

MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY BOARD OF ASHLAND COUNTY
Board Meeting Minutes
June 25, 2024

PRESENT: Mary Deeter David Ross, Executive Director
Dennis Dyer Patty Walton, Associate Director
Tanya Mounts Sandy Hoffman, Community Relations Coordinator
Connie Butler Ashley Ackerman, Director of Programs, Training, & Education
Katie Wright
Andrew Kinney
Ben Key
Sara Battison
Nancy Udolph
Cindy Kyser
Ed Kieper
Tom Gaus

ABSENT: Chad Brown*
Shari Shafer*
*Provided notice

GUESTS: Jerry Strausbaugh, Appleseed
Sheryl Villegas, CCS

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

CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME

Mary thanked Tanya Mounts, who has served on the Board for eight years. In appreciation of her service, Tanya was given a mug with the Board's logo, her name, and service term. Mary noted there were cookies to celebrate the occasion in her honor.

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

B. Pass Warrants- There was a quorum to pass the warrants.

I. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 28, 2024, BOARD MINUTES

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Andrew Kinney to recommend approval of the May 28, 2024 Board meeting minutes. Connie Butler seconded the motion. The motion carried.
24-06-01

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. PLANNING, Sara Battison, Chair

Sara Battison, Chair

I. Board Meeting Schedule

The Board schedule for FY25 was provided in the Board packet, and tonight, it will be for review and vote. David has heard back from several Board members that the schedule is going well. Mary commented that staff have been able to be more involved in the community with the new schedule. David appreciated the Board's willingness to try the new schedule. He indicated it's been working well for staff as it has allowed us to participate in community events or provide training.

Mary commented that the pace of the meetings is reasonable, running one to one and a half hours. However, there could be times when meetings will be longer as necessary.

**RESOLUTION: Nancy Udolph made a motion to recommend continuing the same schedule for FY25.
24-06-02 Tom Gaus seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

ii. Board Self-Evaluation

Mary announced that all 14 Board self-evaluations have been submitted, which is the first time since she joined the board that we've had 100% participation!

David thanked everyone for participating in completing the evaluation, which is a self-reflection and a good process for the Board to go through. Board staff will tabulate the results and present them to the Board at the August 2024 meeting.

Sara Battison, Planning Chair, said that each section of the self-evaluation would make a good Board in-service. David agreed; we just finished our training for SFY 24 and will be looking for SFY 25 topics. If Board members provide ideas, he can work to get the content approved by the state. Members suggested Tanya come back and give a presentation on opioids and discussed that each of "the three legs" could be done individually.

Members indicated there is no end to the number of topics; the Board does important work for the community. To that end, Mary reminded the Board that the nominating committee diligently finds people willing to serve.

iii. Recent Meeting with NAMI Ohio

David explained that NAMI had a change of leadership. Luke Russell, current director of NAMI Ohio, reached out to him and said he wanted to meet. David sent Luke information on the Board's philosophy, which is very different from the NAMI philosophy, which emphasizes the medical model; however, Luke still wanted to meet. David and Ashley met with him, but it was clear that NAMI's philosophy remains the medical model. David was encouraged that there should be ways to partner in advocacy and the upcoming 26-27 state budget.

Sara reminded David that Board members are available and willing to participate in meetings whenever he feels it is necessary or appropriate.

David explained that Ed was significant in getting us involved in the August 10 Veteran's Day Event this year. This is an excellent way for Board members to participate and increase awareness of the Board and the community.

iv. Grant Success. Funds to Support YCRT

David indicated that the Board was able to secure some grant dollars (\$25,000) to support the Youth Crisis Response Team (YCRT). The death of three youths in our local schools last year played a role in the need for the grant. The School Liaisons are a large part of the YCRT team. Those on the YCRT team are volunteers, and we want to support their work. Offering this training can also help the team debrief, which is important for them.

v. Medicaid Data- Update

David indicated there is a lot of activity related to the Medicaid Data issue. We are having many meetings on this to get the Medicaid Data back. He stated the Board Association (OACBHA) reached a consensus on a resolution, which David read. He explained Medicaid only wants to share the minimum amount of data necessary. Boards agree that we need the data we've been historically receiving, and now we need to convince Medicaid that not having

the data significantly impairs our ability to fulfill our statutory responsibilities. This will be an ongoing issue.

Mary announced that she would be Chairing the Finance section tonight in Chad Brown's absence. She also announced that Ed Kieper was officially re-appointed by the County Commissioners to serve another term and thanked him for his continued service and support.

IV. FINANCE, Mary Deeter for Chad Brown, Chair

I. June Warrants

RESOLUTION: 24-06-03 A motion was made by Ed Kieper to recommend approval of the June 2024 warrants for payment. Katie Wright seconded the motion. The motion carried.

II. May Financials

Patty reviewed the May financials reporting revenues of \$253,798, expenditures \$324,342 and a cash balance of \$3,771,743.

Appleseed overall expenditures are 86% vs 82% last year, and non-Medicaid is 63% vs 84%. ACCADA 90% vs 79% last year, and non-Medicaid 63% vs 45%. CCS 85% vs 73%, and non-Medicaid 37% vs 41%. Church St. Expenses 67% vs 94%, Board overall Programmatic Expenses 70% vs 69% and Board Overall Operating Expenses 86% vs 83%. Target is 92%

RESOLUTION: 24-06-04 Nancy Udolph made a motion to recommend approval of May Financials. Connie Butler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. Agency Contracts

David reported that the Board's hard work through the application process in May is reflected in the Contracts that have been issued and received back from the Agency Directors. Mary signed the contracts, making them complete. It was an efficient process, and we are now ready for the new fiscal year beginning July 1.

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

Ohio BH Conference Recap

The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities ([OACBHA](#)) partnered with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC), and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) this week to host [Ohio's 2024 Mental Health and Addiction Conference](#).

More than 1,000 behavioral health professionals and other stakeholders from across the state converged in downtown Columbus June 3-4 to share best practices and learn about Ohio's efforts related to mental health, opiate and other addiction prevention, education, intervention, treatment, recovery, family supports, community engagement, and more. This year's theme, "Building the Systems of Care," centered on Governor Mike DeWine's commitment to building a world-class system of mental health and addiction care in Ohio.

Potential Increase in Forced Hospitalization - Update

[HB 249](#), the so-called "psychiatric deterioration" bill, was scheduled for a vote at a hearing on May 21st in the House Behavioral Health Committee. That vote did not occur. This was the second time the vote was delayed in May.

At the hearing on May 21, interested parties and opponents came forward outlining their concerns with the bill. This included DRO (as an interested party), Policy Matters, Ohio Gun Owners, and a series of individuals with lived

experience who are opposed to the language. The list of testimony is available [here](#). A recording on the hearing is available [here](#). A Gongwer article regarding the hearing on 5/21 is included in your Board packet.

Following the testimony, the Committee opted not to take a vote that day.

As of today, the bill has not been scheduled for another hearing. With the week of 6/24 likely being the last week the House is in town prior to their summer break, it's unclear when this bill may be brought back before the Committee.

OneOhio Foundation Funding - Update

"With more than \$581 million in grant requests received for the \$51 million available this cycle, we're encouraged by the number of organizations across the state that share our dedication to fighting this epidemic head-on," Mason said. "While we certainly won't be able to fund all these great ideas in 2024, this is just the first of many opportunities to come and we're confident our strong focus on evidence-based investments can make a significant impact on the lives of those impacted by the opioid crisis." June 13, 2024 [notes from last meeting](#)
In the region Ashland is part of (Region 19) approximately 39 million in requests were made but only 3.9 million is available. At this point we should expect to know if we were successful in our requests by "late summer."

Unintended Consequences of Fragmented Funding

The Governor's Office, OhioMHAS, and OSU have partnered on the State of Ohio Adversity and Resilience ([SOAR](#)) research project. The project aims to "uncover the root causes and risk factors of mental illness including addiction." An initial round of \$20 million in funding through OhioMHAS was allocated. The study is trying to secure 15,000 candidates throughout the state and are paying \$50 for them to participate. There could be some concern by local residents that the Board is involved. For some, it may appear that the "Board" has plenty of resources if it's able to give \$50 to study participants.

Mary expressed her concerns; her husband was called and he is not involved in the mental health system like the caller said. They are calling people randomly and this doesn't look good for the Board. David indicated he knows they are utilizing students to make the calls and we don't know what the script says that they were given. David asked Board members to let him know if they receive a call. We are not funding this and don't participate in this in any way. And as Nancy said, we don't want people to think the Board is giving out names.

Three Legs in the News – Farm Life is Therapeutic

Director Cornyn and several members of the OhioMHAS team had the opportunity to travel to Medina County on May 24 to tour the [Hope Recovery Community Center and Farm](#) — a recovery community organization (RCO) focused on increasing sustained recovery by providing hope, support, advocacy, and resources to those impacted by addiction.

The Hope Recovery Farm boasts a vast landscape of fruits and vegetables and hosts a wide array of animals, including chickens, goats, bees, a donkey, and a pony, all of which are cared for by individuals in recovery living on the farm. Through their time on the farm, individuals in recovery attend trainings and learn from various peer supporters and leaders who are successful in their careers and recovery journeys. Learning crucial skills such as budgeting, planning, science, maintenance, record-keeping, bookkeeping, marketing, research, and customer-service — truly encourages residents to find their passion in life and pursue their dreams.

During their visit, Director Cornyn and team completed two service projects: painting a peace pole and planting a few rows of bell peppers that will be ready for the summer harvest. The food grown on the farm feeds both those living on the farm and members of the Medina community.

Connie commented that although certain aspects of farming can be therapeutic, farmers are enduring many stressors and the suicide rates for them have been high.

Upcoming Events & Training

- Awareness Walk Planning

- August 6-7 CISM Training w/Barb Eryl
- August 10 Veterans Appreciation Day- at the Airport. Let Sandy know if you would like to help at the booth. We now have a canopy in case of bad weather.

The Board Making News

- Dr. Ashley and David attended Ohio's Statewide Behavioral Health conference on June 3rd and 4th.
- Dr. Ashley and David met with NAMI Ohio Director Luke Russell, NAMI Ohio Director of Affiliates & Programs Emy-Lynn Marhulik, and Richland County NAMI director Aubrie Hall on June 17th.
- Thank you to all the Board members attending the one-hour "Three Legs of the Stool" training on June 18th.
- Dennis Dyer is on the Foundation Community Childcare Board, Dennis attended the opening of the child care facility. Dennis commented that the Board has several community partners to help make this happen as Ashland is in desperate need of childcare. David noted that CCS has an early childcare coordinator that they might want to tap into that is very knowledgeable.

Lastly, David updated the Board on breaking news that the State has decided to build another psychiatric hospital to remedy the hospital bed day crisis.

V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS

Jerry Strausbaugh, Director at Appleseed
Sheryl Villegas, Director at CCS

David showed a short clip called "Frameless" about how technology is used in art therapy to engage youth and adults.

Mary discussed a special event she heard about for a Veteran. It was a touching story about 300 motorcyclists gathered to fulfill the gentleman's last wishes—taking him for one last ride.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting was adjourned by Andy Kinney at 5:03 p.m. Connie Butler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Hoffman, Community Relations Coordinator



David Ross, Executive Director

Signed by:

AAEDDFC18BA34A2...
Mary Deeter, Board Chair