



Geauga County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board - March 24, 2022

Meeting: Special Meeting on Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 5 pm at the Board Administrative Offices located at 13244 Ravenna Road, Chardon, Ohio 44024. There had been an Emergency meeting scheduled for March 22, 2022 which was canceled.

The meeting notice originally stated a virtual option was available. This was later changed to in-person only for both board members and the public. **Reviewer's Comment: this Board voted during its March 16, 2022 meeting to allow virtual participation of board members as allowed by Ohio Law through June 30, 2022.**

Attendance: Present in person were Chair Jennifer Malainy, Vice Chair Steven Oluic, Treasurer Michael Petruziello, Secretary Alberta Chokshi and board members Ann Bagley, Walter 'Skip' Claypool, Marty Fay, Jimmy Lee Holden, Kathy Johnson, Linda Miller, Gregory J. O'Brien and Mary Ruth Shumway. Dr. Carolee Lesyk and Dr. Vanessa Jensen were absent.

Staff attended in-person and included CEO/Executive Director James Adams, Associate Director Amie Martin-d'Arienzo and Administrative Support Teresa Slater. There was a media representative from the Maple Leaf and about 20 others in the back two rows.

The meeting began at 5:05 pm. There was no agenda and no minutes were approved.

Virtual Meeting Option Rescinded - Mr. Claypool made a motion to re-introduce a prior resolution to eliminate Zoom meetings for all future meetings. It was noted that Ohio State representative Diane Grendell had written a note that confirmed Zoom meetings were permitted but not required. This motion passed with 2 individuals voting no.

Executive Session - At approximately 5:15pm there was a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of disciplining or dismissing a public employee. Motion passed with 3 dissenting votes. No staff were invited into the meeting and there was no mention of an attorney participating.

- Board instructed members of the public to exit the building, as it was stated that due to the sensitive nature of the discussion, they didn't want anyone to hear the deliberations.
- Board indicated they would inform the public when the Board re-convened.

Staff and the 20 or so in attendance went into the administrative offices. This observer exited the building. At approximately 7:15 pm individuals came outside to the parking lot and stated that the Board was out. Upon re-entering the building, noted visibly upset staff and others congregated in the lobby area. They indicated:

- The Board had adjourned without calling the public back.
- No action was taken.

Reviewer's Note: Notably, there was no way to confirm whether the Board complied with the Open Meeting Act by re-entering regular meeting session before adjourning.

At that point this observer left the building, although there were still many members of the public there and most or all of the board members were still in the meeting room.

Next full Board meeting will be April 20, 2022 at 6 pm at the Administrative Offices.

Additional Information available here: <https://www.geauga.org/about-us/>

Minutes available here: <https://www.geauga.org/board-minutes/>

Observer: Gail Roussey

Reviewer: Shelly Lewis

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