

MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY BOARD OF ASHLAND COUNTY
Board Meeting Minutes
April 23, 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
Chad Brown
Andrew Kinney
Ben Key
Sara Battison
Nancy Udolph

ABSENT: Cindy Kyser*
Shari Shafer*
Ed Kieper
Tom Gaus
*Provided notice

GUESTS: Rick Ford, ACCADA
Jerry Strausbaugh, Appleseed
Pattie Geiser, CCS
Lindsey Hoover, Leadership Ashland
Donald Harris, Leadership Ashland

Mary Deeter, Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.in the Martha Jorden room at 1606 County Road 1095, Ashland.

I. CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME

Mary indicated the Board received a thank you card from Mary Ann Billick for the services she received and the affordability of them, which she appreciated.

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: 24-04-01 A motion was made by Connie Butler to recommend approval of the March 26,2024 Board meeting minutes. Sara Battison seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

PLANNING, Sara Battison, Chair

Sara Battison, Chair indicated the RSVP Conference was March 27 at Mt. Vernon Estates. She attended the conference, which she thought was well done, she then turned the meeting to David to review the evaluations.

I. RSVP Re-Cap (Evaluations)

A coloring bookmark was distributed, David indicated we will be using the bookmark at various events, it incorporates creative art therapy, which was the theme of the RSVP conference this

year; it also promotes the crisis phone number. Referring to the evaluation summary, David reported 54 out of 99 attendees completed the conference evaluation; 16 Counselors and 15 Social Workers completed the evaluation for continuing education credits. He pointed out that ratings for the conference were some of the highest we've had, making this another successful event. He indicated we received positive and constructive narrative feedback and will use those to improve the conference next year. Several Board members were in attendance and said it went well. People like the building, and Sara commented that she appreciated the interactive sessions and felt it was engaging. Planning for next year's conference will begin soon.

- ii. Upcoming 2-Day Training for YCRT
David explained the YCRT, Youth Crisis Response Team, was mobilized three times this past year. School Community Liaisons and other professionals make up the team. All members receive CISM, Critical Incident Stress Management, training. This is a two-day training scheduled August 6 & 7 for new members, and a refresher for current members. Thanks to Tanya Mounts for helping us to secure the Samaritan Hospital Foundation building on East Main Street for the location. There is no cost to our team members, we have some Wayne/Holmes Board staff that want to attend, and there will be a charge for them.
- iii. National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day- April 27 (10-2)
David indicated the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is April 27 from 10-2. We have two locations: The Ashland Sheriff's Office and the Loudonville Police Department. Prescriptions can be dropped off all year long, but there are two nationally designated days to create awareness. Typically, over 400 pounds of prescriptions are collected on the two annual "Take-Back" days.
- iv. Can A.I.Help Fill The Therapist Shortage?
David explained that there are two hyperlinks about the possibility of A.I. taking a role in the therapist shortage. There are both positive and negative aspects, however, the fact is there is a larger demand than there are people to provide the services. For this reason, A.I. Therapy is being discussed. It's basically a resource and is similar to what you would get if you Google something. David wanted everyone to be informed that this could become a reality since the workforce is not growing enough to serve the need.

IV. FINANCE, Chad Brown, Chair

I. March Warrants

RESOLUTION: 24-04-02 A motion was made by Tanya Mounts to recommend approval of the April 2024 warrants for payment. Connie Butler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

II. March Financials

Patty reviewed the March financials reporting a cash balance of \$2,970,173, income statement receipts are at 68% of budget versus 64% last year. Appleseed non-Medicaid is at 49%, Dawn from Appleseed said they are still having some billing issues and trending behind. ACCADA is at 50% for Non-Medicaid and CCS at 31%. Church St. Expenses are at 58%, Board overall Programmatic Expenses are at 40% and Board Overall Operating Expenses are 67%. Target is 75%

RESOLUTION: 24-04-03 A motion was made by Nancy Udolph to recommend approval of the March Financials. Sara Battison seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chad reminded members that next month we will begin reviewing the agency applications.

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

OneOhio Foundation – Update on Settlement Funds

Board staff are in the process of applying for OneOhio funding. Working with our contract and local partners, the following needs were identified: Increased K-12 Prevention, QRT Funding, Jail-Based MH Crisis Services, Enhanced Recovery House Programming, and Community Education & Awareness. Our funding request will likely exceed our "per capita" share of the funds available to the region. It's reasonable to assume that we may not receive our entire request. David explained that he met with the agency directors, and they will be submitting individual requests instead of the Board submitting a comprehensive one due to the way in which OneOhio is requesting the information.

Three Legs in the News – The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness

After more than a decade of stability or improvement, the mental health of adolescents plunged in the early 2010s. Rates of depression, anxiety, self-harm, and suicide rose sharply, more than doubling on many measures. Why? In *The Anxious Generation*, social psychologist Jonathan Haidt lays out the facts about the epidemic of teen mental illness that hit many countries at the same time. He then investigates the nature of childhood, including why children need play and independent exploration to mature into competent, thriving adults. Haidt issues a clear call to action. He diagnoses the "collective action problems" that trap us, and then proposes four simple rules that might set us free. He describes steps that parents, teachers, schools, tech companies, and governments can take to end the epidemic of mental illness and restore a more humane childhood.

OACBHA Leadership Transition

After a month-long screening and interview process, the OACBHA Executive Council is pleased to announce that Liz Henrich has been selected to serve as the Association's next Chief Executive Officer. Henrich will assume the role in July.

Liz has been employed at OACBHA since the fall of 2006, most recently serving as an Associate CEO. During her tenure at OACBHA she has spearheaded advocacy activities, managed multiple grants, guided policy discussions, coordinated conferences and events, and established lasting relationships with partners and stakeholders. She has a wealth of expertise and experience working with Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Boards and stakeholders throughout the mental health and addiction system.

Liz brings strong policy and operational knowledge to the role. She has a bachelor's degree in business from Carroll College in Helena, MT and a master's degree in public policy and management from Ohio State University. Like many others, Liz's family experience with mental illness and addiction helps drive her passion for this work.

Governor DeWine's State of the State

On April 10th, Governor DeWine delivered his 2024 State of the State address before a joint session of the Ohio General Assembly. Please see the handout for a transcript of his comments related to behavioral health. Highlights include:

- **Social Media.** "We need to go after the social media companies that are targeting our kids – addicting them and then monetizing that addiction. What they are doing is shameful!"
- **OhioRise.** "Since I delivered my State of the State address last year, we have added 14,000 Ohio children to OhioRISE, and today, we are serving 32,000 children."
- **MRSS.** "One of the biggest complaints I hear in my travels around Ohio is from families who don't know where to turn for help when their child is in a mental health crisis. And so, we are increasing the availability of immediate behavioral health care in the right place at the right time through the expansion of what we call "Mobile Response Stabilization Services."

These services are similar to what first responders do when they show up for a physical health emergency in the community. Our mobile crisis response units will deploy within 60 minutes directly to the youth experiencing distress. A team of trained professionals will conduct safety assessments, de-escalate situations, and offer peer support, among other services.

When I took office, 13 Ohio counties had Mobile Response Stabilization Services. Today, with support from the General Assembly, we are now in 38 Ohio counties. I intend to take this model to all 88 counties, so no matter where you live, if your child is in crisis, that child will get immediate care."

- **BH Workforce.** "The demand for behavioral health services has increased twice as fast as the increase in the workforce."

Prep for the May 21 Board Meeting

All three of the Board's contract partners will be present at the May 21 meeting. You've asked me to limit the Director's comments to 20 minutes. Before their comments, Board members will receive a one-page summary of their application for funding and Board staff recommendations. Additionally, we will have ten minutes after the Director's comments for questions before Board members are asked to act.

Mandatory Board Training (June 18th from 4 to 5 pm)

Ohio Revised Code requires OhioMHAS-approved in-service training for Board members each fiscal year. Our next training will be on June 18th (Overview of the Three Legs) from 4 to 5 pm.

Upcoming Events & Training

- June 3-4 OhioMHAS-OACBHA Mental Health & Addictions Conference
- August 6-7 CISM Training w/Barb Ertyl
- August 10 Veterans Appreciation Day

The Board Making News

-The 15 Annual RSVP Conference was a success! Thank you to all the members who were able to attend and the Board staff for all their efforts in ensuring the event went smoothly.

-The Board's efforts to sell Eclipse Shirts & Glasses were a success! With all 200 glasses and most of the 75 shirts sold, the Board raised \$1,370 to assist with our levy efforts in 2025.

-Dr. Ackerman represented the Board at the State's Regional Forensic Stakeholder meeting April 19 in Canton. There was discussion regarding Bed Days and how to divert the forensic admissions for local clients needing to utilize bed days. Ashley indicated there was good discussion towards resolutions and there were Judges, attorneys and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services in attendance.

-Thanks to all the Board members who were able to participate in the April 19th Ashland County Suicide Prevention Coalition meeting. The group is considering a rack card and revising the current booklet.

Mary commented that our new meeting schedule frees David to be able to attend important meetings at the State level to impact decisions being made, as our voices need to be heard. David is passionate about the services we provide, and we do some creative things around prevention with the amount of money we receive.

V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS

-Lindsey Hoover, Leadership Ashland

-Donald Harris, Leadership Ashland

-Jerry Strausbaugh, Appleseed, indicated they have a monthly meeting with OhioRise, they have a lot of referrals from them. MRSS went away from 24 hours and moving towards 8 am to 8 pm. Appleseed has applied for dollars to supervise three interns.

A Board member expressed appreciation for the housing work Appleseed is doing as they were mentioned in Ashland Source. David expressed appreciation as well and indicated Jerry chairs the County's Homeless Coalition and has done so for some years.

-Rick, thanks for all we do.

-Pattie Geiser, CCS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Hoffman, Community Relations Coordinator


David Ross, Executive Director


Mary Deeter, Board Chair