

MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY BOARD OF ASHLAND COUNTY
Board Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2025

PRESENT: Mary Deeter David Ross, Executive Director
Andrew Kinney Patty Pawlikowski, Associate Director
Nancy Udolph Sandy Hoffman, Community Relations Coordinator
Katie Wright Ashley Ackerman, Director of Programs, Training, and Education
Connie Butler
Chad Brown
Tom Gaus
Cindy Kyser
Ben Key
Ed Kleper
Sara Battison

ABSENT: Dennis Dyer*
Shari Shafer*
*Provided notice

GUESTS: Sheryl Villegas, CCS
Rick Ford, ACCADA
Jerry Strausbaugh, Appleseed
Laura Beckett, NAMI Richland

Mary Deeter called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Martha Jordan room, 1605 Co. Rd. 1095, Ashland.

David Ross, Executive Director, thanked Andrew Kinney for bringing cookies. He indicated that Andrew is hoping to get 100% participation in submitting the Executive Director's evaluations. A hard copy of the form was printed for anyone who still needs to complete the evaluation.

I. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

Roll Call -Secretary Katie Wright took the roll call and noted that a quorum was present.

Pass Warrants- There was a quorum to pass the warrants.

II. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY MINUTES

Corrections were noted in the spelling of a couple of Board members' names (Tom Gaus and Connie Butler). Sandy will make the revisions.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Andrew Kinney to recommend approval of the January 28, 2025
25-02-01 meeting minutes with revisions. Connie Butler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. FINANCE, Chad Brown, Chair

I. February Warrants

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Sara Battison to recommend approval of the February 2025
25-02-02 warrants for payment. Tom Gaus seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Cleaning charges of \$1,500 were discussed. Patty explained what the cost covered and that it was the going rate for commercial cleaning. The charges are for the monthly cleaning of the Board & Professional building offices.

II. January Financials

RESOLUTION: 25-02-03 A motion was made by Nancy Udolph to recommend approval of the January Financials. Connie Butler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Patty reviewed the January Financials, reporting that the target is 58 percent. Regarding revenues, she announced that third-quarter allocations have been received. Regarding expenditures, Patty indicated that the agencies are all trending below target in regard to non-Medicaid. She explained that billings run behind, so it will be important to monitor non-Medicaid. Overall expenses are at 53 percent.

Patty reported that the Board has not experienced any interruptions in federal funding and will continue to monitor this. She explained that compared to last fiscal year, we won't have as much carryover. Referring to expenditures, she noted that Appleseed is trending higher, and ACCADA and CCS are trending the same. Some expenditures, such as snow removal, experienced higher costs.

III. SFY 26 Second Look Fiscal Parameters

RESOLUTION: 25-02-04 A motion was made by Connie Butler to recommend approval of the SFY Agency Application Guidelines- Fiscal Parameters. Cindy Kyser seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Patty pointed out that one-time grant funding would end and noted that we have a deficit budget. David indicated we have a deficit budget and will probably have one next fiscal year; we are in lean times and have experienced fifteen years of flat funding. We are fortunate to have reserves that will help during this time.

iv. Acceptance of ACCADA Audit

Patty reported no findings on the ACCADA audit, which is available for anyone to examine.

RESOLUTION: 25-02-05 A motion was made by Tom Gaus to accept the ACCADA Audit. Cindy Kyser seconded the motion. The motion carried.

B. PLANNING, Sara Battison, Chair

I. SFY 26 Second Look Program & Service Priorities

David didn't receive any changes from the Board members. He explained that the Board has laid good guidelines and appreciated their work during the process.

RESOLUTION: 25-02-06 A motion was made by Connie Butler to recommend approval of the SFY26 Agency Program & Service Priorities. Cindy Kyser seconded the motion. The motion carried.

II. Urban Meadow Update

David indicated that he has a meeting scheduled with Mayor Miller to explore the possibility of the park near the Dairy Queen as an option for the Urban Meadow. He noted that Jerry Strausbaugh also brought to his attention that Cahn Grove Park by Lyn-Way could be a possibility that he can also talk with the mayor about. Members discussed the pros and cons of both locations. After much consideration, the Board's consensus was to request the dollars back and apply them to the budget deficit.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Ed Kieper to redirect funding from the Urban Meadow project and apply it to our budget. Nancy Udolph seconded the motion. A roll call vote was asked for. All members voted yes except Mary Deeter, who abstained. The motion carried.

III. The OhioMHAS Community Assessment Plan (CAP) was submitted.

David reported that we have submitted our Community Assessment Plan (CAP). We updated what we did last year using their new tool. This important process makes us eligible for OhioMHAS funding.

IV. Training & Events Updates

- February 20- AU Basketball Game- Ashley represented the Board.
- February 22- Farmer's Appreciation Breakfast-Rep. Miller, Katie
- March 17- Book discussion at Ashland Library on Brooke's book
- March 18- Board Training Scheduled-Tanya Mounts will provide the training
- March 26- Registration is LIVE for the 16th Annual RSVP Conference
- March 27- Amish Women's Health Day

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

- Executive Director's Evaluation- Last Chance!

Key Items of Focus

- . Pass the Levy in November 2025 Update on Dr. McKnight's Survey
 - April 1 Levy meeting at 4 pm to review survey results
- . Contract for Services for SFY 2026 Possible Need to Revise Budgets Earlier in the Year due to any OhioMHAS Formula Changes
- . Directors are aware of the situation. Our 120-day notices, application guidelines, and contracts all have language included that states our ability to fund is dependent on actual revenues received.
 - . Advocate for Increased Revenue and/or Increased Flexibility (fewer lines) in the SFY 2026-27 Budget
 - . Promote and Provide High-Quality Training & Events in SFY 2025 (Annual Luncheon, Awareness Walk, Fairs, RSVP.)
 - . Continue to ensure effective Board Operations (Board Members & Staff)

Highlights

- . Changes at the federal level ([HHS](#)) are more closely aligned with the Board's "Three Leg" approach, which may be helpful as we continue to promote and expand a non-Medical Model approach to mental health & substance use.
- . Sarah Watson (AU) earned national recognition as "Outstanding Peer Educator" at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators' Peer Education Conference.

Lowlights

Gov's Budget and Promise of a new formula to distribute Board funding Budget Testimony: [HERE](#) (37 min mark)

Budget Update

- David is recommending that we move forward with our normal budget process. He explained that we will have to do revisions if there are formula changes, and if we are negatively impacted by the formula change we have three options. 1) We make it up with our reserves 2) We ask the agencies to revise their budgets or 3) a combination of both.

- David explained that the Director of OHMAS said that they had been directly working with Boards on the formula change; this was not true. A rationale has not been given for the formula change, and we don't know what the implications will be or if guardrails have been implemented. All we know is that the implications can be significant. David will keep the Board updated on this.
- The Boards say they have too many restrictive funding pots, about 32. To help the boards with fund flexibility, the governor's budget took 20 lines and put them into six pots. David indicated that this was a step in the right direction.
- David indicated there may be some three-leg approach funding possibilities. He is following this at the federal level and is looking for alternatives to medical models.

T-G Article, "What are Gov. DeWines's plans for mental health?"

What's Keeping Me Up at Night

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

Upcoming Events & Training

- **March 26th – RSVP Conference (Limited in-person spots available!)**

Knowledge of Note

- Handout: Volunteer Leaders Guiding Local Planning and Decision-Making
- Handout: Sports Gambling: Don't Bet on Your Mental Health
- Handout: Types of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) and Pathways to Becoming One

The Board Making News

- Dr. Ashley and David visited Refuge Counseling on 1/31 to talk with their Director about the Board, services and ways to partner.
- David met with the new interim director of Advocates for Families (Gregg Ashbrook II) on 2/10 and explained the Board's role, function, and responsibilities as well as ways to continue partnering with Advocates (Note: Catherine Swope has stepped away as Director and is now their Clinical Director).
- David represented the Board at ACCESS' Annual Dinner on 2/13 at Mt. Vernon Estates
- The Board was represented at AU's Girls Basketball game by Dr. Ashley on 2/20. Themed giveaway items were distributed.
- David talked about the work of the Board and the upcoming RSVP conference on AU's 'Early Bird Word' podcast on 2/21.
- Sandy and David represented the Board on 2/22 for the Ashland County Farm Bureau's Member Appreciation Pancake Breakfast. Thanks again to Connie Butler for all her help in ensuring the Board had a table this year!

VI. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS

Jerry Strausbaugh, Appleseed- Appreciated the Board and being on the Levy Committee, continues to monitor what's going on at the State level.

Sheryl Villegas, CCS, Appreciate the Board keeping up on everything happening at the State.

Rick Ford, ACCADA

Laura Beckett, Richland NAMI

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Hoffman, Community Relations Coordinator

Signed by:

David Ross

5F656E4015G34E9...

David Ross, Executive Director

Mary L. Deeter

Mary Deeter, Board Chair