

**MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY BOARD OF ASHLAND COUNTY**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 28, 2026**

**PRESENT:**

Andrew Kinney	David Ross, Executive Director
Katie Wright	Patty Pawlikowski, Associate Director
Mary Deeter	Sandy Hoffman, Community Relations Coordinator
Cindy Kyser	Alyse Schroeder, Director of Programs, Training, and Education
Sara Battison	
Ben Key	

**ABSENT:**  
Tom Gaus  
Connie Butler\*  
Chad Brown\*  
Ed Kleper\*  
Nancy Udolph\*  
\*Provided notice

**GUESTS:**  
Jerry Strausbaugh, Apleseed  
Sheryl Villegas, CCS  
Rick Ford, ACCADA

**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 FEBRUARY MINUTES**  
**RESOLUTION:** A motion was made by Mary Deeter to recommend approval of March 24, 2026 Board meeting minutes. Cindy Kyser seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

- Finance, Ben Key provided the Finance
  - i. April Warrants

**RESOLUTION:** A motion was made by Mary Deeter to approve the Warrants. Cindy Kyser seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**RESOLUTION:** A motion was made by Katie Wright to approve the March financials.  
**26-04-03** Mary Deeter seconded the motion. The motion passed.  
Patty reviewed the March financials, indicating the target is 75 percent, revenues at 70 percent. She reported that non-Medicaid is trending below target for all three agencies, which were all above where they were last year at this time: ACCADA: 46 percent, Apleseed: 70 percent, and CCS: 58 percent. Overall expenses are 60 percent. Total received funds are \$145,510, and total expenses are \$369,556.

Patty explained that we needed several repairs at the Professional Building, and these were paid for out of our reserves. She pointed out that the loan to Applesseed was also drawn from our reserves.

Referring to the Building Line, she indicated there are dollars available for potential Pathways space; however, we are on hold for now due to a possible merger. She noted that we also continue to look for space for the TAY program.

It was discussed that the steps at the Professional Building are complete, and the inside of the building has been painted.

iii. **Applesseed Audit**

Patty indicated the Applesseed Audit was clean with no findings.

**RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Mary Deeter to accept the Applesseed Audit. Cindy Kyser 26-04-04 seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

IV. **Planning, Sara Battison**

i. **Agency Applications have all been submitted on time**

Sara thanked the agencies for their hard work and for submitting their applications on time.

ii. **211 to expand statewide**

David is trying to get some Ashland-specific statistics on 211, as we've had this in Ashland for some time now. He explained that the expansion will now cover more counties.

iii. **Update on Capital Project**

Executive Director Ross explained that the State Controlling Board said Applesseed didn't turn in their project. According to Applesseed, the State has not been clear with them on some of the required items, as a result, the process has been delayed.

Despite funding delays at the State level, thanks to the Board's help, Applesseed was able to get started on the project, and it's underway.

iv. **Agency Reports (ACCADA, Applesseed, and CCS)**

David discussed four reports from the agencies (Summary reports provided in the Board packet)

**ACCADA- Show Rate Tracking.** October; 75% overall Show Rate for all appointments, November; 63% overall Show Rate, and December; 77%. ACCADA will continue to track this.

**Applesseed - Equine Therapy Report:** *This program is an equine-assisted mental health therapy program serving residents of Ashland County, Ohio, funded through the Ashland County Mental Health and Recovery Board and administered by Applesseed Community Mental Health Center. The program provides individualized, experiential therapy through structured interactions with horses, offering clients a therapeutic modality that complements traditional outpatient counseling.*

*David indicated that this has been a successful program, as reflected in the clinical narrative. A primary recommendation for the coming program year is the adoption of standardized outcome measures to complement clinical narrative reporting and provide data on client progress. He explained that it is a program the Board may want to expand.*

*Appleseed ADHD Report: The ADHD Treatment Program is for both Parents and Children. 10 children and 11 parents were in attendance for Oct. 16 through Nov. 20. Appleseed has incorporated Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) training to both the parent and child groups. Parents indicated that they really appreciated the materials and the opportunity to talk with Dr. Andrea Zanders; they can ask general questions about medication and learn about other, more natural alternatives.*

CCS-Landing Zone- The Landing Zone program provides a safe space for Veterans to meet weekly to share stories, give support, and engage in fellowship with individuals in the community who share a common experience in military service. While the meetings are generally open for general discussion over coffee and snacks, outside speakers have also been brought in to provide presentations. There were **22** participants, **8** new members in the first half of the year (July – Dec 2025). During this time, **3** members passed away. The program expenses totaled \$526.02 for food and coffee for participants. This continues to be a highly beneficial and worthwhile program.

*Recently, a Facebook picture of the Landing Zone group was posted.*

#### V. Training & Event Updates

- April 11 - Ashland Symphony 5K (75 bags)
- April 17 at noon- Suicide Prevention Coalition
- April 25 from 10 am -2 pm- Drug Take Back Day (2 locations)
- April 29 at 7 pm “Polarization” at the Ohio Theatre (Redbird Resilient)- David to speak.
- May 5- Nominating Committee at 9:00 a.m.- We have two vacancies to fill. Dwight has expressed interest.
- May 16-33 Forever Birthday Walk- at the Carousel District in Richland County.
- May 21- Senior Health Fair at AU

David reported that there has been a change in the catering/events department at AU. Long-time catering/events Coordinator Erika Chuburko is leaving, and Amanda Rodrigues will be the new contact person. David and Sandy will go over and meet Amanda and review the Suicide Prevention Walk event.

#### VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT, David Ross, Executive Director

Andrew Kinney reported that 8 out of 11 Executive Director Evaluations have been completed - He would like to see 100% participation. He explained that it may be easier if next year we hand out a hard copy at a meeting and complete the evaluation.

#### Key Items of Focus

Ensure Responsible & Effective Stewardship of Levy Revenue in Service of the Board's Mission Begin working on projects/services/activities that will achieve the Board's mission.

Contract for Services for SFY 2027 Final funding from DBH is pending, but we anticipate some reduction in the Crisis Block Grant line.

All three agencies provided quality applications which Board staff review and clarify. We will make recommendations to the Board members prior to the agency presentations in May.

Promote and Provide High-Quality Training and Events in SFY 2026/27 (Annual Luncheon, Awareness Walk, Fairs, RSVP). The next major event is the Suicide Prevention & Awareness Walk on **September 27, 2026**

Continue to ensure effective Board Operations (Board Members & Staff) Connie will update the Board after the next Nominating Committee meeting; we are looking to fill 2 empty county appointments.

#### Highlights

- Many Board members participated, David expressed appreciation to everyone who participated in RSVP this year! What a success!
- Opportunity to Partner with AU (at OPEG) and RedBird Resilient (Polarization). Polarization at Ohio Theatre in Loudonville, Wed. April 29 at 7 pm
- Strong submissions by all three of our current contract partners for SFY 27.
- Nice to see **former Ashland County leader** (Fredy Robles) take on a new role at OneEighty in Wooster.

#### Lowlights

- Persistent staffing/workforce issues at DBH.

#### What's Keeping Me Up at Night

- Governor Transition
- Ballot initiative to eliminate property taxes & HB 309 Implications (Budget Commissions)
- Economic challenges (affordability, housing, stress on our farmers, etc.)

#### Knowledge of Note

New CEO – Diocese of Cleveland | Chris Larson I am pleased to share that Chris Larson has been appointed as the next Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland. Chris will officially begin on June 1. I wanted to make sure that our partners have seen the news release. Chris brings more than 35 years of leadership experience in nonprofit organizations, with a strong track record of building high-performing teams, strengthening organizational culture, and delivering measurable impact. Most recently, he served as Senior Vice President of Talent Strategy & Operations at City Year, Inc., where he led national efforts to develop leaders, scale impact, and align teams around shared goals. Earlier in his career, he led City Year Cleveland and served as Chief Operating Officer of El Barrio, giving him deep roots in our community.

Throughout his career, Chris has consistently driven growth, strengthened partnerships, and helped organizations operate with clarity and purpose. His leadership aligns directly with where we are headed as an organization, focused on outcomes, one unified organization, and delivering impact across all eight counties. I am personally very excited to work with Christopher.

Dan Horriگان will continue his leadership as Interim CEO until Chris joins us. The Catholic Charities board has shared their deep gratitude for his leadership. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or ways we can continue to work together. When he begins, I will work with Christopher Larson to help connect him to many of our partners and friends.

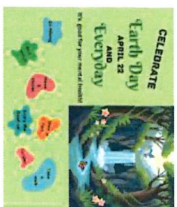
- OneOhio Grant Scoring & Reviewing Participation – David has a meeting on Monday for final scoring and then the group makes recommendations. Our agencies do receive funding from OneOhio, they may know in July or August if they receive funding.

The Link Between Autism & Mental Health • **May 5th – Board Nominating Committing**

- **May 19th – Board Meeting – Agency Applications**

- **May 26th – Board Meeting – Board Budget**

Permanent supportable housing was discussed, and how we can help with this housing problem in Ashland County. Homelessness and affordable housing will be brought to this board for consideration.



VI.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS**

Jerry Strausbaugh, Appleseed  
Sheryl Villegas, CCS  
Rick Ford, ACCADA

VII.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**RESOLUTION:** A motion was made by Mary Deeter to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 p.m. Cindy Kyser  
26-04-05 seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sandy Hoffman, Community Relations Coordinator

  
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David Ross, Executive Director  
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Andrew Kinney, Board Chair