

MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY BOARD OF ASHLAND COUNTY
Board Meeting Minutes
December 9, 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
 Nancy Udolph

VIRTUAL: Chad Brown

ABSENT: *Provided notice

GUESTS: Rick Ford, ACCADA
 Emy-Lynn Marholik, NAMI Richland
 Bekey Hunsicker, Appleseed

I. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

Andrew Kinney, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Martha Jordan 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 OCTOBER MINUTES

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Mary Deeter to recommend approval of October 28, 2025
25-12-01 Board meeting minutes. Connie Butler seconded the motion. The motion carried. A roll call
vote was done and passed unanimously.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. **Finance**, Ben Key, Chair

*i. November Warrants – Action: **Recommendation***

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Nancy Udolph to approve the Warrants. Cindy Kyser seconded the
25-12-02 motion. The motion carried. A roll call vote was done and passed unanimously.

*ii. October Financials – Action: **Recommendation***

Patty reviewed the financials, indicating the target is 33 percent. There are no updates for reserves. Revenues are at 59 percent, trending higher due to the timing of some payments/reserves. Regarding expenditure, non-Medicaid is trending below average across all three agencies. Overall expenses are 26 percent.

RESOLUTION: Connie Butler moved to approve the financials. Ed Kieper seconded the motion. The
25-12-03 motion passed. A roll call was done and passed unanimously.

b. **Planning**, Sara Battison, Chair

i. SFY 2025 Client Outcomes & Satisfaction Surveys

David Ross, Executive Director, provided a summary of the Client Outcomes & Satisfaction Survey, noting that this is our most direct way of hearing from our clients about how services are going and is confidential. The Consumer Outcomes & Satisfaction Survey was administered in July 2025, with 86 participants (-53 participants from SFY 24) across the Board's three contract agencies. Compared to SFY 24, Outcomes and Satisfaction results were slightly lower overall with mixed variation at the agency level (ACCADA, Appleseed, and Catholic Charities/Pathways). Moderately High to High levels of satisfaction, outcomes, access, involvement, and staff sensitivity were reported. Demographic information was similar to that of previous cycles, with one notable exception: 20% more females completed the survey than in SFY 24.

Aggregate Results

- On average, survey respondents reported being "Somewhat Connected" (55%) or "Very Connected" (38%) to family, friends, and community.
- 86% of respondents agreed/strongly agreed that the services received at the agency helped them to do the things they wanted to do (-1% from FY24).
- 92% of respondents were satisfied/very satisfied with the services received from the agency (-2% from FY24).
- 88% of respondents reported that access to services from the agency was easy/very easy (-6% from FY24).
- 92% of respondents agreed/strongly agreed that agency staff were sensitive to their cultural/ethnic and religious/spiritual preferences (+1% from FY24).
- 85% agreed/strongly agreed that they/their family was involved in directing their care (-5% from FY24).
- 90% agreed/strongly agreed that the services received helped them address their presenting concerns (-2% from FY24).

Demographic Summary

Most respondents were female (61%), white/Caucasian (94%), had been receiving services from the agency for over 12 months (60%), had a high school/GED education (53%), and had an average age of 36.

David indicated that the agencies are doing a great job; it's vital that we hear this feedback from the clients. The same questions have been asked for several years. Board members requested a summary covering the last five-year span. Mary noted that a family member told her agencies have been very cordial when asking clients to complete the survey.

ii. Recent Action on State RFA for Adult Mobile Crisis Response

The State has requested applications for providing Adult Mobile Crisis Response. Our Association and two others suggested that the State slow this process down due to concerns. A letter was written and submitted to the State regarding this.

iii. DBH Community Assessment & Plan Underway – Using Last Plan as a Starting Point – Recommendation at 1/27/26 Board Meeting – Due 1/30/26.

The Department of Behavioral Health requires completion of the Community Assessment & Plan. Given the short turnaround time, David will provide recommendations on our current status relative to the last submitted plan and review it at the next Board meeting, at which action will be required to submit it.

iv. **Grant Update SOS 4.0 Year 2**

SOS grant funds have helped our agencies over the last few years. We are currently submitting information for SOS 4.0 Year 2. The last SOS ended in September. We hope to hear something soon.

v. **Controlling Board Approves DBH Land Purchase for new “Miami Valley Behavioral Healthcare Hospital.”**

The State is beginning to build new Behavioral Health Hospitals. This is due to a lack of available civil beds; the hospital is expected to be completed in 2 to 3 years.

vi. **Federal Policy Change on Housing Impacts local HUD Housing Project “Beginning Anew.”**

During the Obama administration, the “Housing First” program was created to provide housing vouchers without requiring treatment. There has been a policy change to treatment requirements once again reversing the “Housing First” approach. However, there is a lawsuit, and we are unsure of the outcome. If the change occurs, we can anticipate an increase in short-term homelessness. It would also likely see the end of the Beginning Anew grant.

vii. **Training & Event Updates**

1. **Theme for March 25, 2026, RSVP Conference**

We may have our Keynote Speaker for the RSVP Conference with an emphasis on health and wellness. David is hopeful that we will be able to bring in some local speakers as well. The first RSVP Planning Meeting is Monday, Dec. 15 at 11 am via zoom or board members can come to the Board office for the meeting.

2. **Board Training on March 24th – Q & A on Dr. Gillette Video**

We have been approved to do a half-hour training session from the Dr. Gillette training, which will be a Q & A session; we will do this after the Board meeting on March 24 and a summary of the Dr. Gillette Training will be provided.

3. **Rachel’s Challenge and ‘Hope Squad’ in Loudonville**

There are two articles above that David suggested Board members read, a couple of our School Liaisons and Stacy Merryweather worked closely to get these programs in the school. The Programs encourage young people to support each other. David was impressed by the caring and support of the students and how engaged and motivated there were at a recent rally he attended.

4. **QPR to Loudonville Lions Club**

5. **Amish Women’s Health Day**

IV. **DIRECTOR’S REPORT, David Ross, Executive Director**

Key Items of Focus

1. **Pass the Levy in November 2025**

a. **Success!** Almost 60% passage rate is a strong indicator of the community's support of the Board! Congratulations to all! This says a lot about the way the community sees the work of this Board and agencies providing Mental Health.

2. **Contract for Services for SFY 2027**

a. Final funding from OhioMHAS & Levy Discussions has prompted a discussion on contract revisions for SFY 2026.
b. As we monitor the ACCADA & CCS Discussions, it may impact Agency Application Guidelines and Contracts in SFY 2027

Promote and Provide High-Quality Training and Events in SFY 2026/27 (Annual Luncheon, Awareness Walk, Fairs, RSVP).

a. The next major event is the RSVP Conference on March 25, 2026, our theme is "Making Ashland Healthy Again," and we will be leaning into nutrition, exercise/movement, and spirituality as ways to improve mental health and substance use.

4. Continue to ensure effective Board Operations (Board Members & Staff)

- a. We are actively interviewing for the Director of Programs, Training & Education position.
- b. We currently have one open State appointment. The Nominating Committee will meet soon to begin the process of filling the spot and potential upcoming vacancies.

Highlights

- ✓ Overwhelming success of the Replacement Levy!
- ✓ Trade association moving ahead with finding a new Executive Director

Lowlights

- ✓ Challenging developments with Property Tax legislation will necessitate further discussions on how the Board manages levy revenue.
- ✓ Slow response from DBH to our capital request

What's Keeping Me Up at Night

- ✓ Governor Transition
- ✓ Ballot initiative to eliminate property taxes
- ✓ Workforce Challenges
- ✓ Suicide & Overdose Deaths (lower but still too high)

Knowledge of Note

- Handout – Ohio General Assembly Wraps up Work for 2025
- Handout – Suicide Prevention for Female Veterans
- Changes to the federal health insurance marketplace

The Board Making News

- A big **THANK YOU** to Board members and members of the Levy Committee!
- David attended one of a series of events in the L-P Schools as part of "[Rachel's Challenge](#)." Thank you to Appleseed and the L-P Superintendent.
- We appreciate Appleseed providing QPR to the Loudonville Community on 11/18 and David to the Loudonville Lions Club on 11/25. **December 18th** – MHRB Nominating Committee
- **December 24th** – Christmas Eve (offices closed at Noon)
- **December 25th & 26th** – MHRB Offices Closed

SFY 2026 Board Schedule & Important Dates

- **December 24th** – Christmas Eve (offices closed at Noon)
- **December 25th & 26th** – MHRB Offices Closed

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF VISITORS

Rick Ford, ACCADA- Merry Christmas to all. Mary Jo Janchar is retiring, having a retirement off open next Thursday (12/18) between 8:30 and 5:30 to wish her well.

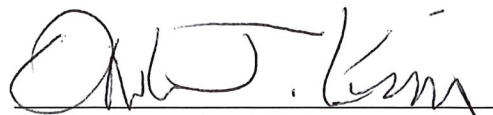
Emy-Lynn Marholik, NAMI Richland – No comments.

Bekey Hunsicker, Appleseed – No comments.

A. ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Hoffman, Community Relations Coordinator


David Ross, Executive Director
Andrew Kinney, Board Chair

Mental Health & Recovery Board
OF ASHLAND COUNTY