

Fairfield County ADAMH Board

Minutes of the March 24, 2009, Board meeting held at 6:30 p.m. at the Board office, pursuant to notice mailed to all Board members.

Chairman Weimer called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. with a quorum being present.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Tom Feisel, Larry Miller, Ph.D., John Peden, Phillip Prior, M.D., Marian Reitano, Bill Weimer, Kevin West.

ABSENT

Jay Bahnsen, Cindy Bender, Gene Eusanio, Sheila Heath, Eric Walker.

STAFF

Orman Hall, Don Mohler, Rhonda Myers, Nadine Carroll.

GUESTS

Tony Motta, Trisha Saunders, Brad Hedges, Patricia Waits, Jerry White, Esther Branscome.

Chairman Weimer asked if there were any questions or comments from the audience.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Hall stated that he has not received any definitive budget information but he has put together a list of assumptions that can be used to start the budgeting process.

- A. The continued loss of tax revenues may require the state of Ohio to make additional budget adjustments during the upcoming fiscal year.
- B. It is the intent of the Ohio Department of Mental Health to make shifts in the line item 408 formula. Over time these changes will result in a significant increase in Fairfield County's allocation. Phase in of this formula change should begin during FY 2010.
- C. The Fairfield County ADAMH Board will benefit substantially from a short-term increase in the Federal portion of Medicaid (FMAP).
- D. The state of Ohio has stabilized its projected budget with short-term federal stimulus funds. Significant additional cuts will be required in FY 2012 to balance the state budget.

Director Hall additionally noted that the state could face a shortfall of \$7 billion in the next biennium bringing about severe budget cuts. He also recommended that we rebuild our reserve with these short-term increases. He reminded the board that 408 funds also need to be used to purchase bed days and that we can not go any lower than we already are and per diem costs are likely to rise which will erode our purchasing power with these dollars. Director Hall further noted that ODADAS is working on a grant to SAMHSA to help Fairfield County to continue and expand its drug court and Suboxone program. This would be a \$900,000 grant over a 3 year period. He said that he had met with the County Commissioners to discuss the drug court/Suboxone/intensive treatment program and they need

to have a stake in this. In Judge Trimmer's court alone they have suspended almost \$900,000 worth of jail days. The county is looking at building a \$35 million jail mostly because of the drug problem. There has been a 130 percent increase in jail days at the same time the Recovery Center saw a 40 percent increase in opiate treatment demand. People in Fairfield County are dying because of this untreated drug addiction.

Director Hall reviewed the budgeting principles for FY 2010.

- A. The ADAMH Board will aggressively seek time limited funding for critical treatment services even if there is good cause to believe that services will cease due to the lack of continuation funding.
- B. The ADAMH Board will not aggressively pursue short term funding for non-critical services.
- C. The ADAMH Board will seek to build its cash reserves over the next two years in order to offset the significant financial losses that are expected in FY 2012.
- D. The ADAMH Board will support the efforts of contract agencies to build and maintain adequate financial reserves.
- E. The ADAMH Board will support the efforts of contract agencies to increase the salaries of their lowest paid professional staff.

Trisha commented that critical services need to be prioritized. Brad agreed saying that typically we never went after short term funding so you don't start something new that will go away. Chairman Weimer asked the agency directors to identify services that might be in danger of being cut. He also asked how critical the employee salary issue is. Tony said that they were equivalent compared to other mental health agencies around the state but they can't compete with local agencies. He added with so many of their people working in the schools, that they have lost a lot of good people to the schools. Brad said that as typically underpaid as teachers are, he is losing masters level staff to teaching positions. Trisha said she has people working two jobs. K. West asked how the agencies can grow and still pay their employees on the same budget. Director Hall stated that an agency can grow but still pay such low wages because of the Medicaid unit rate. Brad added that the unit rate hasn't changed in 10 years.

Director Hall told the board that he is working on the continuation of drug court funding along with Tamara Bartek from Adult Drug Court and Jennie Saelens from Family Drug Court, Trisha Saunders from the Recovery Center and Rhonda Myers. They are looking at the Byrne Memorial grant, funding from the county and the city, and private foundations.

Director Hall told Board members that we need to decide on how Our Place will be used and to set some principles for its use. He reviewed the principles:

- A. The Fairfield County ADAMH Board will continue to own Our Place and provide financial support for the upkeep and maintenance of the facility.
- B. The Our Place facility should continue to be used for the primary purpose of providing supportive services to persons who experience serious and persistent mental disorders.
- C. As the primary agency designated to provide comprehensive services to persons with serious and persistent mental illness, New Horizons will provide facility management services for Our Place.
- D. Our Place should be available to contract agencies of the Fairfield County ADAMH Board who have a declared intent to provide onsite services to persons who have serious and persistent mental disorders.
- E. The Community Health Consortium will be used as a forum to identify collaborative service projects among providers interested in joint service initiatives located at Our Place.

F. The scope of New Horizons management authority will be agreed to and put in contract prior to the beginning of FY 2010.

M. Reitano stated that the location was not so good but that a drop-in for system clients was vital. Patti stated that without funding they can't do drop-in but that clients will continue to have access to that building for limited activities and other uses. She added that the consumer group will continue to have activities and supportive services but the bulk of the folks using drop-in were the homeless without a serious mental illness. K West asked about doing drop-in just one day a week on Saturday. Patti said that the clients will still have the opportunity to come in for specific activities but without transportation drop-in just doesn't work for most clients even just one day a week because that has been tried. M. Reitano suggested working with the churches so they could help with this issue. Director Hall said that was a good idea and we now have contacts from working with the faith community on the healthy marriage initiative. Tony noted that New Horizons has talked about doing that. It is a recovery model utilizing community support. Patti added that the name of the facility needs to be changed from Our Place. It would cause confusion to continue calling it Our Place.

Director Hall updated the board on the Step by Step situation. He said that he spoke with the Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health today regarding the state picking up the match for these services. He told the board that she suggested getting a letter from an attorney. He added that E. Walker forwarded him the names of four people that could do the review of Step by Step. J. Peden stated that a letter from an attorney would be a good idea especially if it came from all parties involved.

Director Hall reviewed the Ohio Ethics Law that was distributed to board members previously. He said the most applicable section was the Conflict of Interest section and reminded board members that they are public officials.

Director Hall told the board that he and Dr. Prior had met with Fairfield County State Representative Gerald Stebleton regarding Suboxone. Rep. Stebleton was very interested and would like to write an article on Suboxone to be published in the Eagle Gazette. Trisha stated that they are working with a reporter from the Eagle Gazette to do a story on Suboxone also.

Nadine told the board that she was learning the new software for the website. She also said that decisions on events for the year are being finalized although funding is still somewhat undecided although we are going with reduced participation in most events. She noted that this year we will still participate in both cruise-ins although in reduced capacity, the artwalk, the fair booth and several tradeshows and health fairs.

Chairman Weimer asked if there were any additions or corrections to the February 24th Board minutes.

RESOLUTION NO. 3-24-09-1

Be it resolved upon motion by T. Feisel and second by Dr. Miller that the February 24th Board minutes be approved. Motion was unanimously approved.

Don Mohler presented the financial highlights for February. On the revenue summary page, the Board had a modest month for receipts. The Board received the FFP Medicaid reimbursement from ODMH and ODADAS (\$308,651.45). The Board also received reimbursement for the prepaid services for the Recovery Center (\$42,289.46), an advance for the production of a video concerning Suboxone treatment (\$30,000.00). On the expense summary page, the Board had another high month for

expenditures. In addition to the “normal” expenditures for our contract agencies, the Board paid the property taxes for the Consumer Group building (\$6,250.62), Medicare to Medicaid Crossover to New Horizons (\$110,672.21) and Netsmart University subscription (\$5,572.26). With a beginning balance of \$1,554,562.82, receipts of \$422,182.30, expenses of \$963,971.11, leaves a month ending cash balance of \$1,012,774.01.

RESOLUTION NO. 3-24-09-2

Be it resolved upon motion by Dr. Miller and second by J. Peden that the February financials be approved. Motion was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Chair

Secretary