MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY BOARD OF ASHLAND COUNTY
Board Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2026

Andrew Kinney, Chair
Mary Deeter
Sara Battison
Chad Brown
Ben Key
Tom Gaus
Cindy Kyser
Katie Wright
Ed Kieper
Connie Butler
Dwight McElfresh

Patty Pawlikowski, Associate Director
Alyse Shroeder, Director of Programs, Training and Education
Sandy Hoffman, Community Relations Coordinator

ABSENT: Carly George*

GUESTS:
Jerry Strausbuagh, Appleseed
Sheryl Villegas, CCS
Rick Ford- ACCADA
Bekey Hunsicker, Appleseed- Virtual
Michael Donatini, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Ashland County

I. **CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME–** Andrew Kinney welcomed Board members and guests to the Board meeting.

II.

I. Roll Call- Katie Wright called the roll and noted there was a quorum.
II. Pass Warrants

III. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 25 BOARD MINUTES

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dwight McElfresh to approve the August 25 Board Minutes.
26-09-01 Connie Butler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

I. **Policy Ad Hoc,** Mary Deeter, Chair reviewed the updates

1. **Policy Updates to job titles and staff in the positions**
Mary Deeter went through each of the policy items discussed at the Policy meeting. She noted that job titles were updated and staff names removed from the following policies:

Page 23 – Policy 2.2.15: Civil Rights Policy – outdated "Director of Program Planning and Evaluation" title to "Director of Programs, Training, and Education."
Page 56 – Policy 2.3.12: Delegation of Authority – outdated "Director of Operations (Patty Walton)" and "Associate Director (David Ross)" references.

Furthermore, Mary indicated that **June 19th** was updated in the Board holidays policy (**Page 81**).

2. **Audio Recording Policy**
Mary reported that recordings of meetings is now addressed in policy 2.3.1 Sunshine Law Compliance.

3. **Hiring Policy Clarification**
   Mary explained that a change was made to remove "as deemed appropriate" in the current policy.

4. **Social Media Policy**
   This item was tabled at the policy meeting.

5. **Annual Staff Evaluation of Executive Director**
   Mary indicated that policy 2.5.7 Evaluations were revised to include an evaluation of the Executive Director by the staff and agencies to allow us a clearer picture of the performance of our Executive Director.

   The Executive Committee will begin work on the evaluation in October and present it at the December Board meeting. A meeting is scheduled for October 6 at 9 am for the Executive Committee to meet.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Dwight McElfresh to approve all the policy revisions as presented in
26-09-02 their entirety. Tom Gaus seconded the motion. The motion carried.

II. **Finance,** Ben Key, Chair

a. **September Warrants**

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Mary Deeter to approve the September warrants. Chad Brown seconded
26-09-03 the motion. The motion carried.

b. **August Financials**

Patty reviewed the August financials reporting target at 17 percent. She reported revenues at 40 percent and noted this is misleading as it mainly reflects carryover and will be adjusted. Referring to Non-Medicaid: CCS is at 12 percent, and we will monitor this if necessary and consider adjustments at mid-year; Appleseed is at 14 percent and ACCADA is at 8 percent. Overall expenses are at 15 percent, just below target. Church Street expenses are looking high due to the insurance payment.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Mary Deeter to approve the August financials. Connie Butler
26-09-04 seconded the motion. The motion passed.

c. **Carryover & Reserve Discussion**

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Ben Key to move/table the carryover discussion until next month.
26-09-05 Mary Deeter seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. **Planning,** Cindy Kyser, Chair

a. 988 & MRSS

1. **DBH is asking Boards to promote 988 & MRSS locally rather than "their own version"** Andy explained there is a sentiment that having local crisis numbers deter people from using 988 & MRSS, however, our crisis number has been established for some time in our community. Alyse Schroeder, Director of Programs, Training and Education, explained that the state is permitting Boards to continue the use of both numbers for the time being.

b. **Program Reports**

1. **Annual Jail Report- ACCADA**
   Alyse reported that 179 individuals received some service at the Jail Program. 11 received assessment and a total of 98 received either individual Counseling or Individual Supportive Counseling. She explained that the Jail Program helps to bridge and support individuals during the transition from jail to the community.

   Referring to Jail Outcomes, Alyse indicated that 15 jail clients scheduled without patient appointments with ACCADA, (6) attended at least one follow-up intake appointment while five of the six participated in at least three or more follow-up outpatient appointments. Thank you to Rick for the report.

2. **Annual ECMH report- CCS Nicole Mann provided a great report. Ashland Head**
   Alyse reported that Preschool/daycare providers receiving center- based services:
   - Ashland Head Start (Kroc Center): 2 classrooms (all classrooms)

o Ashland Head Start (West): 3 classrooms (all classrooms)
o Foundations Community Childcare: 5 classrooms (all classrooms)
o Loudonville Head Start: 1 classroom (all classrooms)
o Park Street Preschool: 1 classroom (1 of 5 classrooms)
o Sullivan Head Start: 3 classrooms (all classrooms)

Center-based ECMHC services:

A total of 220 assessments were completed by teachers in the Fall of schoolyear 2025-26 and 205 in the Spring.

c. **Board Self Evaluation**

Andrew Kinney, Board Chair reviewed the Board Self-Evaluation noting that the Board is doing a great job. Andrew indicated he has some concerns to accurately show the data, particularly in the category of staff management that states "The Board provides adequate facilities, equipment, and a good working environment."

d. **Training & Events**

1. **September 20-26, Ashland County Fair- thank you to all who are helping**
2. **September 27, Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk**
3. **October 6-10, Loudonville Street Fair**
4. **October 21, MHRB Annual Lunch**

Connie Butler announced that she represented the Board at the Farm Bureau dinner where they had 80 or 90 in attendance, and our booth was right at the food line; it was well received. Thank you, Connie!

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

I. **October meeting at Professional Building**

II. **Open House at Sherman House pending**

The Sherman house is almost complete and will be able to hand over to Jerry on Wednesday to provide services. Jerry, have several people waiting for housing, will fill with TAY or diversion.

V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS

Jerry Strausbaugh, Appleseed Director- reported there is a lot happening around MRSS. He indicated it sounds like Medicaid is working hard to trim budgets and meet benchmarks, this may make some things going forward challenging, as there are many Medicaid changes. MRSS may come under a looking glass to see if it meets benchmarks. Jerry says Appleseed's MRSS numbers are very good and referrals come from the school relationships, not 988.

Sheryl Villegas, CCS Director- She appreciates the Boards creativity and Patty in the way she works with the agencies.

Rick Ford, ACCADA Director- ACCADA and CCS has launched the Families Finding Hope Group and it went very well. They will continue promoting it and set a date for next month.

Rebecca Hunsicker, Appleseed- no update

RESOLUTION: 26-09-06 **A motion to enter into executive session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G) (1)** to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual, unless the employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual requests a public hearing by division (G) (1) of section 121.22 of the Revised Code. **was made by Mary Deeter and seconded by Katie Wright. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.**

Sara Battison- Yes
Chad Brown-Yes
Connie Butler-Yes
Mary Deeter-Yes
Tom Gaus-Yes
Ben Key-Yes

Ed Kieper-Yes
Andrew Kinney-Yes
Cindy Kyser-Yes
Dwight McElfresh-Yes
Katie Wright-Yes

Katie Wright noted there is a quorum. 11 Yes Votes

RESOLUTION: 26-09-07 A motion was made by Mary Deeter to come out of executive session. Connie Butler seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Sara Battison- Yes
Chad Brown-Yes
Connie Butler-Yes
Mary Deeter-Yes
Tom Gaus-Yes
Ben Key-Yes
Ed Kieper-Yes
Andrew Kinney-Yes
Cindy Kyser-Yes
Dwight McElfresh-Yes
Katie Wright-Yes

Katie noted there is a quorum. 11 Yes Votes

RESOLUTION: 26-09-08 A motion was made by Andrew Kinney to accept the Separation Agreement of the Executive Director and general release as signed. Mary Deeter seconded the motion. A role call vote was done

Sara Battison- Abstain
Chad Brown-Yes
Connie Butler-Yes
Mary Deeter-Yes
Tom Gaus-Yes
Ben Key-Yes
Ed Kieper-Yes
Andrew Kinney-Yes
Cindy Kyser-Yes
Dwight McElfresh-Yes
Katie Wright-Yes

Katie noted there is a quorum. 10 Yes Votes, 1 Abstain

RESOLUTION: 26-09-09 A motion was made by Ben Key to approve Patty Pawlikowski as Interim Executive Director. Ed Kieper seconded the motion. A roll call vote was done.

Sara Battison- Abstain
Chad Brown-Yes
Connie Butler-Yes
Mary Deeter-Yes
Tom Gaus-Yes
Ben Key-Yes
Ed Kieper-Yes
Andrew Kinney-Yes
Cindy Kyser-Yes
Dwight McElfresh-Yes
Katie Wright-Yes

Katie noted there is a quorum. 11 Yes Votes, 1 Abstain

Mary Deeter indicated Steve Stone has agreed to join us as a guest tomorrow morning. The purpose is to enter into a contract for services to assist Patty and Alyse and overall support for the staff. The contract will be for part-time, or PRN and is open-ended and flexible with an opportunity to evaluate with him periodically. We are suggesting compensation for Steve of up to $50,000 a year. Steve is open and happy to help during the transition; he was the past Executive Director and will be an asset to this Board and Staff.

The Board is also suggesting a stipend for staff for the purpose of compensating them for their increased workload in dividing up what the Executive Dir. would have been doing. The budget will remain the same and not change unless someone. 's hired.

There was discussion around the search process and the anticipated timeline.

The Board and staff expressed appreciation and thanks to Andrew as Board Chair and thanked Michael Donatini, First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Ashland County.

Andrew encouraged chairs to hold separate committee meetings in early October for both Planning and Finance as this might be helpful to do for the first month.

Mary suggested another Policy ad hoc meeting to come up with a table of contents for the Board Policy Manual. It was discussed that the manual is easier to navigate by clicking on bookmarks to see each policy.

Thank you to the agency directors for their work!

VI. ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION: 26-09-10 **A motion was made by Tom Gaus to adjourn the meeting; Connie Butler seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Hoffman, Community Relations Coordinator

Patty Pawlikowski, Interim Executive Director

Andrew Kinney, Board Chair