



Clarification and Correction of public information

Updated 04 13 2021

Information provided to Board in response to statements made relevant to procedure for splitting the Board, pattern of Board members leaving the Board, appointment of OhioMHAS Board seats, role of Board members and harm done to Erie County's "circle of care."

ORC 340-Withdrawal from a district and required approval

The board of county commissioners of any county participating in a joint-county district may submit a resolution requesting withdrawal from the district together with a comprehensive plan or plans that are in compliance with rules adopted by the director of mental health and addiction services under section [5119.22](#) of the Revised Code, and that provide for the equitable adjustment and division of all services, assets, property, debts, and obligations, if any, of the joint-county district to the board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services, to the boards of county commissioners of each county in the district, and to the director. **No county participating in a joint-county service district may withdraw from the district without the consent of the director of mental health and addiction services** nor earlier than one year after the submission of such resolution unless all of the participating counties agree to an earlier withdrawal. Any county withdrawing from a joint-county district shall continue to have levied against its tax list and duplicate any tax levied by the district during the period in which the county was a member of the district until such time as the levy expires or is renewed or replaced.

Other Erie County Commissioner board appointments as of July 1, 2017 and reason for departure:

Elizabeth Wilber-Completed two terms

Keith Newton-Completed one full term

Ron Guerra-Completed partial term and full term

Tim Betton-Completed partial term and full term

Craig Stahl-resigned awaiting full appointment from Erie County commissioners

Sam Artino-resigned due to becoming mayor of Huron with additional duties

Charley Murray-resigned due to being appointed to the EC Health Department which would pose a conflict of interest

Appointment of Board members to OhioMHAS seats:

OhioMHAS has their own board member application. Parties interested in joining the Board may get an application from the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Erie and Ottawa Counties (MHRBEO) or contact Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) directly. If the Board receives an application, the completed applications is forwarded to OhioMHAS. Any time a vacancy existed, an application was not withheld from OhioMHAS. OhioMHAS staff review the application and interview the candidate via phone. OhioMHAS makes the decision regarding appointment and notifies the applicant and the board. Since July 1, 2017, three board members have been newly appointed by OhioMHAS, G. Osowski, L. McCrery and T. Clemons. G. Osowski and L. McCrery contacted the Board regarding interest. B. Cronin reached out to T. Clemons based upon his experience in board operations.

L. McCrery stated that when interviewed, OhioMHAS advised her that they make the decision for appointment, not the local board.

Board exists to serve the citizens

Board members are not appointed to represent the appointing organization. Board members are appointed to serve, as well as, represent the best interest of the citizens of the community independent of the appointing organization.

Highlights of Mental Health and Recovery Board contribution to recovery efforts (OhioMHAS and the Board refers to this as Continuum of Care. Erie County refers to it as Circle of Care):

- \$500,000 capital match for detox building
- \$100,000 for mortgage debt to Genesis by the Lake-Rob Quinn Estate
- Daily Medicaid per diem for detox at the Erie County Health Department-Erie/Ottawa residents used ¼ of beds in FY 20
- Detox services also available in Findlay, Lima and Toledo with Board funding
- Per diem rate to Road to Hope Recovery Housing for Women-Becky's House
- Per diem rate to Light House Sober Living recovery housing for men and women
- Per diem rate to Volunteers of America for recovery housing for men
- \$100,000 approved for Road to Hope for 16 bed men's recovery housing program in Erie County
- Board coordinated Sequential Intercept Mapping coordinated by the MHRBEO resulted in Erie County Drug Court selected as a priority; MHRBEO staff fully participated in program planning
- OhioMHAS awards MHRBEO \$200,000 to contract with Erie County Common Pleas Court to pay for drug screens for Erie County probationers and drug court participants
- OhioMHAS awards MHRBEO \$80,000 to contract with Ottawa County Common Pleas Court to pay for drug screens for Ottawa County probationers and drug court participants
- Assistance with OhioMHAS capital application with match money provided to Sandusky Artisans for building renovations for expansion of services
- 40 hours of substance use disorder services weekly at the Erie County Jail and 24 hours of services weekly at the Ottawa County Jail
- Nursing assessments, Vivitrol and Vivitrol injections for jail inmates
- Partial hospitalization program established by Firelands Counseling and Recovery Services
- 24/7 Peer Supporter services at the Firelands Hospital emergency room for those who overdose
- Contract with Ottawa County Family Advocacy Center to provide services to grandparents and other family members who are raising children due to substance use disorder issues with the children's parents. Children are also provided services.

"Circle of Care" 80 bed women's recovery housing and Genesis by the Lake:

Erie County Commissioner's purchase of building for 80 bed recovery housing for women-When OhioMHAS approves capital funding, the expectation is that the local Board assists OhioMHAS with finding another purpose for the building if the program fails. If there is no other option, the entity granted the loan is responsible for the forgivable loan. This rule applies whether the local Board provides funding or not. MHRBEO did not provide any match dollars. Throughout the pursuit of capital dollars beginning in August 2017 and carrying over into 2018, there were a number of conversations and meetings with local officials, stakeholders and OhioMHAS capital planning bureau. Sometimes the

Board director was invited and sometimes she was not. In 2018, a board member requested that the Executive Director create a chronology of communication regarding the interaction among the county commissioners, health commissioner, OhioMHAS, providers and the MHRBEO. This document was provided to the Board and the Sandusky Register Editorial Board.

There were two sets of concerns by the MHRBEO and by OhioMHAS. The Board's concerns were primarily that the Board had an investment in Genesis by the Lake's 32 bed women's facility and they only had 7 residents with 3 from Erie County. Also, even as a regional facility, were 80 beds really needed? **Please note: The MHRBEO Executive Director signed the application on 1/26/2018. OhioMHAS did not give final approval until 7/17/18 because there were a number of outstanding issues that needed to be addressed by the county commissioners, health commissioner and provider.**

OhioMHAS had the following concerns which caused significant delays (Emails available):

- The facility is not "home-like" which is the recovery housing model
- The facility is too large for recovery housing. Current average daily population of Erie and Ottawa residents is 13. At that time, the intent was to make the facility 80 beds.
- At different times, local officials selected two different providers to run the facility (Primary Purpose and A Way Out). Agreements were cancelled before the program opened.
- The building was appraised at \$2.1 and \$2.2 million dollars. The Erie County Commissioners paid \$2.3 million dollars for the building.
- The program model required residents to obtain services from LCADA Way, an agency from Lorain County that opened up an office in the Erie County Health Department. Residents would be required to engage in services at LCADA Way and LCADA Way would pay their rent. This eliminated consumer choice which is not supported by OhioMHAS. After persistence from OhioMHAS, this changed and residents who obtained services from LCADA Way would get their rent paid by LCADA Way. Those who did not want services from LCADA Way could choose a local provider but would have to find their own transportation and pay their own rent.
- After several meetings with local officials and OhioMHAS staff to discuss a number of issues that needed to be resolved (many the board was not involved in), the OhioMHAS director would not agree to an 80-bed recovery housing program that was not, among other things, "homelike" and was too large. Director Plouck was gathering information from her experts in capital planning, recovery housing and residential services for women. She suggested that the program be labeled as transitional housing and the number of beds be cut in half. It is now a 43-bed facility named Becky's House and operated by Road to Hope.

Genesis by the Lake (GbtL) - Numerous meetings occurred between MHRBEO and Rob Quinn and Sue Prentiss-founders of the program

- This facility is in Vermilion
- MHRBEO paid \$100,000 "mortgage paydown" to Genesis by the Lake-Rob Quinn Estate
- FY 2018 and 2019-MHRBEO provided \$10,000 per month for Genesis by the Lake operations; It was the Board's understanding that GbtL had no other funding sources. Eventually this was changed to a per diem rate.
- There were more out of county residents than in county residents. At no time was Erie/Ottawa the majority of residents at Genesis by the Lake
- MHRBEO was also paying for empty beds

- After the MHRBEO pointed out that the first provider (NORA) was billing the Board the full cost for transportation and started questioning other expenditures of NORA, NORA was eventually terminated by GbtL for difficulty in understanding billing and poor service delivery. After this termination, women could not get to AA meetings and work; They had to depend on a resident or two who had a car at the condos. For AA meetings, they requested transportation from other AA members which is encouraged. Availability of transportation for the women to search for employment, participate in interviews, etc., was an ongoing concern and topic of discussion with Rob Quinn and Sue Prentiss.
- Second provider hired was Primary Purpose. This arrangement was eventually terminated by GbtL.
- Third provider hired was A Way Out. This arrangement was eventually terminated by GbtL.
- Executive Director and Deputy Director went to Genesis by the Lake to interview women in the program. An example of ongoing concern was when one resident told us that she could not depend on her roommate for transportation so she contacted her drug dealer and made arrangements to meet him to get her car back that she gave up previously for drugs.
- Another example was when a resident called the Board with a complaint. She was advised to file a grievance. She did not know what a grievance was as GbtL had no grievance procedure.
- For FY20, it was recommended by the MHRBEO director that GbtL be awarded a 30-day contract to give one last opportunity to provide information requested by the director regarding improvement in services to the women in the program. Program director, R. Quinn declined a contract and stated that the Board had too many expectations.
- Road to Hope now runs Genesis by the Lake. Rob Quinn owns the property.