

# Program Committee Meeting

**Meeting date:** Monday, February 12, 2024

**Meeting time:** 5:02pm-5:43pm

**Meeting location:** 2 Oak Street, Norwalk

**Recorder:** Cari Williamson

## Committee Members Present:

	Katie Chieda - Zoom		Lenora Minor - Zoom
	Amber Boldman, Committee Chair – Absent	X	Laura M. Wheeler
X	Julie Landoll, First Vice Chair left 5:43	X	Silvia Hernandez
X	Erin Bohne		

## Board Staff Present:

X	Kristen Cardone, Executive Director		Ashley Morrow, Community Engagement & Resource Manager
X	Cari Williamson, Office & Fiscal Manager		

## Unfinished business/updates:

- February Meeting
  - Location: Huron County DJFS, Norwalk
    - The Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 6:00pm.
  - Presentations: OhioGuidestone, Huron County Juvenile Court
- Levy Committee
  - Ms. Cardone shared that the date has been set for the Levy Committee. It will be the second Wednesday of each month at 9:00am, beginning in April. This will allow for a full year of planning and campaigning. Contracted providers and community partners are invited to the first meeting to discuss their opinions on how the Board should proceed with the levy. The Board will request that someone from each provider attend all the meetings and will rely on them for campaigning.
  - Program Committee members had no further questions or concerns.
- Board Member Annual Survey Feedback
  - Ms. Cardone shared that one of the Board Member surveys stated communication was an area needing improvement.
    - Ms. Cardone asked the Program Committee Members for clarification. She reviewed the survey results with them, focusing on the area highlighting communication. The Board members shared they thought the communication was fine. There was discussion around emails not being sent right away and receiving multiple copies of the same email. This issue is currently being addressed. The board staff have worked with two separate IT entities and are still trying to figure out why this is happening. It only occurs when sending to multiple Gmail accounts, not individually.
    - A Committee member discussed a challenge of being a Board member is that they are all working individuals with hectic schedules at times. They appreciate the board staff for being patient with them.

- Program Committee members had no further questions or concerns.
- New email addresses for Board
  - Committee members discussed possible solutions to address the email issue including adding Board members to the Board's .org email system or switching to a different free account.
    - Ms. Cardone shared that it would cost \$672 per year for Board members to have email addresses like the Board staff.
      - Committee members determined that free email accounts are fine and there is no reason to pay for them. They were in support of continuing to use Gmail.
  - Program Committee members had no further questions or concerns.

## Discussion Items:

- Auditor of State Behavioral Health Handbook (handout)
  - Ms. Cardone shared that OACBHA (Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities) released an updated Behavioral Health Handbook. There is a great deal of beneficial information included in the handbook, including clarifying the Board's relationship to other county organizations and specifying that Boards are not considered to be a county office.
    - Each Board member will receive a copy of the handbook at the next Board meeting.
  - Ms. Cardone and Ms. Williamson attended a training put on by OACBHA and the Auditor of the State presented. Good fiscal information was received.
  - Program Committee members had no further questions or concerns.
- After Prom
  - Ms. Cardone discussed the after prom proposals received from local school districts and shared that funding is determined based on the number of schools that apply and the number of students attending after prom for each applicant. The Board set the total amount of available funding at the beginning of the fiscal year.
  - Motion: Authorize Executive Director to enter into a SFY 2023 contract with the following organizations for safe and sober after prom programming, utilizing Huron County Levy funding.
    - New London Local Schools \$1,108.95
      - Submitted by Brad Romano
    - Norwalk City Schools \$1,833.61
      - Submitted by Patrick Kania
    - Norwalk Catholic Schools \$988.18
      - Submitted by Mike Gocsik
    - South Central Local Schools \$1,196.79
      - Submitted by Thomas Hellickson
    - Willard City Schools \$1,372.47
      - Submitted by Doug Selvey
  - Program Committee members had no further questions or concerns. They were in support of adding the motion to the agenda.
- Miriam House SHP (Supportive Housing Program)
  - Miriam House applied for additional funding from OhioMHAS through the Supportive Housing Program grant and they were awarded the funds. The requirement of the grant is they must provide a match to the amount awarded. These funds will be used for wages and fringe benefits. The Board is only serving as a passthrough agent for these funds.
  - Motion: Authorize Executive Director to enter into a SFY24 contract addendum with Catholic Charities, Miriam House in the amount of \$24,425 utilizing OhioMHAS match funds for the Ohio Department of Development Supportive Housing Program Grant.
  - Committee members had no further questions or concerns. They were in support of adding the motion to the agenda.

- Hope 419
  - Motion: Authorize Executive Director to enter into a SFY24 contract with Hope 419 in the amount of \$X, utilizing levy funding.
  - Ms. Cardone reminded Board members that after hearing Hope 419 may close their Norwalk office, she met with Dr. Johanna Wilson, the owner and Psychiatrist. They discussed the barriers and challenges Hope 419 were experiencing. Dr. Wilson shared they do not need funding but cannot get people in the door and get them to stay. Ms. Cardone recommended Dr. Wilson present at a Board meeting. Dr. Wilson presented at January's meeting.
    - Ms. Cardone's recommendation was to offer one-time funding of a small amount which would allow Hope 419 to access the Board's sliding fee scale and allow the Board to promote their services.
    - Psychiatry is a needed service, especially one that accepts youth. The only other psychiatrists are at Firelands, which you must be a client of theirs to use, and Family Health Services.
    - Board members shared their thoughts and concerns. One member shared their client's experiences with Hope 419 have been positive. Another member's concern was that they do not offer bilingual services.
      - Ms. Cardone shared that the Board can offer Hope 419 access to the Board's Boostlingo services, which would provide interpreter services for all languages.
    - Ms. Cardone recommended offering \$5,000.00 of funding, which allows access to the sliding fee scale and access to the Board's Boostlingo account. This will only be for the remainder of the fiscal year.
    - Committee members had no further questions or concerns regarding Hope 419 and were in support of adding a motion to the Board agenda.
- SFY 2024 120 Day Notices (Attachment I)
  - Motion: To approve the 120 Day Notice as shown in Attachment X and authorize Executive Director to send this document to each of the Board's contracted agencies, other than NAMI Northwest, in accordance with the requirements of the Ohio Revised Code.
  - Motion: To approve the 120 Day Notice as shown in Attachment X and authorize Executive Director to send this document to NAMI Northwest in accordance with the requirements of the Ohio Revised Code.
  - Ms. Cardone shared that per the Ohio Revised Code 120-day notices are required to be sent by March 2, 2024. Mr. Randal Strickler, the Board's legal representative, has approved the drafted notice. This will go to most of the providers.
  - Ms. Cardone shared that NAMI NW had not signed their FY24 contract until today, even though they have been providing services. There have been some administrative issues with NAMI NW and we have not seen an increase in NAMI services, such as support groups, in the county since contracting with them. Because of this, Ms. Cardone reached out to NAMI Lorain County to discuss the potential of them providing mental health support services instead of NAMI NW. Lorain County offers numerous support programs such as Peer to Peer and Family to Family classes. Lorain County stated they would be happy to provide these programs and training for Huron County.
    - During the meeting with NAMI NW, Ms. Cardone was informed that NAMI NW is currently Huron County's affiliate so there will be some investigation into whether the Board can partner with two NAMI's. Ms. Cardone will work with NAMI Ohio to figure this out.
    - The Board will continue to fund NAMI NW to provide CIT (Critical Incident Training) for local law enforcement agencies. They are considered to be one of the best in the state by NAMI Ohio for this training.
    - The language in these notices for NAMI NW may change to reflect the need to work with NAMI Ohio prior to making a decision.

- Committee members had no further questions or concerns. They were in support of adding the motions to the agenda.
- Per diem rate for recovery housing? Would change 120-day notice to FLC.
  - Ms. Cardone shared that at the most recent Northwest Ohio Board collaboration meeting they discussed how each board was paying for recovery housing. Currently, Huron County Board is on a dollar-for-dollar reimbursement basis. The other Boards are funding recovery housing at a per diem rate reimbursement, and there is not a consistent rate across the Boards.
    - Ms. Cardone reached out to Ohio Recovery House for guidance on what other recovery houses pay. They said the amounts are all over the place throughout the state.
    - The Board's goal is to switch all agency billing to GOSH, which is an electronic billing system. The current way recovery housing is billed makes it challenging to use the GOSH system. If they switch to a per diem rate it will simplify this process.
  - Ms. Cardone's recommendation is to switch recovery housing funding to a per diem rate that is consistent with the amount of funding they currently receive.
  - Committee members had no further questions or concerns and were in support of moving to a per diem rate. Ms. Cardone will revise the 120 day notice for Family Life to reflect this change and will add this motion to the Board agenda.
- SFY 2025 RFPs (Request for Proposals)
  - Motion: Authorize the Executive Director to release RFP's for SFY 2025 for proposed new services and/or expanded services from current service providers.
  - Given that the Board is not planning to increase funding and will be looking at potentially cutting agencies who underutilized budgeted funds, Ms. Cardone recommends that the Board not require RFPs from current contracted providers for current services. However, Ms. Cardone recommends the Board release an RFP for new services and/or expanded services. This will allow the Board to be informed on what new services are available or any desired services. The Board never knows what funding the State will release in the future and this will allow for informed decisions should the Board receive additional funding. This will also allow for the amended contract with NAMI and the possibility of funding mobile crisis services in FY25.
  - Committee members had no further questions or concerns. They were in support of adding the motions to the agenda.
- Crisis Services Discussion
  - Ms. Cardone shared she recently met with OhioMHAS, 988, Firelands, NORD Center, Huron County Sheriff's Department and Norwalk Police Department to discuss crisis services. The goal was to help law enforcement understand what 988 can and cannot do and to discuss any barriers to crisis services in Huron County. OhioMHAS stated there are gaps in crisis services in Huron County and recommended the Board implement mobile crisis, a crisis stabilization unit, and/or a behavioral health urgent care. There are funds to build the crisis stabilization units and behavioral health urgent cares, but there are no funds or workforce available to sustain the units. Lorain County and Erie County are both building crisis stabilization centers with Nord Center and LACADA Way running the Lorain County facility and Erie County Public Health running the Erie County facility. The Board will look to partner with these organizations for access to the facilities once they are up and running.
  - Ms. Cardone shared another piece of crisis services that was discussed was mobile crisis for adults. There has been such positive feedback on MRSS and due to the increase in individuals with severe and persistent mental illness, having an adult mobile crisis unit is necessary. The feedback from law enforcement officers is that they are getting called out numerous times to the same individuals with mental health challenges. Our local law enforcement officers manage these calls appropriately but if the individuals continue to escalate, charges may eventually have

to be filed against the individual. If there was a mobile crisis unit for adults, they would be able to help the individual instead of it being on law enforcement officers.

- Mr. David Olds recently branched off from NAMI NW and his agency provides mobile crisis for youth and adults. Mr. Mircea Handru, the Executive Director of SOSW Mental Health & Recovery Services Board, is contracting with this agency and is willing to share costs with Huron County Board. This is the only way mobile crisis will be accessible in Huron County, due to the high cost and need for additional workforce. Mr. Handru is using SOS funds for this service, in addition to other funding.
  - Ms. Cardone will keep the Board posted with more details regarding a potential contract once she has more information.
- Open discussion
    - Ms. Erin Bohne thanked the Board staff for all that they do. She also wanted to give a special acknowledgement to Ms. Ashley Morrow for the training she provided to Edison School District staff. She said the information was useful and Ms. Morrow did an excellent job.
      - Board members discussed the need for supportive adults in youth's lives which is why programs like Reach Our Youth are especially important. Willard schools also have a mentoring program.
    - Ms. Cardone shared that during the crisis meeting Sheriff Todd Corbin explained that the Board purchased 988 decals for their cruisers. This idea came from the Board's intern, Ms. Gracyn Shupp. Willard Police Department agreed to add the decals to their cruisers. Job and Family Services offered to add the decals to their county vehicles. There is a meeting scheduled with Norwalk Police Department to discuss adding the decals to their cruisers. Ms. Cardone will be setting up a meeting with all Huron County police departments to discuss putting the decal on their cruisers. The state wants to do a statewide press release explaining this initiative.

## Attachment I

### **120 DAY NOTICE TO [INSERT PROVIDER NAME] OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES TO FY 2025 SERVICE CONTRACT February XX, 2024**

In accordance with the requirements of Ohio Revised Code Section 340.036(D) and the fiscal year 2024 service contract between the Huron County Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services (“Board”) and your organization, the Board is hereby providing notice of the following:

1. The Board is not currently proposing substantial changes to the current contract terms, but revisions may become necessary as a result of changes to applicable law, requirements of oversight, funding entities, and other information that the Board is not aware of at this time. The Board will provide notice of any such changes as a supplement to this Notice as soon as it becomes aware of said changes.
2. FY2025 Allocations – It is the Board’s intention to provide a FY2025 allocation amount that is based on the Board’s initial FY24 allocation to your agency, considering previous under-utilization of allocated funds (i.e., not including any supplemental amounts allocated in FY24). However, there may be substantial changes in allocation amounts and services purchased because of changes to the Board’s and/or the State’s priorities for services, supports, populations, changes in the number of people seeking services, the type of services being sought, and in consideration of the final allocation amounts received by the Board from local, state, and federal sources. The Board will notify providers of final FY25 allocation amounts and services to be purchased once all information is available and final determinations are made by the Board.
3. Please acknowledge receipt of this notice by email to Kristen Cardone, [director@huroncountymhas.org](mailto:director@huroncountymhas.org)

Disputes concerning substantial changes to contract terms proposed by either party for FY25 contracts will be addressed in accordance with the requirements of section 340.036(D) of the Revised Code, section 5122:2-1-06 of the Administrative Code, and provisions for contract renewal dispute resolution contained in the current contract.

Please contact the Board with any questions or concerns about the content of this Notice.

### **120 DAY NOTICE TO NAMI NORTHWEST OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES TO FY 2025 SERVICE CONTRACT February XX, 2024**

In accordance with the requirements of Ohio Revised Code Section 340.036(D) and the fiscal year 2024 service contract between the Huron County Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services (“Board”) and your organization, the Board is hereby providing notice of the following:

1. The following substantial changes are being proposed to the terms of the FY25 contract:
  - a. Funding allocations for FY25 will be reduced by \$16,377.00, as the Board anticipates only contracting for CIT services. The Board will notify providers of final FY25 allocation amounts and services to be purchased once all information is available and final determinations are made by the Board.
2. Please acknowledge receipt of this notice by email to Kristen Cardone, [director@huroncountymhas.org](mailto:director@huroncountymhas.org)

Disputes concerning substantial changes to contract terms proposed by either party for FY25 contracts will be addressed in accordance with the requirements of section 340.036(D) of the Revised Code, section 5122:2-1-06

of the Administrative Code, and provisions for contract renewal dispute resolution contained in the current contract.

Please contact the Board with any questions or concerns about the content of this Notice.