

Guardianship Service Board
Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2024 - 2:00 pm
Approved: May 16, 2024

Attendance

- Board Members: Jane Higgins Marx, Chair and Robert Ryan, Vice Chair
- Guardianship Service Board: Melissa Messina, Deena Richard-Tippie, Karen Waldrop, Aimee Somerville, Brittany Walugembe, Ashley Hall and Jasmine Reiter
- Probate Court: Judge Mackey, Chief Magistrate Kelly Green and Brent Chapa
- Angie Franke (FCBDD); Karly Tenant (ADAMH) Wendy Hux (VGP/COAAA); Jane Moog (VGP/COAAA); and Caroline Rankin (OOA/APS)
- Brian Michael and Geralyn Stancin, Guests

Jane Marx called the meeting to order at 2:05.

Approval of Minutes

There were no comments on the minutes from the November 16, 2023 meeting. Bob moved to approve and Jane seconded. The minutes were approved.

Financial Report

Court Financial Report - Brent Chapa provided a written Financial Report, which was distributed in the meeting. The balance of the Mental Health Fund is \$1,844,801.69. GSB has been paid 1st Quarter invoices of ADAMH, OSU and 2024 payment from the Board of Commissioners. Invoices sent and due are APS/JFS for October – December, 2023 and January – March, 2024. Board of DD contract is awaiting approval with a new Superintendent Dot Yeager taking the new role since Jed Morrison's retirement. Hospital monthly invoices still come in regularly.

GSB Financial Report - Melissa Messina stated the GSB will provide a quarterly report at each Board meeting moving forward showing the reconciling of the books. There was a difference in the GSB projected balance year end 2023 and the actual Mental Health Fund balance at the beginning of 2024. With Brent's assistance, we were able to identify some ins and outs of the Probate Court Mental Health Fund that we had not realized, i.e., COTA contributions for employees, refund of employee healthcare contributions and Workers' Compensation benefits being charged back to the GSB. There was also a 2024 report showing this year end wrap up with each quarter laid out for future reporting.

- APS/JFS contract is still in the works. The GSB is still owed money from October, November and December of 2023. GSB is working towards annualizing this contract so we will have a 15-month contract moving forward.
- Board of DD contract is being finalized. With the new Superintendent on board, Melissa and new Superintendent Dot Yeager have had discussions about potentially more money in the future.

- ADAMH levy mid-term review is coming up. This is a 5-year levy. The GSB narrative has changed a little with different terminology explaining our clients' diagnoses to be more specific with their needs.

Director's Report

Melissa Messina presented the Director's Report.

Professional Engagement:

Melissa reported the following:

- Staff is attending the OGA meetings regularly to discuss shared experiences
- North Community hosted the GSB for a discussion about the Board's process and case management
- Tri-County Estate Planning Council was attended by Melissa and she presented information on the GSB and the global picture of operations to help educate
- OSU discussed with GSB how to better educate family to become guardians for loved ones
- Met with ADAMH for the quarterly meeting
- Board of DD's new superintendent and Melissa spoke about upcoming contract and into the future
- Monthly Workgroup Collaboration that Office on Aging is hosting to discuss options and resources for older adults and hospitals' needs
- GSBs across the state meet monthly to discuss issues and get ideas

Probate Court: GSB continues to work with the Probate Court on resignation and successor cases. Working on successor cases where attorneys are retiring. GSB has found other suitable guardians with VGP and APSI to assure the workload is spread out.

Intake: Netted a 25-case increase in 2023. Smallest growth during GSB's existence. GSB is being more intentional about referrals and finding other suitable guardians. If there is money on the case, a private attorney is best suited to handle the GOE.

Staffing: GSB is at 34 full time employees with a budget by year end of 38 employees. There are two SW positions open and a Social Services Assistant and Hospital Caseworker position needing filled. Clinical Supervisor Teams have been reorganized and added a Team Lead for each team. Working of the hospital cases has seen a change instead of building the Hospital team.

Outreach: GSB team members attended the OSU Social Work Job Fair this past Tuesday.

Probate Court Report

Judge Mackey stated the GSB is doing a great job. The Judge attended a meeting with the GSB earlier in the month to get a better financial overview. He will try to assist moving the GSB out of county cases to the residents' county. Melissa mentioned we are stuck because of the lack of facilities in Franklin County for clients with behaviors. Accelerated docket still moving along to help hospital cases. Successor cases

are moving along as well with GSB looking them over for appointments. GSBs are growing in the state and continuously seek advice from our GSB. Excited about 2024 with the Court and GSB on the same track and with GSB filling a great need.

Clinical Report

Deena Richard-Tippie delivered the clinical report.

Deena introduced our new social workers, Brittany Walugembe and Ashley Hall. Karen introduced our new Administrative Specialist, Jasmine Reiter.

Deena reported that GSB has four hundred seventy (470) open cases as of year-end 2023. We onboarded a total of 104 new appointments and there are currently thirteen (13) pending cases. Nineteen (19) guardianships were terminated; twelve (12) clients were appointed to successors and three (3) of those went to the Volunteer Guardianship Program (VGP).

Out of county cases are up to fifty-nine (59). Only one or two of the counties where our out-of-county cases are placed have a GSB. Due to behaviors, it's hard to have other counties take the guardianship. Two current positions open, two for Social Worker positions and one each, Social Services Assistant and Hospital Case Worker position.

Old Business

Holiday Wish List – Aimee Somerville presented that all 475 clients received a gift. Staff assisted by baking cookies for clients this year. Wrapping drive for gift bags, bows and paper was a huge success.

New Business

Meeting requirements for each quarterly Board meeting was passed out to show the members what will be presented at each meeting. Melissa indicated this is intended to keep us all on track.

Also, there was a guest who handed out a previous Columbus Dispatch article entitled “Trapped in the System” dated from May, 2014. The article speaks about Geralyn Stancin and that she lost her home because of neglect by a previous guardian. Jane mentioned that we do not have an open forum but that she would let Geralyn’s friend speak on her behalf. She also thanked her for her personal story.

Adjournment

Jane moved to adjourn at 2:45. The meeting was adjourned.