

MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY BOARD OF ASHLAND COUNTY
Board Meeting Minutes
May 19, 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	
Tom Gaus	
Chad Brown	
Ed Kieper	
Nancy Udolph	

ABSENT:

Connie Butler*
*Provided notice

GUESTS:

Rick Ford, ACCADA and Board member; Mindy
Jerry Strausbaugh, Applesseed & staff; Stacy Merryweather, Pam Lemaster, Brandy Barone
Sheryl Villegas, CCS & staff; Tammy Hill and Lynn Berner

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL -Secretary Katie Wright took the roll call and noted that a quorum was present.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Agency Application Review (ACCADA)

David Ross, Executive Director, reviewed the Board Staff Recommendation/Rationale Re: ACCADA He explained that flat funding was requested, and applications reflect this, as we do not receive the levy dollars until January 2027. An SFY 2027 Programmatic & Fiscal Review Summary for ACCADA was provided. Regarding programs and services (There are no changes).

Patty reviewed the fiscal portion of the application summary, noting:

- 2% was built into the carve-outs
- SOR dollars are scheduled to end 9/30/26
- Staff recommending an allocation of \$476,120
- Opportunity to use outside and state funding
- Allocation is 17% less than last fiscal year due to SOR

Strategic updates reviewed by David:

- ACCADA is the Gatekeeper for residential and withdrawal management services.
- ACCADA and CCS are discussing a potential merger, with a decision anticipated during 2027. This has been delayed due to staffing changes at CCS. We are encouraging this to happen sooner rather than later.
- ACCADA has applied for additional OneOhio funding beyond the current Quick Response Team allocation.
- ACCADA and CCS are proposing a quarterly family education and support group.

ACCADA Proposal Presentation

Rick Ford, Executive Director of ACCADA, noted that ACCADA has provided services to the community for 41 years. He described ACCADA's characteristics over the years and how they plan to continue to provide services that are: 1) accountable, 2) community driven, 3) competent, 4) dependable, and 5) adaptable. He further explained that ACCADA is involved in some collaborative changes in their application through a partnership with CCS to provide family support in our community.

ACCADA has faced challenges in outpatient treatment services, prompting potential merger discussions with CCS. Rick explained that ACCADA's application and presentation next year will look very different.

Rick discussed the fact that drug and alcohol services have changed; for example, the agency is seeing less heroin use, but is seeing more vaping challenges, which changes the way services are provided.

ACCADA is continuing the Quick Response Team (QRT) with one visit so far this calendar year. He reported that ACCADA's OneOhio grant was approved, but the final grant amount is unknown. He indicated there is potential to partner with the Board on a recovery house this fiscal year and discussed the success ACCADA is seeing with its show rate: 150 appointments scheduled, with a promising 79% overall.

Rick discussed the options for ACCADA if it does not merge with CCS, saying ACCADA could become more focused on recovery and prevention or perhaps consider another merger partner. He is very optimistic about ACCADA's options.

Brief discussion regarding ACCADA - Action: *Recommendation*

RESOLUTION:
25-05-01
A motion was made by Chad Brown to approve the FY2027 ACCADA Application total projected MHRB funding of \$476,120. Nancy Udolph seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Agency Application Review (Appleseed)

David reviewed the Board Staff Recommendation/Rationale Re: Appleseed, the Board's largest agency, noting that there are no changes to its core services. An SFY 2027 Programmatic & Fiscal Review Summary for ACCADA was provided.

Patty reviewed the fiscal portion of the application summary, noting:

- 2% increase built in carve-outs
- Don't anticipate SOR dollars after 9/30/26
- Staff recommendation for an allocation of \$2,390,918

Strategic updates reviewed by David:

- Gatekeeper for civic and forensic psychiatric emergency services.
- Ashland County's designated Forensic Monitor
- Grant-funded programs continuing in SFY27, including Beginning Anew HUD, SOS/SOR 4,2, and OneOhio Jail-Based Services.
- Appleseed requested a \$25,000 Art Therapy Expansion project, primarily for supplies, which will serve about 30 additional people.
- Appleseed will continue collaborating with the Counseling Center in Wayne County for MRSS services. They have one more year of the MRSS grant, and then the Board will have to make decisions about this program.

Appleseed Proposal Presentation

Jerry introduced his staff, Stacy Merryweather, Pam Lemaster, and Brandy Barone. Over the years, Appleseed has decided to deepen community services. Some challenges include cost pressures

from new Medicaid, as well as regulations on fraud, waste, and abuse. Appleaseed is working to adapt to these challenges along with AI changes. Appleaseed's goal is to improve clients' lives through community-based programs that serve Ashland well. Appleaseed is committed to trauma-informed care and supporting families. Jerry stressed the importance of partners like the Board.

Candice Ressler is the Art Therapist running the new program. Appleaseed is expanding the program based on seeing success in art therapy, helping people cope.

The Equine program is for both adults and children. Appleaseed has seen many successes with the program.

Brief discussion regarding Appleaseed- Action: *Recommendation*

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Mary Deeter to approve the FY2027 Appleaseed Application total projected MHRB funding of \$2,390,918. Katie Wright seconded the motion. The motion carried.

B. Agency Application Review (Catholic Charities Services – CCS)

David reviewed the Board Staff Recommendation/Rationale Re: CCS. He explained that CCS has the most robust early childhood program in Ashland. An SFY 2027 Programmatic & Fiscal Review Summary for CCS was provided.

- Patty noted the two major changes for CCS being SOR and potential OneOhio funding
- Staff recommending an allocation of \$488,376

Strategic Updates by David:

- CCS and ACCADA are proposing a quarterly family education and support group. \$800 total funding for the year (includes costs for both CCS & ACCADA).
- CCS has applied for OneOhio funding with expected announcements in early SFY 27.
- The Diocese of Cleveland continues demonstrating commitments to Ashland County through ongoing financial support.
- The Regional ECMH grant is expected to remain regional under the Department of Children and Families.

CCS Proposal Presentation

Sheryl Villegas introduced her staff, Tammy Hill and Lynn Berner. She noted CCS of Ashland is under the Diocese of Cleveland and located in Ashland at the Board's Professional Building. She discussed the senior leadership changes; starting June 1st, Chris Larson will be the new CEO/President. She pointed out the leadership in Ashland remains unchanged- 20 staff members in Ashland, 43% of the CCS budget comes from the Mental Health Board. The largest share of the Board's funds goes to the Pathways Program. Deb Brookshire has been the Director of Pathways for some time; however, she will gradually transition out of that role to enjoy retirement. The Golden Center and MGM Pen Pal Program now have 325 students involved. The Landing Zone is a veteran's program that has been a successful support for veterans. Other successful programs include Healthy Kids Strong Families, Teen Mentoring/Prevention, Transitional Aged Youth (TAY)

CCS is requesting funds to provide a program with ACCADA for "Family Education" and to support families facing challenges. We are proud to provide services for the community of Ashland County.

The merger with ACCADA is on hold until the new leadership is established.

Brief discussion regarding CCS – Action: Recommendation


RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Mary Deeter to approve the FY2027 Catholic Charities Services (CCS) Application total projected MHRB funding of \$488,376. Cindy Kyser seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Andy reported that Connie's husband is very ill and currently in a day-to-day situation. Connie appreciates this Board and their support. Nancy visited Connie recently and suggested we could support her with a meal, and she does appreciate chocolate. Sandy will send the Board members Connie's address and phone number.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Hoffman, Community Relations Coordinator



David Ross, Executive Director



Andrew Kinney, Board Chair



Mental Health & Recovery Board
OF ASHLAND COUNTY