

August 24, 2021

The Board of Commissioners of Lorain County, Ohio met this day in a special meeting, in the J. Grant Keys Administration Building, 226 Middle Avenue, Elyria, Ohio, at 9:30 a.m. with the following members present: Commissioner Michelle Hung, President, Commissioner David J. Moore, Vice-President and Commissioner Matt Lundy, Member and Secretary Sue Tipple, Clerk Theresa L. Upton on vacation

JOURNAL ENTRY

Commissioners said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Lundy gave an inspirational word

Secretary Tipple called roll; Commissioner Hung, Commissioner Moore & Commissioner Lundy – All Present

The following business was transacted

PRESENTATIONS:

A

9:33 a.m. Crisis Stabilization Center - Michael Doud, Executive Director MHARS Board, Don Schiffbauer, CEO Nord Center, Dan Haight, CEO LCADA Way and Dan Urbin, Chair of the MHARS Board

Michael Doud said Good Morning and Thank You for the opportunity to update the County Commissioners on the Crisis Project. Back in May of this year, the Board of Directors of the MHARS Board passed a resolution to put up to \$4,000,000.00 for the construction of the Crisis Center Project. In addition, nearly \$5,000,000.00 over the next several fiscal years to provide funding for the services provided on site that's not reimbursed by Medicaid. The project is identified to be about \$9,000,000.00 in total development costs and estimated to take approximately 16 to 18 months for construction. There are conversations with the Nord Center to look at a parcel of land under a long term lease agreement with the Nord Center that would house the project. They do have an architect involved to provide them with renderings. There is a lot of attention on this project in Lorain County. In large part because of all the great work that has been done here in the community with its identification as a stepping up community and the willingness to work with the State of Mental Health and Addiction Services around infra-structure changes for the crisis system in this community. Recently, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services awarded the Nord Center and the Board of Implementation a grant to launch a Crisis Response team for children and adolescents in the in the community. That speaks to the ability of this community to work together to bring about change. Now, we have the Crisis Center Project for the adult population and the goal behind this is "No Wrong Door". The ability of first responders particularly the Law Enforcement community to be able to use this center as opposed to individuals who are non-violent offenders experiencing mental illness or addiction to be diverted from booking and incarceration that would bypass the need for those additional high cost services in the county jail. Individuals would access treatment that would be paid in part by Medicaid and also supported by the MHARS Board for those services not reimbursed by Medicaid and to cover services for those who are under insured in this community.

Mr. Doud has spoken with Justice Evelyn Stratton a couple of weeks ago about this project and she's excited and onboard. She is the project director for Stepping Up. They anticipate having many conversations with her group due to a review of what's happening in Lorain County.

He said Ohio Department of Mental Addiction Services (OHMAS) is willing to contribute \$750,000.00 to the construction of the facility. In addition to that, the Nord Center and the Board were successful in approaching OHMAS for crisis funding to enhance services currently in the community. We have (Nord Center and LCADA) that have implemented Phase 1 of this incentive of this funding. It has been up and running well for over 6 months and are looking forward to some data. We are ready to move forward.

There are some recommendations, we would like to have conversations with the county around the ownership of the project to discuss location, then bring the architects on board to move this project forward. We plan to have an update with the executive committee and the MHARS Board before the end of the month. Not seeking approval, but rather just information sharing, then provide that information to the county commissioners so we can get this project launched. The goal is to have the shovel in the ground by the end of the year.

Don Schiffbauer said Thank You and Good Morning. To say that he is excited doesn't do this project justice. While being the CEO of the Nord Center he is really part of a multi-disciplinary team that has been working on this project for a number of years. Law Enforcement, hospitals, all have been led by the MHARS Board and to get to this point is very exciting for the community and the agency's that have been meeting for this. He wants to talk a little bit about what Mr. Doud was talking about in Phase 1. He knows that the crisis care continuum or the Crisis Project is a big lift and just doesn't appear out of thin air. So as a result of some abdicating for funding from the state. The LCADA WAY, MHARS Board and the Nord Center worked to Implement Phase 1, as Mr. Doud spoke about, it went live October 23, 2020 and we petitioned OHMAS for a waiver to be able to provide Behavioral Health (BH) and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) in the same setting. You would think that these two diseases would be cared for with the same resources, but historically they've been treated separate. The fact of the matter is that 80% of people with behavioral health problems or substance use disorder are a co-occurred diagnosis of the other. We've seen with our physical medicine colleagues is that you start to care for both diseases with the same resources. You get better outcomes. You get better clinical quality measures for your clients or patients and there are some economies in scales in efficiencies with regards to operations. We are happy to report that the MHARS Board, LCADA WAY and the Nord Center, as a result of this collaboration, in the 1st quarter saw a 34% increase to services, that further expanded to 25% increase within the 1st quarter of this calendar year. We will be providing an update over this previous quarter. Let's talk about the services that will be provided in this Crisis Receiving Center. We are going to talk specifically to what could be called Emergency Room Behavioral Health Substance Abuse Disorder. Right now, clients go to one of two places, jail or the emergency room. As a former ER Administrator, he can tell you that there is a lot of good work that gets done in our local Emergency Departments. They do the best they can to help serve the Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse crises that come in. The reality is that the clients that are coming in taking these services are in need of medication stabilization, quick counseling, then appropriate assessments and triage to get the right level of care and that's what you will get out of the Crisis Receiving Center because in addition to a nurse practitioner, physician assistant and nurses, you will have social workers, case managers, but more importantly you will have peer support specialists. People with lived experience regarding SUD (Substance Use Disorder), BH (Behavior Health) that can establish a creditable relationship with those coming thru the door in crisis and help build that relationship to support a successful outcome for them. Part of our charge is to provide a length of stay that is at or less than 23 hours, then to get them linked up with the services that are already existing in our county for out patient follow up. To sum it up, – this 1st floor that Mr. Doud talked about is a "No Wrong Door" approach. It is an easy, quick warm hand off between our Law Enforcement and EMS personnel. It provides a level of care that the client or patient population is in need of. We will work in concert with our local hospital, our local law enforcement, EMS and other agencies and appropriately hand them off, once we have been able to stabilize their crisis.

Dan Haight said Good Morning and Thank You for having us today. He does highly appreciate the opportunity and echoes Don's and Michael's comments exactly. There is a need for this in our community as seen by 138 overdoses in 2020 and a rapidly growing overdose death rate in 2021 starting, as well. Currently, one of the reasons there is a need is that we send over 700 plus people out of our county every year to get crisis help and/or detox. The detox services are in Cleveland and Erie County and we need to treat our people here at home. What happens a lot is, when they get to Cleveland and get to detox there, they don't have the services or that hand holding to get to the right services they need in our own community. They happen to come back here and become homeless or half don't get the services linked up correctly. The approach for

our model is really going to have a lot of collaboration available to take the hand holding and get them to that place they need to go, to sober living, to residential areas, to whatever they need so this is a huge aspect to this continuum of care we talked about for a couple of years now.

The second floor as Don has said, if going to be the Detox Unit with a 16-bed facility. We plan on again being able to have people have a length of stay of around 5 days and will be able to handle up to 16 people at the same time. One last thing and without going into the medical terminology of what we are going to handle there but it will pretty much be a "No Wrong Door" approach to detox as well. The biggest piece to this is again on the collaboration you have. You have the two largest health centers coming together to understand that we can't work in separate "silo's" anymore. We need to work together to do this project. He is very appreciative of Don's work and the previous people again, Tom his predecessor was on this project about four years prior to himself taking it over. He appreciates this finally getting to a point to break ground and move forward with it. Thank you very much.

Dan Urbin said Good Morning. Thirty-nine years ago, next month his older deceased brother took him to Fairview, PA for his addiction of alcohol and drugs. His part-time passion for his past years has been helping others looking for life with recovery for their disease. Living the life of sobriety, one of the definitions of sobriety is to be considerate and understanding. He has worked with the Common Pleas Drug Court serving on numerous boards like CBCF, MHARS and others, doing prison ministry. Being a peer supporter, receiving phone calls at 2:00 am because someone has been taken to the hospital for overdosing. He attended the United to Face Addiction rally with tens of thousands of people in our capital and the list goes on. He doesn't mention this to be boastful, after all, there is 2.4 million Americans sitting in long term recovery like he did. To be able to take those in need to our Crisis Center here in Lorain County is long overdue. To have a Crisis Center here in Lorain County would be very considerate and without a doubt very understanding. Thank You.

Commissioner Lundy told Dan "Thank you for your story. He knows that you are one of this board's appointments to the MHARS Board and certainly through your life journey, know very well the struggle of addiction and he thinks you opened your comments today by talking about 39 years ago you were taken to a place to begin your path of recovery. Sadly, all this we still don't have that one stop Crisis Stabilization Center that we badly needed for a long time in this county. He just wanted to thank the MHARS Board for stepping up and making the investment that your making and for those of you, again here today Don Schiffbauer, Tom Stueber, who wasn't able to be here today, Dan Haight, Elaine Georges, Dan and Don Sheldon. All of you have been deeply committed to this effort and put a lot of time trying to figure how best to make it work. He wants to Thank You for that. He knows that his colleague, Commissioner David Moore spent a lot of time in the community reaching out to individuals and seeing if they would be willing to invest in this. He wants to thank him for all of his efforts in that and he knows that the board has a decision to make today on this initiative and he'll talk more about it later at that time. Thank You"

Commissioner Moore had nothing to say.

Commissioner Hung would like to thank everyone for coming out today and for the informative presentation for the public. This is a very important and special day for the county and she just wants to thank all of you, who were involved who made this happen and we believe this will touch the lives of who needs the help most while easing the burden on Law Enforcement and the Criminal Justice System. So again, Thank You guys for coming out this morning. _____ (Discussion was held on above)

JOURNAL ENTRY

b.1

In the matter of committing to issue match funds)	
for the purpose of constructing a Lorain)	August 24, 2021
County Crisis Stabilization Center)	

Motion by Hung, Seconded by Lundy. Hung called for discussion.

Commissioner Lundy would like to say that this pandemic has added fuel to the fire of the epidemic our country faces. In 2020, as many of our residents wake up each day in fear of getting or dying from a deadly virus. Many in this county wake up to the urge of getting their next fix because of addiction. When it comes to 138 individuals, it wasn't COVID that killed them, it was an overdose. For others, and for too many in our county here battle with mental illness coupled with the stress and the anxiety brought on by this pandemic has caused their minds to go to a very dark place. A dark place of depression, despair and even suicide. Many believe individuals simply flip a switch or stop partying with friends and addiction just goes away. Well please understand that addiction is a disease. The brain of those addicted lights up when exposed to medications, alcohol or drugs. It simply craves more. Addiction has no one face. Even grandparents have overdosed and died in this county. Those who battle with addiction and mental health issues are our loved ones, their our neighbors, our work colleagues and our fellow church members. We can't just simply wish them well or only pray for them. We need to take action. A commitment by this board today is needed to launch a Crisis Stabilization Center. A Crisis Center will provide them the most immediate way to de-escalate and treat those who have reached a critical juncture between death or a path back to recovery and life with their families. A Crisis Stabilization Center is just not a game changer, it's a life saver and it's critical to our local economy. Instead of flooding our courts and jails, we can dedicate ourselves to putting people back to work and more importantly back with their families. This is one of the most important decisions and most important investment this board will ever make to change lives in our county. He urges his fellow colleagues to support a \$4,000,000.00 matching commitment so that this community can get shovels in the ground to launch a Crisis Stabilization Center for Lorain County.

Commissioner Hung stated she can say that since the beginning of the year, the gentlemen here today have come and spoken to us individually and shared their vision with us and all three commissioners have been working individually on discussions for the project. As she mentioned in her remarks over the last few weeks, this has been a priority for herself and she appreciates the gentlemen here today who took the time to talk to us individually and shared their ideas for this project. The \$4,000,000.00 in funding from Lorain County matches the \$4,000,000.00 previously allocated by your board, the MHARS Board (Mental Health Addiction Recovery Services) of Lorain County for a Crisis Stabilization Center. The Stabilization Center will provide the opportunity to ease the burden on Law Enforcement dealing with medical issues that they face during their day-to-day work ensuring public safety. This state of art facility will help divert those struggling with addiction and mental health issues from the Criminal Justice system. The OPIOID settlement dollars that we talked about a week or two ago and the American Rescue Plan Relief dollars are providing the mechanism to the Commissioners to partner in the funding of the Crisis Stabilization Center. It's an exciting time as Mr. Doud mentioned. Next up would be the ground-breaking ceremony and onto construction in the next year that you mentioned about 16 months for the project. Thank You for your presentation today. We really appreciate it.

Commissioner Moore said he has been working within the business community, hospitals and foundations. It looked like we were going to get this funding without using taxpayer dollars. We were having a special meeting today to discuss healthcare. He finds out, and he needs to apologize to you gentlemen, that this is Politics 101. When there is a scandal it's time to change the narrative, so he apologized. You are being used as pawns because all three of us support you. He stated in May that shovels would be in the ground next spring. But today, he will tell you right now, that he doubts any businesses are going to throw money when they see what's going on today."

"The MHARS Board has \$16,000,000.00 and after he made that statement comes out and says "Yeah, we'll throw in \$4,000,000.00 "Great! \$5,000,000.00 for operations "Great!" That's the first step which I've heard for years that every organization out there, for someone to take that first step. I've heard it from you guys. Finally, someone took that first step. So, the MHARS Board did take that first step, which is great. Now where we should step up as a county, as a county government is if you start with the community, the business community, the foundation, the people. This was a project that would have brought the county together, then let's just say hypothetically you are short one or two million dollars because we got 1.8 million coming. Okay! Yeah, then he would sit there and say look it-you guys are short. Everybody in this community is supporting this project, what a great feeling, its just a great project. And that's where we were heading-until this scandal broke out the narrative needed to be changed and that is what this is today. Today's meeting, you guys, he doesn't know who reached out to you, because

today's meeting was supposed to be a special meeting to go over, just healthcare. So, he apologized. All three of us support you but he thinks that's what today is. So, he will not be supporting this, but he will not, not be supporting this. He will be voting present. Thank You "

RESOLUTION NO. 21-529

In the matter of committing to issue match funds)
for the purpose of constructing a Lorain) August 24, 2021
County Crisis Stabilization Center)

WHEREAS, mental health and recovery services are crucial to the well-being of the residents of Lorain County; and

WHEREAS, there is an ongoing opioid epidemic affecting the nation at large and Lorain County specifically, creating significant increases in both addiction and poor mental health outcomes; and ongoing struggles with addiction and mental health distress have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Lorain County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board has pledged to contribute \$4,000,000 towards the construction of a Crisis Stability Center to help the County better address these matters; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that it is in the best interests of the residents of Lorain County to authorize a commitment of matching funds in an amount up to \$4,000,000 toward the construction of a Lorain County Crisis Stability Center, such matching to be done on a dollar for dollar basis with the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board. The Board intends to use funds made available through the American Rescue Plan and funds that will be made available as a result of the recently executed Opioid Settlement Agreement to satisfy its pledge to match funds.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lorain County Board of Commissioners hereby commits to match funds on a dollar for dollar basis up to a total amount of \$4,000,000 with the Lorain County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, such funds to be used for the construction of a Crisis Stabilization Center.

Motion by Hung, seconded by Lundy to adopt the Resolution. Upon roll call the vote taken thereon, resulted as: Ayes: Hung & Lundy / Present: Moore/ Nays: None
Motion Carried _____ (Discussion was held on above)

b. 2

JOURNAL ENTRY

Commissioner Hung moved, seconded by Lundy to recess into an executive session at 9:59 am to discuss personnel issues, healthcare and 911 labor issues. Hung asked the Clerk to call roll. Commissioner Moore said there is a discussion period at this point.

Commissioner Moore said, we do not need to go into executive session to discuss healthcare. He is telling you that right now. We got all this information on August 13th, 5 days before last week, okay we went into executive session. We've had one hour in the last 5 weeks, one hour of public meetings, but 13 ½ hours of executive session. He is sick of these private meetings. He has participated in it, but no more. Healthcare? What's the issue? You had the information 5 days before last week. You met privately. The gentlemen is in the back row over there trying not to look at him, he's here. If you want to hear him talk, we can talk about it. It affects not only, it affects twenty-two hundred people, other municipalities, and we are having these meetings about healthcare in the executive session? No, we don't need to do that, he is telling you right now. Labor issues – there's no labor issues. What is it? 911 negotiations? You can talk to use individually. Rob Weber has been involved with Tom Williams in those meetings since then. He saw no personnel summary sheet – there is no personnel issues that he is aware of. He asked about it today, where is the Personnel Summary Sheet and was told that we are to discuss those on Sept 1 and Sept 13. So, he feels like they are making up a reason to block the public from what's really going on, because he wishes these 13 ½ hours were in public, he really does people. Because 1 hour of public meetings in the last 5 weeks versus 13 ½ hours of executive session. People all over the state are looking at us and he is sick and tired of being the joke. We are a dysfunctional board and he refuses and he would love to talk right now – have the healthcare discussion right now. You fired the guy that wanted to audit all the healthcare stuff last week, who started to expose something very simple, prove that you are allowed to be on our healthcare. Is you kid 30 years old? We don't know. All we're asking is for a simple audit. That's all. That's all we're asking for. Oh, we better fire them. We don't need to go into executive session for healthcare. We don't need to go into executive session for labor and as far as he knows there is no personnel issues. And the only other issue he can think of is could be a contract issue from last week. And he noticed that Dan Petticord did not say there was any litigation. So, there is no reason to go into executive session.

Commissioner Hung: "With all due respect Commissioner Moore, it was in your email."

Commissioner Moore: "What email was that? I'll look at it right now."

Commissioner Lundy: "These issues are eligible for executive session, correct Mr. Petticord?"

Commissioner Moore: "What issues?"

Mr. Petticord said it is his opinion, he is sorry, he is going to try and talk a little bit clearer in the microphone because he is getting complaints again. It's his opinion that the topic of potential changes to the employee benefits plan qualifies as personnel issues which are subject to being discussed in executive session. If they're not, we have discussed before in different context. There is good law to the effect that meeting with council for the purpose of obtaining legal advice is not technically a meeting. So, he thinks that we are fine to discuss healthcare plan proposed changes in executive session today."

Commissioner Lundy: "Thank You"

Commissioner Moore: "So, they're going to listen to you today but they haven't listened to you in the last weeks. Okay, just want to make sure that is publicly stated."

Commissioner Hung to go into executive session @ 9:59 am. Upon roll call the vote taken thereon, resulted as: Ayes: Hung & Lundy/Nays: Moore
Motion carried. _____ (discussion was held on the above)

JOURNAL ENTRY

Commissioners reconvened from executive session no action will be taken this day.

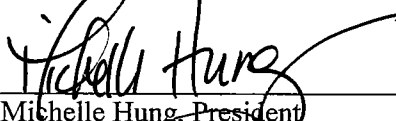
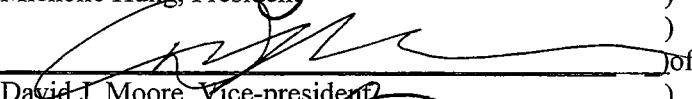
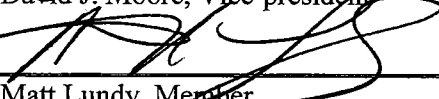
CLERK'S REPORT

- #1. Wednesday, August 25, 2021 – Commissioners will not meet
#2. Tuesday, August 31 at 9:30 a.m. – Stormwater Management District meeting
#3. Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. – Commissioners meeting

JOURNAL ENTRY

Commissioner Hung asked if there was any further business from any member of this board.

Since there is no further business, this meeting is adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

)	Commissioners
Michelle Hung, President)	
)	of
David J. Moore, Vice-president)	
)	Lorain County
Matt Lundy, Member)	Ohio

Attest: Sue Tipple, Secretary
Sue Tipple