

**LAKE COUNTY ADAMHS BOARD**

Regular Board Meeting  
Monday, January 25, 2021  
6:00 p.m.  
Zoom

Mr. Enzerra called the meeting to order 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Members Present: Chair -- Dave Enzerra

Les Beck	Nancy Brown
Kim Collise	Roberta Kalb
Pam Kurt	Jim McBride
Julia McGruder	Andy Meinhold
Matt Sabo	Karen Sippola
Joanne Zeroske	

Staff Present:

Kim Fraser, Executive Director  
Jackie Bruner, Director of Business Operations  
Greg Markell, Director of Community/Public Affairs  
Christine Lakomiak, Director of Clinical & Quality  
Kelly Tuttle, Secretary/Receptionist  
Eryn Medved, Staff Accountant

Guests:

Jordyn Paratore	Board Member Elect	Lisa Falkenberg	Lake Health
Carol Casey	Bridges	Carrie Dotson	Lifeline, Inc.
Damir Pavicic	Bridges	Katie Jenkins	NAMI of Lake County
Emily Currie-Manring	Catholic Charities	Mary Wynn-Peaspanen	Signature Health
Jessica Martin	Cleveland Rape Crisis	Sara November	Signature Health
Mike Matoney	Crossroads Health	Tim Kehres	Torchlight Youth Mentoring
Shayna Jackson	Crossroads Health	Liz Brant	WomenSafe, Inc.
Karen McLeod	Extended Housing	Andrea Gutka	WomenSafe, Inc.

Ms. Fraser asked that when guests are not speaking to please keep muted to keep out background noise. Board staff have established Zoom meeting protocols and are taking every precaution possible to ensure we do not have anyone attempt to disrupt our meeting; that said, if we do experience any disruption in the meeting, we will immediately end the Zoom session and will ask everyone to disconnect and then rejoin.

**SWEARING IN NEW BOARD MEMBER:**

Ms. Bruner administered the Oath of Office to Jordyn Paratore recently appointed by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for a term effective immediately and terminating June 30, 2024. She was welcomed and warmly applauded.

Ms. Paratore noted she was excited to be part of the ADAMHS Board. Mr. Enzerra appointed her to serve on the EQI Committee.

**MINUTES OF MEETING:**

Mr. Sabo moved to accept the minutes of the December 15, 2020 regular Board meeting as mailed. The motion was seconded by Mr. McBride and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (21-055)

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

There was no correspondence.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Ms. Bruner read the financial report of Board operations for the month of December 2020 as follows:

Beginning Cash Journal Balance . . . . .	\$5,006,857.09
Plus: Cash Receipts for the Month . . . . .	\$ 954,984.41
Total to Account For . . . . .	\$5,961,841.50
Minus: Cash Disbursements for the Month . . . . .	\$1,465,217.72
Ending Period Adjustments	\$ 0.00
Ending Cash Journal Balance . . . . .	\$4,496,623.78

Ms. Zeroske moved to accept the financial report for the month of December 2020 as read. Seconded by Ms. Brown, the Motion Passed Unanimously. (21-056)

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS & INTRODUCTIONS OF GUESTS:**

Guests were welcomed and invited to comment on any agenda items.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Ms. Fraser recognized that Ms. Bruner has been wearing the hat of Staff Accountant, Director of Business Operations and gatekeeper of all things COVID related the past several months. She has done an incredible job keeping our system going from a financial standpoint. Our office is operating smoothly despite the fact we are all in different areas. A new staff accountant has been hired but before she introduces her she would like to have a round of applause for Ms. Bruner going above and beyond leading our system the last several months.

Ms. Fraser introduced Eryn Medved who is the new Staff Accountant. Ms. Medved thanked the Board for the opportunity and is looking forward to working with everyone.

Ms. Fraser noted in February staff will continue to operate in a remote office. We are continuing to secure PPE. Ms. Tuttle made a trip to Columbus to pick up more supplies for our system.

Ms. Fraser reported that she has named Ms. Lakomiak as our Health Equity Lead at the Board level. This is not only going to be important in the short term but the long term also.

Ms. Fraser gave an update on the state budget looking at the new biennium budget. There is a lot of talk about cuts. Unemployment has dramatically been up. Some reports say financially the state is not in as bad of shape as we could be but we must be vigilant in advocating for behavioral health. Right now we have the most conservative legislature we have had in several years. Through the Board Association we are very aggressively working to see that behavioral health continues to be on the forefront. February 1<sup>st</sup> is the release of the Blue Book which outlines the Governor's initial priorities. As we understand behavioral health will continue to be a priority. We will see the full budget language released February 9<sup>th</sup>. At that time, our work will ramp up and you will be hearing a lot more about advocacy and what we need to do to have our system prioritized in the coming months.

Ms. Fraser shared a few of the FY22-23 Priorities through our Board Association which include:

- In the current Biennium budget behavioral health received quite a bit of additional funding as a system; 1.25 million and 7.5 million for stabilization dollars. We will be advocating these dollars

continue into the next biennium. We have used these dollars on a number of local initiatives such as crisis and crisis expansion.

- From the current biennium we will be advocating to reinstate the \$7 million investment (each board gets about \$75,000) that helps to meet needs where there are no other funding mechanisms.
- Recommending an increase in the Continuum of Care line-item for 15 million. These are flexible dollars for services such as suicide prevention and crisis response. So much money in the current biennium has gone towards drug and alcohol treatment which is critical but when you focus on one area the other area loses the attention it needs. The mental health side unfortunately has seen less focus than necessary and we would like to expand.
- The Ohio Revised Code language in 340 has been a bit open to interpretation. We will be advocating enhancing some of the designated authority of Boards through the Ohio Revised Code; including updating regulations and policies and providing parameters which we operate.

Ms. Fraser noted that she is looking forward to working with the legislators. Our current local legislators in Columbus know us well. Senator Cirino, Representative Troy and Representative Callender are friends to the behavioral health system so we will be dialing them in.

Ms. Fraser stated we are looking at our Request for Proposal and contracting process for SFY2022. We will be meeting with providers to talk about proposed changes to proposals and garner their input. We want this to be a collaborative and cooperative environment. We will also be sending surveys to our community stakeholders to talk about where our perceived strengths are in the community, perceived gaps in services, how are we doing from an outreach/PR standpoint, and where do we need to do more. We will then pull all of this information together. In March, we will be presenting the recommended request for proposal and if it is approved; it will be published after our March Board meeting.

Ms. Fraser reminded in past meetings the topic of data has come up and how we utilize it at the Board level to make determinations about funding, investments, and need for services. We have a plethora of data points we collect but do not have a centralized data dashboard. We are looking at doing that but in a plan full way. Ms. Zeroske brought about sharing data with the Board in a more comprehensive way during the last Long-Range Planning meeting. Each month Ms. Fraser stated she is going to do a data spotlight and look at one particular area. Today she will be speaking about Suicide Prevention Data. She reviewed data compiled by the Suicide Prevention Coalition highlighting the following:

- Since 2011, Lake County data has been consistent with state data.
  - Completed suicides: 80% males; 97% white; males use more lethal methods (gunshot)
  - Traditionally older population --- tend to complete 49% -- 50 or older
  - In 2019 and 2020 were two years we had the most die who were in a younger age group. One third was under the age of 40.
- The Board has enhanced Suicide Prevention activities the past few years partnering with the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation and are talking to every group that will welcome us in such as faith based communities, rotaries, schools, and the medical field.
- The Board has completed a series of Suicide Awareness videos and other behavioral health topics. We partnered with LLC to target specialized populations and utilized the K12 prevention grant to enhance our suicide prevention in the schools.
- Lake County has not seen a rise in suicide deaths during the pandemic but we have seen a rise in overdose deaths; doubling between March from September from 2019.

Ms. Zeroske thanked Ms. Fraser for the great update.

Ms. Fraser noted that the First Responder Crisis program which is the brand new initiative with Crossroads Health and Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers is being rolled out and she anticipates to have an update on the program in the next month or two along with the Lake Health help line which has been circulating throughout Lake Health to provide additional support to all Lake Health Employees.

Ms. Fraser stated we are declaring February "You Matter Month". We have partnered with our crisis text line and Board association to promote positivity throughout our community. Yard signs were developed and are being distributed to promote positivity and spread goodwill. They also include our access information. We have secured 750 signs and already distributed a good number of those to our provider network. We are also partnering with LakeTran, Leadership Lake County, RSVP and churches to help get them out. A press release is being sent to the News-Herald and we are using social media to promote February as "You Matter Month." If you are willing to put up a yard sign, please contact Mr. Markell.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Mr. Enzerra reported that the Executive Committee met prior to tonight's Board meeting and the following items were discussed:

Mr. Meinhold moved to enter into a one-time SFY2021 non-Medicaid contract with Extended Housing for an amount not to exceed \$3,370.26 to establish a new Homeless Outreach space within the Wellness Center; expenses include security cameras, locks and furnishings. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brown and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (21-057)

Ms. Fraser stated that Extended Housing operates the PATH homeless outreach program and historically a lot of outreach that happens is in the agency or community settings. During COVID environment, spaces to meet are harder to come by. Extended Housing would like to repurpose the 2nd floor and invite individuals in. They would like a safe, private environment to meet.

Ms. Kalb moved to enter into a SFY2021 Non-Medicaid contract with Windsor Laurelwood, Lake Geauga Recovery Centers, Signature Health, and Extended Housing in the amount of \$1,074,040 for the administration of the State Opiate Response (SOR) 2.0 grant awarded. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zeroske and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (21-058)

Ms. Fraser noted this is the extension of the current SOR funding to establish the Opiate Recovery Transition Program. We applied for a little more money to expand programs for the next 2 years. This will include Signature Health's Everett Center and will also give us opportunity to work with individuals who are in recovery with both opiate use disorder and stimulant use disorder.

#### **EVALUATION/QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Mr. Meinhold reported that the Evaluation/Quality Improvement Committee met on January 11<sup>th</sup> and the following items were discussed:

Quality Improvement Review of Bridges Bridges is a non-clinical consumer operated agency that provides a variety of educational and social activities for severely mentally disabled adults through the Drop-In Center and also offer support through the Warm Line. Peer support services that are provided are not Medicaid billable.

Mr. Pavicic gave a brief history on Bridges on how they began as an agency. The pandemic has been a challenge the last several months. In March the agency closed its' doors to in person services to keep clients

safe. Mr. Pavicic was in weekly contact with Ms. Fraser and discussions took place on how do you prevent clients from feeling isolated. Staff called consumers during the lockdown and sent notes to let them know while they may be physically apart they were not emotionally apart. Ms. Fraser send out a note of encouragement also, discretionary funds were used to purchase gift cards for food or household items, masks were mailed, and Christmas cards were mailed with a gift card. Other items mailed to clients included crossword puzzles, calendars and additional PPE items.

When Bridges is able to reopen there will be safeguards put in place so all clients are safe. Currently the agency is in a holding pattern but continue to have continuous contact with their clients.

Mr. Meinhold thanked Bridges for their flexibility during this time and asked what their clients thoughts were on receiving the vaccine. Mr. Pavicic stated that just like the general population clients are not certain but feel most are willing to receive the vaccine so they can get back to participating in activities. Social distancing and masks will be used when they reopen. Bridges staff is still in discussions on how they will handle the vaccine operationally.

Ms. McGruder commended Bridges on the innovative way they have been able to continue to provide services to their clients.

Ms. Lakomiak conducted the agency's Contract Compliance Review and found them in full compliance.

On behalf of the Evaluation/Quality Improvement Committee, Mr. Meinhold moved that the full Board accept Bridges Quality Improvement plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. McGruder and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (21-059)

Quality Improvement Review of Lifeline, Inc. (211) Ms. Dotson stated Lifeline, Inc. operates several programs but the ones funded by the Board include Volunteer Guardianship, Re-entry Kinship Navigator and 211.

Ms. Dotson stated that the Volunteer Guardianship program began on July 1, 2018. Currently there are 75 wards. 37% are MH/SUD consumers and require more supervision then those in a nursing or group home setting. There are currently 30 active trained guardians who have put in 513 hours of volunteer time. All of the wards will be receiving COVID vaccinations.

Ms. Dotson stated the Re-Entry program helps with successful offender reentry, reduces recidivism and enhances public safety. Due to COVID monthly visits are not allowed at the prisons or jail. Client intakes are done virtually instead. The Re-Entry Coordinator continues to deliver outreach materials. Wrap-around funds were used to assist individuals who were referred by an ADAMHS funded agency and who demonstrated a barrier to successful reentry. 16 clients were assisted with housing needs, transportation, work supplies, etc.

Ms. Dotson reported that the Kinship Navigator program was started in 2019. Three educational workshops were held before the shutdowns. They continue to hold workshops via zoom but they are not as well attended as in person. Some grandparents are not familiar with zoom or do not have the correct technology to participate.

211 has been very busy during the pandemic. The Board provided one-time funding to cover overtime hours from March through May. The EMA made 211 the primary contact for non-medical inquiries during the pandemic. On April 6<sup>th</sup>, 211 was 146% above the normal amount of calls. They still have not got back to pre-COVID call numbers. United Way eliminated their funding for 211. Lake is the only county in the state that

does not receive 211 funding from United Way. Lifeline has diversified funding by receiving funding from Senior Services and a couple of other agencies.

In 2020 Lifeline has expanded services into Geauga County, relocated in a temporary office until their new facility is ready, and started a payee program they are currently hiring for through a federal grant.

Mr. Meinhold thanked Lifeline for their work adaptation during these tough times.

Ms. Lakomiak conducted the agency's Contract Compliance Review and found them in full compliance.

On behalf of the Evaluation/Quality Improvement Committee, Mr. Meinhold moved that the full Board accept Lifeline's plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sabo and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (21-060)

Next Meeting Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 at 5:30 p.m., via Zoom

*As the **PROGRAM COMMITTEE** did not meet since the last full Board meeting, the Board moved on to the next agenda item*

*As the **ALLOCATION COMMITTEE** did not meet since the last full Board meeting, the Board moved on to the next agenda item*

*As the **LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE** did not meet since the last full Board meeting, the Board moved on to the next agenda item*

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Payment of Bills Ms. Kalb moved that the Board approve the January bills totaling \$1,165,891.51 be paid as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. McBride. As there was no discussion the Board voted and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (21-061)

**GOOD OF THE GROUP:**

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Enzerra welcomed Ms. Paratore and Ms. Medved; noting that he looked forward to working with them in the months and years ahead.

As there was no further business, Mr. Meinhold moved for adjournment at 6:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brown and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (21-062)

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Enzerra  
Chair

Roberta Kalb  
Secretary