral health challenges.

**Motion to continue to livestream Board meetings only and not record and post the meetings.** MOTION: R. Blue / SECOND: H. Snider / AYES: A. Bhardwaj, R. Blue, E. Cade, S. Galloway, G. Howard, P. James-Stewart, D. Kelly, K. Kern-Pilch, S. Killpack, H. Snider / NAYS: None / ABSTAIN: None / **Motion passed.**

## **13. 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN QUARTERLY UPDATE**

Mr. Osiecki stated that the ADAMHS Board's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan positions the Board and its service delivery system for success in a continually changing and increasingly demanding behavioral healthcare environment and includes the following six goals: 1) Strengthening Service Delivery System, 2) Measuring Impact, 3) Maximizing Available Funding, 4) Maintaining a High Performing Organization, 5) Strengthening Behavioral Health Workforce, and 6) Sharing Information. This plan is a living document that will be modified with the ever-changing environment, reviewed and updated as needed with periodic updates provided to the ADAMHS Board of Directors on the goals achieved and progress made on the plan.

Ms. Tami Fischer, Chief Administrative Officer, provided a brief review of each of the six goals outlined in the Board's 5-Year Strategic Plan by sharing a few of the activities and progress made on each of the identified goals during the last quarter, which includes April 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022. In total, 14 pages of accomplishments were made during the last quarter. (The 5-Year Strategic Plan Quarterly Update is attached to the original minutes stored in the Executive Unit and can be found on the Board's website.)

## **14. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Mr. Osiecki shared information regarding the following items of discussion:

First, Mr. Osiecki wanted to congratulate Ms. Maggie Tolbert, who is receiving an award from Cleveland.com and the Plain Dealer for being one of the ten innovative nurses. Dr. Fowler and Mr. Snider requested that the Board provide Ms. Tolbert with a proclamation. Mr. Osiecki reported that an awards brunch ceremony will be held in September and the Board of Directors will be informed and asked whether they would like to attend. The proclamation will be brought forth during the September Board meeting.

- **Diversion Center Update:**
  - The County Executive has indicated that he would like to extend the Board's contract for the Diversion Center for two years – 2023 and 2024, which was an option in the current contract that ends December 31, 2022.
  - We are in the process of discussing any updates that need to be made to the contract, including:
    - Funding amount – same as the current contract around \$9.2 million for the two years – minus the \$1 million for building modifications and furniture – so about \$8.2 million - or if an increase is needed for salaries.
    - Minor changes to the CIT training schedule and additional duties added to the CIT Training Officers that include outreach to law enforcement, providing information about the Diversion Center during roll calls and providing trainings on the Diversion Center and mental health/de-escalation to community groups.
    - Defining reporting for aftercare follow-up.
    - Defining the metrics.
  
- **All Provider Meeting:**
  - The Board facilitated a quarterly All Provider Meeting on Tuesday, July 26, 2022. The agenda included discussion regarding the RFP process, outcome narratives, DEI, and harm reduction.
  - Also, a lengthy discussion was had regarding workforce development and salaries, and how tough decisions will have to be made regarding funding services and programs that have good outcomes, serve the most people and provide the best services to clients.
  
- **New Board Member Orientation:**
  - Dr. Fowler and executive staff participated in our new Board Member orientation on Wednesday, July 13, 2022.
  
- **Meeting with Sheriff Steven Hammett**
  - Rev. Gohlstin suggested that we meet with the new Sheriff, Steven Hammett.
  - Rev. Gohlstin was unable to participate, but Dr. Fowler and Mr. Osiecki met with him and members of his team via Zoom on Wednesday, July 13, 2022. We introduced our system to him and talked about a variety of issues, including the Diversion Center and the Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).
  
- **Addiction Recovery Advocacy Meeting**
  - The Board's Addiction Recovery Advocacy Meeting was held on Monday, July 11, 2022, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.
  - A small group of individuals participated; and reviewed and revised action items of the Prevention portion of the Aligning Efforts to Support a Recovery Community report that the Board has been working on since June 2019 that align with RecoveryOhio's efforts.
  - Board staff are planning for the next meeting to be held in person at the Jerry Sue Thornton Center on Monday, November 7, 2022.
  
- **OACBHA Retreat**
  - Thursday and Friday, July 28 and 29, 2022, Mr. Osiecki will be attending the OACBHA Board CEO retreat in Columbus. The retreat allows for members to set goals for the association, increase our knowledge about various issues, including legislation, state budget, advocacy and Health Equity.
  
- **Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC) Retreat**
  - As a reminder, Mr. Osiecki is a tri-chair of the Mental Health Response Advisory Committee.
  - The Settlement Agreement between the City of Cleveland and the Department of Justice required that a Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC) be developed by the City and the Cleveland Division of Police (CDP).
  - The ADAMHS Board has had a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Cleveland regarding the MHRAC since 2015.
  - A four hour retreat will transpire on Wednesday, August 24, 2022.
  - The goal of the retreat is to re-evaluate MHRAC's mission, scope and direction, and receive community input and ideas to develop a plan for the next three to five years.
  
- **RFP Update**



- The RFP was released on Monday, July 11, 2022, and proposals are due in through the Board's WiseHive system by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, August 19, 2022.
- The Board's responses to questions about the RFP are posted in the RFP section on our website.
- **Media Coverage**
  - On Tuesday, July 12, 2022, the Medical Examiner released a public health alert related to overdose fatalities (15 fatalities between July 8-12, 2022 and 30 fatalities in July as of the 12th).
  - The Board was featured in several media stories with Channel 19, Channel 3, Channel 5, Cleveland.com and Ideastream about Harm Reduction resources, how to connect to treatment locally and the dangers of the current illicit drug supply.
  - Board staff launched phase two of our SUD Public Awareness campaign, which focuses on connection to treatment, in connection with the rollout of 988, which went live on Friday, July 16, 2022.
  - As a result, the Board was featured in stories with Fox 8 and Ideastream about the importance of 988 and its rollout locally. A follow up story was done by Ideastream about the increase in calls received by FrontLine Service through 988 after its first live weekend.
  - It was definitely a busy month for media, and the first time that Mr. Osiecki appeared on the news on Channel, 3, 5, 8 and 19 all in the same week.
- **OhioRISE**
  - OhioRise, stands for Resilience through Integrated Systems and Excellence was launched on Friday, July 1, 2022.
  - OhioRISE is a specialized managed care program for youth served by Medicaid with complex behavioral health and multisystem needs.
  - OhioGuidestone, Positive Education Program (PEP) and Ravenwood Health are the Care Management Entities that service Cuyahoga County.
  - Aetna reports the following statewide as Thursday, July 21, 2022:
    - 6,263 children and youth enrolled in OhioRISE
    - 1,673 Child & Adolescent Needs and Strength Assessments (CANS) were completed.
- **988**
  - 988 is the nation's new three-digit number to connect directly for suicide prevention and other mental health and addiction issues.
  - We are currently in a soft launch, however, Mr. Rick Oliver at FrontLine reports that:
    - On Saturday, July 16, 2022, they received a 49% increase in calls – 126 calls to 188.
    - On Sunday, July 17, 2022, they received a 55% increase in calls – 116 calls to 180.
    - If Mr. Oliver uses the calls that usually come in on the National Hotline – he saw over a 200% increase in calls.
    - This call volume was a challenge to handle, but for both days they answered about 79% of the calls in under 30 seconds.
    - The average wait time for anyone who was not connected immediately was about three minutes.
    - Several people who hung up before the call was answered (most holding for less than one minute), but most of these callers called back and got through to a crisis worker.
- **MRSS**
  - MRSS offers 24/7 assistance within 60 minutes for families with children up to age 21 experiencing a self-defined crisis.
  - The Call Center (operated by Thrive) launched on Monday, July 25, 2022.
  - The State-wide MRSS referral number is: 1.888.418.MRSS (6777) and will connect to local MRSS teams or to local nonmobile crisis support for counties that do not have MRSS teams.
  - Cuyahoga's local MRSS team will be piloted by Bellefaire JCB; and is ready to begin providing services on Monday August 1, 2022, between the hours of 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
  - There are plans to increase the hours of operation when an additional three staff are hired.
- **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Greater Cleveland – New Director**
  - Mr. Osiecki had the pleasure of meeting with Ms. Katie Jenkins, the new NAMI of Greater Cleveland Executive Director.

- **City Club**
  - The City Club of Cleveland is hosting a Behavioral Health Series and the ADAMHS Board served as a community partner for two of the forums:
  - The Friday, July 15, 2022, forum was titled, The Landscape of Behavioral Healthcare in Northeast Ohio, and was attended by Ms. Tolbert, Ms. Rosser, Dr. Fowler and Mr. Osiecki. Ms. Greenspan also set up and staffed a resource table.
  - The next forum, Caring for the Unhoused: Filling Gaps in the Continuum of Care, will be held Friday, August 12, 2022. If anyone is interested in attending this event, please let Ms. Greenspan know. The Board will also have a resource table at this forum.
- **Staff Update:**
  - Mr. Osiecki shared the following updates related to recruitment:
    - Behavioral Health Prevention Specialist
      - This position has been filled.
      - Mr. Mark Onusko will be starting at the Board on Monday, August 1, 2022.
      - Mr. Onusko is a licensed psychologist with fourteen years of clinical experience in diverse work and training settings.
      - Mr. Onusko will be reporting to Ms. DiVincenzo.
    - Children's Behavioral Health Specialist
      - This position has also been filled.
      - Ms. Britany King will be starting on Monday, August 22, 2022.
      - Ms. King has over ten years of experience working in a community behavioral health setting and almost nine combined years serving children and adolescents, especially those of vulnerable populations.
      - She will also be reporting to Ms. DiVincenzo.
    - Adult Behavioral Health Specialist II (Residential)
      - The Board has made an offer to an applicant for the Adult BH Specialist II (Residential) position.
      - Currently, Board staff are conducting a background check and other processes.
      - Board staff anticipate the applicant will be starting at the end of August.
      - This position reports to Ms. Schaefer.
    - Database Specialist
      - Mr. Dalton Skerlec resigned from the ADAMHS Board effective Friday, July 15, 2022, and Board staff have started the recruitment process to fill this position.
      - This position reports to Ms. Jess Saker, Director of IT.
    - Adult Behavioral Health Specialist II (Criminal Justice)
      - Mr. Joe Arnett has resigned from the ADAMHS Board, effective Tuesday, August 12, 2022.
      - Board staff will be starting the recruitment process to fill Mr. Arnett's position.

## **15. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Erskine Cade introduced State Representative, House District 12, Juanita O. Brent, representing southeast all the way from Lee Harvard to Maple Heights and Mayfield Heights, to discuss some funding opportunities. Mr Cade stated that he has had an opportunity to work with State Representative Brent in the General Assembly and stated that she brings more funding for projects back to this district than most of the 20 plus members that serve Cuyahoga County. She is the Chair of the Ohio Black Legislative Caucus and has been an exemplary representative for Cleveland.

Representative Brent thanked all in attendance and reported that she comes before the Board with greetings and to ask as to how she can be a resource to the Board. Every two years, the State of Ohio has a capital budget, whereby they give money to different agencies within the State of Ohio. Within this time period, Cuyahoga County received 24 million for this capital budget and within that project time, the ADAMHS Board was not one of the recipients of those funds. This is very problematic, because of the resource the ADAMHS Board is to the community and how necessary it is for the Board to receive some of these funds. One thing that came

up through conversation is that no one from this Board sent her their request and was told that the representatives that were told were not people that represented this area of Cleveland or Cuyahoga County. She reported that this is very problematic in that everyone should work together as a team and she is our team; and when the Board does something, she feels that she can hit it out of the park and get it for the Board. But the lack of information makes it hard to do her job, especially if the Board needs money from the state.

Representative Brent also reported on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding of 2 billion dollars that the State of Ohio will be allocating. Currently the General Assembly is on recess, but will be going back in November, and within 3 days of recess, will be assigning all 2 billion to organizations across the State of Ohio. As a result, she is going to multiple entities such as the Board to share this information regarding this funding as it will go very quickly. One thing she stated is that organizations should do - is share with Senator Matt Dolan, who is right here in Ohio, the team he owns, the Guardians, and demand that there is a public process for these 2 billion dollars. If not, a bill will be rolled out, and she as well as 131 members of the General Assembly will have to vote yes or no as to how these funds are allocated. She reported that she does not think this is fair or equitable to the people we serve in Cuyahoga County. There is not an open and transparent process. The public has to be involved – and to demand that there is a public process for the 2 billion dollars.

Dr. Fowler reported that approximately six or seven years ago, the Board used to get substantial funding from the state. The Board used to get per capita in Cuyahoga County of over \$25 per person and was cut to under \$1, so the Board's state funding has been inadequate over the last several years. Individuals go to Columbus from time to time to discuss this matter with the legislature and it has not had an effect. However, if the Board could obtain additional funding, more work could be done.

Representative Brent reported that she would like to be an ally and resource to the Board so that everyone could be more intentional. One item to be taken seriously is that an operational budget will come out next year and the Governor's office is up for election and we could keep our current Governor or have a new Governor. Regardless of who the Governor is, the Governor will decide this budget and will have meetings about it starting in November. Some non-profits, such as ours, already have scheduled meetings with both candidates. As a result, what is the ADAMHS Board doing to anticipate being part of this operational budget. We have to be very intentional and make sure that we are being seen, not just in our community, but on a state level.

Dr. Fowler inquired with Representative Brent as to what should the Board be doing that we are not doing. She responded that the Board should reach out to get on the Governor's calendar to ensure that we are on the introduced operational budget and not have to be amended into the budget, which is harder to do. If the Board is amended into the budget, we would need legislators advocating for it. To be part of the initial operational budget, conversations and meetings will be transpiring during November and December 2022.

Mr. Harvey Snider acknowledged Mr. Cade, who has done a fantastic job of notifying our Board over the term of his tenure as a Board of Director. In regard to pending legislation, I hope that Mr. Cade is relied upon as a resource for Representative Brent to legislate on behalf of the community. Mr. Snider also shared that Mr. Osiecki will be attending a meeting with OACBHA on July 28, 2022 and he feels that OACBHA is one of the best resources to utilize for the investigation of the where, how and why of obtaining these funds. He also recommends that there is a new executive director of NAMI, Ohio and as a result, suggested that the Board get their cooperation in the different aspects of what our legislator has respectfully suggested and make a concerted effort to go after this funding. Mr. Cade can assist with directing this type of activity.

Mr. Osiecki reported that the OACBHA meeting agenda includes the state budget; and requested to speak with Representative Brent in the near future.

## **16. AUDIENCE INPUT**

Ms. Rosie Palfy, a member of the Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC) and Diversion Center Community Input Committee, shared that she is very upset. She stated that she is a disabled veteran; and did not come to this meeting due to a migraine, however, was watching and listening to what she could hear and gave credit for the Board's attempt with livestreaming, but the audio is not good and may be due to individuals wearing masks. She reported that she was outraged at what she witnessed. She has some disagreements with some of the priorities of the Board, whereby Mr. Osiecki is aware, but she sees what the staff does and that they are probably one of the hardest working groups of people in government that she has seen. She reported that she is even saying this about the staff with which she does not agree. She sees how hard they work and to see the outrage displayed, which was understandable about an outburst that a member had, but everyone has watched as she has not been allowed to speak

for 18 months. When someone running a meeting does not agree with a comment that she made, shut her down and gave her less than a minute to speak. She reported that she mentioned a potential open meetings act violation in the last meeting, the Director of Risk Management, who is apparently good at his job, had approximately 15 minutes to google this matter, but apparently that did not happen. The other thing is that she is confused as to how the Board is meeting today to discuss and vote on all these contracts when the Committee of the Whole meeting last week was cancelled – so she is not clear on how the Board can vote on these contracts and is concerned how one Board of Director, in theory, can be so outraged and possibly try to influence the contract – no matter how well intentioned they are – especially since there was media coverage last year regarding their grave concerns about the ADAMHS Board. She reported that people are coming for the Board's money. These other groups, they want Health and Human Services (HHS) levy money. The Board is doing the right thing with the metrics and cannot be swayed by passionate arguments.

Mr. Osiecki responded that the Committee of the Whole meeting was not held due to a lack of quorum, however, everything on the agenda was discussed at the General Meeting and that is how the Board of Directors were able to vote.

Ms. Katie Kern-Pilch reported that the Board of Directors are very well informed because they receive all the relevant information that she hopes everyone reads. She further stated that the Committee of the Whole meeting packet, which contained about 75 pages, was available for the Board of Directors in preparation for the Committee of the Whole; and the Board of Directors had time to digest this information. As a result, the information that came up on the agenda for the General Meeting, the Board of Directors were well informed about. Ms. Kern-Pilch shared that she requests a hard copy in advance and picks it up from the Board as she is not really good with a computer. Overall, though, this information is forwarded via the computer and is available in hard copy, upon request. In all, the Board of Directors attend the meetings, are well informed and are thoughtfully ready to act.

Mr. Osiecki thanked Ms. Palfy for her comments regarding Board staff; and shared his appreciation that the Board's efforts were acknowledged. Dr. Fowler concurred.

Ms. Jenkins introduced herself to the Board and indicated that she is looking forward to working in the system and with the ADAMHS Board staff.

#### **17. UPCOMING SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER BOARD MEETINGS:**

- Community Relations & Advocacy Committee Meeting: September 7, 2022
- Planning & Oversight Committee Meeting: September 14, 2022
- Finance & Operations Committee Meeting: September 21, 2022
- General Meeting: September 28, 2022
- Committee of the Whole Meeting: October 19, 2022
- General Meeting: October 26, 2022

***There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.***

**Submitted by:** *Linda Lamp, Executive Assistant*

**Approved by:**

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***J. Robert Fowler, Ph.D., Chairperson, ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County***