

MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY BOARD OF ASHLAND COUNTY
Board Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2024

PRESENT: Mary Deeter David Ross, Executive Director
Sara Battison Patty Walton, Associate Director
Chad Brown Sandy Hoffman, Community Relations Coordinator
Connie Butler Ashley Ackerman, Director of Programs, Training & Education
Andrew Kinney
Tom Gaus
Dennis Dyer
Katie Wright
Ed Kieper
Nancy Udolph
Cindy Kyser

ABSENT: Ben Key*
Shari Shafer*
*Provided notice

Mary Deeter, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Martha Jorden room at 1605 County Road 1095, Ashland. Mary wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

I. CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME

A. Roll Call- Secretary Katie Wright took roll call, and a quorum was present to pass the warrants.

David Ross, Executive Director, pointed out the keychains that were distributed and explained that an anonymous donor sent them for Board members and staff. The keychains are gold in color, with a key and circle plate that reads, "A Truly Amazing Team is Hard to Find. THANK YOU for Being a Key part of our Team Success."

II. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 27, 2024, BOARD MINUTES

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Nancy Udolph to recommend approval of the October 22, 2024, Board
24-12-01 meeting minutes. Ed Kieper seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

B. FINANCE, Chad Brown, Chair

I. November Warrants

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Connie Butler to recommend approval of the
24-12-02 warrants for payment. Cindy Kyser seconded the motion. The motion carried.

II. October Financials

RESOLUTION: Tom Gaus made a motion to recommend approval of October Financials.
24-12-03 Connie Butler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Patty Pawlikowski, Associate Director, provided an overview of the financials. Based on last month's discussion, she indicated the reserves have been updated with carryover funds. Second quarter allocations, final SORS 3.0, and SORS CO drawdowns have all been received. Referring to non-Medicaid, Patty indicated the three agencies are running below target; however, all three are trending higher than they were last year. Overall expenses are right on target at 33%.

Patty reported that Strategic Wealth Partners has moved out of our building, and Coleman Health Services will rent the space.

Regarding grants, Patty reported that we've been tentatively awarded \$359,929.50 in SOS funds. OneOhio has notified ACCADA that they will receive \$52,946 per year for the next 3 years, and Appleseed will receive \$95,909/yr over the next three years. David explained that the OneOhio funding was very competitive this year, and he is proud of the agencies for applying and successfully receiving these funds.

III. Grant Funding Updates

David indicated that Patty provided the grant funding updates in her report. He explained that we didn't think there would be another round of SOS, and when those dollars went away, any programming provided by that funding would stop. When we receive final funding approval, the agencies can restart programming. It's challenging when you have these gaps. The new SOS dollars were not budgeted for SFY 25. In January, agencies will do mid-year reviews and budget revisions based on additional revenues.

A. **PLANNING**, Sara Battison, Chair

Sara Battison, Chair

i. Agency Outcomes and Satisfaction Survey Results

David explained that the card that was distributed, titled "Your Voice Matters!" is used by the satisfaction survey participants. Ashley Ackerman, Director of Program Training & Education, indicated 139 people participated in the survey, 30 more completed the survey this fiscal year than last fiscal year, and more were completed online than last year.

Reviewing the results:

On average, survey respondents reported being "Somewhat connected" to family, friends, and community.

87% agreed that the agency helped them to do the things they wanted to do (-2% from FY23)

94% were satisfied/very satisfied with the services they received from the agency (-2% from FY23)

94% agreed that access to services was easy (+2% from FY23)

91% agreed that agency staff were sensitive to their cultural/ethnic and religious/spiritual preferences (+2% from FY23)

90% agreed that they or their family was directly involved in their care (+0% from FY23)

92% agreed that services helped them address their presenting concerns (+13% from FY23)

The aggregate report is included in the Board packet. The survey is given over two weeks. Ashley explained that the percentage of participation has been going up each year. We have been working on having the agency engage the clients to participate. The agencies posted a flyer and a QR code for easy access to the survey.

David explained that this is the only data point the Board receives that is directly from the people receiving Board-funded services. The agencies use the information from the survey for reaccreditation and licensure and appreciate the data.

There was a discussion about comparing results by different demographics (i.e., race). Ashley didn't look at race in this way; however, she indicated she could do that.

ii. Follow-up 'Urban Meadow' Meeting w/Mayor Miller (Brookside West)

David indicated the mayor was here in September to give us an 'Urban Meadow' update. He explained that the space at the Pumphouse district is growing and is no longer a viable option for the project. David and Mayor Miller visited Brookside West, which the mayor indicated is an option. There are elements such as a pond, bridges, and benches. There is also a pavilion that can be utilized. Board members expressed concern with the Brookside West option because it is not downtown and within walking distance of many mental health clients, which was the vision and purpose of the Urban Meadow. David indicated no downtown options were given and noted we could ask for Board funds to be returned if we cannot agree on a project site. Before deciding, it was discussed that Board members should visit the Brookside West option. After that, if the Board doesn't find the option viable, Mayor Miller can be invited back to re-evaluate the project.

iii. Access To State Hospital

David reminded the Board that the state hospital has very limited access. We have exhausted our Hospital Access Funds for SFY 25 and formally requested additional funds from OhioMHAS on three separate occasions. No response has been received. OhioMHAS is ultimately responsible for ensuring appropriate access to the State hospital system. Our best option is for our agencies to work proactively with known clients to keep them from needing hospitalization.

iv. 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) December 17 at 1 pm

A vendor is hired every two years to develop a community healthcare plan for the Health Department and UH-Samaritan Hospital. Other community partners, including the Board, can also utilize the plan. David indicated he will raise the issue of hospital transportation to other hospitals and whether additional resources are needed to ensure timely transportation.

v. Levy Committee Meeting

The first levy meeting is set for next Tuesday, December 17, at 4:00 p.m. at the Board office. Dwight McElfresh and Bob Miller, our iHeart consultant, will join us.

vi. Training & Event Updates

- Dorothy Straton contacted us and expressed interest in helping isolated seniors. We connected Dorothy with Sheryl at CCS and their MGM/Golden Center Program, which works with seniors.
- David announced the next Board training session is March 18, and Tonya Mounts has agreed to be our trainer.
- The first RSVP meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 17, at Pathways at 10 a.m., and there is a Zoom option for anyone interested. Our keynote this year will be Brooke Siem, author of "May Cause Side Effects." You don't want to miss the conference this year; it will be very powerful.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT, David Ross, Executive Director.

Key Items of Focus

1. Pass the Levy in November 2025
2. Contract for Services for SFY 2026
3. Advocate for Increased Revenue and/or Increased Flexibility (fewer lines) in the SFY 2026-27 Budget
4. Promote and Provide High-Quality Training & Events in SFY 2025 (Annual Luncheon, Awareness Walk, Fairs, RSVP.)
5. Continue to ensure effective Board Operations (Board Members & Staff)

Highlights

- Grants benefiting our local providers and community. The Board and our agencies have been successful in several of our grant applications, including from the OneOhio Foundation and OhioMHAS via the SOS 4.0 Grant.
- We've secured the services of Mike Parker from Coldwell-Banker to assist in the possible purchase of the property next door at 1603 County Road 1095. We've walked through the property a few times. It would require substantive updates to make it usable. It would also require a change in zoning to commercial if the Board wanted to use it for office space.
- Thank you to all the Board members who were able to make up the one-hour required Board training recently.

Lowlights

- Communication with OhioMHAS has remained challenging. Their understanding of how grant funding impacts local providers is lacking as well as their understanding of cash-flow. Further, there appears to be no flexibility with regard to providing Boards with client-specific Medicaid claims data. Boards will need to find an outside entity (Court or Legislature) to gain access to the data.

What's Keeping Me Up at Night

- Workforce Challenges
- Flat Funding
- Suicide & Overdose Deaths
- Pattern of Regionalization and Top-Down Decision Making in Columbus (Legacy Focus vs. Local Needs Focus)

Upcoming Events & Training

- December 13th at Noon – ACCADA Annual Luncheon (Professional Building)
- Greens Bistro Presentation (12/16 at 1:30 pm)
- **First MHRB Levy Committee – December 17th at 4 pm**

Knowledge of Note

- Our RSVP Keynote, Brooke Siem, [interviews psychiatrist Ellen Vora](#). Dr. Vora is the author of the book, ["The antimony of Anxiety."](#) Brooke talks with Dr. Vora about her functional medicine approach to mental health.
- Please Read: [More little kids in Ohio are getting into marijuana edibles. Here's how to keep them safe.](#)
- **Handout: Veterans & PTSD**

The Board Making News

- Mary and Sandy represented the Board at the Council on Aging's 'Trunk or Treat' event
- David talked about the Board on AU's ["Main Street"](#) program.
- Sandy and David represented the Board at AU's unveiling of their first ["Suicide Awareness Bench."](#)
- Thank you to Dennis Dyer and Steve Stone, who Joined Ashley, Sandy, and David at ACCADA for the presentation of the Beacon Award to Mary Jo Janchar. Congrats Mary Jo! Mary Jo expressed appreciation.


V. Acknowledgement of Guests:

Rebecca Hunsicker, Appleseed
Sheryl Villegas, CCS Director - Applied for OneOhio to support Kinship families
Laura Beckett, NAMI Richland County
Leah Jeter


VI. ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting was adjourned by Nancy Udolph at 5:12 p.m. Connie Butler the motion. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Hoffman, Community Relations Coordinator



David Ross, Executive Director



Mary Deeter, Board Chair