

MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY BOARD OF ASHLAND COUNTY
Board Meeting Minutes
May 26, 2026

PRESENT: Chad Brown 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
Ed Kieper
Nancy Udolph

ABSENT:
Connie Butler*
Andrew Kinney*
*Provided notice

GUESTS:
Rick Ford, ACCADA
Jerry Strausbaugh, Appleseed
Tarah Bowels, Leadership Ashland

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chad Brown, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in lieu of Andrew Kinney, Board Chair, 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.
APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 28th and May 19, 2026, BOARD MINUTES

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Mary Deeter to approve the April 28 and May 19 Board Minutes.
26.05.01 Ed Kieper seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Executive Committee, Chad Brown, Chair

i. Director & Staff Salaries for SFY2027

David Ross, Executive Director, indicated the recommended 3.5 % staff increase reflects the hard work of the staff, he pointed out that this was included in both the first and second look of the Board budget review.

RESOLUTION: Ed Kieper made a motion to approve a 3.5 percent increase for staff and the executive director.
26.05.02 Mary Deeter seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ii. Slate of Officers for SFY 2027

Chad Brown, Executive Chair, announced the slate of officers for SFY 2027 as set by Andrew Kinney who is entering his second year of his two-year term as Board Chair; Andrew Kinney, Board Chair, Chad Brown, Executive Chair, and Katie Wright, Secretary

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Mary Deeter to approve the slate of officers for SFY 2027; Andrew Kinney, Board Chair, Chad Brown, Executive Chair, and Katie Wright, Secretary. Nancy Udolph seconded the motion. The motion carried.

B. Finance Committee, Ben Key, Chair

i. May Warrants

RESOLUTION: 26.05.04 A motion was made by Tom Gaus to approve the May Warrants. Sara Battison seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ii. April Financials

Patty reviewed the April financials indicating target is 83 percent. She noted the revenues are at 96 percent, levy and 4th quarter allocations have been received. Referring to non-Medicaid, all three agencies are trending below target, but all three are above where they were last year at this time. ACCADA 52%, Appleseed 78%, and CCS 71%. Overall expenses are 68 percent. Total received funds are 1,457,369 and total expenses \$385,075.

RESOLUTION: 26.05.05 A motion was made by Mary Deeter to approve the April Financials. Cindy Kyser seconded the motion. The motion carried.

iii. SFY 2027 Board Budget

Patty reviewed the main differences on the SFY 2027 Board Budget;

- Line 2 Community & Systems Development (agency training, RSVP etc.) decrease of 28%
- Line 4 slight difference, increase in the fees to collect the levy.
- Line 5 Board MIS budget, slight decrease as we were able to make a purchase this fiscal year.
- Line 6 includes the 3.5% salary increase and vacation payout based on the policy.
- Line 7 slight decrease of 2 percent for Partner Solutions- Claims/Network Admin.
- Line 14 decreased by \$9,850 for new printer and paid for the printer with discount.
- Line 22, 23, and 26 are related to salary and personnel
- Total expenses are \$6,020 less than last fiscal year.
- Insurance increased 18% overall; and new employee added.

RESOLUTION: 26.05.06 Ed Kieper made a motion to approve the FYS 2027 Board Budget, \$785,062.78. Mary Deeter second the motion. The motion carried.

C. Planning Committee, Sara Battison, Chair

i. Recent increase in Probate Hearings

David explained that we've seen an increase in probate hearings recently, which we haven't experienced. We had one 22 years ago and now we've seen 4. There is also a very short time frame between receiving the notice about the hearing to the hearing date and time. The hearings have all been commitment hearings, not guardianships. David explained that we are not seeing anything that is driving this increase, however, we will continue to monitor this.

ii. Increase focus on Waste, Fraud, And Abuse in MCD & all systems

David indicated the Governor's race in Ohio is creating increased focus on Waste, Fraud, and Abuse in MCD and all systems because both candidates want to be champions of securitizing Waste, Fraud and Abuse. Candidates want to assure Ohioans that taxpayer funds are being used appropriately, meaning a lot of investigations are likely to occur.

iii. 157 Pounds of Medication Collected at the last "Take-Back" day.

David reported that the amount of prescription medications collected this year at the "Take-Back" day were down from last year. The County has been averaging about 200 pounds and this year the total collected was 157 pounds. This is still a good amount of medication to get off the streets.

iv. Training & Events Updates

- May 21 Senior Fair- Alyse and Sandy covered the event. This is a huge event for seniors; a lot of information and giveaways were distributed.
- June is Elder Empowerment Month- The Older Adult Behavioral Health Coalition started this initiative several years ago.

- June 1-2 State Behavior Health Conference- David and Alyse will be attending.

D. Nominating Committee, Connie Butler, Chair

Cindy Kyser provided the Nominating Committee report in the absence of Connie Butler. She explained that the committee has been meeting on a regular basis to fill the seats coming opening at the end of this fiscal year.

RESOLUTION: 26.05.07 Cindy Kyser recommended Dwight McElfresh and Carly George for consideration as county appointments to the Commissioners. Tom Gaus seconded the motion. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION: 26.05.08 Cindy Kyser recommended Connie Butler for a State appointment. Nancy Uphoph seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Director's Report

Key Items of Focus

1. Ensure Responsible & Effective Stewardship of Levy Revenue in Service of the Board's Mission
 - a. Begin working on projects/services/activities that will achieve the Board's mission. Anticipated Board Staff Recommendations by December, 2026.
2. Contract for Services for SFY 2027
 - a. Final funding from DBH is pending, but we anticipate some reduction in the Crisis Block Grant line.
 - b. The Board has approved applications for SFY 2027 – Contracts being drawn up.
3. 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 Suicide Prevention & Awareness Walk on **September 27, 2026**
4. Continue to ensure effective Board Operations (Board Members & Staff)
 - a. The Nominating Committee will update the Board on our efforts/plan to fill the two open County Appointment slots as of July 1, 2026.

Highlights

- ✓ Two of our Three Contract Partners Should Receive OneOhio Funding
- ✓ OACBHA has hired a new CEO – Jeremiah Wagner. Mr. Wagner has experience in the DD system and serves as the Board chair for the Delaware-Morrow Board.
- ✓ Alyse has completed her QPR and Trauma-Informed Care "Train-the-Trainer" Courses!

Lowlights

- ✓ Property Tax Ballot Initiative and HB 309 will require sustained attention through at least July and possibly to November's vote and beyond, depending on the outcome.
- ✓ 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

- Series of “Dear Colleague” Positions released by HHS
 - [Psychiatric Medication & Non-Pharmacological Treatments](#) -Medication Optimization focused on informed consent; Training on how to do this and incentives.
 - [Updated Guidance on MAT for MOUD](#)-encouraging conversations to possibly eliminate medications
 - [Updated Funding Guidance for Grantees on Supplies & Services](#) (Harm Reduction)

SFY 2026 Board Schedule & Important Dates

- June 19th – Juneteenth (Offices Closed)
- **June 23rd – Board Meeting (Final Meeting of SFY 26)**
 - a. Recognition of Nancy Udolph**

E. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF VISITORS

Rick Ford, ACCADA, thank you to the Board for approving ACCADA’s contract.

Jerry Strausbaugh, Appleseed, thank you to the Board for approving their contract. Jerry explained that construction on the new property has started. Going to the controlling board June 8th or 9th.

Tarah Bowles, Leadership Ashland, She is very interested in mental health and also expressed interest in being a Board Member at some time.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Hoffman, Community Relations Coordinator


David Ross, Executive Director


Andrew Kinney, Board Chair



Mental Health & Recovery Board
OF ASHLAND COUNTY