

**MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY BOARD OF ASHLAND COUNTY**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 26, 2024**

**PRESENT:** Mary Deeter David Ross, Executive Director  
Tom Gaus Patty Walton, Associate Director  
Tanya Mounts Sandy Hoffman, Community Relations Coordinator  
Connie Butler  
Dennis Dyer  
Katie Wright  
Chad Brown  
Andrew Kinney  
Ben Key  
Sara Battison

**ABSENT:** Ed Kieper\*  
Nancy Udolph\*  
Shari Shafer\*  
Cindy Kyser\*  
\*Provided notice

**GUESTS:** Sheryl Villegas, CCS Deb Brookshire, Pathways  
Rick Ford, ACCADA Stacy Merryweather, Appleseed  
Jerry Strausbaugh, Appleseed Brenda Crider, Appleseed

Mary Deeter, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Martha Jordan room, 1605 Co. Rd. 1095, Ashland.

Mary reminded everyone that the trial period for the new meeting format ends in June, and we will evaluate it then.

**I. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS**

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 Tom Gaus to recommend approval of the February 27, 2024  
**24-03-01** meeting minutes. Chad Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**PLANNING**, Sara Battison, Chair

**I. Agency Reports**

1. **Appleseed** Supported Employment (SE) Report- David indicated that Brenda from Appleseed, the lead employment specialist who works directly with clients, and Stacey, the program supervisor, will be with us tonight.

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The Board has been funding the Supported Employment Program for about seventeen years. At that time, there were many people in the mental health system who were not working, and outcomes were only about 20%. This model showed far more success, so we wanted to adopt it. David pointed out that for October-December 2023, the report shows the average employment rate is 48%. Employer engagement is also part of this program, and 62 employers participated. The highlights reflect that the Lead Employment Specialist compiles program data and works closely with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD). Lastly, the report provides success stories. The first one is about a person looking for work for a while without any success; with the program's help, the client could get a job and keep it.

Brenda, an employment specialist, said the program has helped so many people in our community, and many great employers are willing to work with people. We wouldn't have the good outcomes that we do without the willingness of the employers. It was discussed that Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) provides training and support for employment specialists.

2. **CCS—Pathways Calendar for March 2024**—David indicated that Pathways produces a monthly calendar with information and activities. He pointed out that, for the first time, they are doing a 40-hour training in June.

Deb Brookshire indicated that 17 people were registered for the training. Currently, Pathways' average attendance is between 9 and 13. Deb has been at Pathways for about five years and has been doing the calendar since she started.

- ii. **New Family & Children First Council (FCFC) Coordinator**—This position has been vacant for some time now. Jon Hall retired and was then hired for this FCFC position. David is going to be meeting with Jon next week. A few years ago, the Board was the admin agent for FCFC; it's now under JFS. FCFC works closely with Social Service Agencies in the community to assist children and families with everything needed to be successful.
- iii. **Suicide, Overdose, and Child Fatality Reviews**- These meetings were held back-to-back this past week. Those in attendance include law enforcement, the health department, and mental health. The purpose of the meeting is to see how we can get the number of deaths to zero by looking for prevention opportunities. There were 11 deaths by fentanyl and 11 suicide deaths. David explained that several of these deaths were due to high emotions at a single moment when access to a firearm existed. There were seven child fatality deaths for the year, 3 of those being birth deliveries by midwives and one was by suicide, which is in that count as well.
- iv. **State Hospital Civil Bed Day Capacity** The issue is the availability of beds due to the number of forensic admissions. Forensic patients are those admitted by the criminal justice system and found guilty because of insanity. Heartland availability for the month of February was 19 (civil) and 123 (forensic). Heartland could eventually fill up with persons of forensic status and leave no availability for those of civil status. The Governor is trying to encourage the State to solve this; he prefers forensic evaluations to be done somewhere other than the State Hospital. He realizes it's a real issue and is looking for answers, whether it's building another state hospital. Ultimately, we are not sure what the governor is going to do.

It was discussed that Pediatric stays take place at Akron Children's Hospital and Nationwide.

#### **IV. FINANCE, Chad Brown, Chair**

- I. **March Warrants**

**RESOLUTION: 24-03-02** A motion was made by Connie Butler to recommend approval of the March 2024 warrants for payment. Tom Gaus seconded the motion. The motion carried.

II. February Financials

Patty reviewed the February financials, reporting revenue of \$149,395, expenses of \$296,353, with a cash balance of \$3,132,384 and a year-to-date cash flow of \$131,326. We are at 64% for income.

Patty reported ACCADA at 44% for Non-Medicaid and 70% for overall expenditures, which is due to SOR billing, however, she believes they are on track. Appleseed is currently behind at 35% for non-Medicaid versus last year's 61%; the target is 67%. Patty is talking with them and will get back to the Board after she hears back from Appleseed. Catholic Charities Non-Medicaid is running behind target. CCS has some "clean-up" billings that will bring them closer to target but based on conversations with them, they have fewer billings this fiscal year compared to last.

Patty reviewed the Church Street summary. She then pointed out that Ashland Land Bank is on a quarterly basis, and Strategic Wealth Partners was also on a quarterly payment but was behind. She contacted them, and they are now paid up. They will be vacating an office, and Coleman is interested in renting that space.

Chad pointed out the pass-through for the Medication Assisted Program that benefits the jail.

**RESOLUTION: 24-03-03** A motion was made by Connie Butler to recommend approval of the February Financials. Sara Battison seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. ACCADA Audit—Patty received ACCADA's audit; it was clean. She indicated that a copy is available if anyone wants to see it.

**RESOLUTION: 24-03-04** A motion was made by Andrew Kinney to accept the ACCADA Audit. Tanya Mounts seconded the motion. The motion carried.

V. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**, David Ross, Executive Director.

David Ross reviewed the Director's Report provided in the Board Packet. **OneOhio Foundation – Update on Settlement Funds-** Several nationwide settlements have been reached with companies to resolve their liabilities in thousands of lawsuits across the country associated with their role in fueling the opioid epidemic. The OneOhio Foundation was created under the leadership of state and local leaders to distribute 55 percent of Ohio's share of settlement payments from manufacturers, distributors, and retailers because of their role in the national opioid epidemic. The OneOhio Recovery Foundation is managed by an executive director and governed by 29 board directors, including representatives from each of the 19 established OneOhio Regions. Ashland is part of region 19, including Erie, Huron, Lorain, Medina, Richland, and Wayne Counties. 3.478 million will be available to the region in 1,2, or 3-year proposals. Approved purposes of the funds include evidence-based strategies, programming, and services used to 1) expand the availability of treatment for individuals affected by substance use disorders, 2) develop, promote, and provide evidence-based substance use prevention strategies, 3) provide substance use avoidance and awareness education, 4) decrease the oversupply of licit and illicit opioids, and 5) support recovery from addiction services performed by qualified and appropriately licensed providers. Step 1 was setting up the Board in the OneOhio Grant Portal, which was accomplished. Step 2 will be to submit our request between April 2 and May 3 after consulting with our contract and community partners.

**Three Legs in the News – Bad Therapy: Why the Kids Aren't Growing Up**

In *Bad Therapy*, bestselling investigative journalist Abigail Shrier argues that the problem isn't the kids—it's the mental health experts. Drawing on hundreds of interviews with child psychologists, parents, teachers, and young

people, Shrier explores the ways the mental health industry has transformed the way we teach, treat, discipline, and even talk to our kids. She reveals that most therapeutic approaches have serious side effects and few proven benefits. David is interested in bringing Abigail in as the Keynote Speaker for our Annual Dinner.

**OACBHA One-Pager: Federal Subaward Requirements for ADAMH Boards as Pass-Through Entities**

The Federal Uniform Guidance (2 C.F.R. Part 200) establishes uniform administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements for Federal awards to non-Federal entities. The Uniform Guidance requires ADAMH Boards, as pass-through entities of federal funds, to monitor sub-awards and ensure that sub-recipients meet specified audit requirements and use awarded funds in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and terms of the award.

**Governor DeWine's Statement on Jails and State Hospital Civil Access**

Nine out of 10 beds in state psychiatric hospitals are occupied by people sent there by the courts, leaving no space for others in mental health crisis. "The statistic of 93% of the beds in psychiatric hospitals being occupied, that the average person who has a mental health problem or you have someone in your family, and they've not committed a crime, they can't get in there," Gov. Mike DeWine said Tuesday (2/27). "That's crazy." DeWine said he wants to fix that as well as help county jails provide mental health services to incarcerated people. The governor said he'll soon appoint a group of experts – judges, sheriffs, mental health professionals – to make specific recommendations.

**Mandatory Board Training (March 19th and June 18th from 4 to 5 pm)**

Ohio Revised Code requires OhioMHAS-approved in-service training for Board members each fiscal year. Thank you to all who attended the March 19th training on QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer). Our next training will be on June 18th (Overview of the Three Legs) from 4 to 5 pm.

**Upcoming Events & Training**

- March 27th – 15th Annual RSVP Conference at Mount Vernon Estates
- April 19th – Suicide Prevention Coalition (Noon to 1:30 pm)

**The Board Making News**

-David & Ashley represented the Board at our local Child, Suicide, and Overdose Fatality Review meetings conducted at the Health Department.

-Ashley and David continued the Board's strong partnership with Ashland University by presenting QPR to Dr. Kruger's Psychology of Sport & Coaching Class.

-Sandy and Ashley distributed Board materials at AU's "Family Math Night" on March 19th from 5-7 pm.

-Ashley and Sandy attended the final event in AU's Symposium Against Indifference series on March 21st. The event focused on a film screening of *What I Want You To Know*, produced by two combat veterans focusing on the impact of the Iraq & Afghanistan wars. A moderated discussion concluded the screening.

**VI. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS**

Jerry Strausbaugh, Appleseed, thank you for your support. Excited about RSVP and will be there tomorrow. Bad Therapy #1 selling book right now on Amazon.

Sheryl Villegas, CCS, - Also excited about RSVP, she will see us there.

Rick Ford, ACCADA, looking forward to RSVP, appreciates all the support of the Board.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

**The Board meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sandy Hoffman, Community Relations Coordinator



David Ross, Executive Director



Mary Deeter, Board Chair