

MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY BOARD OF ASHLAND COUNTY

Board Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2025

PRESENT: Andrew Kinney David Ross, Executive Director
Katie Wright Patty Pawlikowski, Associate Director
Sara Battison Sandy Hoffman, Community Relations Coordinator
Mary Deeter
Ben Key
Ed Kieper
Tom Gaus
Cindy Kyser
Connie Butler

VIRTUAL: Chad Brown

ABSENT: Nancy Udolph*
*Provided notice

GUESTS: Jerry Strausbaugh, Appleseed
Rick Ford, ACCADA
Sheryl Villegas, CCS
Laura Beckett, NAMI Richland
Emy-Lynn Marholik, NAMI Richland
Aubrie Hall, NAMI Richland
Pam Lemaster, Appleseed
Matthew Smith, Appleseed

I. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

Andrew Kinney, Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Martha Jorden Room, 1605 Co. Rd. 1095, Ashland.

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 SEPTEMBER MINUTES

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Connie Butler to recommend approval of the September 23, 2025
25-10-01 Board meeting minutes. Mary Deeter seconded the motion. The motion carried. A roll call vote was done and passed unanimously.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Levy, Dwight McElfresh, Chair

Dr. McElfresh thanked the Board staff and the levy committee for their hard work during the fairs and other events throughout the campaign. He also thanked everyone who wrote letters to the editor.

i Chamber of Commerce Candidates & Issues Luncheon

Dr. McElfresh indicated that the Chamber of Commerce hosted a candidates and issues luncheon, and David spoke about our levy. David Ross, Executive Director, explained that the event was to be informative for the community and went out

on social media a couple of days after the event. It was suggested that we share the Facebook post and email link to spread the information.

ii **Election Night Returns Celebration Beginning at 7 pm**

Dr. McElfresh told the levy committee, we can be proud of the campaign that we've been running, a returns celebration will be held at the Board Office beginning at 7 pm, and there will be snacks!

B. **Finance, Ben Key, Chair**

i **October Warrants**

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Mary Deeter to recommend approval of the October Warrants.
25-10-02 Katie Wright seconded the motion. The motion carried. A roll call vote was done and passed unanimously.

ii **September Financials**

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Mary Deeter to recommend approval September 2025 Financials.
25-10-03 Connie Butler seconded the motion. The motion carried. A roll call vote was done and passed unanimously.

Patty reviewed the September 2025 financials indicating target is 25%. There is no update on reserves. Revenues are at 39%; trending higher based on timing of some payments.

Referring to expenditure, Patty indicated non-Medicaid is trending below target for all three agencies. Board expenses are on target at 25%. Programmatic expenses continue to be higher than target due to all the events in the last couple of months. Overall expenses are 24%.

Patty reported that we were able to close fiscal year 2025 at the end of September. She provided building updates indicating Columbus Circle had a broken water line and backed up drain. The clogged sewer drain is due to roots coming through the drain, which require attention.

iii **SFY 2025 Carryover & Board Reserves Discussion**

David indicated that at this time of the year we typically have carryovers and make recommendations on how we plan to spend those.

Patty reviewed the Reserve and Carryover handout line by line and discussed the differences in the lines. The Recommendations for FY26 Reserve/Carryover are as follows:

Computer Reserves-no change; Unemployment Reserves-increase \$1834.52 per board policy; General Reserve-decrease; Operating-bring to 4 months; Building Reserve-increase up to \$275,000; eliminate Agency Reserve; and no change to Capital Match and Security deposit.

Based on the Reserve recommendations above, the following was recommended for the difference:

- 1) FY26 Budget allocation of \$275,000
- 2) Additional TAY/Respite housing- the program helps young people between 16 and 26 develop skills to live on their own successfully. As the current rent for this additional apartment has consistently increased.
- 3) Space for Pathways- Patty explained that we are looking for a home-like setting which is a more supportive environment for the peer program.
- 4) Copier lease- We are changing to a local vendor- our current lease was bought out by another company, not local.
- 5) Golden Center match/increase for expansion of \$40,000 (This program supports senior citizens)

- 6) Building Repairs/Updates- This includes the roof and building updates here at the MHRB offices, the Columbus Circle septic line due to tree roots, and repair the steps at the Professional building on Church St.
- 7) Parking garage/lot repaving
- 8) Jail/First Responder Training
- 9) Bullying Training
- 10) Additional Hospital Diversion

Patty discussed a listing that recently dropped in price as a possible space for Pathways. She explained that we are looking at properties that would allow us to do repairs or updates if needed within the amount recommended. After a brief discussion it was decided that any remaining amount above these recommendations will go into the general reserve line.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Cindy Kyser to recommend approval of the Carryover/Reserve funding
25-10-04 recommendations. Mary Deeter seconded the motion. A roll call vote was done and passed unanimously.

A. Planning, Sara Battison, Chair

i Health Officer

David indicated that Matthew Smith is a licensed social worker and has completed all the requirements to become a health officer except two of prescreens on the list. David is recommending that Matthew be approved as a health officer now, contingent on his completion of these requirements, as we don't meet again until December.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Mary Deeter to approve Matthew Smith as a Health Officer for
25-10-05 Appleseed, contingent on his completion of two additional prescreen requirements. Connie Butler seconded the motion. The motion carried. A roll call vote was done and passed unanimously.

ii Family & Children First Council (FCFC)- Update

David explained that the Ashland County Commissioners voted to dissolve the Ashland County FCFC. This is the first County in the State that has eliminated FCFC. The agency has an unfunded mandate which is hard for administrative agents to fund. This Board has been the administrative agent at one time, and the DJFS and others have been the administrative agent. OhioRise is the agency picking up the services that were offered by FCFC, which is paid for through Medicaid.

iii Resignation of DBH Director (LeeAnne Cornyn) and Chief Financial Officer (Beth Bennett)

David reported that there have been some resignations in the State departments. We will have a new administration coming in.

iv Resignation of OACBHA Executive Director (Liz Heinrich)

David announced that our trade association Executive Director has resigned. We will need to develop new relationships with the new administration. It's important that we have a trade association that is lobbying for us.

v Training & Event Updates

- Successful Fairs in the Books! Thank you to everyone who volunteered at the fair

- Suicide Prevention & Awareness Walk & Coalition Meeting
- World Mental Health Day at AU- Mary and Sandy attended
- MHRB Annual Luncheon- Thank you to the Major at the Kroc center for playing the piano. There were a lot of Annual Reports left on the tables, we will save money and do a QR code for the next annual meeting.
- Golden Center Levy Presentations

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

The Director's Report was sent out to Board members via video on Friday, October 24th. David provided some highlights- ACCADA and CCS will possibly merge at the beginning of the new fiscal year which might change our agency application process a bit. Our next event is RSVP; we are looking for suggestions on Keynote speakers. We are advertising for Ashley's position, Director of Programs, Training, and Education. We will make it easier to locate on our website.

David explained that the Richland County Commissioners have made some changes in property taxes. We have not heard if the Ashland County Commissioners plan to make any changes, the last opportunity for a change would be this Thursday. The legislature is considering many different possibilities, and we anticipate some change there. Other states do things differently regarding property taxes.

Seeds of Hope, Art Exhibition is Nov. 3 from 6-8 pm

D. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS

Sheryl Villegas, CCS,- reported that Snap benefits will be stopped for clients- donations of food are welcome to help families.

Jerry Strausbaugh, Appleseed thanked the Board for recognizing him at the luncheon.

Rick Ford, ACCADA

Laura Beckett, NAMI Richland

Aubrey Hall, Executive Director, NAMI Richland

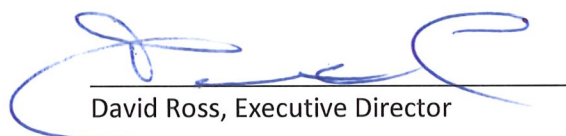
Emy-Lynn Marholik, NAMI Richland and a resident of Ashland, expressed that she would like to see Ashland have a NAMI. She told her personal story and asked that the Board consider a partnership with NAMI, although she understands that the Philosophy of NAMI and MHRB are different, she would like to see the Board change their policy.

The next Board meeting is December 9, and we will have a potluck at that time. David will send a link for the potluck in the next first of the month report.

E. ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Hoffman, Community Relations Coordinator



David Ross, Executive Director



Andrew Kinney, Board Chair



Mental Health & Recovery Board
OF ASHLAND COUNTY