**HAMILTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES BOARD**

**Minutes of the Board of Trustees**

Thursday, June 20, 2024

1. Call to Order
   1. The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order (Gabelman) at 8:35 a.m.
2. **Attendance**
   1. Board Members Present: Thomas Gabelman (Chair); Gary Powell (Vice-Chair); Ashlee Young (Secretary); Gwen DiMeo; Sandra Driggins-Smith; Gregory Hogg
   2. Board Members Absent: Matt Curoe (Exc.); Traci Henry (Exc.); Linda McKenzie (Exc.)
   3. Staff Members Present: LaNora Godfrey; Linda Gallagher; Jenny Heizman; Steve Rokich; Denise Garrett; Ann Briccio
3. Approval of Minutes
   1. A motion was made (Gabelman) to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2024 Board of Trustees meeting.

Motion Approved

1. President’s Report
2. Dr. Walter Smitson

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. Walter Smitson on June 11, 2024.

Dr. Smitson served as the Chief Executive Officer of Central Clinic for 50 years until his recent retirement. His work was pioneering, utilizing his intellect and considerable powers of persuasion to expand mental health services and improve the quality of care.

1. OneOhio Recovery Foundation

The statewide OneOhio Recovery Foundation grant process is progressing effectively. During the initial grant period, Region 2, which includes Hamilton County, was allocated $4.8 million to support local initiatives. The response has been substantial, with over 99 grant applications submitted, totaling $52 million in requested funds.

The local OneOhio Regional Board, along with the Policy Committee and Priority Area Committees, are currently engaged in a thorough review of these applications. After the local review, the OneOhio Recovery Foundation Board will undertake the final project approvals, expected to be completed by this fall.

1. Crisis System Matrix

Last month, over 40 representatives from law enforcement, emergency services, hospitals, and provider agencies participated in a kickoff meeting hosted by the Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, Interact for Health, and the Peg’s Foundation. The focus of this meeting was the development of a comprehensive person-centered crisis system matrix. This matrix aims to identify all providers and system partners across various sectors who interact with and care for individuals experiencing behavioral health crises or psychiatric emergencies.

The crisis system matrix is a crucial component in the planning and implementation of the Hamilton County Crisis Center. It ensures that individuals in crisis receive the appropriate service at the right time and level of care. Furthermore, the matrix encourages communities to recognize and understand the existing roles of system partners, identify gaps, and serve as a strategic tool for system and service enhancements. This collaborative effort is essential for creating a cohesive and effective crisis response system in Hamilton County.

1. June 15 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) was launched by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations. The purpose of WEAAD is to provide an opportunity for communities worldwide to promote a better understanding of the abuse and neglect of older persons by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic, and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect.

HCMHRSB and the HC Council on Aging are partnering to pilot a program specifically focused on addressing the behavioral health needs of older adults. Central Clinic responded to a Request for Information and has been chosen to implement Senior Connections, a three-phase project offering evidence-based programming designed to support an elderly population facing isolation, depression, and anxiety, often with co-morbid physical ailments. This project is scheduled to be implemented in August 2024, with $300,000 in funding provided by MHRSB and COA.

1. Opportunity for Public Comments
   1. None
2. Board of Trustees
3. **May 2024 Financial Statements**

Steve Rokich reviewed line items for the period.

Revenue: Levies increased by $2M (The first half real estate rollback for the Mental Health Levy was posted in May). Block Grant (BG) Funds increased by $975K; 100% were for CY 2024. Inter-County Revenue increased by $630K.

Expenses: Agency provider contract payments totaled $11M during the month of May; $9.7M (84%) were for CY 2024 and $1.8M (16%) were for CY 2023.

1. **Action Items**
2. **CY 2022 Health, Hospital & Indigent Care Levy (HHIC) Allocation Adjustments**

Claims for services provided during CY 2022 have been submitted by agencies and processed. Some agencies did not submit enough claims to exhaust all their allocated funds, while others submitted claims the cost of which exceeded their allocated funding. Board of Trustees' action is necessary to increase allocations to those agencies with claims whose costs exceeded their initial allocations, allowing them to fully utilize all available funding.

Staff recommend the Board of Trustees approve an increase in agency allocations for CY 2022 totaling $196,084.87 for the following provider:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Agency** | **CY 2022**  **HHIC Allocation** | **Proposed Increase** | **Proposed Increase %** |
| Talbert House | $514,834.00 | $196,084.87 | 38.09% |

The funding source is unspent CY 2022 HHIC funding.

**Motion Approved**

1. **Access to Wellness**

HCMHRSB has received $825,000 from OhioMHAS for the Access to Wellness Project for SFY2025.

Staff recommend the Board of Trustees approve an increase of $412,500 to the following providers to be used for the Access to Wellness Project for the period July through December 2024. The other half of the $825,000 will be available January 2025.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **AGENCY** | **AMOUNT** |
| Central Connection | $15,000 |
| Excel Development | $73,624 |
| Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health | $261,376 |
| Talbert House | $62,500 |
| **TOTAL** | **$412,500** |

100% of this allocation increase will be funded by OhioMHAS.

**Motion Approved**

1. **Bipartisan Safer Community Project Funding**

HCMHRSB has received $25,000 from OhioMHAS to address behavioral health system preparedness. This funding is intended to enhance community emergency response efforts, offsetting traumatic experiences that may occur within our community. These experiences include natural disasters, mass shootings, and other large-scale man-made terrorist or violent events.

Staff recommend the Board of Trustees approve an increase totaling $25,000 to Talbert House for the period April 1, 2024 through October 16, 2024.

100% of this project will be funded from the Ohio MHAS funding.

**Motion Approved**

1. **OneOhio Funding**

HCMHRSB has received an additional $50,000 through the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners from the OneOhio Distributor Settlement Payment to support projects and people who were adversely affected by the opiate crisis.

Staff recommend the Board of Trustees approve an increase totaling $50,000 to Talbert House for the period through December 21, 2024.

100% of this project will be funded from the OneOhio Distributor Settlement allocation.

**Motion Approved**

1. **State Opioid and Stimulant Grant (SOS) 3.0 Carryover**

HCMHRSB has received $302,864 in carryover funds from OhioMHAS from the State Opioid and Stimulant (SOS) 3.0 Grant. These funds will be used to support the efforts of the African American Engagement Workgroup (AAEW).

Staff recommend the Board of Trustees approve an increase totaling $302,864 to Talbert House for the period September 30, 2023 through September 29, 2024.

100% of this allocation increase will be funded from the State Opioid and Stimulant grant from OhioMHAS.

**Motion Approved**

1. Other
   1. An announcement was made that the HCMHRSB Annual Meeting would take place on Friday, September 20, 2024, at The Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza.
   2. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
| Thomas Gabelman  Chair |  | Ashlee Young  Secretary |