

OneOhio Recovery Foundation Region 15 Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 8, 2024 10:00 AM Shelby Co. Ag. Center

Delegates in attendance:

Allen County – Beth Seibert
Auglaize County – Pam Schwartz, Edwin Pierce, and Michael Vorhees
Champaign County – Cheryl Wears, Mark Hackworth and Adam Sorenson (virtual)
Darke County – Matt Aultman, Marcus Ballinger and Brian Phillips
Logan County – Joe Antram, Ben Stahler (virtual) and Tammy Allison
Mercer County – Amy Ikerd
Miami County – Terri Becker
Preble County – Dr. Scott Vosler (virtual) and Amy Raynes (virtual)
Shelby County – Julie Ehemann, Scott Barr (virtual) and Tina Hooks

Guests in attendance:

Sarah Anstine, OneOhio (virtual)
Miami Valley Today reporter (virtual – name not captured)

Chair Antram called the meeting to order at 10:01 am and Becker led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Secretary Seibert documented the attendees. Seibert presented the minutes of the November 20, 2023 meeting which had previously emailed out to the Board. Chair Antram asked for additions or corrections to the minutes as presented. *Motion by Aultman, seconded by Wears to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.*

Chair Antram welcomed everyone. He gave the opening remarks regarding today's annual board reorganization meeting, noting that we are challenged with a new system as we begin year three but that we are closer to distributing funding and helping people. He thanked the Board members for their patience.

Approval of the Agenda – The only addition to the agenda that was requested was from Chair Antram on the matter of payment for the bylaws. *Motion by Ehemann, seconded by Ikerd, to approve the agenda with the addition of a discussion on payment of the bylaws. Motion carried.*

County Delegations for 2024 – The Chair reviewed the process of county delegations – each with representation of the county, townships and municipalities on a staggered three-year rotation. Antram spoke of how today starts the new term for those filling the original two-year seats and how the bylaws changed those original term end dates. He acknowledged receipt by all counties of the representatives filling those open terms. It was noted that Secretary Seibert maintains a copy of those Resolutions.

Executive Positions for 2024 – The Chair opened the floor to nominations for the three officer positions for the term of one year. Discussion followed. *Motion by Aultman to nominate the current officers, close the nominations, and cast a unanimous ballot. Motion seconded by Allison and carried.* For 2024, Joe Antram will serve as Chairman, Julie Ehemann will serve as Vice-Chair, and Beth Seibert will serve as Secretary. No additional 2024 administrative and policy recommendations and/or actions were offered.

Report From Our State Delegate – Ehemann reported that she has been appointed to serve as an at-large member of the State Foundation's Executive Board. She feels that she keeps them and us

on track with the OneOhio MOU. She supports the strength of the regions and not letting regional authority be watered down. She reminded that things are moving forward at the state with a new Foundation Director, Alisha Nelson. Ehemann chairs the State Foundation Personnel Committee and they are engaged in determining the number of employees needed, developing a personnel policy, and more. The Foundation Director is working on the grants process and portal, as well as fundraising for private dollars.

Harm Reduction – Per the discussion in the previous meeting, Ehemann has distributed an op-ed (opinion-education) piece for this Board’s consideration. She explained that opinion pieces like this one that she authored are being adopted and distributed by many of the regional boards. She advocated for having a united voice on these issues in our region. In this discussion (paragraph 1) Hackworth asked for clarification on the 55/45 distribution of funds. Ehemann referred to the guidance in OneOhio MOU where it explains that 55% of the settlement dollars is set aside for the State Foundation and from that share each region is allocated a portion. From the remaining 45%, 15% goes to the Ohio Attorney General’s Office and 30% directly to local governments. Ehemann noted that our region’s current allocation balance is just under \$2 million. Antram asked how the regions as a whole are progressing and Ehemann responded that there are all spectrums of readiness across the 19 regions. Aultman asked about whether the region will be credited with interest on funds held and Ehemann responded that interest is being earned by the State Foundation on monies held, but there has not yet been a commitment to distribute those dollars to the regions.

Payment for Bylaws Preparation – Chair Antram spoke of how we had hired Cara Wall of the Toledo law firm Zoll & Kranz to create our bylaws (code of regulations) in March of 2022. He noted that these bylaws are in use with this Board today. At that time, we proceeded with a \$6500 bid price believing that nine Boards of County Commissioners would share in the final bill, not to exceed \$722 each – Seibert read from the minutes of that meeting. Ikerd agreed to seek an invoice and to discuss that with her County Commissioners. Aultman reflected on this “assignment of counsel” and noted that they would prefer to be directly invoiced for payment. Raynes asked if this Board has our own (expense) accounts and Ehemann responded that the State Foundation does not plan to pay for expenses incurred by the regions. She reminded the group that we chose to act separately from the Ohio Attorney General’s work on regional bylaws.

Gaps in Services Survey Results – Chair Antram spoke about identifying regional needs and gaps and how he wanted this discussion to have the most important place, and allotment of time, on our agenda today. He gave thanks to the work of Allison and Sorenson in the recent development and distribution of a survey that was directed at this Board. Allison reported on the results with 14 of 27 Board members responding. Highlighted results included vulnerable populations, missing and under-served populations, missing or under-resourced programs, and what services exist now. Raynes noted she had completed the survey on behalf of Preble County. She asked what will be done with this information. Antram spoke of how he was personally challenged to complete the survey, so he reached out to his Logan County partners for help. He noted how some of our members live and breathe this subject every day. Allison will provide this printed survey information presented today to Secretary Seibert to distribute by email to the Board members. Discussion included the following:

- Ehemann spoke of a focus on treatment and recovery.
- Pierce reflected that his late-sent responses did match up well with the survey results – emphasizing halfway houses, recovery, transportation and services to children living in those homes.

- Antram spoke of how the survey can't be all things to all people, so he asked if another survey could narrow the focus/target for a bigger impact.
- Hooks spoke of how she is seeing Children Services referrals coming in daily per parents with drug issues – addicted births and continuing the cycle of addiction.
- Antram reflected on OneOhio's hope for a longer term impact than was seen with the tobacco settlement dollars.
- Ehemann noted how this is a long term game and reminded the group that we are not going to solve problems in one year with a single distribution. She told the group that everyone is still struggling with identifying effective, evidence-based materials.
- Ikerd wondered since everyone has a Juvenile Court, how can we best speak to kids on prevention and intervention. She spoke of needing to identify vulnerable kids. Ehemann spoke of the Shelby County LINK program that is getting children resources before they get in trouble. Hackworth noted that school counselors are indicators.
- Hackworth suggested revising the first survey to give specific choices.
- Raynes suggested strategic planning through a brainstorming, prioritization and consensus process. Hackworth agreed with Raynes in arriving at priorities through brainstorming.
- Vosler reflected on needing to house people in recovery long enough, which is often past the court mandate, so that they can fully develop needed skills. He asked if we could fund added time. Hackworth suggested that 11 months is the threshold he recommends per his experience. He went on to explain that none of the people in his recovery housing are court-ordered. Hackworth does focus on job training and work, alongside counseling and probation accountability.
- Allison reminded the group that childcare is a need in recovery and treatment.
- Hackworth spoke of how he lives in this arena every day. You can't fix those that don't want fixed and the population that wants help has to be isolated. He believes that treatment requires mentoring and parenting because these individuals were never parented or taught the things they need to know. He spoke of his personal experiences of raising and reprogramming kids coming from drug addicted homes where they never saw or knew anything but awful.
- Pierce asked if we want to affect those on the front end or the back end.
- Aultman spoke of a court mandated Darke County home and school for 12-18 year old boys. They are hoping to expand and serve a 9-16 year old group. Skill building and education are emphasized in this program that generally involves the kids for 3-12 months. They have found that their success has been in meeting the boys' basic life needs. Another part of their success is a key guidance and leadership figure. Despite their successes, he noted that they do have reoffenders.
- Pierce reflected that prioritization can be a problem for such a big region. Prioritization by this board for each county isn't practical. He asked if we group into smaller units. Seibert verified that by the region's population Allen County has 19% and Miami County 21%.
- Becker asked if the application will ask what number of the population will be affected.
- Aultman spoke of jail treatment and the function of correction officer staffing. Inpatient services are necessary. EMS staff know the realities too, that drug use isn't getting any lighter.
- Raynes introduced herself as the Director of the Preble County Mental Health and Recovery Board. She knows the jail struggles and supports this as a priority. She believes that regionalization of the dollars is important.
- Vorhees noted how they are always asking where can they send these folks for treatment. Transportation is a need too. Auglaize County did receive a state grant last year.

- Raynes reported they have no ability to fund rehab centers. Public stigma also plays into the NIMBY attitude – not in my back yard.
- Allison asked if we should move forward with another survey and then prioritize at the next meeting from that information.
- Aultman asked how this fits the State timeline. He also asked about scoring.
- Pierce asked if we knew yet what applications are coming. Seibert told the group that Allen County is working on a collaborative grant application through the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board. Allen County and the City of Lima have been holding their settlement dollars to utilize as match to this larger grant request.
- Vosler spoke of drug testing as a means of accountability. He also said that paying for schooling and for people to develop a trade are important tools. Housing and other seemingly mundane things are sometimes overlooked. The time it takes to motivate someone to stop taking drugs has to be supported financially and with other resources. The rate of recidivism is high, telling us it is a difficult journey. He believes that drug testing can prove who really wants, and is ready for help.
- Chair Antram directed the group toward next steps. He asked if we can agree on proceeding with a revised survey. Allison is willing to make that happen. Sorenson will help. Seibert asked that it have a goal. Sorenson responded that the goal of the survey is to align with what rises forth from the coming applications. Raynes asked if the application and scoring process is coming from the State and Ehemann responded yes, but we get to complete the scoring rubric at the regional level. Antram reflected how we are learning from each other and positioning ourselves as a decision-making body.

Open Discussion

- Ehemann returned to the Harm Reduction op-ed piece she had created and presented. Are we wanting to advocate on issues as a board, or just be the money-keepers? She believes that we can have a bigger voice considering our place in Region 15 as a Board. Chair Antram feels that we are struggling for consensus on this opportunity.
- Hooks believes there is value in sharing what we know with one another and developing a greater awareness. She gave an example of Job and Family Services having funding for transportation and training. She would like to see the agenda continue to have an education piece, as she herself has learned much from the interactions of this Board.

The next meeting was set for Monday, March 4 at 10:00 am at this same location. With the State working hard to get the application portal open, it is likely that we will meet monthly after the March meeting.

Chair Antram thanked everyone for participating today. *Motion by Ikerd to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Ehemann and carried.* The meeting adjourned at 11:51 am.

Minutes transcribed by Beth Seibert.