



TRUMBULL COUNTY  
**Mental Health and Recovery Board**

Board Meeting Minutes  
November 21, 2023 4:33 PM

**Members Present:** Carol Henderson, Lance Grahn, Laura Green, Louise Kline, Carl Clark, Virginia Cluse, Thomas Harwood, Teri Lacy, Larry Pavone, Maria Placanica\*, Kevin Stringer, Deborah Tominey

**Members Absent:** Charles Baldwin, John Hugley, Rachel Nader, Laurie Perry, Julia Wike

**Staff Present:** April Caraway, Katie Cretella, Crystal Crites, Carol Holmes-Chambers, John Myers, Valdeoso (Bud) Patterson, Patricia Shepherd, Lauren Thorp

**Guests Present:** Joe Shorokey,\* Alta; Joe Caruso,\* Compass; Adria Rovnyak\*, Glenbeigh; Vince Brancaccio,\* Help Network; Ken Bancroft,\* Valley Counseling; Brendan Keating, Board Attorney; John Wilson, Board Pine Contractor

\*Denotes Virtual Attendees

**Preliminary**

1. President Carol Henderson called the meeting to order at 4:33 PM.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Secretary Kline called the roll of members and certified that a quorum was present. President Carol Henderson recognized staff and guests.
4. Carl Clark made a motion, seconded by Kevin Stringer, to approve the October 17, 2023 Board meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Report from the Executive Director**

1. State Update – ED Caraway reported the resignation of Lori Criss, Director at OhioMHAS. ED Caraway stated that this unfortunately occurs every time there will be a new Governor. ED Caraway then reported on the passage of Issue 2, which legalized recreational marijuana in Ohio, stating that we are unsure of the rules going forward as they have yet to be designed. The Board members had a brief discussion noting the complications of the matter, especially for law enforcement.
2. Attorney Brendan Keating administered the oath of office to Secretary Louise Kline.
3. Local Update – ED Caraway provided an update on the behavioral health units at Steward Health/TRMC. She reported that she has held many meetings, both locally and with the state departments, to try to save the units and ensure patient care. Cindy Russo, CEO of TRMC noted that the Medicaid rate increase, along with adjusting the payable length of stay, could enable the hospital to break even on the BH units in the new year. This does not impact the projected loss of \$1.6 million to Steward Health. ED Caraway asked President Russo to provide us notice if they do shut down the Behavioral Health Units. ED Caraway and Clinical Director Cretella have also been meeting with Mercy Health to develop a plan for the potential loss of the 36 beds at TRMC so that patient care is not disrupted.. Next, ED Caraway called attention to the Annual Report. She noted the updated format. The new format will be easier to share with the community when we prepare for the levy. ED Caraway asked the Board if any revisions were needed and none were noted. She

explained that the TC Commissioners and OhioMHAS both need to receive the report by the end of the year. Next, ED Caraway gave an update on the Pine Crisis Center project. The Phase 1 study has been completed and we are awaiting the report on Phase 2. Radon and toxin levels are being measured. She also reported that the OhioMHAS Office of Budget Management has approved the \$267,049 originally allocated to Trumbull County for the Washington Street project to be reallocated to the Pine Crisis Center through the Capital Grant Office at OhioMHAS. ED Caraway recognized John Wilson for assisting with the project and thanked Bud Patterson for ensuring that all entities are getting paid quickly. ED Caraway then reviewed motion number seven noting that we may not use all of the additional requested levy funding if other grants can be acquired. John Wilson stated that ED Caraway has been actively working on the project. ED Caraway then reviewed the OhioMHAS approved Board trainings. ED Caraway urged Board members to attend the training with Attorney Brendan Keating on Ethics and Sunshine rules that will occur in lieu of the February Program Committee meeting. Director Cretella reported on the Unmute the Uncomfortable training. President Henderson said she enjoyed it and found it to be very informative. Treasurer Green said it was enlightening with different points of views presented. Katie reported that 150 people registered and only 12 did not attend. ED Caraway spoke of CIT training as it just finished on Monday. Fifteen officers were in attendance. It was noted that this year's CIT program consisted of new presenters and a new format. Vince Peterson participated as a trainer and spoke at commencement. The Board then discussed cancelling December meetings of the Board as no urgent business is anticipated.

4. Finance Report – Patricia Shepherd, CPA, reviewed the October 2023 unaudited Revenue and Expenditure Reports. Shepherd then discussed the handouts at the meeting starting with Fund 221. Next, Shepherd discussed the budget for the new grant period 10/1/23 through 9/30/24. Finally, she discussed the Modified Accrual FY end report for 2023. After the review, Shepherd asked if anyone had any questions. None were asked. She then noted there will be motions for approval later in the meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

1. Addictions and Mental Health Program Committee – Vice President Grahn provided an overview of the meeting that took place on November 7, 2023 at 4:30 PM.
2. Budget and Finance Committee – Treasurer Green provided an overview of the meeting that took place on November 2, 2023 at 4:00 PM.
3. Administrative Committee – ED Caraway provided an overview of the meeting that focused on revising policies on November 9, 2023 at 4:00 PM. Lance Grahn encouraged everyone to approve the motion for those policy changes and encouraged everyone to attend the next meeting that will focus on a policy to address the absence of the Executive Director if that should occur.

### **Announcements/Community Partnerships/Information**

1. ED Caraway encouraged everyone to read the OACBHA article “Developing a Better Understanding of Xylazine.”
2. ED Caraway reviewed the “Shaping Your Piece of the Puzzle Training.”
3. ED Caraway called attention to the ASAP Events Flyer in the packet.
4. ED Caraway encouraged everyone to review the media pages in the Board packet.

### **New Business**

1. Lance Grahn made a motion to approve the October 2023 Revenue and Expenditure Report held subject to audit. Kevin Stringer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

2. Larry Pavone made a motion to approve the FY24 Budget revisions recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee. Carl Clark seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
3. Louise Kline made a motion to approve the FY23 year-end budget. Lance Grahn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
4. Thomas Harwood made a motion to approve the FY23 Modified Accrual Budget to Actual to close FY23. Kevin Stringer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
5. Kevin Stringer made a motion to approve Fund 221 fiscal report for close of grant period 10/1/2022 through 09/30/2023. Virginia Cluse seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
6. Larry Pavone made a motion to approve Fund 221 Budget for grant period 10/01/2023 through 09/30/2024. Thomas Harwood seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.
7. Thomas Harwood made a motion to approve an additional \$500,000 allocation for the Pine Crisis Center Project. If other grant funding is received that funding will be expended first. This is in addition to the original \$1,000,000 approved by the TCMHRB. Debbie Tominey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
8. Carl Clark made a motion to approve the Trumbull County calendar year budget as recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee. Louise Kline seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
9. Lance Grahn made a motion to approve the policy revisions as recommended by the Administrative Committee. Laura Green seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
10. Kevin Stringer made a motion to approve the Executive Director and Board President to sign the contracts and grant agreements of the TCMHRB. Carl Clark Seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
11. Virginia Cluse made a motion to approve the FY23 Annual Report. Debbie Tominey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
12. Kevin Stringer made a motion to accept \$267,049.00 in Capital Grant funding from OhioMHAS for the Pine Crisis Center, initially earmarked for the 166 Washington Street project MH-1191, and to execute the contract and 20-year forgivable mortgage and note. Lance Grahn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
13. Teri Lacy made a motion to revise the November 15, 2022 Board motion to approve the Family & Community Services capital grant renovation project from OhioMHAS for \$1,000,000 for renovations of the Valley Counseling Services (VCS) Children's Office located at 318 Mahoning Avenue in Warren. The TCMHRB is in support of the grant to fund the applicant's program consistent with the application, and, in addition, annually monitor the program and operations of the facility to ensure compliance. Thomas Harwood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
14. Larry Pavone made a motion regarding the cancellation of December meetings of the TCMHRB. Laura Green seconded the motion, which passed with one no vote.

Vice President Grahn discussed Unmute the Uncomfortable event and congratulated Katie on the attendance and how well it went; other Board members agreed. Kevin Stringer then thanked the staff for the trainings shared by the DEI committee and said he's very grateful for the opportunity to attend them.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM on a motion by Kevin Stringer, seconded by Carl Clark.

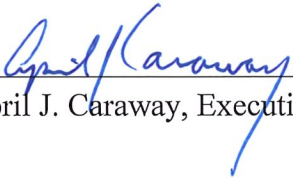
Next Board Meeting – January 16, 2024 at 4:30 PM



Carol Henderson, President



Lance Grahn, Vice President



April J. Caraway, Executive Director

1-16-2023

Date