



**Delaware-Morrow**  
Mental Health & Recovery Services Board  
*Health. Healing. Hope.*

**Board Meeting Minutes | October 19, 2023**  
Morrow County Hospital | 651 W. Marion Rd, Mt Gilead, OH 43338

**1. Call to Order:** *Marnie Whaley-Buckel, Board Chair*

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:25 p.m.

**2. Roll Call:** *Ian Ferguson, Administrative Assistant*

Roll was called, which determined a quorum was met.

**Board Members Attending:** David Black, Lynnette Cook, Robert Horrocks, Crystal Mazza, Zachary (Zach) Miller, Jeremiah Wagner, Marnie Whaley-Buckel, and Benjamin Winkler

**Board Members Excused:** Kimberly Hallinan, Mallory Sribanditmongkol, Samuel Stahl, Trevor Thomas.

**Board Members Unexcused:** None

**Board Guests:** Diane Bricker, Julie Erwin-Rinaldi, John Matthews, Sarah Malich (Virtual), David Collins (Virtual), David Moser (Virtual – present for Executive Session)

**Staff Present:** Kim Bood, Steve Brown, Deanna Brant, Ian Ferguson, Bailey Gano, Susan Hannahs, Robert Hatcher, Rhianna Mattix, Karen Mohr, Kristan Warren

**3. Approval of Agenda:** *Marnie Whaley-Buckel, Board Chair*

Marnie Whaley-Buckel asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda. Deanna Brant stated that there was one minor edit from the staff, which was that Trevor Thomas was listed on the agenda as the presenter of item 5: the approval of the September board meeting minutes item; and he was unable to attend the present meeting. Marnie Whaley-Buckel will instead present that agenda item.

**Motion: 2023/10/01:** The Board agrees to approve the Board Meeting Agenda, as amended.

Jeremiah Wagner moved, and the motion was seconded by Lynnette Cook. The motion was approved unanimously in an 8-0 vote.

**4. Public Comments:** *Marnie Whaley-Buckel, Board Chair*

Marnie Whaley-Buckel asked if any members of the public, both attending in-person or virtually had any comments. Julie Erwin Rinaldi of Syntero thanked the board for their continued funding and support, which allowed for Syntero's expansion into Mt Gilead with their new office on Neal Avenue. Next, John Matthews of Safe Harbor spoke about their ongoing fundraising campaign

through selling t-shirts, as well as other ongoing programming such as the Stop the Silence, End the Violence campaign. Marnie then asked if there was anyone attending virtually that would like to make a comment. Hearing none, the board moved on to the next agenda item.

**5. Approval of September 14th, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes: *Marnie Whaley-Buckel, Board Chair***

Marnie Whaley-Buckel introduced the September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Board meeting minutes, and asked if there were any requested corrections to the presented board meeting minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

**Motion: 2023/10/02:** The Board agrees to accept the September 14th, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes, as presented.

The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

**6. Committees and Directors Reports:**

**a. Approval of September 14th, 2023 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes: *Lynnette Cook, Joint Committee Chair***

Marnie Whaley-Buckel introduced the September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Board meeting minutes, and asked if there were any requested corrections to the presented board meeting minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

**Motion: 2023/10/03:** The Board agrees to accept the September 14th, 2023, Joint Committee Meeting Minutes, as presented.

The motion was then adopted by unanimous consent.

**b. Approve Verbal Report of October 19th, 2023 Finance Committee Meeting: *Jeremiah Wagner, Finance Committee Chair***

Jeremiah Wagner noted that everyone currently present was also present for the Finance Committee meeting that had taken place directly before the current board meeting. However, the motions approved by the Finance Committee were read individually and adopted as a slate, so all meeting attendees were informed.

**Motion: 2023/10/04:** The Full Board approves the verbal report and adopts the slate of motions from the October 19, 2023, Finance Committee.

Jeremiah Wagner moved, and the motion was seconded by Benjamin Winkler. The motion was approved unanimously in an 8-0 vote.

**c. Associate Director's Report – *Rhianna Mattix – Associate Director***

Rhianna Mattix noted that her report was not in the Board Packet and would be verbal. She stated that her report would primarily be updates about recent events. She noted that there was a peer support certification training scheduled for the first week of November, but that it required a 10-person minimum, and that only 3 people had signed up thus far; meaning that it would now not happen until the Spring of 2024. A possible solution was to

collaborate with Crawford-Marion's Board to see if they can have more sign-ups for the training, for which Rhianna planned to meet their Associate Director about the following week, and iron out the details. Additionally, she noted that CIT training had been held during the first week of October, and had gone very well, particularly with the help of Bob Hatcher as the Crisis Systems and Training Coordinator. Rhianna explained that there were 26 people that attended the training, with representation from both Delaware and Morrow Counties. She noted that many of the attendees spoke about the services that many of the board-funded providers offered, such as Maryhaven, Syntero, and Big Brothers Big Sisters. There was consideration for another CIT Training course in either late 2023 or early 2024. Marnie Whaley-Buckel then asked for any further questions, and hearing none, the board moved on to the next agenda item.

**d. Youth and Family Clinical Director's Report** – *Kristan Warren – Youth and Family Clinical Director*

Kristan Warren noted that her report could be found in the board packet. Marnie Whaley-Buckel asked if anyone has questions or comments on Kristan's report. Hearing no further questions, the board proceeded to the next agenda item.

**e. Communication Director's Report** – *Steve Brown – Communication Director*

Steve Brown noted that his report was included in the board packet. He gave a few highlights from his report, including the Capital Campaign for the Meadow Center, which is still in its early stages. He is currently working on brainstorming a way of implementing a donation feature to the Board website and finding an entity that can accept donations on the Board's behalf; perhaps in a similar way to how the Columbus Foundation is a conduit for capital funds raised for the Franklin County ADAMH board. He is preparing the Board's 2026 Levy Campaign and had prepared a list of every public entity in Delaware and Morrow County, with the intention of building and maintaining relationships with areas that the levy has previously failed in, particularly in Morrow County. Steve reviewed the talking points in his report, which were created at the request of board members, and intended to be used for answering questions from the public pertaining to the Board, its operations and levy. He highlighted the particular importance of speaking with a single voice, in the sense that all answers should be consistent. Marnie Whaley-Buckel then asked for any further questions or comments, and thanked Steve for creating the general statement talking points in his report. Hearing no further questions or comments, the board moved on to the next agenda item.

**f. Community Impact Coordinator's Report** – *Bailey Gano – Community Impact Coordinator*

Bailey Gano stated that her report was present in the Board Packet distributed to all members. She gave a few highlights from her report, beginning with the Social Determinants of Health report, which has Ohio ranked near the middle compared to other states, in terms of aspects such as child well-being, education and health. Bailey asked if there were any questions or comments on her packet, and upon hearing none, the board proceeded to the next agenda item.

**g. Executive Director's Report – Deanna Brant – Executive Director**

Deanna Brant stated that her report was present in the Board packet and began by stating that the board had obtained additional ARPA guidance for ARPA Round 2 Funding, and that she was planning meetings to better understand how to plan for the needs of the provider network. She also noted that the board would soon see a bylaws update, likely at the Executive Meeting in the first week of December. Board staff would also continue the plan from October to upload meeting materials by the Friday before the board meeting week, which will be Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> in November's case, since Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> is a holiday. Any documents not uploaded by that Friday, will instead be uploaded by close of business on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup>. Deanna also spoke about how the Board would need to come to a decision regarding the Bowtown road property based on the availability of the ARPA money, before November 27<sup>th</sup>. Deanna then asked if there were any questions or comments on her report. Upon hearing none, the board moved on to the next agenda item.

**7. New Business:**

**A. DMMHRSB Resolution Regarding Ohio Issue 2 – Deanna Brant - Executive Director**

Deanna Brant stated that she is unclear where the Board stands on Ohio Issue 2, (which concerns an act to legalize, control and regulate cannabis use among adults) with some other boards taking a firm position on it, while others did not take a position. She noted that she had spoken to Board Counsel about how the Board may take a position on an upcoming ballot issue; with the conclusion being that the Board cannot attempt to directly influence voters one way or another, only being able to state the facts. Robert Horrocks asked if the Board has had taken a position on a previous medical marijuana issue, to which Deanna replied that they had not since it was not a ballot-initiated issue. Benjamin Winkler noted that he believes that the Board has the ability to present facts to the public, but it isn't their business to attempt to sway an election issue. Deanna replied that the Board Counsel sees the resolution as nothing more than facts and statistics, along with the board's position in opposition to Ohio Issue 2; but with no language urging voters one way or the other.

Ben reiterated his position that the Board "has no business in taking an official position" on the issue, to which Deanna noted that she was fine if that was the outcome, she just wanted the Board to be able to consider it. She explained that the Board's guidance said that the Board has statutory authority to take a formal position on a ballot issue, and thus it was permissive to do so in the scope of an open and public meeting. Ben noted that he was not disputing that the Board could take a formal position, but whether they should do so. Bob Horrocks commented that he had attended a workshop earlier in the week that gave detailed information on the pros and cons of Issue 2, but he saw the board's proposed formal position on it as primarily negative. Marnie Whaley-Buckel stated that she agreed with everything in the proposed formal position, as in her clinical background, she had seen the consequences of long-term marijuana use. Lynnette Cook agreed with Marnie yet opposed the board taking a stance on Issue 2, as she sees it as not being the Board's place to do so. Deanna explained that not all Boards took a formal position, so they did not necessarily have to do so either; particularly since she does not foresee any negative consequences for doing so.

**Motion: 2023/10/05:** The Board agrees to indefinitely table the DMMHR SB Resolution regarding Issue 2.

Benjamin Winkler moved, and the motion was seconded by David Black. Jeremiah Wagner abstained. The motion was approved in a 7-0 vote.

**B. DMMHR SB Policies and Procedures Review - *Deanna Brant, Executive Director***

Deanna Brant noted this would not be an action item, and that the Policies and Procedures are still up on the Board Page, and that feedback can be submitted via the Google Document link previously sent out by Bailey Gano. Additionally, the full list of policies and procedures will be available for approval at the November board meeting. Jeremiah Wagner asked if there was a drop-dead date to provide feedback by, since the policies would be on the November Board agenda. Deanna replied that she would like all feedback by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**a. IT Security Policy – Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy - *Deanna Brant, Executive Director***

Deanna Brant explained that David Black previously had some questions about having an exhaustive list of devices that were permitted by the Board. This feedback was presented to IP Pathways (formally Sophisticated Systems) and it was determined that it may be best to forgo such a list, due to the speed at which devices become outdated, and new ones are introduced. She noted that IP Pathways is currently working to incorporate that feedback, and the updated policy will be back for Board approval at the November Board Meeting.

**C. DMMHR SB Personnel Policies - *Deanna Brant, Executive Director***

Deanna Brant explained that of the 3 policies on the agenda, she is seeking feedback on two, and potentially a vote on one of them. These 3 policies are #11.02 Overtime, #11.03 Expense Reimbursement and #14.01 Vacation Accrual. She began with the Overtime Policy, which has received some redline edits, and is now seeking feedback from the Board. Specifically, there was an edit to Section C, which changes the time for which Comp Time can be earned. Deanna explained that the way the policy is currently written is restrictive and narrow in terms of earning Comp Time, and she hopes to amend that to include non-Board Meeting Time, such as business travel – which would not include the daily commute to work. She also seeks to clarify specific language in the policy such as the true scope of “administrative duties” and educational activities as far as the policy is concerned.

Regarding the Expense Reimbursement Policy, Deanna Brant stated that the main change to this policy is to adjust the language around the 30-day deadline for reimbursement beyond the fiscal year. The current proposed language would allow for expense reimbursement 60 days beyond the current fiscal year. Kim Bood raised a question concerning if this would apply to the State Fiscal Year or the Federal Fiscal Year, and there were other questions as well. Given that, Deanna felt it best to not to take action on this policy, as other edits will likely be made first.

Deanna Brant stated that the Vacation Accrual Policy may be amended to adjust the rate at which vacation time accrues for employees. Any adjustments to the policy will be based

on 3 primary factors, the Delaware County Salary Survey, Cost of Living information, and the findings of the Statewide Salary Survey. Based on this data, Deanna is primarily considering adjusting the actual rates, so that staff may reach higher levels of accrual earlier. Bob Horrocks asked if this would impact vacation accrual only, and Deanna confirmed that it would, as the other accrual types, such as Sick Time and Comp Time would be unaffected by this policy specifically.

**D. FY2024 School-based Services OLSD/Syntero – Kristan Warren – Youth and Family Clinical Director, and Deanna Brant – Executive Director**

Deanna Brant began by explaining some background on the topic, specifically that the Board had been in talks with Syntero and Olentangy schools regarding the structure and function of Syntero's school-based programs in Olentangy. Essentially, it's a three-way contract between the Board, Syntero and Olentangy, in that the Board funds Syntero, and then Syntero funds the school clinicians; which are in turn partly reimbursed by Olentangy to the Board. She noted that despite the high quality of care and positive feedback, there are challenges concerning workforce. In this case, Deanna explained that there were workforce issues relating to how employees from other Syntero programs are pulled to fill in the school-based services, which may not always be seamless coverage or the best fit in terms of knowledge of school specific key policies and procedures, as well as staff. This directly relates to Continuity and Consistency. Since the Olentangy school district is a large school district to begin with and continuing to grow, workforce is expected to be an ongoing challenge, and the Board is in discussion with Olentangy and Syntero on how to mitigate that. To the Board, the primary question is will Syntero continue to provide services to Olentangy schools, and if so, to what extent, which ties into potential ideas about a transition plan.

Additionally, Deanna explained that the Board only funds programs that can be and are certified. The school services in Olentangy have been awarded provisional certification until February 2024, at which point full certification would be required, though this alone would not guarantee Board funding. Deanna noted that Olentangy requested that the Board issue Syntero a 120 day notice to change their contract regarding the school-based services, which she would like to have future discussions with the Board about. Robert Horrocks asked if the Board's funding would otherwise stay the same for Syntero if the Olentangy school-based services were dropped, and Deanna replied that this would be a separate issue. Lynnette Cook stated that she believes Syntero is doing well in the Olentangy schools. She is concerned that any school supervised mental health services would involve staff who may not fully understand FERPA and HIPAA, which could have consequences. Rhianna Mattix acknowledged this as a possibility and would be considered in future discussions. Deanna stated that the Board did not necessarily need to take action at the current meeting, but they could revisit it at a different time, once a written plan is developed.

**E. Morrow County Board of Developmental Disabilities Presentation** –*Morrow County Board of Developmental Disabilities Staff*

Deanna Brant explained that the presenter for this agenda item could not be present for the current meeting due to illness. They were going to speak on their upcoming replacement levy on the ballot for the November election. As a result, Deanna stated that she will send along the corresponding information to Board members instead. Several Morrow County resident board members spoke on behalf of the services provided by the Morrow County Board of DD.

**F. Silicon Heartland Economic Development (SHED) Overview** – *Bailey Gano Community Impact Coordinator, and Deanna Brant, Executive Director*

Bailey Gano presented on the SHED development projects and potential local impact. Intel had selected the city of New Albany as its newest location for their chip manufacturing plants. As a result, the entire region has attracted more technology jobs and infrastructure, becoming known as the Silicon Heartland Economic Development region, or SHED for short. The planned chip manufacturing buildings would be a \$20 billion investment in the SHED Region, which would bring thousands of jobs along with it. With these jobs would come a large increase in population, which means that there is a great need for diverse and affordable housing in the SHED region. Moreover, all of Delaware County and much of Morrow County would be within a 40-minute drive of the Intel plant, which would increase traffic accordingly. Bailey also noted that it wasn't just Intel that was building significantly in the area, Google, Microsoft and Amazon all have data centers there as well. There will also be incoming jobs related to Ohio state's Starlab project, as well as the overhaul of the John Glenn Airport in Columbus. Bailey reported on potential impact on housing capacity, workforce, schools and healthcare systems.

**G. DMMHR SB Capital Projects Update** – *Deanna Brant, Executive Director*

**a. Meadow Center Update**

Deanna Brant explained that she distributed a report to the Board members regarding the Meadow Center construction. She asked them to send her any questions or comments they might have, and that a regular written report will be a part of future board meetings. She summarized the key points of the report, including that Barton Malow is continuing its demolition of the building, and that several large issues were discovered in the process which they are working to address.

**b. Bowtown Road – ARPA 2**

Deanna Brant noted that she had recently received the ARPA 2 guidance from OhioMHAS. Regarding the Bowtown Road property, it doesn't need to be an exact match of what is being asked, but the next deadline for moving forward is November 27<sup>th</sup>. She explained that although the Board had been awarded the money by OhioMHAS, there were at least 3 questions about the guidance that need to be worked out.

## 8. Executive Session

**Motion 2023/10/06:** The Board by roll call vote moves to enter Executive Session pursuant to O.R.C. 121.22 (G)(3) to hold an Executive Session for the purpose of conferencing with an attorney for the Board concerning disputes involving the Board that are the subject of pending court action.

Benjamin Winkler moved, and the motion was seconded by Lynnette Cook. The Motion then moved to a roll call vote.

**David Black:** Yes

**Lynnette Cook:** Yes

**Kimberly Hallinan:** Not Present

**Robert Horrocks:** Yes

**Crystal Mazza:** Yes

**Zachary Miller:** Yes

**Mallory Sribanditmongkol:** Not Present

**Samuel Stahl:** Not Present

**Trevor Thomas:** Not Present

**Jeremiah Wagner:** Yes

**Marnie Whaley-Buckel:** Yes

**Benjamin Winkler:** Yes

**Motion carried 8-0.**

**The Board Meeting Reconvened at 8:20pm.**

## 9. Motion to Adjourn:

Marnie Whaley-Buckel asked if there was any further business for the board to discuss, and hearing none, asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Motion: 2023/10/07:** The Board moves to adjourn the October 19, 2023 Board Meeting.

Lynnette Cook moved, and the motion was seconded by Crystal Mazza. The Motion was then approved by unanimous consent.

The Board meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

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Ian Ferguson, Administrative Assistant



Accepted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'M' followed by a series of connected loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Marnie Whaley-Buckel, Board Chair