

Fairfield County ADAMH Board

Minutes of the February 22, 2005, Board meeting held at 6:30 p.m. at the Board office pursuant to notice mailed to all Board members.

Acting Chair Dr. Miller called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with a quorum being present.

ROLL CALL PRESENT

Dave Alexinas, Larry Miller, Ph.D., David Oehlers, Marian Reitano*, Carol Sullivan, Judy Thomas, Bill Weimer, Kevin West, Jerry Woodgeard.

ABSENT

Ed Banville, Ph.D., David Brookover, Becky Edwards, Sheila Heath, John Murphy, Hollie Saunders.

STAFF

Orman Hall, Don Mohler, Marcy Peebles-Fields, Nadine Carroll.

GUESTS

Tony Motta, Marc Grodner.

Acting Chair Dr. Miller asked if there were additions or corrections to the January minutes.

RESOLUTION NO. 2-22-05-1

Be it resolved upon motion by C. Sullivan and seconded by D. Alexinas that the January minutes be approved. Motion was unanimously approved.

Director Hall stated that there was not a quorum in Executive Committee.

Don presented the January financials. On the revenue summary page, the Board had a poor month for receipts. The Board received the 3rd quarter allocation from ODADAS and Medicaid FFP from both ODMH and ODADAS. On the expense summary page, the Board had the "usual" expenses. Because the county suspended writing checks for part of the month of December, January's expenditures were slightly larger than normal. With a beginning balance of \$884,191.01, receipts of \$221,624.34, expenditures of \$579,077.21 leaves an ending cash balance of \$526,738.14.

RESOLUTION NO. 2-22-05-2

Be it resolved upon motion by J. Woodgeard and seconded by C. Sullivan that the January financials be approved. Motion was unanimously approved.

*M. Reitano arrived 6:40 p.m.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Hall told board members that he reluctantly recommended withdrawing from the May ballot and preparing instead for a fall replacement campaign.

Director Hall also told Board members that he had received an email from Tony that New Horizons was closing admissions for people needing subsidized (sliding fee scale) services. Tony explained that a waiting list was started in September and from September through January they have had 53 people on the list. They closed admissions because they have a fixed number of slots for this service and it keeps getting used up by crisis clients. He added that this is the first time in 34 years that they have had to do this. He also stated that they have extensive waiting lists for other services including case management and psychiatric services. Director Hall noted that this is another example of our system being stretched to capacity.

Director Hall stated that when he thought we could pass the levy he wholeheartedly endorsed being on the ballot. He listed the reasons he thinks the levy should be postponed:

1. The safety levy's major defeat is indicative of a growing anti-tax sentiment.
2. There are 13 money issues on the May ballot
3. Went from 39% to 47% of voter support from 2002-2004
4. Replacement levies pass at about a 70% rate while only 5% of new levies pass.
5. Phone survey results

He proposed that in lieu of a spring campaign we initiate an active awareness campaign so people understand what we are asking for and the unmet need for treatment services that exists. A fundraising campaign also needs to be taking place at the same time so there are funds available to run a high profile fall campaign. J. Woodgeard pointed out that we need to be careful pulling out or the "naysayers" will say that we didn't need the money after all. Director Hall stated that we will need to prepare a carefully written press releases to let people know why we are pulling out. We also can't afford to run a campaign in May and then another one in November, it's too expensive. J. Thomas added that she thinks waiting until November is a good idea given the attitude toward government right now. M. Reitano stated that the survey was done too soon after the election and she is not in favor of a replacement issue. Also it is too early to start doing fundraising for a fall campaign. Director Hall explained how rollbacks work and why we are collecting a .75 mill levy at about .13 percent. J. Woodgeard said that we could lose support by not staying on the ballot because people are looking for something to support. Marcy stated that people participating in the phone survey were very hostile to the idea of new taxes. D. Alexinas wondered what the agencies think about this issue. Marc stated that he will support whatever the Board decides. He added that it is a burden on agencies when a levy campaign is on the ballot with the donations and the volunteer efforts. He said they don't disagree but that a levy can't be won in this county on only \$30,000. Full commitment is needed from staff and all board members and it does take time away from services.

Director Hall thanked M. Reitano for recruiting an all star team in Pickerington. He added that a full commitment is definitely needed from staff and board members to pass a levy.

B. Weimer talked about his son being exposed to two suicides in the Pickerington schools. He also noted that there are rumors about heroin being readily available at one of the Pickerington High Schools. This is too important for people not to realize the need. D. Oehlers suggested doing another school survey. Dr. Miller added that it would not be feasible to conduct a school survey prior to the fall election.

RESOLUTION NO. 2-22-05-3

Be it resolved upon motion by D. Oehlers and seconded by C. Sullivan that the Board withdraw from the May ballot and prepare for a replacement levy in November. Motion passed. 5 ayes, 3 nays.

Director Hall reported that the State Budget has been approved. There was a three-percent increase to both ODMH and ODADAS. It is not enough to protect our capacity but it help maintains what we have.

Marcy presented the 408 report. She stated that the trend continues and that we could end up using less than half of our bed days. We are still having trouble getting patients into TVPH. We have diverted some clients to the Athens hospital. TVBH is now JCHO accredited and they have to be very careful not to go over their census or they could be fined. However, they are legally required to be our safety net. Marcy added that we are working with our collaborative on this issue and have discussed Fairfield County using the Athens hospital and Licking/Knox could use Cambridge. This would work except that Athens is further away and it is harder to get people out of the hospital there. This could increase our bed day usage. The other issue is that would put us in a different hospital than our collaborative partners that are also part of the PPS group. This will continue to be an ongoing issue. K. West asked about the cost difference. Director Hall said that the cost is exactly the same as it is a statewide per diem but the danger is keeping patients in too long. D. Alexinas wondered what the per diem was. Don replied that it was \$352 per day (Ed. Actual per diem is \$446.00 per day). J. Thomas added that TVBH releases people who are still psychotic. J. Woodgeard asked if this was being documented. Marcy said it is documented when they say they are too full which has only been three times this year, they usually say that the people don't meet criteria, which precludes us from getting them in another state hospital.

Director Hall told the board that there are many other projects going on this spring including: agency contracts, ODMH and ODADAS community plans, Board training, working with the Recovery Center on a Drug Court grant and a grant for prevention services.

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION NO. 2-22-05-4

Be it resolved, upon motion by D. Alexinas and seconded by B. Weimer to adjourn the Board meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Board meeting adjourned @ 8:00 p.m.

Chair

Secretary