

OneOhio Recovery Foundation Region 15 Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 4, 2024 10:00 AM Shelby Co. Ag. Center

Delegates in attendance:

Allen County – Beth Seibert

Auglaize County – Pam Schwartz and Edwin Pierce

Champaign County – Cheryl Wears, Mark Hackworth and Adam Sorenson (virtual)

Darke County – Matt Aultman, Marcus Ballinger and Brian Phillips (virtual)

Logan County – Joe Antram, Ben Stahler (virtual) and Tammy Allison

Mercer County – Amy Ikerd, Megan Baker and Diane Gable (virtual)

Miami County – Terri Becker, Matt Simmons and Greg Simmons

Preble County – Amy Raynes

Shelby County – Julie Ehemann and Tina Hooks

Guests in attendance: none

Chair Antram called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and Hooks led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Secretary Seibert documented the attendees. Antram asked the new members to give a brief introduction of themselves:

- Megan Baker is the Enforcement Captain for Corrections at the Mercer County Sheriff's Office.
- Amy Raynes is the Executive Director of the Preble County Mental Health and Recovery Board.
- Beth Seibert reported that Paul Basinger is a Township Trustee in Allen County, experienced in law enforcement and as a school resource officer.

Minutes for Approval – Seibert presented for approval the minutes of the January 8, 2024 meeting which had been emailed out to the Board earlier this morning. Seibert asked for additions or corrections to the minutes as presented. *Motion by Allison, seconded by Ballinger to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.*

Welcome and Approval of Agenda – Chair Antram welcomed everyone, noting with pleasure the addition of three new Board members. He gave the opening remarks regarding today's meeting, stating that we are closer to the meat of the issue. It's not been an easy row to hoe with all the organizing and coordinating. But he feels it is exciting to think that programs will be in place by the end of 2024. No additions to the agenda were requested. *Motion by G. Simmons, seconded by Ballinger, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.*

Conflict of Interest Policy – Chair Antram noted his recent emails calling for the annual filing of this policy by our Board Members as stated in the bylaws (code of regulations). Seibert reported that following Board members still need to complete this document: Basinger, Pierce, Vorhees, Schwartz, Vosler and Cole. Antram asked the group about their preference toward filing this annually during the January reorganization meeting. Discussion followed. Raynes, Ehemann and Seibert agreed that most appropriate annual time for filing this updated policy form might be when grant applications are received. Ikerd reminded the group that we all have an ongoing obligation to disclose conflicts of interest. Antram announced hearing consensus on the matter.

Harm Reduction Op-Ed Piece – Ehemann asked for continued discussion on this opportunity. Do we stay in our lane as grant reviewers, or do we want to be regional educators and informers? Another topic she sees as a possibility is on recreational marijuana. Ehemann does not want to twist any arms, rather she believes that the Region 15 OneOhio Board can have a larger purpose.

Discussion followed. Becker said the article was well written. Ikerd likes the idea and thinks release of this information can go hand-in-hand with release of our local media information on grants. Ehemann offered to edit and update the piece to accommodate that approach. Ehemann noted that any op-ed piece that is created for possible release by the Region 15 OneOhio Board is ONLY done with the approval of the Board. She asked, are we still uncomfortable? Raynes told the group that she believed it was our job to step into the uncomfortable. Hooks said we should be on board. Next steps – Ehemann will edit and bring back to the April meeting for approval before release to the media in our region. It was also suggested that we could have it posted to our Region 15 tab on the OneOhio State Recovery Foundation webpage. Chair Antram asked for objections and none were given.

OneOhio State Recovery Foundation Region 15 PowerUser – Ehemann told the group that the Executive Committee had taken an action at the State Foundation’s request to name a PowerUser who will input information from our Region 15 Board decisions. As Secretary, Beth Seibert had volunteered. The Executive Committee wanted to get the full Board’s approval. Discussion followed – including Ikerd’s suggestion for a plan B #2 PowerUser. *Motion by Ikerd, seconded by Allison to approve Beth Seibert as the PowerUser to the State Foundation. Motion carried. Motion by Ehemann to approve Tammy Allison as the plan B #2 PowerUser. Motion seconded by Ikerd and carried.* Julie will notify Sarah Anstine at the State Foundation of Allison’s backup status.

Payment for Services Rendered on the Bylaws Creation – Chair Antram reflected on the March 30, 2022 decision by this Board to create bylaws (code of regulations) using the Toledo Law Firm of Zoll & Kranz. An invoice has been received in the amount of \$1540, which shared by nine counties amounts to \$171.11 each. Antram reflected on earlier commitments by our nine Counties. Ehemann suggested that we could submit this as an application for funding to the State Foundation. After discussion, the group seemed to prefer having Zoll & Kranz individually bill the nine separate counties. Aultman suggested a line/note on the invoice pertaining to this amount as one County’s share. Ikerd will work with Zoll & Kranz to have the invoicing updated. It was generally agreed in the room that each County could use their local opioid settlement dollars to pay this invoice.

Analysis of Second Survey on Priorities – Allison shared the results from the recent survey completed by our Board members (see handout that was provided). All nine counties did respond. She reflected on the previous survey results that were presented at the January meeting and the group’s desire to narrow the focus on possible priorities. Results were summarized as follows:

- Vulnerable populations
 - Individuals with mental health disorders, addiction and/or history of trauma
 - Recovering addicts
 - Children and youth
 - Children exposed to illicit drugs/substances
 - Younger adults (age 18-24) who use substances but are interested in recovery
- Two missing programs in your county
 - Inpatient facilities for substance abuse issues
 - Recovery housing
 - Family and youth peer support
 - Transitional housing
 - School age programming
- Existing programs in your County that do not have significant resources
 - Counseling services

- Intensive substance abuse programs
- Family and youth peer support
- Recovery housing

Antram talked about how helpful this information is in furthering defining our priorities. Allison believes there are no surprises in these results and agreed that it is helpful in narrowing and visualizing priorities. Gable cautioned against a focus on inpatient hospitalization as it already exists across the state. Considering the limited dollars, she does not feel this should be a regional priority. Gable spoke of how we can make a greater impact by focusing on the others. Antram drew attention to the missing programs and building/staffing inpatient facilities – because there had been much discussion in previous meetings about the lack of these facilities in each county. Ehemann noted that our limited \$1.9 million doesn't get this done. Raynes reflected on how the Preble County facility was built through capital fund-raising. She feels that this is more the role of OMAS. Gable agreed with her and noted that their tri-county ADAMHS Board has been discussing this type of capital campaign approach as a possibility.

County Scoring on Upcoming Grant Applications – Chair Antram reported that the Executive Committee has given some consideration to the upcoming scoring process by this Board for the applications we will receive from the State in the coming months. Antram and Ehemann both reminded the group that our “voting” process is defined in the bylaws as “one county one vote” so it seems consistent to carry that approach into voting on the applications. Seibert explained further that each county delegation of three people will need to meet and determine how they will produce a single composite score for every application. The Executive Committee has informed the State Foundation that all 27 Region 15 Board members will have access to the grant applications online once the State opens the portal for our region to view the applications. This effectively makes all 27 Board members the “Regional Grant Review Committee”. Pierce asked about that local meeting as an open meeting and Ehemann reminded that the State Legislature declared that OneOhio is NOT a public body, so public meeting rules don't apply and it can be a private meeting. That will be the first step in the scoring process. From there Seibert believes we will bring our nine county scoresheets together for a composite score by application and an initial ranking. From that information we will meet and discuss the results and make decisions. Chair Antram asked for consensus on this process from the Board and announced that he believed that was achieved. Ballinger asked if the scoring rubric has been developed and there was discussion about editing the State's rubric to fit our Region 15 priorities. Nothing has been seen or heard from the state yet on this matter. Ballinger advocated for a scoring rubric to be produced before the April 2nd application portal opens.

OneOhio Foundation Regional Grants Process – Ehemann referred the group to an email they each received late last week with two jpg files one on the abatement strategies and the other on the application process overview. Consistent with the OneOhio MOU and Toolkit the eleven summarized abatement strategies are:

- Treatment and Healthcare Services
- Intervention and Crisis Support
- Criminal Legal System
- Recovery Supports
- Prevention
- Harm Reduction
- Services for Impacted Children and Families
- Public Safety and First Responders
- Workforce Development

- Infrastructure
- Other

Seibert reported that in a recent inquiry Allen County made to the State, each strategy will serve as an individual application pathway. The State believes that this is the best way for them to be able to ultimately measure project results. If one project serves two strategies, the applicant will have to choose the dominant theme or separate the project into two applications. Referring to the eleven strategies as “buckets”, Chair Antram directed the group back to the survey results and asked if we could identify our priorities in this way. Allison reported that the published RFP on the State Foundation website reports Region 15 as “open to all ideas”. Becker recollected that we were told by the Foundation Director that funded projects need to be evidence-based and sustainable. Allison spoke of the community recovery collaboration approach that Logan County is taking with their CORE (Community for Ongoing Recovery Efforts) and CAB (Coalition Advisory Board) programs. Allison noted that at this point the grant writers are focusing on the RFP for information. Hooks suggested posting application information on our individual county and organization websites. Antram comically added how it feels like Groundhog Day. Seibert stepped out of the room to call our State liaison Sarah Anstine for answers. Seibert returned with the following information: the State is working diligently to complete the application and scoring rubric, including legal review. The completion date, and how far ahead of the application start date that will be publicly available, is yet unknown. Anstine had stated to Seibert that Regions are not going to have the opportunity to edit the scoring rubric.

Selecting the Region 15 Priorities – After considering our survey results again, much discussion produced consensus on the following four priority abatement strategies (in alphabetical order):

- Prevention
- Recovery Supports
- Services for Impacted Children and Families
- Treatment and Healthcare Services

Motion by Raynes, seconded by Ehemann to set these four priority areas for our 2024 Region 15 grant award process. Motion carried. PowerUser Seibert will report this information before she leaves the room today to Anstine at the State Foundation, asking that it not only be posted to the Region 15 page on the State’s website, but also for them to update the Grant RFP with this information. Antram noted how the priorities for our region can change over time.

OneOhio Foundation Application Process Overview – Ehemann referred the group back to the second of two jpg images they had received by email last week. The State Foundation had clarified the following six steps in the application process:

1. Registration and Compliance – All entities must register in the grant portal before applying. In order to receive funding, an entity must pass a compliance check. Registration opened today – March 4, 2024 and closes on May 3, 2024.
2. Apply in the Grant Portal – Registered entities must apply through the OneOhio grant portal. Applications will be accepted beginning April 2, 2024 through May 3, 2024.
3. Region Review – The 19 regional grant review committees will receive, review and recommend funding for projects in their respective regions. The PowerUser will upload this information to the State Foundation.
4. State Expert Panel Review – The Expert Panel will ensure proposals align with evidence-based practice and are consistent with the Ohio Abatement Strategies. Ehemann reported that she and others on the State Foundation Board fought to have this step follow the Region Review as opposed to precede it.

5. Grant Committee Review – The OneOhio Grant Oversight Committee will review region recommendations and Expert Panel input before making a final recommendation to the State Foundation Board of Directors.
6. Final State Foundation Board Approval – The State Foundation Board of Directors must vote to affirm a grant award before funds may be disbursed.

Ehemann believes that we have the ability to have an application corrected at the regional/local level. She also asserted that the Expert Panel is for advice and counsel, not decisions. Aultman asked if the Region 15 Board members can have access to view the application as a PDF file without registering. Ehemann and Seibert will both ask the State Foundation for this information.

Next Meeting Date – After some discussion on next steps, and consultation with Sarah Anstine over the phone, the next meeting was set for Monday, June 3 at 10:00 am at this same location. Based on the State Foundation's close of the application portal on May 3, the expectation is that this Board can meet on that date, bring all the county composite scoring and ranking results together, further discuss, and make decisions on the projects we will ultimately ask the State Foundation to fund.

Adjournment – Chair Antram thanked everyone for participating today. *Motion by Ehemann to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Baker and carried.* The meeting adjourned at 11:59 am.

Minutes transcribed by Beth Seibert.