

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

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 28, 2024**

**ADAMHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

J. Robert Fowler, Ph.D.	Sadigoh C. Galloway, MSW, LSW, LICDC-CS
Bishara W. Addison	Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr.
Ashwani Bhardwaj	Patricia James-Stewart, M.Ed., LSW
Reginald C. Blue, Ph.D.	Katie Kern-Pilch, MA, ATR-BC, LPC-S
Gregory X. Boehm, M.D.	Steve Killpack, MS
Erskine Cade, MBA	Harvey A. Snider, Esq.
James T. Dixon	

**ABSENT:** Michelle R. Curry, MPA, Rebekah L. Dorman, Ph.D.

**BOARD STAFF PRESENT:** Scott Osiecki, Chief Executive Officer, Sarah Adkins, Carole Ballard, Danielle Clark, Vince Crowe, Erin DiVincenzo, Felicia Harrison, Woo Jun, Linda Lamp, Clare Rosser, Jessica Saker, Allison Schaefer, Starlette Sizemore, Maggie Tolbert, Nick Weaver, Joicelyn Weems, Beth Zietlow-DeJesus

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair, J. Robert Fowler, Ph.D., called the General Meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Dr. Fowler stated that during the Audience Input segment of the agenda, the Board's policy is to grant each speaker a maximum of 2 minutes, while the collective time allotted to individuals representing one organization is capped at fifteen minutes.

**2. AUDIENCE INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

No audience input on agenda items was received.

*[Ms. Bishara W. Addison arrived.]*

**3. OATH OF OFFICE**

Ms. Kelli Perk, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in the Civil Division of the Office of Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael C. O'Malley, officiated the Oath of Office for Mr. Erskine Cade, MBA, who was reappointed by the Cuyahoga County Council.

Mr. Cade conveyed his gratitude to Cuyahoga County, the Board, Dr. Fowler, and Mr. Scott Osiecki, Chief Executive Officer, for their confidence in reappointing him to the Board. He expressed eagerness to collaborate with all involved in fulfilling the Board's duties and responsibilities throughout his term.

*[Ms. Patricia James-Stewart, M.Ed., LSW, arrived.]*

**4. RECOGNITION OF CLIENT ARTWORK DISPLAY: FEBRUARY 2024**

The ADAMHS Board's monthly client art display program showcases client artwork, highlights our provider agencies, recognizes the benefits of art therapy and celebrates the recovery community. The monthly client art display program can be seen in-person and virtually on the Board's website.

Ms. Joicelyn Weems, External Affairs Officer, highlighted the contributions of Lashonda W. and Haver R., who unfortunately could not attend. The Board will be presenting them with a Certificate of Participation and a gift card in recognition of their exceptional artwork.

Ms. Katie Kern-Pilch praised the two artists and expressed gratitude for their willingness to share their artwork.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the January 24, 2024 General Meeting were approved as submitted.

## 6. CHAIR'S REPORT

Dr. Fowler conveyed that due to the lack of new business, he would forgo his report.

*[Mr. Ashwani Bhardwaj and Gregory X. Boehm, M.D., arrived.]*

## 7. TREASURER (Official Vote)

Dr. Fowler noted extensive discussions held across multiple Board meetings and invited Board Directors to share their perspectives on the Treasurer position. Numerous Directors expressed reservations regarding the Treasurer's role. Mr. Harvey Snider emphasized the need for a thorough examination of the Treasurer's duties and boundaries. Following careful consideration, Mr. Snider remarked that the Board does not meet the prerequisites for fulfilling the Treasurer's responsibilities, noting that a majority of Directors are primarily focused on mental health and/or addiction services. While nonprofits typically have Treasurers, the Board, being a public entity, does not. It operates as established by the legislature without a designated Treasurer. Other Directors agreed, with Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., adding that the creation of a Treasurer position implies a lack of trust in the Chief Financial Officer and the Finance Department. He mentioned that the Board has an excellent finance team, and that he would not want anything to offend or undermine their efforts. Mr. Steve Killpack remarked that both the Finance Department and the Chief Executive Officer are effectively overseeing the Board's finances. He noted that based on his understanding of the Treasurer's role and its requirements, the Board is currently not providing such oversight. Several members of the Board concurred with the aforementioned statements.

Mr. James Dixon mentioned that it's customary for nonprofit Boards to include Treasurer positions. He conducted a brief survey among larger Boards across the state and discovered that most of them have Treasurers, including Franklin, Lucas, and Mahoning. Additionally, he observed that in Hamilton and Summit, all Boards have a Secretary except the Cuyahoga County Board, and no other Boards have a Second Vice Chair. Mr. Dixon highlighted that there's some flexibility in how Board Directors establish Officer positions. He noted that the description of the Treasurer's role is quite specific and limited to serving as a liaison and providing oversight. He encouraged his fellow Board Directors to lend their support to this perspective. Mr. Osiecki mentioned that Lake County also holds a Treasurer position.

Dr. Fowler expressed his perspective in that he doesn't perceive any notable differences in responsibilities between this position and those of the current Chair of the Finance & Oversight Committee. He underscored that the creation of this position doesn't diminish the commendable efforts of the Chief Finance Officer and the Finance Department. The primary rationale behind requesting this role is for enhanced oversight and occasional meetings with Cuyahoga County.

**Motion to approve the creation of a Treasurer position on the Board.** MOTION: J. Dixon / SECOND: B. Addison / AYES: B. Addison, A. Bhardwaj, G. Boehm, J. Dixon / NAYS: R. Blue, E. Cade, S. Galloway, B. Gohlstin, P. James-Stewart, K. Kern-Pilch, S. Killpack, H. Snider / ABSTAIN: None / **Motion failed.**

## 8. ADAMHS BOARD BYLAWS REVISIONS (1<sup>ST</sup> OF 2 READINGS)

Mr. Woo Jun, Chief Operating Officer, noted that the revisions to the ADAMHS Board Bylaws were finalized during the January Board cycle. However, due to an oversight, Board Directors will need a 21-day written notice to incorporate the requested revisions. Consequently, a final reading is slated for the March General Meeting for an official vote. He mentioned that there will be minor grammatical adjustments, changes to the composition of the Board of Directors, and the consolidation of the Planning & Oversight Committee and the Finance & Operations Committee into the Finance & Oversight Committee. Additionally, two community representatives will be added to the Community Relations & Advocacy Committee. The draft document will have all references to the Treasurer's position removed.

Mr. Jun emphasized that effective October 3, 2023, the County will appoint two-thirds of the members of the ADAMHS Board and will acquire appointments through attrition of State appointments, if applicable.

## 9. FAITH-BASED OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

Rev. Gohlstin, Faith-based Outreach Committee Chair, reported on the Faith-based Outreach Committee meeting held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 4:00 p.m. Board Directors heard the following agenda items as listed below.

- **Faith-Based Community Distribution Project**

Rev. Gohlstin expressed that the Board, in collaboration with the faith-based community, is assembling 150 resource bags to aid faith leaders and 150 resource bags to aid their congregations in assisting individuals facing behavioral health crises.

These bags will contain various items, such as a clergy handbook and a mental health guide tailored for faith leaders, as well as supplies for harm reduction to mitigate overdoses. Additionally, they will include information on the 988 crisis hotline and resources to support children and youth experiencing crises. He stated that the distribution will encompass all religious denominations or operate on a nonsectarian basis.

Rev. Gohlstin mentioned that as of now, United Pastors in Mission, The Baptist Pastors Council, The Baptist Ministers Conference, and Greater Cleveland Congregations plan to place the resource bags in easily noticeable areas for their congregants to access as required. However, the information provided in the resource bags for faith leaders will be tailored to their specific needs.

▪ **Faith-based Outreach Program 2023 1-3 Quarter Report / Current Status Highlights**

Ms. Starlette Sizemore, Director of Special Projects, reported that the grand total of individuals served for all seven faith-based providers year to date was 857; and the expected annual total was 785. Discussion was had regarding the objectives concerning the number of people served, and Rev. Gohlstin praised the excellent work of faith-based providers, noting a significant increase in community needs. Ms. Sizemore also reported on a variety of current highlights from each the seven faith-based providers.

▪ **Program Provider Presentations**

**Naaleh Cleveland High Risk Mentorship Program**

Mr. Daniel Solganik, who serves as the Director of Behavioral Health Services at Naaleh Cleveland, provided insights into the Teen At Risk Mentorship (T.A.R.M.) Program. Extensive data shows that mentorship is one of the most impactful interventions for teenagers struggling with mental and emotional health. Program goals include the following:

- Network – with community schools to identify kids in greatest need of help.
- Build Skills – ensure GED or high school graduation.
- Mentorship – provide quality mentorship.
- Mental Health – connect teens with professional and rehabilitation centers.

The mentees of Naaleh's teen mentorship program have individualized goals related to improving their mental, emotional and physical health. During the fall and winter, Naaleh provides the opportunity to achieve their educational and personalized goals. An impressive number of boys have completed their GEDs this year. Goals chosen by mentees include: Education, Physical Health, Mental Health, Social Skills, Jobs and Religious Growth; and 80% reached their overall goal for the year.

**Trinity Outreach Ministries – Another Chance of Ohio**

Dr. Deborah Watson-Daniels, Program Operations Director/Manager at Trinity Outreach Ministries, conveyed that the organization cultivates a culture of family, hope, restoration, and worship by fostering Godly living, exchanging ideals, and fostering goodwill among members. She noted that their faith-based program, supported by the ADAMHS Board for over a decade, has become integral to the community.

Dr. Watson-Daniels shared that The FAITH Program Inner City Youth and Families Cultural Arts Performance Program is an after school and weekend prevention program that provides a holistic culturally sensitive faith-based approach to early intervention serving 150 youth and families. Through various theater and fashion activities, they were able to achieve the following outcomes:

- Increased self-esteem.
- Increased interest in learning more.
- Youth involved in back stage activities include makeup, costume and wardrobe.
- Over 200 impacted.

The Cultural Arts and Youth Club has virtual and in person activities to facilitate spiritual and character development and positive peer group interactions. Outcomes included:

- Over 40 sessions in 2023.
- Youth reported having fun and feeling closer to God and to each other.
- Youth and families adopted the Sobriety Pledge.
- Youth learned and practiced weekly the craft of sound, lights and television productions.

By incorporating supplementary endeavors such as music and voice lessons, as well as Spiritual Development for Families and Youth, Dr. Watson-Daniels effectively illustrated the outcomes of each program and expressed satisfaction with the response to the services and the positive impact they have had on families and the community.

- **Prevention Rules For Faith-based Providers**

Mr. Jun reported on the Prevention Rules for Faith-based Providers – Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 5122-29. He shared that the general rule is that a provider that seeks government funding for prevention services, the provider must be certified. However, a faith-based provider is exempt from this rule but have to partner with a certified prevention provider and verified by writing to provide prevention services. Board staff reviewed the faith-based providers and identified two providers who would be affected by this rule, Trinity Outreach Ministries and INAMIAM. Both providers are in compliance with this new prevention rule as they have partnered with certified prevention providers and submitted the necessary documentation to the Board.

- **New Business**

Rev. Gohlstein shared that Impacted Families USA will be hosting their first national convention at the Cleveland Public Auditorium from June 21 through June 23, 2024. Impacted Families is a coalition of impacted family members who have lost a loved one during an interaction with law enforcement; and together they are working toward advancing meaningful legislative change.

Rev. Gohlstein brought attention to DJ Lily Jade, a 9-year-old, who has been hosting a radio show on 95.9 FM WOVU Radio for the last six years, airing every Saturday morning from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Additionally, he mentioned that DJ Lily Jade has authored a book titled "*FROM THE BOOTH.*" This instance illustrates the significant contributions made by our youth, suggesting potential collaborations to amplify their voices further. Rev. Gohlstein stressed the importance of inviting her to the Board's Annual Meeting in May.

## **10. FINANCE & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ms. Bishara Addison, Finance & Oversight Committee Chair, reported on the Finance & Oversight Committee meeting held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, and highlighted the Support of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Part 2, Crisis Capital Plan Assistance Application for Behavioral Health Crisis Center (ARP-0006E), the MetroHealth System Contract and Contract Amendment, Expenditures and Vouchers processed for payment during December 2023, Contracts and Contract Amendments as listed below.

- **RESOLUTION NO. 24-02-01**

- **SUPPORT OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES (OHIO MHAS), AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) PART 2, CRISIS CAPITAL PLAN ASSISTANCE APPLICATION FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS CENTER (ARP-0006E)**

Ms Addison conveyed that on January 6, 2023, Governor Mike DeWine signed into law House Bill 45, which appropriated \$90 million in ARPA funds for OhioMHAS to support Ohio's Crisis Infrastructure. These funds will be used to help strengthen Ohio's statewide mental health and addiction services system, specifically pertaining to crisis services. For part 2 of the ARPA funding for \$45 million, OhioMHAS issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) in May of 2023 for Ohio's Crisis Continuum for infrastructure improvements, suitable for one-time capital funding for Behavioral Health Crisis Centers. OhioMHAS Assurance Statement requires the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County to assure the building will be used for the purpose described in the Application unless written authorization is obtained from OhioMHAS. OhioMHAS Assurance Statement also requires the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County to approve the Application with an assurance of an intent to support applicant's program consistent with the Application, and in addition, to annually monitor the program and operation of the facility. OhioMHAS requests a board resolution from the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County to reaffirm and provide support for the Behavioral Health Crisis Center Capital Project. The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County/The MetroHealth System Behavioral Health Crisis Center (ARP-0006E) incorporates the renovation of the Outpatient Plaza Building at MetroHealth Main Campus. The project will include a Crisis Intake/Receiving Center, Psychiatric Emergency Services/Department (PES/PED) and 16-bed Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU). The total project cost is \$10,500,000 with a \$6,836,629 request from OhioMHAS. Board staff is recommending the Board Directors approval of the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County's support of OhioMHAS, ARPA Part 2, Crisis Capital Assistance Application for the Behavioral Health Crisis Center in the amount of \$6,836,629 for the term of State Fiscal Years (SFY) 2024/2025.

**Motion to approve Resolution No. 24-02-01.** MOTION: P. James-Stewart / SECOND: R. Blue / AYES: B. Addison, A. Bhardwaj, R. Blue, G. Boehm, E. Cade, J. Dixon, S. Galloway, B. Gohlstin, P. James-Stewart, K. Kern-Pilch, S. Killpack, H. Snider / NAYS: None / ABSTAIN: None / **Motion passed.**

• **RESOLUTION NO. 24-02-02**

**APPROVAL OF THE METROHEALTH SYSTEM CONTRACT AND CONTRACT AMENDMENT:**

1. Behavioral Health Crisis Center Capital and Startup Funding
  - The MetroHealth System - \$9,336,629

Ms. Addison reiterated that on January 6, 2023, Governor Mike DeWine signed into law House Bill 45, which appropriated \$90 million in ARPA funds for OhioMHAS to support Ohio's Crisis Infrastructure. These funds will be used to help strengthen Ohio's statewide mental health and addiction services system, specifically pertaining to crisis services. For part 2 of the ARPA funding for \$45 million, OhioMHAS issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) in May of 2023 for Ohio's Crisis Continuum for infrastructure improvements, suitable for one-time capital funding for Behavioral Health Crisis Centers.

The site of the Crisis Center will be moved from the St. Vincent Main Campus to the Outpatient Plaza building located at the MetroHealth Main Campus. With the move, the estimated capital and startup costs will be increased from \$6,836,629 to \$10,500,000.

- Construction/renovation – \$8,000,000
- Moveable equipment/furnishings – \$1,600,000
- Eligible fees - \$900,000

The ADAMHS Board will provide \$2,500,000 for startup costs, including the costs for moveable equipment/furnishing and eligible fees. Additional ARPA Part 2 funding will be applied for regarding the remaining \$1,163,371 in construction/renovation costs. OhioMHAS awarded funding in the amount of \$6,836,629 for one-time capital projects to support Ohio's Crisis Infrastructure for a Behavioral Health Crisis Center. The Crisis Center will be located at the Outpatient Plaza Building located at the MetroHealth Main Campus. There will be three components to the Crisis Center capital funding, a 24/7 Crisis Intake/Receiving Center, 24/7 PES/PED, and 24/7 16-bed CSU will be on the first floor of the Outpatient Plaza Building.

- Crisis Intake/Receiving Center: Crisis Intake/Receiving Center is located immediately to the left of the entrance of the Outpatient Plaza with approximately 3,500 square feet. This area will be renovated to house the crisis intake, receiving, triage, and urgent care services that will have a living room-like atmosphere.
- PES/PED: PES/PED is located immediately to the right of the entrance of the Outpatient Plaza with approximately 6,100 square feet and will be renovated to accommodate ten locked beds for assessment, crisis stabilization, 23-hour observation, medication management, and linkages to hospitalization or further services.
- CSU: CSU is located down the hall from the entrance of the Outpatient Plaza with approximately 13,000 square feet and will be renovated to accommodate 16 beds for additional stabilization in a residential setting.

Board staff is recommending that the Board Directors approve a contract with The MetroHealth System for \$9,336,629 for the term of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2026. Ms. Kern-Pilch inquired about the location of the Behavioral Health Crisis Center on The MetroHealth System's main campus. Mr. Osiecki responded that the Behavioral Health Crisis Center is planned to be situated in the Rehabilitation Pavilion on the MetroHealth System's main campus.

2. Amendment to Resolution No. 23-10-03, Naloxone Emergency Cabinets Administration
  - The MetroHealth System - \$67,725

Ms. Addison reported that The MetroHealth System is the ADAMHS Board's administrator of the Naloxone Emergency Cabinets Administration Program and the Naloxone Cabinets and Vending Machine Program. The MetroHealth System will be responsible for ongoing planning for locations, administration, and maintenance for cabinets at various locations and a Naloxone vending machine located at 2500 MetroHealth Drive, Cleveland, Ohio 44109. The provider will track the use and expiration dates of the Naloxone in each cabinet and vending machine and replace supplies when necessary. The provider will market the vending machines and cabinets to generate public and client awareness and provide

Naloxone to the community. The MetroHealth System will also facilitate Project DAWN training for any newly identified service entities. The funding requested is \$49,725 prorated plus \$18,000 to maintain current staff.

Program administration funding will pay for the tracking, filling, marketing, and reporting use of cabinets and vending machines, making lifesaving harm reduction resources available to Cuyahoga County residents. Board staff is recommending that the Board Directors amend Resolution No. 23-10-03 and enter into a contract addendum with The MetroHealth System in the amount of \$67,725 through December 31, 2024.

Because of an invalid vote, the Chair requested a motion to approve Resolution No. 24-02-02.

**Motion to approve Resolution No. 24-02-02.** MOTION: R. Blue / SECOND: P. James-Stewart / AYES: B. Addison, A. Bhardwaj, R. Blue, G. Boehm, E. Cade, S. Galloway, B. Gohlstin, P. James-Stewart, K. Kern-Pilch, S. Killpack, H. Snider / NAYS: None / ABSTAIN: J. Dixon / **Motion passed.**

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Resolution Nos. 24-02-03 through 24-02-05

- **RESOLUTION NO. 24-02-03**

**ACCEPTING THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ON EXPENDITURES AND VOUCHERS PROCESSED FOR PAYMENT DURING DECEMBER 2023**

Ms. Addison reported that the Administrative Budget that was approved for Calendar Year (CY) 2023 was \$8,080,414 and for December Actual Year to Date (YTD) 2023, the total administrative expenses were \$7,306,330.19; that is roughly 90% of the total Administrative Budget. Ms. Addison emphasized that in comparison to the December 2023 Board Voucher Report, there were few notable expenses, primarily attributed to Cuyahoga County's early closure in that month.

The Funding Source Budget to Actual YTD, December 2023, 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 \$74,365,289; and through the end of December 2023, the Board has received \$75,891,360.93. Ms. Addison reported that through the end of December 2023, 102% of the budget has been received. This surplus arises from a modification in the anticipated revenue received throughout 2023 due to a program change.

The Revenues By Source By Month report reflect that in December 2023, the Board received revenues of \$23,129,586.63; and includes the second half of the Board's levy subsidy of \$21,731,830, which brings the total revenue to \$75,891,360.93.

The ADAMHS Board Budget vs. Actual Expenses 2023 YTD reflect that December YTD Actuals is \$79,693,715.96, that is roughly 86% of the Board's anticipated expenditures for the calendar year. Ms. Addison noted that the Diversion Center's expenditures are reflected on this report.

The Revenue and Expenditures All Accounting Units By Month reflect that the total expenditures in December 2023 is \$3,097,321.06; bringing the total expenditures through the end of December 2023 to \$79,693,715.96.

The Revenues and Expenditures Grants YTD, December 2023 YTD reflects the Grant Accounting Units that include the ADAMHS Department of Justice (DOJ) Grants, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) Grant, and Other Grants. The total revenue for grants YTD is \$4,983,231.29; and total expenditures for grants YTD is \$4,955,172.72. The variance observed is a result of timing discrepancies. Expenses incurred in December and posted in the same month are not requested for reimbursement until a later period.

The Diversion Center Revenues and Expenditures YTD January through December 2023 reflects that the total revenue is \$4,673,604.57; and the total administrative expenses is \$4,682,290.64.

The Cash Flow Report December 2023 shows the 2021 Actual, 2022 Actual and YTD thru December 2023. This report shows a comparison of the available beginning balance, total available resources, expenditures and available ending balance. The available ending balance through December 2023 is \$39,373,347.55.

- **RESOLUTION NO. 24-02-04 – APPROVAL AND RATIFICATION OF CONTRACTS**

1. Regional Mobile Crisis Response (RMCR) Program
  - The City of Shaker Heights - \$523,131 (\$256,437 Year 1; \$266,694 Year 2)

Ms. Addison reported that the City of Shaker Heights identified the need for alternative police response and began the Mental Health Response Program (MHRP) Pilot in January of 2022 within Shaker Heights city limits. They were able to serve 645 individuals in crisis in the first year of the pilot program, decreasing incarceration and hospitalization and providing needed linkage and follow up. The City of Shaker Heights received a Department of Justice (DOJ) grant to assist with regional expansion of the program, however, still have staffing funding gaps. Shaker Heights has and will continue to partner with The MetroHealth System/Recovery Resources for contract staffing and expertise.

The City of Shaker Heights is seeking funding to expand its MHRP to include neighboring communities, including University Heights, Cleveland Heights, South Euclid, Richmond Heights and the regional joint dispatch center, Chagrin Valley Dispatch (CVD). The new expanded program will be called the RMCR Program. The RMCR Program will consist of three teams comprised of a licensed mental health professional and peer support specialist to respond to eligible crisis calls (received from CVD) and assess the person in crisis, determine appropriate next steps, and work with first responders on any safety concerns. The teams will also complete post-crisis follow-up to address barriers to care, linkage to services, and address any other needs. This funding would support the hiring of three additional staff including an independently licensed mental health professional, a peer support specialist and a program coordinator. This funding will also partially support the administrative supervisor. This model seeks to mitigate harm for people living with serious mental illness and substance use disorders, while reserving law enforcement interaction for limited circumstances when personal and public safety is at risk.

Board staff is recommending that the Board Directors approve entering into a two-year contract with the City of Shaker Heights totaling \$523,131 for staffing of the RMCR Program as follows:

- March 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025: \$256,437
- March 1, 2025 – February 28, 2026: \$266,694

2. Cleveland Division of Police Co-Responder Program – \$4,465,232.65
  - FrontLine Service - \$2,392,149
  - Murtis Taylor Human Services System (MTHSS) - \$2,073,083.65

The Cleveland Police Co-Responder Teams respond to crisis calls received via Cleveland Division of Police Dispatch for mental health related crisis in the community. A Crisis Specialist is paired with a Specialized Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Officer in order to respond to the calls. The Crisis Specialist, in collaboration with the Specialized CIT Officer, engage and respond to the individual's needs, provide assessment and triage to the least restrictive options in the community. The Co-Responder Team provides follow-up on crisis calls from other officers within their assigned police district as well as engage high utilizers of service in order to decrease the need for public safety assistance. FrontLine Service is assigned to Districts 1, 2 & 3 and MTHSS is assigned to Districts 4 & 5.

The City of Cleveland is continuing and expanding its Co-Responder Teams with the Cleveland Division Police (CDP). Through subcontracts with FrontLine Service and MTHSS, the ADAMHS Board will expand the current Co-Responder Team from five to ten teams, covering two shifts. Key tasks to be accomplished in expanding this project will include: retention of highly qualified existing staff/recruitment of new staff; expanding the current Co-Responder workgroup to include other partners; ongoing training/CIT training; enhancement of current operational policies and procedures in collaboration with CDP; and continued data collection, analysis, and reporting. The three-year agreement may be renewed by the City of Cleveland for two one-year options.

The Co-Responder Program will reduce the use of emergency rooms and jails and link individuals to services, increase collaboration and problem solving, and reduce the number of calls for service to public safety. Board staff is recommending that the Board Directors accept funding from the City of Cleveland for the Co-Responder Program in the amount of \$4,465,232.65 for the term of March 1, 2024 through February 28, 2027 and contract

with FrontLine Service in the amount of \$2,392,149 and MTHSS in the amount of \$2,073,083.65 for the same term.

• **RESOLUTION NO. 24-02-05 – APPROVAL OF CONTRACT AMENDMENTS:**

1. Amendment to Resolution No. 23-11-07, Psychiatric Emergency Services
  - St. Vincent Charity Community Health Center - Not to exceed \$1,632,471

The ADAMHS Board only contracted with St. Vincent for the PES for the first quarter of 2024 as The MetroHealth System was to take over the operations of the PES by April 2024. Due to unforeseen circumstances, that plan has been delayed. The Amendment to Resolution No. 23-11-07, PES request includes amending the contract with St. Vincent Charity Community Health Center (St. Vincent) for PES to extend through July 31, 2024 and adding \$1,632,471. In order to keep staffing, the ADAMHS Board is allocating \$150,000 for retention bonuses. Services provided at St. Vincent's PES include crisis stabilization, as well as 23-hour observation, assessment and discharge planning. In this setting, patients have access to a psychiatrist or licensed practitioner around the clock, as well as nurses, mental health technicians, and security officers to ensure the safety of all. The ten-bed facility offers an environment that is conducive to harm reduction, including non-movable furniture and metal detectors. The PES offers 24/7 access, which is critical for the patient population being served. St. Vincent also partners with other providers, such as FrontLine Service to deliver appropriate levels of treatment. Through these partnerships, the team reduces unnecessary admissions to Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare (NBH).

Board staff is recommending that the Board Directors amend Resolution No. 23-11-07 and enter into a contract addendum with St. Vincent Charity Community Health Center in the amount not to exceed \$1,632,471 from April 1, 2024 through July 31, 2024.

2. Amendment to Resolution No. 23-11-01, CY2024 Agreements with Class 2 Residential Facilities (Adult Care Facilities/ACF)
  - Adult Care Parma III - No Additional Funding

The ADAMHS Board utilizes its Residential Assistance Program (RAP) funds to provide up to \$1,600 per month per client to the operators of Class 2 Residential Facilities. The Board also provides \$200 per RAP client (not receiving SSI/SSDI) for personal living expenses. RAP is intended to provide financial rental assistance to indigent/low-income adult clients (18 and over) receiving Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS) and/or Community Psychiatric Supportive Treatment (CPST) services from a contract agency of the ADAMHS Board so that the client can live in a Class 2 Residential Facility in the community. RAP is targeted for indigent/low-income adult clients that are discharge ready from an institutional environment such as a hospital, nursing home, jail, Class 1 Residential Facility (RCF), Cuyahoga County Diversion Center or CSU. Once the RAP recipient starts receiving SSI/SSDI, they are required to apply for the OhioMHAS Residential State Supplement (RSS) program, which requires the client to have Social Security and Medicaid. Once approved, the client transitions from the RAP program, and onto the OhioMHAS funded RSS program.

The ADAMHS Board has developed a list of 61 Class 2 Residential Facilities for CY2024 (Adult Care Facilities/Group Homes) to provide safe, decent and affordable housing for individuals living with mental illness. The ADAMHS Board Directors approved \$2,500,000 for RAP for CY2024. Current Class 2 Residential Facility Operator (Adult Care Parma II), Mr. Ruben Robinette, recently obtained a license on Thursday, February 1, 2024, from OhioMHAS to operate a new facility, Adult Care Parma III. Due to Adult Care Parma II's positive history with clients, Adult Care Parma III's location in an underserved area and ability to serve specialized populations, Board staff is recommending that the Board Directors approve entering into an agreement with Adult Care Parma III to serve RAP clients for the term of March 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

**Motion to approve the Consent Agenda (Resolution Nos. 24-02-03 through 24-02-05).** MOTION: S. Galloway / SECOND: B. Gohlstin / AYES: B. Addison, A. Bhardwaj, R. Blue, G. Boehm, E. Cade, J. Dixon, S. Galloway, B. Gohlstin, P. James-Stewart, K. Kern-Pilch, S. Killpack, H. Snider / NAYS: None / ABSTAIN: None / **Motion passed.**



**11. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

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

- **Northeast Ohio Collaborative/OhioMHAS Meeting:**
  - Mr. Osiecki joined the Chief Executive Officers or their representatives from the Northeast Ohio (NEO) Collaborative Boards: Lake, Lorain, Geauga, and Summit at Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare (NBH) on Thursday, February 8, 2024, to meet with the new OhioMHAS Director, LeAnne Cornyn, and members of her team.
  - The meeting was a listening session where everyone in attendance had a chance to present their top priorities, local opportunities, and community accomplishments. There were a list of questions provided to guide the conversation.
  - Mr. Osiecki emphasized his discussion on workforce obstacles, addressing the challenges of defining and monitoring success in managing mental illness and substance use over a lifetime. As a leader in the system, he underscored the evolving nature of mental illness and substance use disorders, highlighting the necessity of staying informed about new research and information to adapt strategies accordingly.
  - Mr. Osiecki additionally noted positive developments within our system, both statewide and locally in Cuyahoga County, such as:
    - Increased awareness of mental health and addiction issues leading to greater service utilization.
    - Governor's backing of mental health and addiction concerns.
    - OhioMHAS is making strides in data collection and dissemination, along with the development of the Community Assessment and Plan (CAP) and reinforcing the crisis system.
    - OhioMHAS demonstrates receptiveness to collaborating with and considering input from the Boards.
  - Mr. Osiecki expressed pride in Cuyahoga County for the following:
    - The presence of a well-established and comprehensive crisis continuum, a resource not available in many other counties. With American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) capital funding, additional resources like a crisis center and step-down/step-up center are being added, enhancing existing services.
    - A supportive community environment.
    - Leadership in marketing and information dissemination within the community, often leading to emulation by other boards who tailor these efforts to their own communities.
    - The establishment of the first Diversion Center in the state, and collaborative efforts with OhioMHAS to achieve certification for it.
  - The Board is working with the City of Cleveland to establish care response pilot program.
  - Mr. Osiecki engaged in discussions concerning our primary concerns, which include:
    - Insufficiently staffed providers.
    - Mental health, addiction, and violence issues affecting children.
    - Children being left at the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) building.
    - Political factors.
    - Shortage of State hospital beds.
    - The necessity for a children's mental health hospital.
  - We also asked for OhioMHAS to develop a specific line item for Board funding and more discretionary funding for Boards.
- **Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA): January 29 – January 31, 2024:**
  - Mr. Osiecki participated in the OACBHA Executive Council Meeting, OACBHA General Membership Meeting and Ms. Harrison and Mr. Jun joined Mr. Osiecki in a training from the Ohio Auditor of State on the Behavioral Health Handbook.
  - OhioMHAS Director Cornyn and members of her team were introduced to the OACBHA Executive Council, and all in attendance had the opportunity to talk about a variety of issues.
  - The training on the Ohio Auditor of State on the Behavioral Health Handbook focused on updates, general guidance and audits, as well as the Sunshine Laws.
- **City Council Care Response Pilot Meetings:**
  - Mr. Osiecki reported that Mr. Jun spoke with Councilwoman Santana's and Councilman Bishop's office and briefed them on the Care Response pilot Program.
- **Community Engagement Care Response Pilot Meetings:**

- Ms. Maggie Tolbert, Assistant Chief Clinical Officer, Mr. Jun, Ms. Beth Zietlow-DeJesus, External Affairs Consultant, and Mr. Osiecki have been participating in Care Response Community Engagement Meetings along with R Strategy Group.
  - The purpose of the sessions is to:
    - Brief community members about the upcoming Care Response pilot program and obtain a better understanding of the landscape in the communities where the pilot is being implemented.
    - Identify specific local needs, program opportunities and potential challenges, and ensure community questions are answered to the best of our ability.
    - Gather input and insight from impacted people's lived experiences and stakeholders to inform the implementation of the Care Response pilot program in this community.
    - Provide the community feedback on how their input will be used to influence implementation decisions.
  - Three meetings have been held thus far and 80 people have participated:
    - Thursday, February 15, 2024, at Miles Elementary and Councilman Bishop attended.
    - Thursday, February 22, 2024, via Zoom
    - Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at Fulton Library
  - Three more meetings scheduled:
    - Thursday, March 7, 2024, via zoom
    - Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at Stella Walsh Recreation
    - Thursday, March 28, 2024, at Michael Zone Recreation
  - Individuals have asked questions about:
    - How will the community continue to engage with the process beyond this first series of meetings and types of calls the team would respond to?
- **Cuyahoga County Diversion Board Quarterly Meeting:**
    - Ms. Clare Rosser, Chief Strategy and Performance Officer, Ms. Tolbert, Mr. Nick Weaver, Evaluation and Research Officer, Mr. Jun and Mr. Osiecki participated in the Thursday, February 22, 2024, Diversion Board Meeting.
    - Ms. Rosser provided a 2023 year-end report:
      - 3,807 calls to FrontLine, with 700 from police.
      - 3,446 contacts have occurred to date. "Contacts" are instances when a potential client arrived at the Diversion Center. From those 3,446 contacts, the admissions process was completed 1,777 times.
      - 210 law enforcement officers completed the 40-hour CIT Training.
      - 498 officers were informed about the Diversion Center during Roll Calls
    - Mr. Osiecki answered questions about the development of the crisis center.
  - **NAACP Meeting:**
    - On Friday, February 9, 2024, Ms. Rosser and Mr. Osiecki met with the new Director of the NAACP, Mr. Edwin Hubbard Jr., and introduced themselves and the Board's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) plan and invited him to participate in the Board's meetings.
    - Mr. Hubbard, Jr. was very interested in continuing conversation with Board staff.
  - **Region 3 One Ohio Advisory Board Meeting:**
    - Mr. Osiecki is a member of the Region 3 One Ohio Advisory Board and participated in a meeting on Wednesday, February 21, 2024.
    - Judge Matia, who is a member of the One Ohio Foundation, gave an update on the process for organizations to submit applications for funding.
    - Tax exempt 501C3, private and for profits, state and local governments are eligible to apply.
    - The focus is on new or expanded services and not to be used to supplant existing services. 10% administrative costs are allowable. Capital expenses are not allowed.
    - Organizations are urged to visit the One Ohio website – [oneohiofoundation.com](http://oneohiofoundation.com) - for complete information:
      - RFP will be posted on the Grant HQ webpage and Grant registration opens in the One Ohio Grant Portal on Monday, March 4, 2024.
      - Application window opens in the One Ohio Grant Portal on Tuesday, April 2, 2024:
      - Application submissions are due in the One Ohio Grant Portal by 11:59 p.m. EST on Friday, May 3, 2024.

- Once the applications are submitted, One Ohio will send the applications to the local regional One Ohio Boards to review.
- The Region 3 Board adopted two funding priorities at the meeting:
  - Evidence based treatment/practices in sober housing.
  - Services to increase social determinants of health for individual & family support.
- **Issue 26:**
  - Mr. Osiecki, Mr. Chris Morgan, Resource Specialist, and his wife helped make Issue 26 yard signs on Saturday, February 10, 2024, at the Cleveland Food Bank.
  - The group made 3,000 yard signs in under 2 hours.
  - The Board serves as a distribution center for yard signs, allowing anyone interested to take some home.
  - Mr. Osiecki was a guest speaker at the Bay Village Democratic Club on Monday, February 26, 2024, where he discussed the ADAMHS Board and Issue 26.

## 12. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was received.

## 13. FOLLOW-UP

No follow-up was received.

## 14. AUDIENCE INPUT

Dr. Fowler reiterated that the Board's policy is to grant each speaker a maximum of 2 minutes, while the collective time allotted to individuals is capped at fifteen minutes.

Mr. John Jones identified himself as a FrontLine Service staff member with 16 years of experience and also as an Executive Board member of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) 1199, the union representing FrontLine Service. He expressed a longstanding commitment to supporting mental health board issues and assured continued support in the future. Mr. Jones made it clear that his presence was not to oppose the Care Response Program's funding, stressing its essential nature. However, he voiced apprehensions about the collective bargaining process between FrontLine Service and their union. Additionally, he underscored the importance of the ADAMHS Board considering the needs of the entire agency, not solely focusing on the Care Response aspect. Mr. Jones requested that any correspondence concerning this issue, which was previously sent to the Board, be distributed among the Board Directors.

Mr. Leonard DiCosimo, the Executive Secretary of the North Shore AFL-CIO Federation of Labor, emphasized his presence to endorse Mr. Jones' statements and express solidarity with all union workers.

## 15. UPCOMING MARCH AND APRIL BOARD MEETINGS:

- Nominating Committee Meeting: March 20, 2024
- Finance & Oversight Committee Meeting: March 20, 2024
- General Meeting: March 27, 2024
- Faith-based Outreach Committee Meeting: April 3, 2024
- Nominating Committee Meeting: April 10, 2024
- Finance & Oversight Committee Meeting: April 10, 2024
- General Meeting: April 17, 2024 at Northern Ohio Recovery Association (NORA), 1400 E 55<sup>th</sup> Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44103

Dr. Fowler emphasized that due to the lack of agenda items, the Community Relations & Advocacy Committee Meeting of Wednesday, March 6, 2024 has been canceled.

***There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.***

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

**Approved by:**

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

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