

MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY BOARD OF ASHLAND COUNTY
Board Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2025

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

ABSENT: Shari Shafer*
Dennis Dyer*
*Provided notice

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

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

I. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

Mary Deeter read two thank-you cards that the Board received: one from Step2 for QPR Training and the other from Soul Work Therapy for the tissues provided to approximately 119 women for the Masterpiece Women's retreat in Loudonville. Mary expressed appreciation to the staff and agencies for the good work they are doing.

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.

Board Self-Evaluation – Mary indicated that the Board Self-Evaluation is provided tonight, and a link was sent electronically. Evaluations are due at the end of June.

II. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY MINUTES

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Connie Butler to recommend approval of April 22 Board meeting
25-05-01 meeting minutes. Katie Wright seconded the motion. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Nancy Udolph to recommend approval of the May 20 Board
25-05-02 meeting minutes. Cindy Kyser seconded the motion.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Executive Committee, Andrew Kinney, Chair

a. SFY 2026 Slate of Officers

Andrew Kinney, Executive Committee Chair indicated the Executive Committee met and is proposing the following: Andy for Chair, Chad Brown for Vice-Chair, Katie Wright for Secretary, Sara Battison for Planning Chair, Ben Key for Finance Chair, and Connie Butler for Nominating Chair, and Mary Deeter, will become the past Chair.

Mary Deeter, Board Chair, listed the proposed slate of officers once again and opened the floor for nominations, hearing no other nominations, Tom Gaus voted to close the nominations.

RESOLUTION: 25-05-03 A motion was made by Nancy Udolph to recommend the Slate of Officers as listed for FY26. Tom Gaus seconded the motion. The motion carried.

b. Completion of Executive Director Evaluation

Andrew Kinney reported that the Executive Director Evaluation has been completed and reviewed with David.

Finance, Chad Brown, Chair

a. May Warrants

RESOLUTION: 25-05-04 A motion was made by Ed Kieper to recommend approval of May 2025 warrants for payment. Cindy Kyser seconded the motion. The motion carried.

b. April Financials

Patty reviewed the April financials, which indicated a target of 83 percent. She noted that there are no changes in reserves and indicated that revenues are at 97 percent, due to the receipt of fourth-quarter state allocations and the second half of levy revenue.

Referring to non-Medicaid, Patty pointed out that the agencies are trending below target; however, she explained they have until September to submit the billings. Board expenses are trending below target but higher than they were at this time last year. Overall, expenses are at 77 percent.

RESOLUTION: 25-05-05 A motion was made by Tom Gaus to recommend approval of the April 2025 Financials. Connie Butler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Tom discussed some levy issues that schools are facing that could affect all levies pertaining to the way they are run, and even the timeline or time you can start them.

c. SFY 2026 Board Budget

Patty reviewed the FY2026 Board Programmatic and Operating Proposed Budget. The salary line shows a small decrease and this is due to moving the Vacation policy funds to the Employment Reserve line, but there is an actual small increase in salaries. The Bldg. and Grounds Expense and Chruch St building expenses will be lower in FY26 because we do not have any big projects planned. She explained that PERS, Workers Compensation, and Medicare are tied into salaries, and reported that health insurance has increased by 15.5%.

It was determined that we would look at a five-year forecast for building upkeep and repairs when we discuss mid-year reviews, as it will be good to plan due to funding restrictions.

RESOLUTION: 25-05-06 **Andrew Kinney made a motion to recommend approval of the SFY2026 Board Programmatic & Operating Budget for \$759,362.12. Connie Butler seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

d. Updates on OhioMHAS/OACBHA Formula & Implications

David Ross, Executive Director, provided an update on the OhioMHAS/OACBHA formula, indicating that the funding formula will likely be based on population, which is expected to have a significantly negative impact on our Board. It's important for us to voice a position as soon as we have something, so that we can quantify the impact. We are hopeful we can pass the levy to offset some of this formula impact, and we don't know what the next administration will do. David would like the Board to consider taking a position regarding the formula and possibly write a letter to the legislature. We should have more information at the June Board meeting.

Planning, Sara Battison, Chair

a. "Addiction Counselor" Position at the Jail

David indicated the addictions counselor position at the jail is a one-year grant for a full-time position to partner with the Sheriff's office. The addiction counselor would monitor people at the front door of the jail, and then, when they leave the jail, link them to services.

b. New Cannabis Dispensary in Loudonville

• **Klutch Cannabis-227 E. Loudon Avenue**

David found out at his last Lions meeting that there is a cannabis dispensary in Loudonville, which we were not aware of. He pointed out that this will complicate services in Loudonville, and we will need to monitor the impact it creates. He wanted this Board to be aware of it and the implications.

c. Community Capital Plan Due June 30

David indicated the Capital Plan covers three different biennium budgets. Appleseed has expressed interest in utilizing the capital plan, and the Board may want to explore opportunities with the TAY program. We will likely submit a plan by June 30th.

d. OhioMHAS Proposing to Rescind the Prevention Rule

David explained that he believes the state was trying to help Boards by doing this, as Boards couldn't do QPR training due to the prevention rules, and therefore rescinded the rules instead of modifying them, which was likely just a mistake, and should get worked out. Many of the Agencies are concerned about their prevention services right now due to this.

e. Ongoing challenges with Mohican Youth

This has been an ongoing issue at the Mohican Youth facility, where there are many at-risk youths rioting and/or fighting. There is a new director over the facility who has been trying to turn things around. The new director has met with the prosecutor, who is still concerned. The beds and services at this facility are needed, and the County and the new director are hopeful about keeping the services. However, law enforcement continues to have challenges. It is hard to change a culture that has been happening for a long time. This Board doesn't fund or contract with Mohican Youth.

f. US Overdose Deaths Fell 27% in 2024; Largest One-Year decline Ever Seen

Nationally, the deaths by overdose have fallen 27% over the last year, which is the most significant decline ever seen; we are now back to the pre-pandemic numbers. Our County has seen reductions as well. We will continue to monitor this and look at it again during the mid-year review.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Key Items of Focus

1. Pass the Levy in November 2025
 - a. I'm continuing to participate in OACBHA's "Levy Committee." It is helpful to hear and discuss how each county is approaching its respective levy.
 - b. I had a positive meeting with Commissioner Justice about supporting our upcoming levy. Commissioner Justice needed some additional information, he understood the reason we would request an increase, and is on board; however, Jim recommends that we speak to the other two Commissioners, which David plans to do.
 - c. The Fate of HB 28 is more uncertain than last month. The Senate Committee, where it's being discussed has only met once on the issue and hasn't met again in seven weeks.
2. Contract for Services for SFY 2026
 - a. The Board approved agency applications at its May 20th meeting. SFY 2026 Contracts will be drawn up for the signatures of all parties by July 1. Thanks again to the Board and agencies for an efficient application and contracting cycle!
3. Promote and Provide High-Quality Training and Events in SFY 2025 (Annual Luncheon, Awareness Walk, Fairs, RSVP).
 - a. Board staff are pivoting to our Fall events as well as levy activities.
 - b. It's not too soon to consider volunteering/participating in the Board's September Suicide & Prevention Awareness Walk (9/28) or volunteering at the County Fair (9/14 – 9/20) or L'ville Street Fair (9/30 – 10/4)
4. Continue to ensure effective Board Operations (Board Members & Staff)
 - a. The Nominating Committee is scheduled to meet and will share Board Member Appointments at our June Meeting. We will also be honoring those members terming off the Board.

Highlights

- ✓ Nancy cleaned out her cupboards again with [180 lbs of medications](#) collected in Ashland County! 1,400 lbs was collected in the METRICH region.
- ✓ Successful QPR Training by David and Appleseed in Perrysville to the Step 2 organization.

Lowlights

- ✓ The pending negative long-term impact of OhioMHAS' new funding formula for Boards will likely required speedy and consistent advocacy.
- ✓ Dr. Ackerman accepted a teaching position with Malone College and will be leaving us on July 18th. We're excited for Ashley and this new opportunity, but we will miss her expertise, positive attitude and caring presence. We will celebrate Ashley at the June Board meeting.

What's Keeping Me Up at Night

- ✓ FUNDING!
- ✓ Workforce Challenges
- ✓ Suicide & Overdose Deaths (lower but still too high)
- ✓ Pattern of Regionalization and Top-Down Decision Making in Columbus (Legacy Focus vs. Local Needs Focus)

Knowledge of Note

- [MAHA Report](#): Make Our Children *Healthy* Again
 - Overmedicalization of Children was one of the 4 overarching "drivers" of chronic disease in our children.
- Please read your June MHRB Newsletter as it is full of great information about Elder Abuse and Elder Empowerment Month. Here's a [LINK](#) to a great one-pager on the "Signs of Elder Abuse."

The Board Making News

- Board staff facilitated the county's Suicide Prevention Coalition meeting on April 25th with good attendance in person and online.
- David gave the first levy presentation to the Democratic Women's Meeting on May 5th – despite the weather it was a good turnout with great questions.
- Sandy represented the Board at this year's Senior Fair. Close to 600 seniors came out to receive valuable information about the Board and the programs and services we offer through our contract partners.
- Sandy and David represented the Board at the 5th Annual 33 Forever Suicide Prevention & Awareness Walk in Mansfield, Ohio.
- David represented the Board at the Ashland Area Safety Council's disaster preparedness class on May 21st. David was able to explain to local businesses the importance of considering mental health and substance use issues for their employees and management.

V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS

- Rick Ford, ACCADA- Thanks for approving ACCADA's application.
- Jerry Strausbaugh, Appleseed – Thank you for approving their application. Sad to see Ashley going.
- Sheryl Villeagas, CCS- Also expressed thanks. On June 11 at 10:00 a.m., the Golden Center will host speakers; Board members are invited to attend.
- Laura Beckett, NAMI Mansfield – No comment.

Mary thanked the agencies for adhering to the guidelines during the application process and for being considerate of the Board members' time.

Nominating Committee at 1:30 on Monday, June 2, and Levy Committee on Tuesday, June 3 at 4 pm

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Connie Butler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Katie Wright seconded the motion. The Board meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Hoffman, Community Relations Coordinator

Signed by:

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David Ross, Executive Director

Signed by:

AAEDDFC18BA34A2...
Mary Deeter, Board Chair



Mental Health & Recovery Board
OF ASHLAND COUNTY