

County of Summit Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board

**Board of Directors' Regular Monthly Meeting  
Via Zoom Conference  
Minutes of February 23, 2021  
FINAL**

**Board Members Present:** Roula Braidy, Vivianne Duffrin, Elizabeth England, Vice Chair; Margaret J. Halter, PhD., Rev. Russell T. Ham, Todd M. Ivan, M.D., Secretary; James Merklin, Christine Myers, Irving B. Sugerman, André Thornton, Jr., John M. Williams, Chair.

**Board Members Excused:** Lucas M. Blower, Dan R. Flowers

**ADM Board Staff Present:** Aimee Wade, Interim Executive Director; Carrie Marceric, Administrative Compliance Coordinator; Nick Baechel, Research and Quality Improvement Coordinator; Amy Woodland, Community Relations Manager; Kathy Hagy, Administrative Assistant of Clinical Services; Doug Smith, Chief Clinical Officer; Jen Peveich, Associate Director of Operations; Dr. Aaron Ellington, Acting Associate Director of Clinical Services

**Other Parties Present:** Tracy Yaeger, Portage Path Behavioral Health, Jacklyn Kautenberger, Community Health Addiction Services; Chris West, Northcoast Community Homes, Dawn Glenn, Green Leaf Family Center; Karen Talbot, Child Guidance & Family Services; Rochelle Jimenez, Coleman Professional Services; Tammy Jensen, Oriana House, Judith Banks, Public at Large, Karen Beard, Public at Large, Donna Skoda, Summit County Public Health

**I. Call to Order**

With a quorum present, Board Chair, John Williams called the meeting to order at 5:32p.m., thanking all those in attendance for being present for the virtual meeting.

Roll call was taken by Kathy Hagy as Dr. Todd Ivan had not arrived yet, with all members being present except for Dan Flowers, and Lucas Blower who were excused.

**II. Approval of Minutes of January 26, 2021**

After review, the minutes of January 26, 2021 were voted on and approved as written with no changes noted.

**MOTION:** James Merklin

**SECOND:** André Thornton, Jr.

**That the ADM Board of Directors' approve the minutes of the January 26, 2021, ZOOM Meeting of the Board of Directors, as presented.**

**VOTE:** Roll call by Secretary – Motion Passed

**RESOLUTION:** 02-21-01

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### III. **Board Education – Donna Skoda, Health Commissioner, Summit County Public Health**

- Ms. Skoda gave a brief update regarding the COVID-19 virus and the county's progress with the vaccine inoculations.
- In Summit County we have had 3 surges of the virus since it began in March 2020. They are expecting to see another surge in the spring of 2021 as this has happened in the past with various virus-born illness.
- Summit County has both the Moderna and the Pfizer vaccine available for vaccinations. They hope to be receiving the Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca vaccines for distribution in March.
- Summit County Public Health is working with various Community Partners to make sure the minority population and those at most risk can be vaccinated. In March, with the arrival of more vaccines, SCPH hopes to go offsite in 4 different zip code zones to target the population in that area. These target areas seem to have more persons at risk for disease or have health conditions that warrant their need for a vaccine or have an elderly population that may not have the ways or means to sign up for their inoculations.
- Ms. Skoda stressed the top 3 ways to maintain a lower risk of COVID-19 infection is to get a vaccine, wash your hands often, and keep to social distancing.

At the conclusion of Ms. Skoda's presentation, Chair John Williams, acknowledged that on January 26, 2021, The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA), which represents Ohio's Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Boards across the state, held a virtual awards ceremony and presented the 2020 President's Partnering for Quality Award to the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners. This was done to recognize the work that all Health Departments throughout Ohio and all levels of staff for spearheading efforts to combat COVID-19. Summit County ADM Board presented Ms. Skoda with her award this morning.

### IV. **Ownership Linkage & Accountability**

#### **A. Chair Report – John Williams**

- ADM Recovery Challenge planning is going forward with the event possibly being held in August 2021. John stated he would like to see 100% Board participation in support of this event.
- March 4, 2021 Groundwater Training will be held. John and 2 ADM Board staff members will be attending this training.
- Please take notice of the upcoming events list in the board packet. It was put together by Amy Woodland of the ADM Board and lists the various upcoming events that the ADM Board supports
- John also acknowledged the receipt of a complaint letter. The ADM Board will not act regarding the letter due to legal issues.
- In the recognition of the Sunshine Laws and with wanting to make the Board more open to discussion; there will be time in each meeting that the Chair will call for

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upon the Board Members for anything they wish to discuss that is not listed on the agenda. This time will come under the topic of New Business.

### **B. Executive Director Report** – Interim Executive Director Aimee Wade

- Jen Peveich was recognized for her 5-year anniversary.
- SFY2022 Funding Applications were released to providers February 1<sup>st</sup> with a due date of Friday, March 12, 2021.
- Letters of Interest have been received and approved. Approved initiatives will either be folded into the SFY2022 funding application process, planned training initiatives, or local capital funding.
- State Opiate Response Grant 2.0 – Final budget approval has come from OhioMHAS and contacts will start to be issued beginning the week of February 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Board of Directors Document Management Platform – The IT department is researching platforms that would support web-based access for Board Members to download various documents, presentations, etc. Further research will go forward if there is interest in this platform.  
André Thornton expressed interest in this platform being investigated further. James Merklin expressed concern with using the best platform available for this information as there are many platforms available for this some good some bad.
- Akron Public Schools-College & Career Academics – The Board continues to engage Akron Public Schools, specifically Buchtel High School, by providing resources, videos, and recorded interviews to assist with wellness and career exploration. Beginning in February, our partners at PreventionFirst! will begin providing course curriculum 3 times per week. This will aid the students in learning the principles of prevention and to receive the required training to apply for a prevention credential.
- Operational Planning Update – Approximately 1 year ago the Operational Planning was stopped due to concerns expressed by the Board. Aimee welcomed the opportunity to work in collaboration with the Board to begin a new process that will help inform the Board Ends development and staff operations.
- MEND – There is a current update on the MEND program included in the Board Packet. Due to some changes in participation within this program, ADM met with MEND representatives to discuss an adjustment of fees. This is all detailed in the update located within the Board packet.
- COVID-Mitigation – Currently the ADM Board has continued with on-site staffing being reduced to no more than 6 staff in the office. Beginning March 8<sup>th</sup>, we are looking to start to increase the number of staff in the office. We continue to follow all mitigation strategies as directed by SC Public Health. We continue to receive and distribute PPE to many of our providers. Dr. Smith continues to be our liaison to monitor and advocate for local behavioral health providers to gain access to the

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vaccine. Amy Woodland and Dr. Smith have also begun putting out weekly updates to the system along with any new developments. Dr. Smith has also continued to provide education and updates regarding COVID-19 through various platforms in the community.

### C. Chief Clinical Officer Report – Dr. Doug Smith

- Dr. Smith gave brief update on COVID-19 as it relates to Ohio. The state of Ohio is right along with the United States average in comparison with administration of vaccines.
- It is very rare to get COVID twice. According to recent studies, the vaccine gives someone an 8-month immunity.

Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Akron City Council was to pass a resolution regarding suicides. When the resolution was introduced in the meeting, information did not reflect local data. Dr. Smith, with the help of Nick Baechel was able to submit Summit statistics and Dr. Smith and Aimee Wade were able to speak at the Council Meeting to provide context. Summit County has actually had lower suicide numbers than the national average. He also stated that there was a spike in 2020 for African American males dying by suicide. Targeted efforts were put in place in 2020 and are on-going.

### V. Comments from the Public and Announcements

- Amy Woodland, ADM Board, referred to the listing of Upcoming Sponsored Events listed in the Board Packet. She described a couple of the events in detail and said she would email details out to anyone who is interested in learning more.
- Amy also talked about the ADM Board Monthly Engagement Snapshot included in the packet. It reflects the monthly number of events, coalitions and community engagement-focused meetings staff attended as a representative of the ADM Board in February and will be included monthly. She will continue to present this information at each Board Meeting and will begin tracking month to month statistics.

### VI. Consent Agenda

- A. ADM Funding Awards Report
- B. New Contracts & Authorization to Sign

**MOTION:** Elizabeth England

**SECOND:** Margaret Halther, PhD.

**That the ADM Board of Directors, approve the funding awards for January 2021, and, having funds available and certified by the Fiscal Officer as required by ORC 5705.41(D), the Board Authorizes the Interim Executive Director to sign the contracts presented in the attached list on behalf of the ADM Board, in accordance with the requirements contained with ORC 340.**

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**VOTE: Roll Call by Secretary- Motion Passed**

**RESOLUTION: 02-21-02**

## **VII. Unfinished Business**

There is no unfinished Business.

## **VIII. New Business**

A. February 2021 Executive Limitations & Board Self- Monitoring Reports

### **1. Policy 1.0 Ends – Report for 2020**

a. Discussion on monitoring comments

- There was no need for discussion as all were happy with the response of the Interim Executive Director

**MOTION:** André Thornton, Jr.

**SECOND:** Margaret Halter, PhD.

**That the ADM Board of Directors find the Interim Executive Director in Compliance with Policy 1.0 Ends – Report for 2020.**

**VOTE: Roll call by Secretary – Motion passed**

**RESOLUTION: 02-21-03**

### **2. Policy 2.5 Financial Conditions and Activities**

a. Discussion

- Jim Merklin stated that this is a work in progress.

**MOTION:** James Merklin

**SECOND:** Elizabeth England

**That the ADM Board of Directors find the Interim Executive Director in Compliance with Policy 2.5 Financial Conditions & Activities.**

**VOTE: Roll call by Secretary – Motion passed**

**RESOLUTION: 02-21-04**

### **3. Policy 3.2 Board Job Description**

a. Discussion

- Jim Merklin stated that this policy is not specific in the achievement of ends. There needs to be development of specificity.
- More work with the Board Development Committee and Bill Charney will help with this.
- No action taken; no vote required.

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## 4. Policy 4.1 Unity of Control

### A. Discussion

- There were no concerns currently.
- No action taken; no vote required.

### B. Committee Reports

1. Assurance Committee – Dr. Ivan (February Meeting Cancelled – No Report)
2. Board Development Committee – Dan Flowers (Chrissy Myers reporting in Dan Flowers absence.
  - There will be another survey sent to Board Members coming directly from Bill Charney. Please complete this and return it as soon as possible.
  - Recruitment for the Board Position left vacant by Peter Goheen is going well.
  - The committee put a motion before the Board for a vote.

**MOTION:** Chrissy Myers

**SECOND:** Not Needed as the Motion was from the committee

**That the Board Development Committee would like to recommend Kimberly Huff be submitted to OhioMHAS for consideration to fill the vacant seat left by Peter Goheen.**

VOTE: Roll call by Secretary- Motion Passed

**RESOLUTION: 02-21-05**

3. Personnel Committee – André Thornton, Jr.
  - No February meeting. No report.
4. Ad Hoc Executive Director Search Committee – James Merklin
  - No February meeting.
  - Jim stated that the committee will be meeting within the next 2 weeks.
  - They will be accepting applications for the Executive Director position thru this Friday, February 26, 2021. At that time, they will review the applications and discuss whether the deadline should be extended.

### C. New Information for Discussion

- John Williams asked for any new information for discussion that was not listed on the agenda.
- There was nothing brought up for discussion. John asked that you email him anything that you would like to discuss at the next meeting.

### D. Meeting Assessment

- John reminded all to complete the meeting assessment using the link found on the agenda.

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**X. Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:57p.m.

**Motion:** André Thornton, Jr.

**Second:** Elizabeth England

**XI. Next Meeting Scheduled: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 5:30p.m. via ZOOM**

**Minutes as Approved**

*Approved via ZOOM BoD Meeting*

*3-23-2021*

**RESOLUTION 03-21-01**

Todd M. Ivan, M.D.

Secretary