

MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY BOARD OF ASHLAND COUNTY
Board Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2026

Andrew Kinney, Chair
Mary Deeter
Sara Battison
Chad Brown
Ben Key
Nancy Udolph
Cindy Kyser
Katie Wright
Ed Kieper

David Ross, Executive Director
Patty Pawilkowski, Associate Director
Sandy Hoffman, Community Relations Coordinator
Alyse Shroeder, Director of Programs, Training and Education

ABSENT:
Connie Butler*
Tom Gaus

GUESTS:
Jerry Strausbuagh, Appleseed
Sheryl Villegas, CCS- Virtual
Sarah Woessner, Appleseed-Virtual
Jennifer English

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

I. Roll Call- Secretary Katie Wright took the roll call and noted that a quorum was present.

II. Pass Warrants

III. Committee Chair Announced

Cindy Kyser- Planning Committee Chair

Ben Key- Finance Committee Chair

Connie Butler- Nominating Committee Chair

IV. Appointments- Andrew reviewed the FY 2026 appointments:

- Carley George and Dwight McElfresh are new county appointments
- Cindy Kyser, Chad Brown and Tom Gaus have been reappointed to a second county term.
- Ben Key has submitted his reappointment with the state; the Board has completed its portion of the application and submitted it. We should be hearing back from DBH about Ben's reappointment at any time.
- Connie Butler has completed her appointment application for a second state term.

V. Bylaws/Policy ad hoc Committee- Andrew explained that periodically we want to review our bylaws and policies to ensure that are up to date. We plan to meet over the summer, if anyone is interested in being on the committee, please let David know. Mary Deeter and Chad Brown volunteered to be on the committee.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 26th BOARD MINUTES

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Chad Brown to approve the May 26, 2026, Board Minutes.
26.06.01 Cindy Kyser seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

I. Finance, Ben Key, Chair

a. June Warrants

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Nancy Udolph to approve the June Warrants. Mary Deeter
26.06.02 seconded the motion. The motion carried.

b. May Financials

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Mary Deeter to approve the May Financials. Nancy Udolph seconded
26.06.03 the motion. The motion carried.

Patty reviewed the May Financials indicating target is 92 percent, revenues 97 percent. Referring to Non-Medicaid, she indicated CCS has exceeded their full allocation by \$1700; Appleseed is at 84 percent and ACCADA is at 85 percent. Overall expenses are at 75 percent. Total for May: Received Funds: 26,451, and total expenses: \$384,327. She indicated the Professional Building budget is running over due to additional maintenance, hopefully all the updates and repairs will help keep maintenance lower in FY27.

c. FY 2027 DBH Allocations

Patty shared that the state (DBH) allocations came in almost flat, about \$900 less than the Current fiscal year.

d. **New Board Staff Position** – Director of Community Wellness and Engagement. David explained the timing and need for an additional staff person to fulfill the Board's mission. Alyse's position was prioritized but now that she is oriented and doing well, the timing is right to bring on someone for the new position. The new person will be responsible for raising awareness and developing wellness resources to the community and providing backup to other staff.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Mary Deeter to approve a new board staff position. Nancy Udolph seconded
26.06.04 the motion. The motion carried.

II. Planning, Sara Battison, Chair

a. Health Officer

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Mary Deeter to approve a health officer at Appleseed CMHC. Ben Key
26.06.05 seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Sarah Woessner has completed the health officer requirements and will be filling an important role at Appleseed and will help Pam LeMaster. Sarah was in attendance virtually and introduced herself indicating she has an MSW and has worked in the adult prison system and has been working in the school system.

b. Recent Round of SOR/SOS Grant Funding

David Ross, Executive Director, explained that the Board will receive another round of SOS dollars and anticipates that we will receive those funds which are one-time funds. The turnaround times were very short. David thanked the Board's contract partners for working so expeditiously to assist in our turning in proposals.

c. Program Reports

Appleseed TAY Report – 3rd Quarter- Alyse Shroeder, Director of Programs, Training, and Education reported the Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) program continues to provide strong support for youth and young adults ages 16–24 who are navigating education, employment, housing, health care, and independent living. During the first quarter of 2026, the program served **60 young people**, including **20 new participants**.

She reviewed some of the **Key Outcomes** indicating the program impacted participants education and employment: 8 participants completed college applications and secured 6 college acceptances, 3 earned scholarships, 6 completed job applications/interviews, resulting in 5 new jobs. Furthermore, 3 participants were successful in securing housing, 2 received vouchers, and 2 utilized TAY housing resources. Participants also received help with driving and enrolled in driver's education and 4 obtained permits or licenses.

Alyse discussed the success story of a girl with many challenges that was able to get through high school earning straight A's engaging consistently in counseling and case management, securing employment opportunities in her career field, and building stronger community connections.

Jerry Strausbaugh, Director at Appleseed indicated this is an important program for many youths with trauma issues and Appleseed has great staff that work with the youth.

ACCADA Milestone Report – 3rd Quarter- Alyse reported that ACCADA saw **94 clients** through outpatient and jail-based services. While overall service volume declined compared to the previous quarter, the program demonstrated stronger client engagement and retention among those receiving services and staff are doing a great job with this.

1. that 94 clients just down from last quarter. The staff is doing a great job with client engagement.

d. Training & Event Updates

1. July – America 250 Years- David and Sheryl will be marching in the parade with the Lions Club.
2. August 8 Veterans Appreciation Day- Freer Field (Memorials)- The Board will be there, if Board members are interested in helping just let Sandy know.
3. Ashland County Fair
4. September 27, Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk- Always looking for volunteers to help with this event. Mary Deeter and Katie Wright volunteered to help with the event. If anyone knows of someone with a person story of suicide, please let us know, we need a speaker for the event.
5. Loudonville Street Fair
6. October 21, MHRB Annual Lunch- at AU Convocation Center

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

- a. Board Self-Evaluations-
- b. Board Member Orientation- July 16 at 9 am
- c. Policy Ad-Hoc Committee

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. Anticipated Board Staff Recommendations by **September/October 2026**.

Contract for Services for SFY 2027 SFY 2027 Contracts have been submitted to each agency for review and signature, two out of the three are back. Catholic Charities takes just a bit longer because it goes through the Diocese.

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) Thanks to the Nominating Committee for selecting two strong candidates to fill our open positions!

David is continuing to examine staffing levels/positions in light of the levy passage and ongoing mission of the Board.

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.
- SFY 2027 State/Federal Funding appears to be flat!

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

- Ohio enacts sweeping Medicaid Fraud Reforms through [SB 315](#)
- Surgeon General's Warning on the [Harms of Screen Use](#): An advisory and toolkit on how to protect children and adolescents. Prioritize sleep, community engagement, connection etc.

FY2026/27 Board Schedule & Important Dates

- July-NO MEETINGS
- August 25- Board Meeting

V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS

Jerry Strausbuagh, Appleseed, Thanked Nancy for her years of service.

Sheryl Villegas, CCS, Thanked Nancy for her years of service.

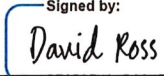
Jennifer English, introduced as Director of Community Wellness & Engagement

VI. RECOGNITION OF NANCY UDOLPH

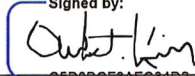
VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Hoffman, Community Relations Coordinator

Signed by:


5F656E4015C34E9...
David Ross, Executive Director

Signed by:


C5D98CF3AFC84D2...
Andrew Kinney, Board Chair



Mental Health & Recovery Board
OF ASHLAND COUNTY