

**Commissioners' Journal**  
**December 13, 2022**

*The Geauga County Board of Commissioners met in session on December 13, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Offices located at 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Room B303 in Chardon, Ohio.*

*It is declared and determined that all formal actions of the Board of County Commissioners concerning and relating to the adoption of all resolutions that were adopted in this meeting, and that all deliberations of the Board of County Commissioners that resulted in such formal action were open to the public and were in compliance with all legal requirements, including section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.*

*The President of the Board, James W. Dvorak opened the meeting at 9:37 a.m. by leading the Board and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.*

*Commissioner Dvorak read the following prayer:*

*Heavenly Father*

*“(A)s we celebrate the birth of Christ in our homes*

*And churches, among family and friends, and*

*By our many different traditions, let us accept and share the generous gifts of joy, peace, and love given on that first Christmas. May we honor them in our hearts and keep them through the year.”*

*Amen*

*-President Ronald Reagan*

*December 18, 1985, Message on the Observance of Christmas*

**MEETING MINUTES**

*Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute the minutes for the meeting of November 8, 2022.*

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>

**COMMISSIONERS OFFICE - COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

*County Administrator Gerard Morgan reported on the items approved by the County Administrator on December 5, 2022 that included a Liquor License and concurred with the Newbury Township Trustees in not requesting a hearing on the Liquor License being requested by Hanini Express Newbury LLC located at 12418 Kinsman Road, Newbury, Ohio (C TREX 3864837) and for the Department of Water Resources approved hiring Dylan Susman to the position of Intern (#2398) at the rate of \$15.50 per hour to be effective December 21, 2022 for a maximum of 480 hours per semester/term. This offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of the required pre-employment conditions and December 12, 2022 included Liquor Licenses and concurred with the Bainbridge Township Trustees in not requesting a hearing on the Liquor License being requested by Spice King d.b.a. Paradise Indian Cuisine located at 18815 N. Market Place Drive, Aurora, Ohio (C NEW 8828815) and concurred with the Bainbridge Township Trustees in not requesting a hearing on the Liquor License being requested by Lighthouse Management, Incorporated d.b.a Cucina Rustica located at 8575 E. Washington Street, Bainbridge, Ohio (C STCK 51999908); as authorized by Resolution #22-032 under the direction and supervision of the County Commissioners that was approved March 15, 2022 pursuant to O.R.C. 305.30.*

**APPROVE FINANCIALS**

*Budget and Finance Manager Adrian Gorton explained the financials for today as including various appropriations transfers and supplemental de-appropriations to true up funds and accounts for year end, Cash transfers from the General Fund to Airport Construction for the remodeling of the medical helicopter hangar, to the Commissioners Capital Reserve Phase 2 fund for part of the County's share of work to be completed on the Square in Chardon, to 9-1-1 for a Vesta Equipment Refresh, to 800 Communication's Fund for their second half 2022 operational transfer and to provide the money for the Sheriff to purchase new radios, a Then and Now for the Municipal Court to Hinton Law Incorporated and Ibold and Obrien for the payment of appointed counsel fees that were not previously encumbered, a payment for the Auditor's Office to various contractors out of the American Rescue Plan Fund for Berkshire Heights connection contracts in the amount of \$20,250.00, a payment for the Engineer's Office to Eclipse Company, LLC for the Farmington Road Bridge Replacement Project in the amount of*

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*\$220,966.69, a payment for the Engineer's Office to Ronyak Paving to pay for the asphalt and concrete paving of their north yard in the amount of \$496,386.50, a payment for the Engineer's Office to Grade Line, Incorporated for the drainage improvements to Washington Street project in the amount of \$187,339.00, and a Revenue De-Certification from Community Development in the operating and block grant funds and from the Commissioners in the Airport Construction fund for revenue that was not received in 2022.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute Resolution #22-195 itemizing the financials for the meeting of December 13, 2022.*

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>

**COMMISSIONERS OFFICE – ADDENDUM TO PAYMENT PROCESSING AGREEMENT – GILA LLC D.B.A. MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUREAU (MSB) – CREDIT CARD PROCESSING**

*Mr. Gorton asked the Board to approve an addendum to the Gila LLC d.b.a. Municipal Services Bureau (MSB) for credit card processing which extends the current contract for three months while we navigate the process for new proposals.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and authorize the President of the Board to execute the Addendum to Payment Processing Agreement with Gila LLC d.b.a. Municipal Services Bureau (MSB) to provide credit card payment processing for expenses owed and donations made to Departments under the Commissioners Hiring Authority by extending the contract an additional three months up to and including March 14, 2023, with all terms and provisions of the Agreement remain in full force and effect, except as specifically modified herein.*

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>

**COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – ADVERTISE GIVING NOTICE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF PAYMENTS BY FINANCIAL TRANSACTION DEVICES**

*Mr. Gorton asked the Board to grant permission to advertise to give notice of a request for proposals for the acceptance of credit cards by financial transaction device.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to grant permission to advertise giving notice of a Request for Proposal for the Acceptance of Payments by Financial Transaction Devices. Notice of this request will be advertised on December 22, 2022 and December 29, 2022 and on the County website.*

<i>Roll Call Vote:</i>	<i>Commissioner Spidalieri</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Lennon</i>	<i>Aye</i>
	<i>Commissioner Dvorak</i>	<i>Aye</i>

**COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE – APPROVE ADDITIONAL ELECTED OFFICIALS TO THE COUNTY'S DISHONESTY AND FAITHFUL PERFORMANCE POLICY**

*Mr. Morgan explained that this action will allow the additional elected officials to be included in the dishonesty and faithful performance policy that allows Mr. Dvorak, Mr. Walder and Ms. Paschke to be included in the policy.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon, to approve additional Elected Officials to the County's Dishonesty and Faithful Performance Policy in accordance with Resolution #20-091, passed by the Board of County Commissioners August 11, 2020 for newly elected / re-elected terms, including Auditor Charles Walder, Commissioner James W. Dvorak and Judge Carolyn Paschke.*

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Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
	Commissioner Lennon	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

**COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE – CHANGE ORDER #4 – DECREASE CONTRACT –  
MARUCCI AND GAFFNEY EXCAVATING – BUNDYSBURG ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT**

*Deputy Engineer Shane Hajjar asked the Board to execute Change Order #4 decreasing the contract with Marucci and Gaffney for the replacement of the Bundysburg Road Bridge, but 99% of the project is complete but are waiting until spring to finalize. This project was a great project and allowed for a lot of safety improvements.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute Change Order #4, decreasing the Contract with Marucci and Gaffney Excavating for the Bundyburg Road Bridge Replacement in the amount of \$9,825.42.*

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
	Commissioner Lennon	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – CHANGE ORDER #1 FINAL – DECREASE THE  
CONTRACT – WOODFORD EXCAVATING, LLC – BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP WATERLINE  
LOOP CLOSURE PROJECT**

*Director Steven Oluic asked the Board to execute the Change Order and final for Woodford Excavating decreasing the contract on the Bainbridge Township Waterline Loop Closure project.*

*Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve and execute Change Order #1 and Final, decreasing the Contract with Woodford Excavating, LLC for the Bainbridge Township Waterline Loop Closure Project in the amount of \$49,933.25.*

Roll Call Vote:	Commissioner Spidalieri	Aye
	Commissioner Lennon	Aye
	Commissioner Dvorak	Aye

**RAVENWOOD HEALTH**

*President and CEO of Ravenwood Health, Vicki Clark presented the following information to the Board about Ravenwood and the Geauga Youth Center.*



*Ms. Clark introduced Natalie Smith, who is their Director of Job and Family Services and Ian DeWalt, Coordinator at the Group Home.*

Mission Statement:

► “We build hope, empower individuals and families, and strengthen our neighborhoods through mental health and addiction services.”

Ravenwood  
Health

Established in 1966, 56 years of behavioral health services to the Geauga Community

195 staff members

Not for Profit, 401c3 Charitable Organization

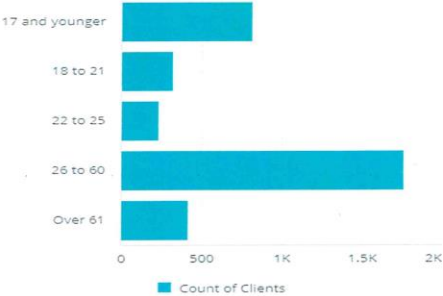
5 counseling and program sites throughout the county

3 recovery houses, 4 mental health houses, and 2 residential facilities

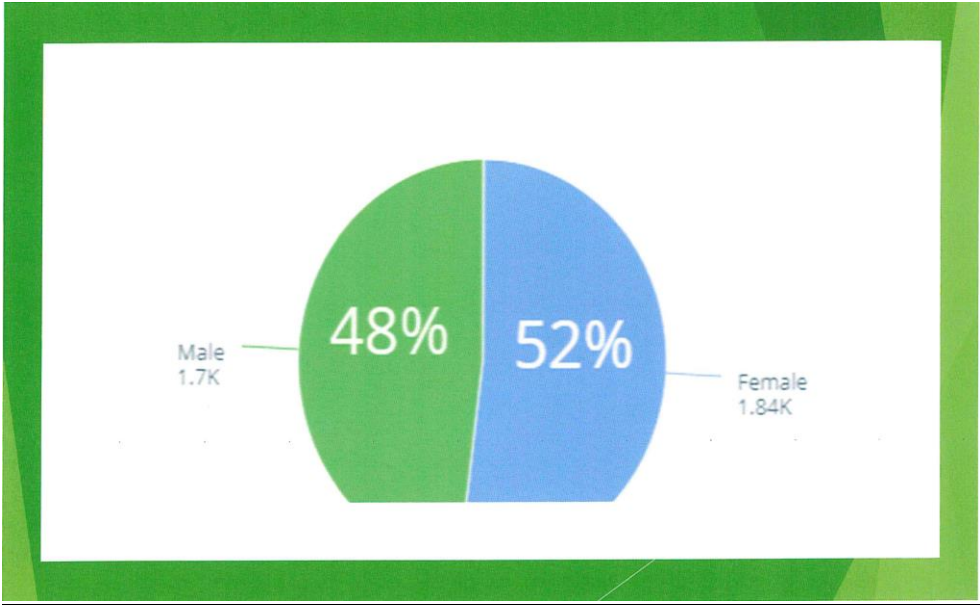
Ms. Clark noted that the counseling sites in the County are located in Chesterland, Middlefield, their main site location and two others in Chardon.

Who we serve

3,544 unique clients in FY 2022



Ms. Clark noted that they served over 3,500 people last year and you can see that the two largest groups are the 26 to 60 and 17 and younger.



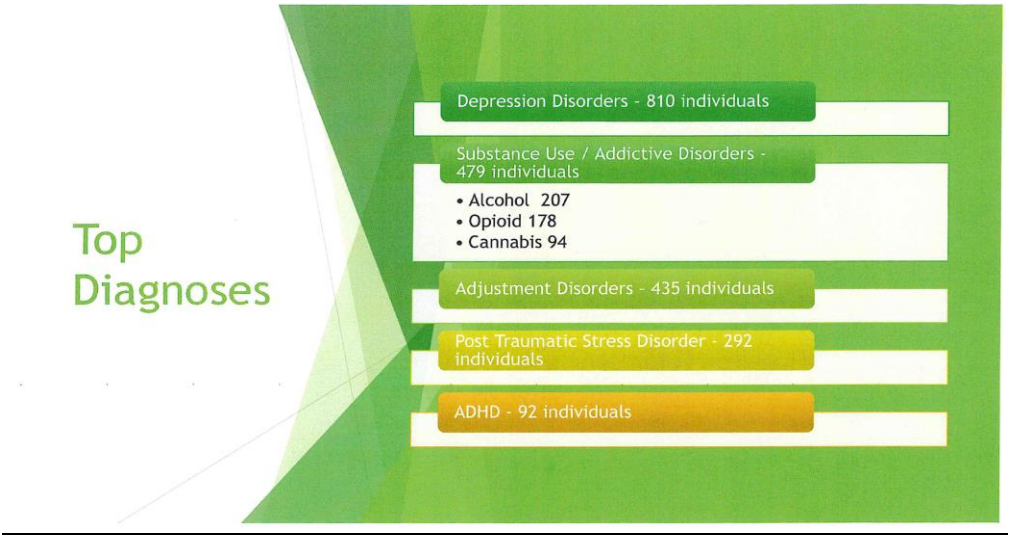
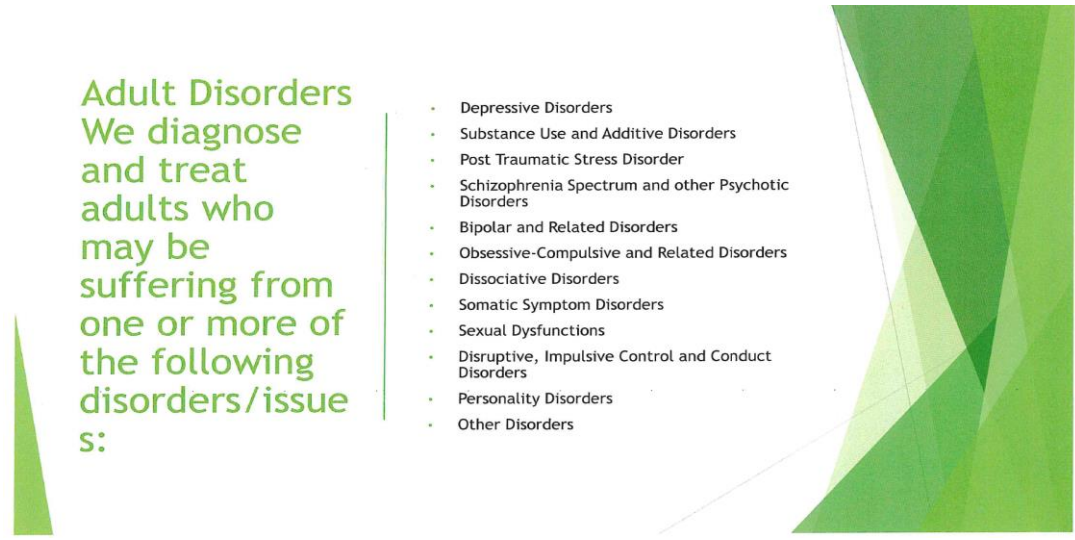
Ms. Clark added that this slide just shows how evenly split the services are being provided between male and female clients.



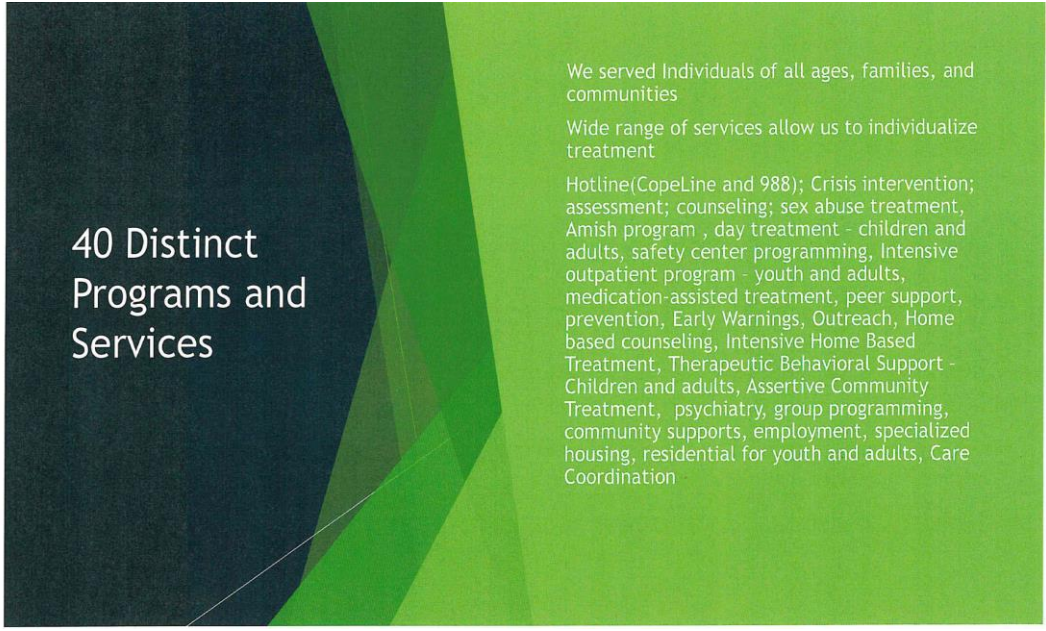
Ms. Clark noted that these are just some statistics on the services.



Ms. Clark stated that this is just a list the variety of disorders that they treat in both children and the next slide is in adults.



Ms. Clark added that this is just a breakdown of the largest diagnoses that they treat.



Ms. Clark explained that they are relatively small agency that does a lot, with over 40 programs. They try to individualize the treatment. They also try and address a need that may be recognized in the community, and try to address.

### Program Outcomes

- ▶ 75% of clients who participated in the Employment program were able to obtain an interview within 90 days of completing the vocational assessment, and 50% were able to maintain this employment for over 90 days.
- ▶ 95% of Pathways (adults) and 70% of Healthy CHOICES (adolescents) clients maintained sobriety throughout the 7-week group sessions.
- ▶ 92% of adults with a diagnosis of schizophrenia maintained medication compliance.
- ▶ 100% of offenders in the STOP program did not receive a new conviction during the reporting period.
- ▶ Maintained a 100% utilization rate within Community Residence, Shelter Plus Care and Permanent Supportive Housing.
- ▶ 82% of clients seen at the Geauga County Safety Center by Ravenwood's jail therapist were considered successful in their treatment while incarcerated.
- ▶ 55% of Mental Health clients showed an improvement in their daily living activities

Ms. Clark noted that this is an over view of program outcomes, noting that they include employment programs.

### Revenue

Geauga Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services Levy Dollars Sliding Fee Scale Grants State Funding Federal Funding	Medicaid and Medicare	Grants
United Way	Private Insurance and Client payments	Contracted Services • Private Industry • Schools • Aetna - OhioRISE

Ms. Clark explained that she tries to be diversified because revenue is never guaranteed. Mental Health and Recovery Services is one of the largest funding sources, and recently they have done some contracting with private industry, schools and Aetna.

### What's new?

988

OhioRISE

Clubhouse

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*Ms. Clark went over what's new – including handling the 988 line, which is the new National Line for behavioral health hotline, they also handle the COPE line. Ohio Rise is a new Program, that the State Department of Medicaid and Department of Mental Health and Addition decided to change the way they handle children with behavioral health services. Ms. Clark stated that they went from multiple providers to just Aetna and divided up funding into twenty catch bin areas and went out to bid for contracts for care coordination. Ravenwood bid on that contract with other lead agencies, and out of 80 bids we won. Ms. Clark added that she wanted to be able to continue to help out kids in our county. Clubhouse is a new program for adults with severe and persistent mental illness and it is a one stop location to get all the services they need to help them.*



*Ms. Clark explained the challenges they face, revenue, mostly due to stagnant rates for insurance and Medicaid. Ms. Clark noted that she came to Ravenwood in the late 80's / early 90's and used to have to figure out the rate to bill Medicaid and it was typically between \$80-\$100 and here we are 30 years later and the rate is \$102, and insurance pays even less. Ms. Clark noted that like everyone else, workforce is a problem, and the most difficult for them is Therapist and Psychiatrists, but Case Workers like at the Youth Center. Ms. Clark briefly mentioned the Internship Program.*

*Commissioner Lennon inquired if other counties have similar situations like we do, having a Youth Center, to which Ms. Clark expressed that they do, they have a Board that oversees the programs, but it depends on the size of the county as to the types of programs that they have. Mr. Lennon inquired about other agencies that perform this type of service. Ms. Clark noted that Mental Health puts out a bid every year and the organizations that provide the services all bid and then it gets awarded. Ms. Clark expressed that they do work together with the other agencies.*

*Commissioner Spidalieri asked about the biggest issues they see in the under 17 age group. Ms. Smith explained that the biggest issues they are seeing a combination of emotional and behavioral issues, hands down it is anxiety, ADHD and adjustment disorders, adding that they may have parents that are incarcerated, divorced, school changes. Mr. Spidalieri asked what are we missing that we are having so many of these issues noting that the “masking” during the pandemic. Ms. Smith said that the pandemic has had a lot of affect, but this generation alone has had to deal with 24-hour news coverage and so many safety threats, and it makes them feel that school isn't a safe place for them. Mr. Spidalieri agreed but we are also struggling with schools, the kids are spending the bulk of their awake time in a school environment, which isn't getting kids outside, they are so technology driven that they can't communicate, they can't have a conversation and answer questions. Mr. Spidalieri stated that kids need to be outside and enjoying the parks, but at the same time we are losing this generation, the military is struggling, our trades jobs are also suffering, this is going to continue to get worse unless we try and make a change. Mr. Spidalieri stated that the substance abuse and the age category is and it is very troubling, in Geauga County, Ravenwood is our point to people. Ms. Smith stated that it is*

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constant game of moving, we have to change our technic and how important play and exercise is, because kids are so technology driven. Mr. Lennon asked if they have seen an increase at the Youth Center. Ms. Smith stated that they have had a larger number of referrals and the ages are much younger.

### Geauga Youth Center

- Class 1 facility focusing on therapeutic intervention and independent living skills
- Youth ages 13 to 17; all genders
- 16 bed facility
- School on site - partnership with Educational Service Center of the Western Reserve
- Therapeutic programming includes individual, family and group therapy
- Independent Living Skills program including job readiness
- Partnerships with local agencies and resources (Torchlight, Tap Root Yoga, etc.)
- Partnership with Family and Children First Council, all clients must be screened prior to entry
- Respite program

Mr. DeWalt explained that onsite we get the kids outside and active as much as they can, we've taken kids on a charter fishing trip, a Guardians game, putt-putt golfing, engagement is an important piece in the kid's life. Mr. DeWalt added that they focus on independent living skills to make sure the kids know how to do laundry, load a dishwasher, how to make doctors appointments, job placement and housing. Mr. DeWalt talked about Torch Light opened a chapter in Geauga County that meets primarily at the Kent State Geauga branch. Commissioner Dvorak inquired if they do financial skills, to which Mr. DeWalt explained that they do a lot on budgeting, which includes taking them on a shopping trip to see what food costs and why it's important to budget, and how you spend it. Mr. DeWalt explained that they have two levels of residents, full level, that includes counseling, and a respite which is a short-term placement. Mr. Lennon inquired about how long the kids are there, to which it could be one to seven days or it could be several months. Ms. Smith explained that when Ravenwood first took over the program, the kids were court ordered, now they are mostly court referred, but added that they often have kids that are there for suicidal behaviors, self-injury, trauma, family discord, but predominately mental health but if we can feel we treat the drug and alcohol abuse otherwise they have to go to a different facility.

Dr. Oluic asked if they had unrestraint on a building, what would they want to see. Mr. DeWalt talked about the need for the building for the residents would be layout for supervision, utilities, to have more showers and bathrooms, space for those residents and a respite area, more outdoor opportunity and utilize the space that is there. Ms. Clark said they are very close to getting the application complete and will be sent to the Commissioners to submit. Mr. Lennon expressed that he was surprised when he toured the Youth Center and we need to make it better.

### Geauga Youth Center by the numbers

- ▶ 83 residents between July 2017 and June 2022
- ▶ 40 female
- ▶ 43 male
- ▶ One of the goals for the GYC is that 75% of residents will be successfully discharged (which includes discharge to a lower level of care; returned to appropriate grade level at time of discharge; participated in job readiness programming; was linked to at least one prosocial activity at time of discharge)
- ▶ 2017 - 82% successfully discharged
- ▶ 2018 - 95% successfully discharged
- ▶ 2019 - 78% successfully discharged
- ▶ 2020 - 77.7% successfully discharged to a lower level of care and returned to a grade appropriate level
  - \*However, only 29% of clients were linked with a prosocial at time of discharge due to Covid
- ▶ 2021 - 80% successfully discharged

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*There was a brief discussion about working with AA - Alcoholics Anonymous. Ms. Clark noted that the last page was a breakdown of numbers on the Youth Center.*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- a) A weekly report filed by the County Dog Warden of all dogs seized, impounded, redeemed or destroyed for the week ending November 23, 2022 as required by O.R.C. 955.12.*
- b) A monthly report filed by the Geauga County Sheriff's Office of an account of expenses for the Prisoner Transport for the month ending November, 2022 as required by O.R.C. 325.07.*

**OTHER**

*The Board reviewed upcoming events.*

**MEETINGS**

*Tue., 12/13 Planning Commission, 7:30 a.m. Room 334, Third Floor, 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Chardon*

*Tue., 12/13 Investment Advisory Board, 9:00 a.m. Room B303, Third Floor, 12611 Ravenwood Dr., Chardon*

*Thu., 12/15 Portage Geauga Juvenile Detention Center, Board of Directors meeting, 10:00 a.m. Portage County Offices*

*Mon., 12/19 Family First Council, 1:30 p.m. Mental Health Offices*

*Tue., 12/20 The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:30 a.m.*

*Mon., 12/26 County Offices will be closed in honor of Christmas. Twenty-four-hour operations will continue to operate as normal.*

*Thu., 12/29 The Commissioners will hold regular session at 9:30 a.m.*

*Mr. Dvorak mentioned the Wreaths Across America event taking place at the Welton Cemetery for Veterans if anyone wants to attend.*

***BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD***

*Motion: by Commissioner Spidalieri, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m.*

*Gauga County Board of Commissioners*

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*James W. Dvorak*

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*Timothy C. Lennon*

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*Ralph Spidalieri*

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*Christine Blair, Commissioners' Clerk*

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