

**MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY BOARD OF WAYNE-HOLMES COUNTIES**  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

August 1, 2023

**Present**

S. Glick, R. Ling, M. Miller, R. Moore, M. Ogden, J. Pyers, B. Theil,

**Excused**

M. Brumfield, B. Mykkanen, R. Murphy, G. Questel

**Absent**

None

**Staff**

F. Askia, J. Edwards, C. Thiemens

**Guests**

Deanna Nichols-Stika, Esther Hawkins, Lisa Conner, Judge Latecia Wiles, Vicky Hartzler, Wayne County Commissioner Jonathon Hofstetter, Wayne County Commissioner Sue Smail, Wayne County Commissioner Ron Amstutz, Renee Jackwood

**Call to Order and Acceptance of Agenda**

The meeting was held at the Wayne Holmes Mental Health and Recovery Board office 1985 Eagle Pass Wooster, Ohio. J. Pyers called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. J. Pyers reviewed this is a special meeting so only items on the agenda will be discussed.

Introductions of Board members, guests, and staff were made

**Review of Payments: Agencies**

Chair called on F. Askia, WHMHRB Finance Director, to provide an update re: payments made to funded partner agencies. She clarified that references to payment being "current" were with regard to FY23, which ended June 30, 2023

- NAMI: Current - they are paid on a quarterly basis.
- ANAZAO: Current as of this week
- Catholic Charities: Current as of this week.

- One-Eighty: Will be current as of Aug. 10, 2023; just supplied June invoices on Aug. 1, 2023 too late to be submitted by noon that day
- The Counseling Center: Current for the most part, with five outstanding invoices which are actively being actioned with hope that payment will go out next week. These five total approximately \$100,000 are related to Indigent Hospitalization, and the action items are manageable for processing.

**Review of Payments: Wayne County youth out- of home placements**

F. Askia shared a table summarizing the monthly charges submitted by Wayne County youth out-of-home placements throughout F23

The table showed that invoices total \$648,858.75

- Wayne County CSB has outstanding invoices for February, March, April, May and June.
- Wayne County Board of DD December, April, May and June
- Wayne County FCFC January, February, March and a cumulative bill for April–June of \$188,153.07

F. Askia reviewed that \$843,629.35 has been appropriated for FY23 for Wayne County only. Current placement expenses are \$648,858.75. This leaves \$194,770.60 available for placement costs.

F. Askia explained that this amount (\$194,770.60) would enable payment of January, February and March outstanding invoices to partners. April, May and June would remain outstanding following payment of these invoices.

The out-of- home costs presented ONLY reflect FY23 there are no FY22 bills reflected in the report and the numbers reported are only for Wayne County out-of-home placements

B. Thiel asked that the Board have a copy of that report at all future meetings, F. Askia will provide that in the financial packets for all future meetings

J. Pyers reviewed that to cover all FY23 youth out-of-home placement costs the MHRB will need to take \$244,537.90 out of the FY24 MHRB budget

The cash balance as of Aug. 3, 2023 is \$7,164,405. There is currently a deficit of \$1,146,405. for FY24. J. Pyers discussed the cycle of property tax levy funding and this will be used to cover the deficit.

J. Pyers presented three possible solutions:

- Option 1: Appropriate the \$244,537.90, which would increase the FY24 budget deficit to \$1,390,942.90.
- Option 2: Do nothing, leaving the deficit at \$1,146,405.
- Option 3: a combination of Options 1 and 2 which would increase the deficit to greater than \$1,146,405 but less than \$1,390,942.90.

J. Pyers requested the Board take five minutes to come up with other solutions. A question came up regarding auxiliary funds; the Board response was that this was unknown. A discussion was held regarding the Board maintaining \$1 million reserve; this will be reviewed by the Board in the future. M. Ogden asked whether a determination had yet been made regarding the funds that have been loaned by WHMHRB to support the Wayne County FCFC; J. Pyers responded that at present the FCFC owes the MHRB \$223,000. No further questions were posed or solutions were offered

**Motion:** M. Ogden moved to engage Option 2. Motion seconded by R. Ling.

The floor was opened for discussion.

A discussion was held regarding the request for additional funds every year for youth out-of-home placements and the ever increasing costs of this. It was noted that operating at a deficit for several consecutive years will reduce or eliminate Board funding. Managing taxpayer dollars effectively and appropriately is an essential task of the Board and is relevant to elicit voter support for future levies.

A discussion was held regarding whether multiple levies would be an option. The Board funds not only out-of-home placements but the larger behavioral health system and exceeding budgets amounts for funding for youth out-of-home placements is not sustainable. Reducing funds from one program to support another program is an additional concern.

Board members discussed collaboration with other providers such Christian Childrens Home of Ohio to develop solutions to these problems. However, it was determined that providers are experiencing staffing issues and at the current time do not have the capacity to serve the children being referred for services.

J. Pyers yielded the floor to guest D. Nichols-Stika of Wayne County CSB. Ms. Nichols-Stika reported the fewer children are being served but it is costing more. She shared that all state departments heads will be meeting next week to discuss this issue. Multi-system youth dollars have been leveraged locally but the Department of Medicaid would need to increase reimbursements. CSB holds meetings with local partners to keep Wayne County youth as close to home as possible but local providers are faced with reimbursements being lower than costs as well as workforce issues. It was agreed that there is a need for more assistance from the state. These issues are similar to the issues regarding higher levels of care for adults.

M. Miller voiced a willingness to support Option 1 and commit to adhering to the \$750,000 budget being contracted with Wayne County FCFC for FY24. He also noted that if the \$223,000 owed to the WHMHRB by WCFCFC is repaid, this would cover almost all of the outstanding invoices for FY23

Guest S. Smail, Wayne County commissioner, asked where the cash balance number was sourced; F. Askia stated she pulled them from the Wayne County Auditor's Office that morning.

**Motion:** M. Miller made a motion to amend the previous motion to choose Option 2, and chose Option 1 to pay off the balance of the youth out-of-home placement costs for FY23 and keep the FY24 budgeted funds of \$750,000 for FY24. The motion was seconded by B. Theil.

J. Pyers called for a roll call vote to amend the previous motion. MHRB members' names were read aloud.

S. Glick – Yes

R. Ling – Yes  
M. Miller – Yes  
R. Moore – Yes  
M. Ogden – Yes  
J. Pyers – Yes  
B. Theil – Yes

**Motion Carried unanimously**

J. Pyers called for a roll call vote to approve Option 2. MHRB members' names were read aloud.

S. Glick – Yes  
R. Ling – Yes  
M. Miller – Yes  
R. Moore – Yes  
M. Ogden – Yes  
J. Pyers – Yes  
B. Theil – Yes

**Motion Carried unanimously**

A discussion was held around garnering future funding for youth and adult out-of-home placement and providing feedback to the state on how to use state money in collaboration with local MHRB boards.

J. Pyers said that the WHMHRB Program Committee has been tasked with gathering a group of interested agencies and developing a letter from local stakeholders outlining the challenges being faced by local systems to bring to the state. A discussion was held regarding \$300,000 of the Multi-System Youth funds for Wayne County have been re-directed to the OhioRISE program.

M. Miller requested a meeting of Executive Directors and if requested Board members be convened for the purpose of collaborating and establishing a plan for next steps. MS Nichols-Stika noted these conversations have been taking place and she will invite Acting Executive Director J. Edwards to participate in future discussions. Ms. Nichols-Stika asked if WHMHRB members would like to be invited to these meetings; M. Miller requested be extended for periodic updates/reports. J. Pyers noted these discussions and efforts will need to be expanded to incorporate Holmes County entities as well as providers serving adults.

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Adjournment

**Motion**

There being no further business to discuss, S. Glick made a motion to adjourn; R. Ling seconded.

**Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:51pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathleen Thiemens