



**Mental Health &
Recovery Board**
OF ASHLAND COUNTY

MHRB Annual Report FY2024

Executive Summary



A Year in Review

Reflections from the Executive Director

State Fiscal Year 2024 was another significant year for the Board and its ongoing commitment to the behavioral health needs of Ashland County residents.

The Board made structural changes to its size and meeting schedule that improved efficiencies and positioned the Board to be more attractive to future volunteer Board members. On the staffing side, Sandy Hoffman has returned and has immediately impacted the Board's work in community events, training, relations, and Board support. Welcome back, Sandy! Patty Pawlikowski (Walton) took on the additional responsibilities of Associate Director. Finally, Dr. Ashley Ackerman continues to improve the quality of programs, training, and education funded by the Board, to say nothing of her growing celebrity status as a podcaster on the 'Keeping Ashland Healthy' podcast.

Speaking of events and training, State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024 was one of the most active regarding the number of events/training and their impact. The Board's three signature events (RSVP, Suicide Prevention & Awareness Walk, and Annual Luncheon) all saw some of our highest numbers of participants. In particular, the Awareness Walk allowed several individuals to share their stories of loss, resiliency, and hope. It was a fitting and powerful end to the month of September which was once again designated 'Suicide Prevention & Awareness Month' by our county commissioners. The Board's ongoing partnership with Ashland University resulted in more Question Persuade and Refer (QPR) sessions than ever before. We appreciate this valuable partnership and the impact it's making on campus.

SFY 2024 also saw changes at the Board's trade association, OACBHA (Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities.) Longtime executive director Cheri Walter retired, and internal candidate Elizabeth Heinrich was hired as her successor. Given the changes, I've agreed to fill leadership positions at OACBHA by chairing the organization's 'Super Committee' and serving as a member of its Executive Committee.

Funding and workforce issues continue to be a challenge. The Board is taking advantage of several grants, but the time-limited nature, specificity, and uncertainty of grant-based funding are less than ideal. OACBHA and our local Board will begin efforts to advocate for increasing the Board's primary funding line (the "421" line) in the upcoming SFY 26-27 budget. Additionally, the Board will seek to place a renewal or replacement levy on the ballot in November 2025.

Lastly, it's been another great year for programs and services funded by the Board through our partner agencies, ACCADA, Appleseed, and Catholic Charities – Diocese of Cleveland. The Board is effective when its contract partners are effective. We're grateful for the ongoing work of these agencies and their compassion for the people they serve. Please take some time to read the summary of programs and services available to you today and the full version at the Board's website: www.ashlandmhrb.org

Sincerely,



David C. Ross

Executive Director
Mental Health & Recovery Board
of Ashland County
419/281-3139

MHRB Annual Report FY2024

Executive Summary

The Annual Report Executive Summary presents programmatic and fiscal highlights from the full version of the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Ashland County's Annual Service Summary for State Fiscal Year 2024. To view the full version of this report, use the QR Code at the end of the summary.

24/7 Crisis Hotline

Appleseed staffs the Crisis Hotline to assist members of the community who may be experiencing acute and severe emotional distress, promptly providing education, de-escalation, consultation, and referral services to callers.

- In SFY24, 1,683 calls were made to the hotline
- 66% of the calls addressed emergent/crisis/de-escalation needs
- 34% of the calls involved education, consultation, advocacy, and referral

School-Community Liaison Program

Liaisons continue their important work by strengthening the capacity of families to support children's learning by forging strong home, school, and community partnerships.

- In FY24, the School-Community Liaison Program served 2,251 students
- 2,334 referrals were made to community agencies (92% followed through)
- 81% of students showed academic improvement
- 83% of students exhibited improved behaviors

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Prevention

ACCADA provides several evidence-based prevention programs in Ashland Schools (e.g., Too Good for Drugs; Start Talking; Focus on Vaping), and Catholic Charities provides a peer mentoring program called Ashland Connects to Teens (ACT).

- In FY24 ACCADA produced 2,241 hours of prevention services to county residents
- In FY24, prevention programming impacted over 4,184 youth in classrooms across the county

Suicide Prevention & Awareness

The issue of suicide prevention and awareness continues to be a high priority for the Board.

- Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Training was provided to Ashland University, community members, various organizations, and school districts in Ashland County. In FY24, about 380 people were trained as QPR Gatekeepers
- The County Commissioners passed a resolution that designated September as "Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month" in Ashland County
- The 8th Annual Suicide Prevention and Awareness Walk was held on 9/29 in partnership with Ashland University and The Silent Watch, bringing awareness to the issue of veteran suicide
- Appleseed continues to provide a Grievors of Suicide Group at Brethren Care Village

Pathways Peer Support Program

Peer support can be a powerful factor in how individuals recover and stay well. Pathways Peer support is facilitated by Catholic Charities staff and offers a combination of individual and group activities to assist adults in getting/staying well.

- The program saw 77 participants in FY24
- 830 groups were run in FY24 with an average daily attendance of 9, and a core group of 13 participants

Jail and Community-Based Services

When persons are incarcerated in the local jail, treatment for Alcohol and Other Drugs (AoD) is still available. Persons incarcerated are offered an array of AoD services with emphasis placed on continued treatment when the person returns to the community.

Board funding, along with a grant from OhioMHAS, allowed for a continuation of the Jail-Community Linkage Program, thru Appleseed and ACCADA, to assist persons exiting the jail in need of mental health and/or drug/alcohol services as well as basic living assistance (Housing, employment, education, benefits, etc.). The primary goal of this program is to help increase the success of persons exiting the jail who are struggling with behavioral health issues. Funding for the Linkage program changed from a grant to an allocation which allows for increased stability & predictability moving forward.

The ACCADA Jail Program served approximately 224 (unduplicated) persons at the Ashland County Jail with screening/education, individual counseling & case management, and/or group education in SFY 2024.

- A total of 618.50 hours of Alcohol/Drug services were provided at the Ashland County Jail in Fiscal Year 2024 including:
 - 297.25 Hours of Screening/Education
 - 34.25 Hours of Assessment
 - 154 persons received either Individual Counseling or Individual Supportive Counseling
- Jail-Community Linkage Data:
 - 227 persons served
 - 190 persons had no new arrests
 - 98 individuals' re-entry plans addressed behavioral health needs
 - 33 persons followed up with identified Recovery Support Services

Juvenile Court Liaison

Given the increasing number of young persons involved in the Juvenile Court and Children Services, the Board has funded a position through Appleseed Community Mental Health Center to work directly with the Court, Juvenile Probation, the Schools, Detention, and Community Mental Health, Addictions and Other Healthcare Providers. The Liaison is also active with the parents providing information, assistance, and support. The Liaison helps youth exit probation successfully, connects them and their families with ongoing supports/resources, and is a key member of clinical team meetings where custody and reunification strategies are developed.

- 87 youth (Dupl.) & 8 adults were seen by the Juvenile Court Liaison in SFY24.
- 36 of the youth were active with probation.
- The Liaison continues to meet regularly with multiple systems in the county ensuring a higher likelihood of youth & family success.
- The Liaison regularly collaborates with the Juvenile Court, all area school district personnel, and social service agencies.

Fiscal Highlights

SFY2024 Receipts

State Mental Health/Addiction and Prevention/Recovery Funds	\$1,835,582	
State Mental Health/Addiction and Prevention/Recovery Total		
Federal Mental Health/Addiction and Prevention/Recovery Funds		
Federal Mental Health/Addiction and Prevention/Recovery Total	\$1,066,899	
HUD Housing	\$36,594	
Ashland County Local Funds		
Ashland County Levy	\$1,244,354	
Local School Districts- Liaison Program	\$404,041	
Rents	\$111,967	
Municipal Court(For Alcohol and Drug Jail Services)	\$15,000	
Restricted Funds	\$26,921	
Ashland County Total		\$1,802,283
CarryOver		
Local Carryover	\$0	
State Carryover	\$48,263	
Federal Carryover	\$0	
Total Carryover		\$48,263
Total Receipts		\$4,789,621

SFY2024 Expenditures

Mental Health and Addiction Services		
Mental Health and Addictions Direct Treatment Services	534,929	
Jail Services	189,277	
Crisis Hotline	177,652	
Housing Services	169,373	
Pharmaceutical Assistance	53,902	
State Hospital	60,000	
Mental Health and Addiction Services Total		\$1,185,134
Prevention and Recovery Supports Services		
School Based Prevention Services	873,192	
Prevention Services	1,179,964	
Consumer Operated Services	122,899	
Supported Employment	42,656	
Prevention and Recovery Supports Services Total		\$2,218,711
Other Expenditures		
Board Administration	436,170	
Community Education/Training	68,249	
Information Services/Network Svc	62,116	
Rental Expenses	113,243	
Levy Administration Fees	18,827	
Restricted funding	54,534	
Other Expenditures Total		\$753,139
CarryOver		
Restricted Local Carryover	\$576,575	
Restricted State Mental Health & Addictions Funds Carryover	\$56,062	
CarryOver Total		\$632,637
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$4,789,621

Fiscal Highlights

**Includes Medicaid data through May 1, 2024

Total Medicaid (75%) & Board-Funded (25%; +5% from FY23) Investment in both Mental Health and Drug/Alcohol Services in SFY24:
\$1,841,805.58

Total Medicaid Investment in Mental Health Continuum of Care Services in SFY24:
\$1,245,88.3 (89% of Total Medicaid)

Total Board-Funded Investment in Mental Health Continuum of Care Services in SFY24:
\$395,518.54 (21% of Total Board-Funded)

Total Medicaid Investment in Drug/Alcohol Continuum of Care Services in SFY24:
\$149,581.09 (11% of Total Medicaid)

Total Board-Funded Investment in Drug/Alcohol Continuum of Care Services in SFY24:
\$50,825.62 (3% of Total Board-Funded)

“Leadership is not about being in charge. Leadership is about taking care of those in your charge.”-Simon Sinek

Board Members (FY23-24)

Mary Deeter- <i>Chair</i>	Ben Key	Dennis Dyer
Andrew Kinney- <i>Vice Chair</i>	Tom Gaus	Cindy Kyser
Chad Brown- <i>Finance Chair</i>	Ed Kieper	Tanya Mounts
Sara Battison- <i>Planning Chair</i>	Nancy Udolph	Shari Shafer
Katie Wright- <i>Secretary</i>		
Connie Butler- <i>Nominating Chair</i>		

Board Staff

David C. Ross, *Executive Director*
Patty Pawlikowski, *Associate Director*
Ashley Ackerman, *Director of Programs, Training, & Education*
Sandy Hoffman, *Community Relations Coordinator*



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