

**LAKE COUNTY ADAMHS BOARD**

Regular Board Meeting

Monday, September 18, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Lake County ADAMHS Board, One Victoria Place, Suite 201, Painesville

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

**ROLL CALL:**

Members Present: Chair -- Roberta Kalb

Carl Dondorfer	Mike Hatton
Stacy Kramer	Pam Kurt
Curtis Lau	Nicole Parker
Marty Phillips	Matt Sabo
Beverly Schilero	Jeff Taylor
Amber Torres Gonzalez	William Wilson

Members Excused:

Dave Enzerra

Staff Present:

Kim Fraser, Executive Director  
 Jackie Bruner, Director of Business Operations  
 David Schick, Director of Marketing & Communications  
 Kelly Tuttle, Secretary/Receptionist  
 Milica Fiedler, Staff Accountant

Guests:

Damir Pavicic	Bridges	Teresa Reed	Starting Point
Shayna Jackson	Crossroads Health	Tia Lawrence	Torchlight
Ann Raddell	Fine Arts	Kim Hearn-Vance	UH/Lake Health
Charles Tong	Lake-Geauga	Michelle Giancola	Windsor-Laurelwood
Carrie Dotson	Lifeline, Inc.	Andrea Gutka	WomenSafe
Betsy Griffin	Starting Point		

**MINUTES OF MEETING:**

Mr. Sabo moved to accept the minutes of the August 21, 2023 regular Board meeting as mailed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Phillips and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (24-017)

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Ms. Fraser reported that correspondence was received from the president of Kalcor Coating Company thanking the clinicians who came out from the trauma response team. They provided caring, empathetic support to their team who unexpectedly lost a coworker. The clinicians had a profoundly beneficial impact on everyone in the company and he thanked the Board for providing this service.

Ms. Fraser noted the trauma response team comes together when there is a community wide crisis with an incident that impacts a large number of individuals in the community. Not all counties are able to provide this service in their county.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Ms. Fiedler read the financial report of Board operations for the month of August, 2023 as follows:

Beginning Cash Balance	.....	\$2,977,611.64
Plus: Cash Receipts for the Month	.....	\$5,275,751.96

Total to Account For . . . . .	\$8,253,363.60
Minus: Cash Disbursements for the Month . . . . .	\$1,662,178.32
Ending Period Adjustments	\$ 0.00
Ending Cash Journal Balance . . . . .	\$6,591,185.28

Mr. Dondorfer moved to accept the financial report for the month of August as read. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lau and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (24-018)

**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 gave a brief updated on the new building. They are running the wiring and hanging drywall later this week. We are currently assessing what we have and may not be moving. If furnishings don't fit, we will ask the agencies to take them and put to good use.

Ms. Fraser reminded there will be no November Board meeting. It will be our transition month during the move and we will regroup in December.

Ms. Fraser reported that there was an emergency clause that allowed public boards to meet virtually during COVID. Once COVID was over that went away. There is legislation that has been proposed (HB 257) which would authorize certain public boards to meet virtually including our board. The House is not expected to reconvene until October 18<sup>th</sup>. In the next few months, we might have legislation to allow the Board to meet virtually if they chose.

Ms. Fraser stated that there are continuing discussions to create a family resource center in partnership with Willoughby-Eastlake schools, the General Health District, Job & Family Services, University Hospitals and a number of our providers. Statistically the west end of the county has more pockets of poverty, lower retention in clinical services and less access to a number of services. The partnership is looking at standing up a resource center at routes 91 & 20 that would be a point of contact to give referrals for behavioral health services, Ohio Means Jobs, WIC, etc. Board staff is excited to be a partner in this initiative.

Ms. Fraser reported that she met with the new Juvenile Court Judge, Michael DeLeone and his team. The past several years we have had a lack of strong behavioral health services present in juvenile court and the detention center. The judge is enthusiastic about the idea of bringing the services back. He has asked Ms. Fraser to help craft a plan that will be modeled by the program in the municipal court. The Commissioners have expressed an interest to help financially support the endeavor.

Ms. Fraser reminded that the Quick Response Team (QRT) was started in 2017 and was brought to the attention of the Board by Mr. Sabo. The Lake County QRT is a partnership of law enforcement, fire/EMT, and the ADAMHS system. When a Lake County resident requires medical intervention as the result of a drug overdose, a team—typically a law enforcement officer and an expert in treatment resources—will visit that individual within 24-48 hours to help link them with services. Currently the program is not supported by a full-time employee. The Lake County Sheriff's office, Lake County Narcotics and Ms. Fraser met with Commissioner Hamercheck to talk about what it would like to create a full-time team shared between our 3 offices that could provide more response. The Commissioner is enthusiastic about investing in this kind of shared program. She will provide updates as they develop.

Ms. Fraser stated the Board is partnering with OhioMHAS to bring more trainings to our workforce. We are looking to bring EMDR (eye movement desensitization reprocessing) and Motivational Trainings to our region as part of our ongoing workforce development.

Ms. Fraser stated that two events were held recently which included the Overdose Awareness Day on August 31<sup>st</sup>. We were able to connect with a number of organizations and raise awareness about resources and celebrate the lives lost. The other event was National Suicide Awareness Day on September 10<sup>th</sup>; a vigil and celebration of life for those who have lost their life to suicide. The events were great ways to let the community know about resources available and what ADAMHS is all about.

Ms. Fraser reported that the past several years all of the Boards across the state have recognized a week in September as Week of Appreciation for First Responders and Behavioral Health Professionals. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year we decided to treat those individuals to ice cream. Today, tomorrow and Wednesday an ice cream truck is traveling to over 30 locations throughout the county; handing out ice cream and showing our appreciation. This is an opportunity to say thank you to those partners and there will be a raffle for a few different prizes at the end of the week.

Ms. Fraser stated that tonight's data spotlight is on the Lake County ADAMHS Board Levy. ADAMHS Boards are taxing authorities. As such we can, with approval of the Lake County Commissioners we can ask voters to approve real estate taxes to support our system. ADAMHS Boards are the only taxing authority in Ohio permitted to use levy funds to run levy campaigns. In our case, the vast majority of campaign funds comes from our PAC, Friends of Lake ADAMHS. The PAC's annual fundraiser is the Celebrity Art Auction. We use PAC funds and not taxpayer dollars to fund our levy campaign. When levy time comes she will be asking staff, provider agencies and Board members to raise awareness for the Lake ADAMHS Board.

Ms. Fraser reviewed the history of our levies, renewal vs. replacement and the change of the tax rollback. The ADAMHS system currently rely on a 0.9 mill levy and 0.7 mill levy which is about 60% of our funding. In the past it was 70% but we have since received additional funding through state and federal grants. It is our most flexible funding and allows us to provide programs that are creative and treat an individual as a whole.

Ms. Fraser reported that the next opportunity to ask the Commissioners to place a 0.9 mill, 10-year Lake ADAMHS renewal levy on the ballot is November 2024. If it does not pass we would have the opportunity to place it on the ballot in November 2025 before it expires. Historically the Board has chosen to go at the earlier time in case it does not pass and a second opportunity is needed. We are beginning to strategize how to present the Board's value to the community and we will have more opportunity for input and review as it becomes available. The next opportunity to ask the Commissioners to place the 0.7 mill, 10-year Lake County ADAMHS renewal levy on the ballot is November 2027. While no action is being taken at this time, the strategy and results from the 0.9 mill levy will shape the planning for the 0.7 mill.

Ms. Fraser went over the process to place a levy on the ballot stating that we need permission from the Lake County Commissioners in order to put a levy on the ballot. Our next steps would be to put a request into them to get a resolution of necessity, certification by the county auditor and a resolution to proceed. We will start to prepare for this next Spring. The next 12-months are going to mean more opportunities for staff and board members to raise awareness and continue partnership with agencies.

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

Ms. Kalb reported that the Executive Committee met prior to the Board meeting and the following item was discussed:

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Ms. Kurt moved that the full Board enter into a SFY2023 non-Medicaid grant type contract with Extended Housing for PATH overage expenses in the amount of \$16,540. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hatton. After discussion the Board voted and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (24-019)

Ms. Fraser stated that this is federal funding that passes through the Board for the homeless outreach program at Extended Housing. The program spent more money then they had come in and we were able to garner additional federal dollars to make up the difference for last years overage.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Mr. Sabo moved that the full Board enter into a SFY2023 non-Medicaid grant type contract with Lake County Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$75,952 for Psychotropic Medication. The motion was seconded by Mr. Phillips. After discussion the Board voted and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (24-020)

Ms. Fraser stated that this is pass thru funding. We are fortunate to partner with the Sheriff's Office and be able to support them for psychotropic medications. The psychotropic medications are mental health medications. Medicaid will not pay for medication in the jail once someone is incarcerated.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Ms. Torres Gonzalez moved that the full Board enter into a SFY2023 non-Medicaid grant type contract with the Lake County Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$4,801 for Medication Assisted Treatment medication. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dondorfer. After discussion the Board voted and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (24-021)

Ms. Fraser stated that this is pass thru funding for medication assisted treatment like Vivitrol.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Mr. Sabo moved that the full Board enter into a SFY2024 grant type contract with Lifeline in the amount of \$59,842 for Community Transition Program (CTP). The motion was seconded by Mr. Phillips. After discussion the Board voted and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (24-022)

Ms. Fraser stated that this is pass thru funding for the CTP; the program designated for individuals who are leaving prison. This money helps with getting individuals re-established in the community with services and supports.

Ms. Schilero asked where she could see outcomes from the program. Ms. Fraser replied all of the agencies provide a program summary for each program that lists what their outcomes are. Board staff work with provider agencies on a quarterly basis to go through outcomes and if there is a difference what the reason is. At year end, each agency submits actual data which includes outcomes program by program and is reviewed by staff.

Ms. Schilero asked if this information is presented to the Board? Ms. Fraser responded in an aggregate manner. Lake ADAMHS invests in 90 different programs so the Board does not see the outcomes of every single program. Our job as staff is monitor programs and outcomes, and to make recommendations to the Board regarding the need to increase/decrease investments in programs based on the outcomes and demonstration of need. If Board members have any questions regarding programming or outcomes please reach out to Ms. Fraser directly.

Mr. Lau asked how long the CTP program lasts. Ms. Fraser stated it depends on each individual; the CTP services remain in place until an individual is sufficiently linked with services. If an individual isn't receptive initially they can re-enter the program when they are ready.

**EVALUATION/QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Mr. Taylor reported that the EQI Committee met on September 11th and the following items were discussed:

Mr. Rowles noted that he wanted to be respectful of everyone's time so he will attempt to keep the EQI meeting to an hour; that being said if you have additional questions he will always stay after the meeting for additional questions. If a question needs further explanation, he can usually provide the information the next business day. If Board members would like to learn more about any of the provider agencies he can arrange to tour the facilities and give more of an in-depth understanding of the services they provide.

Quality Improvement Review of Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers, Inc. Ms. Luckner presented a power point reviewing Lake-Geauga's mission statement, programs and services. Services include residential treatment, outpatient treatment, peer recovery support, recovery housing, prevention services, gambling prevention & treatment, drug-free workplace services, education program, family program, medication assisted treatment, ambulatory detox, grief support group and tobacco cessation.

Ms. Luckner reviewed the following highlights and outcomes from SFY2023:

- Current outcomes exceed the national average in every metric presented.
- The average return rate from intake was 76%. The national average is 50%.
- The average no show rate for appointments is 24% while the national average is 37%.
- Outpatient Services: 71% of the clients met their outpatient group treatment goals and in their intensive outpatient program 41% of clients met their treatment goals; both above the national average of 42% and 26%.
- Residential Treatment: 277 clients were admitted into residential treatment. 58% of women and 69% of men completed residential treatment and met all of the treatment milestones, exceeding the national average of 41%.
- Medication Assisted Treatment: Currently 26 clients a month receive the Vivitrol injection and 48 clients are prescribed suboxone. Successful completion of the program was 61%; exceeding the national average which is 47%.
- They welcomed the 32nd drug-free baby born to residents at Oak House and Neveah Ridge.
- Both the men's and women's residential pre and post treatment survey saw great increases in clients being satisfied and having more self-esteem.
- Lake-Geauga's Recovery Houses include Water Street, Nowlen Manor, Eighty Forty-One, The Meigs, Bill Horvath House, Twelve Meadows and Marsh Creek. Marsh Creek is the newest house and residents are able to bring children to live under the age of 16. There were 129 admissions with a successful transition rate of 59% which is above the national average at 43%.

Mr. Rowles conducted the agency's Contract Compliance Review and found them in full compliance.

On behalf of the Evaluation/Quality Improvement Committee, Mr. Taylor moved that the full Board accept Lake-Geauga Recovery Center's Quality Improvement Plan. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kurt and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (24-023)

Ms. Schilero appreciated the tour that was offered noting it was helpful.

Next meeting date: Monday, October 2, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at the Lake County ADAMHS Board

*As the **OPERATIONS 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*

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Ms. Kurt reminded that a vacancy on the Slate of Officers for SFY2024 must be filled per Board by-laws (Article VII, Section 7) by the Nominating Committee.

The minutes from June 2023 full board meeting reflected that Ms. Parker agreed to serve as an alternate to the SFY2024 Executive Committee, in the event someone was unable to serve. After confirming Ms. Parker's continued willingness and interest in serving on the Nominating Committee the following SFY2024 Slate of Officers was recommended as follows: Roberta Kalb (Chair), Pam Kurt (Vice-Chair), Amber Torres Gonzalez (Treasurer), Nicole Parker (Secretary), Matt Sabo (Past-Chair).

Nominations were called for from the floor. As none were offered, Ms. Kalb closed nominations.

Mr. Lau stated he is not contesting any decision of the committee and he wants to make sure everyone knows the minutes were done by the Executive Director. The minutes of the meeting concerned him with the verbiage: Ms. Fraser reiterated that any statements made via email or in meetings regarding the need to appoint a new member reflected the Nominating Committee minutes from the June Board meeting, that Board staff are not voting members of the Committee and have no vested interest in the decisions of the Committee, and that Board staff is present at the Committee in order to observe the adherence to Robert's Rules. He objects to that statement and believes it is serious. He stated that to him it says the Board is controlled or being told what to do by the staff and that is not the way boards work. Mr. Lau stated yes, we work together but we are all appointed with the fact we did not need supervision and have the power to make decisions. Mr. Lau stated his belief is that the Executive Director did not need to be present at the meeting. Mr. Lau stated Ms. Fraser has no authority to monitor the committee and has no right to tell Board members what they can and cannot do. Mr. Lau looked up Robert's Rules and he could not find anywhere that requires meetings to have or to follow Robert's Rules. Mr. Lau stated he believes the minutes made the statement that Ms. Fraser basically has to watch over the Board. It is embarrassing to him. It is public information and she is suggesting we cannot do our jobs without supervision from staff. He finds it terrible the Board was made to look bad in public fashion. He is again not contesting the result. Mr. Lau stated there should be a distinction of what is Board business and what staff does. Mr. Lau stated Board members were put here to make decisions and be shepherds of the government for our money. If we need to be supervised by a staff member he suggests that we not be here. Mr. Lau stated Board members were picked by public officials to make the decisions and he doesn't remember anyone telling him he needed to follow what the staff says. Because this is public information he would like to state for the record he does not accept the attitude of what is completely opposite of the way boards work. As a Board and staff, we need to work together and know who is doing what and who is responsible for what. His point is he wants everyone to work and stay in their own lanes. He doesn't need supervision to do the job.

Ms. Kurt reported she was contacted by Mr. Lau because he was concerned by the Nominating Committee meeting and how it was held. None of the other members had expressed any problem with how the meeting was held. Because Mr. Lau brought this to her attention she did reach out to the Prosecutor's Office, who is available as a resource to potentially represent the ADAMHS Board. She described as much as she could verbatim leaving out names. Procedurally because Ms. Fraser was there it was not unethical or an infraction according to the prosecutor. Ms. Kurt addressed all of Mr. Lau's concerns with the prosecutor. Ms. Kurt

stated Mr. Lau's concerns and perceptions are his and she appreciates him being able to voice them. The Nominating Committee did not cross any lines ethically or procedurally.

Mr. Lau thought that Ms. Kurt did a fantastic job and thought she handled the meeting and was overly fair to everyone. Mr. Lau stated there is no complaint with anyone on the Board and that his concern is about comments that we work for the staff and that those comments went publicly.

Ms. Schilero supports Mr. Lau in the respect of what the Board is to do when it comes to staff and that the Board is really the review of the staff.

Mr. Dondorfer stated he disagrees with Mr. Lau's interpretation of what staff and a Board is responsible for. As an elected official serving on the Board of Trustees, he reported they frequently consult with staff. Staff is present during meetings. It is not about staying in your lane but the spirit of cooperation working together. A lot of minds working together to make the best decisions for the community. He does not believe staff should not be present and they add a lot of value on decisions. Everyone should be present when important decisions are made on what is best for the community. To have Ms. Fraser present is valuable. Mr. Sabo concurred with Mr. Dondorfer's comments.

Ms. Kramer noted that she is missing where it says Ms. Fraser is telling the Board what to do. Mr. Lau stated he doesn't claim that directly but the fact she felt it necessary to state that Board staff was present in order to observe the adherence of Robert's Rules. It was her presence and that she was involved that was his issue. If we want a staff member at a meeting we can certainly invite them to a meeting for their input. Last year's Nominating Committee there was no staff member there.

Mr. Hatton disagreed with Mr. Lau's statement that Ms. Fraser had lobbied for Ms. Parker to be appointed. Mr. Hatton knew what he was going to present before the meeting and it was exactly what was discussed at the last Nominating Committee meeting. There was no lobbying and what was put out was previously discussed at the meeting.

Ms. Torres Gonzalez stated that Mr. Lau is making accusations that did not happen. Mr. Lau stated he considers it lobbying if another name is mentioned. Ms. Torres Gonzalez stated Ms. Fraser was there as an impartial staff member to take notes. Ms. Torres Gonzalez stated that Ms. Fraser asked Mr. Lau various times how he wanted the minutes to be reflected, and whether he wanted the decisions he voted for and the discussion that followed to be documented in detail. Ms. Torres Gonzalez felt that there was plenty of time to put forth any additional nominees on the floor and the minutes reflected how the conversation occurred. She didn't feel persuaded to vote in any one way and came into the meeting with the slate of officers and alternate that was already decided on.

Ms. Torres Gonzalez noted Mr. Lau had the opportunity to nominate himself at various times and did not do that. The way that Mr. Lau voted doesn't put his name in the ring. Mr. Lau stated that the meeting did not proceed under the Robert's Rules. After seeing the minutes and giving it more thought he felt it was necessary to bring it up today and he thinks that it is egregious it got thrown out in the public.

Mr. Phillips stated that, while he was not at the Nominating Committee meeting, he does not see that anything was conducted inappropriately. He stated that it appears that Ms. Fraser was serving in the role of unofficial parliamentarian, which is not uncommon and is useful in ensuring that the meeting process is being followed.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Ms. Kurt moved that full Board approve the SFY 2024 Slate of Officers as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lau and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (24-024)

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Payment of Bills Mr. Sabo moved that the Board approve the September bills totaling \$1,213,968.58 be paid as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hatton and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (24-025)

**GOOD OF THE GROUP:**

Mr. Tong stated that the Executive Director at Lake-Geauga Recovery Center attends all meetings of the LGRC Board.

As there was no further business, Mr. Hatton moved for adjournment at 7:18 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kurt and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (23-026)

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Kalb  
Chair

Amber Torres Gonzalez  
Secretary