

MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY BOARD OF ASHLAND COUNTY
Board Meeting Minutes
May 21, 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
Cindy Kyser
Ed Kieper
Tom Gaus

ABSENT: Shari Shafer*
*Provided notice

GUESTS: Rick Ford, ACCADA, and staff
Jerry Strausbaugh, Appleseed, and staff
Sheryl Villegas, CCS, and staff

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mary Deeter, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. in the Martha Jordan room, 1605 Co. Rd. 1095, Ashland.

Mary explained that we would vote to approve each application after it was presented. Any questions not answered tonight can be tabled until next week for clarification. Agencies realize the flat funding budget, reflected in the summaries provided.

II. ROLL CALL

Secretary Katie Wright took the roll call and noted that a quorum was present.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Agency Application Review (Appleseed)

David Ross, the Executive Director, indicated that each agency summary provides the programmatic and fiscal pieces of the applications. All recommendations are based on the flat funding scenario, and each agency had flexibility in funding distribution. Carveout programs were prioritized, and each agency had the flexibility to shift the dollars where they deemed appropriate. For example, Appleseed proposes moving dollars from the "Hearing Voices Group" to increase jail-based psychiatric services. David explained that Appleseed is the gatekeeper for psychiatric services, and there is a greater need for jail-based services and dual-diagnosis treatment groups. Appleseed has pending grants that may help, and if this comes to fruition, we will come back to the Board and let you know how that changes. Andrew Kinney asked how many people were served in the hearing voices group. Jerry Strausbaugh explained that only a handful of people attended the group and engaged in other services.

Patty reviewed the fiscal part of the Appleseed summary, pointing out that lines 20-25 are SORS/SOS projects, the School Liaison Program, Beginning New Grant, CTP, and Title XX, all restricted dollars. She then reviewed some of the items where Appleseed is shifting dollars. Patty

noted that Appleseed receives 27% of its funding from the Board. She explained that budget revisions are done when dollars are not utilized.

Appleseed Proposal Presentation

Jerry Strausbaugh, Director at Appleseed, began by expressing appreciation for the Board members' volunteer work. He introduced his staff, Stacy Merryweather, Clinical Director and Brandy Barone, Operations Director, he then discussed how Appleseed implemented its new electronic medical record system to examine people's health and provided statistical information; he found that scores identify Appleseed as serving the most vulnerable people.

Three things Jerry wants the Board to know: 1) the Importance of the work Appleseed is doing, 2) The environment and challenges Appleseed faces, and 3) the tools needed to continue doing a good job in a medical system that requires specialized staff, technology, programs, and strong partnerships. Appleseed strives to be the best partner it can be in the community.

**RESOLUTION:
24-05-01**

**Nancy Udolph made a motion to recommend approval of the FY2025 Appleseed Application with total projected MHRB funding of \$2,217,427.57
Connie Butler seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

B. Agency Application Review (ACCADA)

David indicated that Rick Ford has worked hard with his board to become fiscally stronger. Part of that is due to the new fiscal person Rick hired, who works well with Rick and is doing a good job. In terms of services, ACCADA is the gatekeeper for alcohol and drug services. David noted that Rick and the ACCADA Board are in the preliminary stages of discussing merging with another agency. Mr. Ford may discuss this during his presentation tonight.

Patty reviewed the significant fiscal changes, which included only showing three months of SORS/SOS funding in SFY 2025.

ACCADA Proposal Presentation

Rick Ford, Director at ACCADA, expressed appreciation for the Board. He noted that ACCADA is not adding new programming or making any changes. He introduced his staff, Kim Durgan, and Board member, Randy Ramsthaler.

Rick explained that ACCADA recently combined its jail counselor and community linkage position, and this has increased efficiency. Outpatient services have been challenging; however, ACCADA is fiscally and clinically responsible. The Recovery House is a significant asset in our community; it was painted, which is an improvement; the house keeps the residents safe. (SORS funding helped). This year, more satisfaction surveys were collected. Methamphetamine and fentanyl are some of the big challenges. Individuals struggling with these substances do not typically present themselves for treatment, so treatment numbers have been lower. ACCADA plans to target overdose prevention and continue community education with iHeart Radio. If successful with grant funds, they plan to add mindfulness training, self-care, and wellness groups at the recovery houses. They also plan to increase outpatient treatment productivity from 50 to 55%. ACCADA has solid relationships with juvenile probation and family court.

Rick explained that ACCADA is considering a merger with Catholic Charities – Diocese of Cleveland. Rick wants to be proactive and start conversations about a merger. Part of the assurance in preliminary discussions was that ACCADA would be known as ACCADA, not CCS. ACCADA would still work closely with the Board. Ed Kieper asked if a merger would affect the grant dollars that ACCADA could receive. Things would be different, but he was unsure how they would differ. Board members voiced several questions but understood that talks had just started at this point and answers would be forthcoming.

Rick indicated that ACCADA plans to start offering vaping education and prevention to youth served by juvenile probation. He noted that another vape store opened in the county, for a total of eight stores in Ashland County.

RESOLUTION: 24-05-02 A motion was made by Dennis Dyer to recommend approval of the FY2025 ACCADA Application with total projected MHRB funding of \$466,289.54. Chad Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried.

C. Agency Application Review (Catholic Charities Services – Diocese of Cleveland - CCS)

David explained that CCS is a small agency, much like ACCADA. It is creative and flexible and works primarily with older adults, kids, and families. No changes are being proposed; their Carveouts are the same. David is working to make the regional ECMH grant an allocation in the upcoming 26-27 budget. The Diocese remains committed to a site here in Ashland County. Unlike ACCADA and Appleseed, CCS is under the umbrella of a larger agency that will make up funding deficits if needed.

Patty explained that CCS, like the other agencies, was allowed to move funds between specific programs. She noted the changes between programs and services and indicated they stayed within the application allocation limits.

Nancy asked what the difference is between the Appleseed and CCS TAY programs. David indicated that CCS does not have a housing program associated with its TAY program, but they use the same model and frequently consult each other.

CCS Proposal Presentation

Sheryl Villegas, CCS Director, thanked the Board and introduced Hallie Sturgill, Tammy Hill, Connie Shields, and Jim Massey. There are 22 staff members at CCS who serve Ashland County. She appreciates the partnership with the Board. CCS is not asking for anything new; they are doing their best with what they have, as they know the Board has been flat-funded. CCS Ashland is part of the Diocese of Cleveland, which includes eight counties. Ashland CCS is located at the Professional Building and served over 2,000 people in 2023. They serve many seniors and have the Golden Center and ACT Mentoring Programs. She then reviewed the funding sources for CCS. MHRB provides 48.8% of their funding. Healthy Kids/Strong Families Program, Core Treatment Services, Early Childhood MH Consultation, Resilient Family Project, Golden Center, TAY Program, ACT Program, and Pathways, which is the largest program MHRB funds. She discussed the Golden Center/Multi-Generational Program (Pen Pals) and Mentoring Program; 200 Children are involved.

RESOLUTION: 25-05-03 A motion was made by Tanya Mounts to recommend approval of the FY2025 CCS Application with total projected MHRB funding of \$448,055.00. Cindy Kyser seconded the motion. The motion carried.

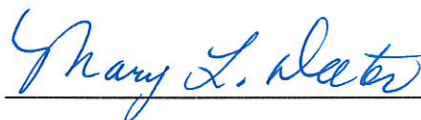
Board members said that the agency directors were well-prepared and presented well. Each agency presented proposals within the flat funding scenario. The Board meets again next week (May 28), where staff will propose the Board Budget, among other items.

IV. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS- Agency directors and their staff and Board member

V. ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Hoffman, Community Relations Coordinator



David Ross, Executive Director

Mary Deeter, Board Chair