

MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY BOARD OF ASHLAND COUNTY
Board Meeting Minutes
May 28, 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: Jerry Strausbaugh, Appleseed
Connie Shields, CCS
Tammy Hill, CCS
Kurt Schneider

I. CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

Mary Deeter, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. in the Martha Jordan room, 1605 Co. Rd. 1095, Ashland. She thanked everyone for their attendance last week during the application process and this week for the Board budget discussion.

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. PASS WARRANTS

III. BOARD EVALUATION

Mary indicated Board Self-Evaluations were included in the Board packet and a copy has been distributed tonight. You have the option of using the paper form or the link which was sent out in the email with the packet. Please complete the evaluation and submit it at your earliest convenience.

IV. BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Mary indicated the Board schedule will be discussed at next month's board meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF APRIL 23 & MAY 21 BOARD MINUTES

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Nancy Udolph to recommend approval of the April 23 Board meeting
24-05-01 minutes. Connie Butler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Katie Wright to recommend approval of the May 21 Board meeting
24-05-02 minutes. Andy Kinney seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- III. Kurt Schnieder, Ashland County Sheriff Candidate, explained that he wanted to introduce himself to the Board as there are a vast number of people in our jail with mental health and substance use issues. He expressed the importance of getting the help they need while in jail and once released to keep them in the community with their families. He encouraged calls from the Board as he wants to have a partnership and knows how critical the resources are for those in the jail. He also wants to ensure the community that we have the help their family members in jail need.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

I. **Executive Committee, Andrew Kinney, Chair**

a. Slate of Officers

Andrew indicated the executive committee discussed a slate of officers for the upcoming fiscal year and determined they would like to recommend renewing current chairs for a second year. He thanked Mary, our Board chair, and said she and all our chairs have done a phenomenal job. He then reviewed the slate: Mary Deeter, Board Chair; Andrew Kinney, Vice-Chair; Katie Wright, Secretary; Sara Battison, Planning Chair; Chad Brown, Finance Chair; and Connie Butler, Nominating Chair.

RESOLUTION: Ed Kieper moved to recommend approval to renew the slate of officers for FY25.
24-05-03 Cindy Kyser seconded the motion. The motion carried.

II. **Nominating Committee, Connie Butler, Chair**

a. Appointments

Connie indicated the Nominating Committee met to review the appointments and ensure coverage; she announced the following:

- Sara Battison, County Appointment-Term Approved
- Mary Deeter, OHMAS Appointment-Term Approved
- Ed Kieper, Term Completed
- Tanya Mounts, Term Completed

David Ross, Executive Director, indicated we currently have one more state appointment than required. He explained that although the ratio is not exact, we will naturally get there as people term off.

III. **Planning Committee, Sara Battison, Chair**

a. OhioMHAS Crisis Services Tour

David indicated Friday was the OhioMHAS Crisis Services Tour at our Board. He explained that Crisis Services is the Governor's and OhioMHAS' top priority. Michelle Allison-Smith was hired and is touring the state to better understand the available crisis services and the crisis systems in place. She has been a crisis worker and has experience. Pam Lemaster joined the Friday meeting and did a great job discussing our local crisis services. The state is still interested in MRSS (Mobile Response). We have not been using Catalyst's Crisis Stabilization option. We will be looking into that. It is an alternative to inpatient hospitalization.

David explained that 988 is a national crisis line. Ohio has decided to lead in adopting the national number despite already having local 24/7 Board-funded lines in place. We've had our crisis line for over 20 years. Until 988 is well established, we want to take care of folks with our own crisis line. The State understands our concerns.

Kurt indicated our county is talking about having 988 on their law enforcement vehicles.

Mary indicated people within the county that she has talked to want us to keep our local crisis number.

David shared that Board members would likely see more information about 988 as OhioMHAS is ramping up promotion this year.

b. Medicaid Data Discussion

On May 1st, Boards lost access to Medicaid data. ODM and OhioMHAS say the Board has been receiving "more Medicaid data than they need to fulfill their statutory obligations." ODM and OhioMHAS did return access to Medicaid eligibility data, so the Boards wouldn't be in the position to pay claims they shouldn't or not pay claims they should. Boards, through their trade association (OACBHA), are making legislators aware of the issue. A meeting on Thursday, May 30th, with ODM and OhioMHAS is planned to discuss the issue further. If nothing changes, additional work will be required from the Board staff and PartnerSolutions to enroll folks in the non-MCD system.

Concern was expressed by Board members about the extra work this will cause staff.

IV. Finance, Chad Brown, Chair

a. May Warrants

RESOLUTION: 24-05-4 Tanya Mounts made a motion to recommend approval of the May 2024 Warrants for payment. Connie Butler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

b. April Financials

Patty reviewed the financial statements, indicating the target is 83%. Total expenses for April were \$295,084, and revenue was \$1,250,339, which is 96% and 92% at this time last year. All three agencies are running behind in non-Medicaid: Appleseed at 57%, ACCADA at 58% and CCS at 37%. They have until the end of September to bill non-MCD services. Continuing, Church Street is 62% of the budget, the Board's overall Programmatic expenses 56%, and the Board's overall operating expenses 74%.

A question about the need for non-Medicaid funding at the current rate was raised due to the lower current expenditures. Patty indicated there are a few reasons they may be running behind at this time, one reason may be due to new billing software. We will continue to monitor and review as needed.

RESOLUTION: 24-05-05 Nancy Udolph made a motion to recommend approval of the April Financials. Cindy Kyser seconded the motion. The motion carried.

c. Board Budget

Patty indicated the Budget is straightforward, with one difference being levy expenses. Line 2 is for community and systems development which shows an \$8000 increase. It was explained that iHeart was funded through the SORS grant this fiscal year and including it into the budget caused the increase. There were a few decreases and increases in other line items. The salary and annual dinner lines were right sized based on current information.

A Board member commented that employees are one of our most valuable assets and wanted to make sure salaries could sustain the increased cost of living.

David and Patty looked at the last two levy cycle expenses when budgeting for the SFY 2025 levy line.

Patty explained that although we are looking at a deficit budget, the carryover for FY24 is higher than anticipated as levy funds came in above projections.

RESOLUTION: 24-05006 Andy Kinney made a motion to recommend approval of the Board Budget in the amount of \$739,765.20 Connie Butler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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

Medicaid Data Issue-On May 10th, Boards received an email from OhioMHAS Director Cornyn that our access to Medicaid data was limited as of May 1st due to "confidentiality" and unspecific "state and federal requirements." Limited access was given temporarily ("for at least 90 days") to determine eligibility for persons receiving services. We are working with PartnerSolutions and OhioMHAS on long-term solutions. Boards must have access to Medicaid data to fulfill its statutory requirements as the local behavioral health planning, monitoring/evaluating, and funding body. Director Cornyn and her staff attended OACBHA's Annual Membership Meeting on May 23rd. She and the OhioMHAS staff attorney further clarified that a determination was made by unnamed persons (likely legal council) at the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) that Boards were receiving more Medicaid data than they needed to fulfill their statutory responsibilities. Since ODM is federally required to release the "minimum necessary" data "to accomplish the intended purpose of the use or disclosure," ODM decided to reduce Medicaid data provided to Boards to Medicaid eligibility data only. Through our association (OACBHA), Boards will continue to pursue all legal and legislatively viable options to restore their previous level of data.

Potential Increase in Forced Hospitalization-[HB 249](#), the so-called "psychiatric deterioration" bill, continues to be discussed in Columbus. The bill is unfortunate in that it increases the subjectivity of empowered persons in deciding to force psychiatric treatment/hospitalization. From the article below: "The scientific literature indicates that forced hospitalization does not improve people's long-term mental health, and some studies show people are worse off."

<https://www.nbc4i.com/news/politics/disability-rights-groups-worry-about-an-ohio-bill-to-expand-involuntary-psychiatric-commitment/>

<https://www.times-gazette.com/story/news/politics/2024/05/12/ohio-lawmakers-consider-expanding-criteria-for-forced-hospitalization/73592077007/>

Three Legs in the News – [Oh, the paperwork!](#) - "I don't believe our system in its current state is in any way meaningfully responding to the surge in need for more mental health care. The simple fact that insurance reimbursements for behavioral health are stagnant proves that the new initiatives side-step a fundamental problem, that the system is underfunded and neglected. I do believe we can help people, despite all our flaws—but I doubt that anyone who has had a positive experience with community mental health care will get much of a clue as to why they were helped by looking at the massive digital papertrail their treatment created. And for anyone who has been helped, there are just as many like my intake patient, who could rightly say all he got out of treatment was 300 pages of nonsense."

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

- Thank you, Board members, for all your efforts on May 21st! The agency application process went smoothly, and we're well-positioned for the new fiscal year.
- David represented the Board at the Annual Lion's Club "Officer Training" on May 4th. David is slated to be the club's vice president in 2024/2025.
- David represented the Board at the calling hours for Commissioner Mike Welch's father on May 10th.
- Sandy and David represented the Board at 33 Forever's Annual Suicide Awareness Walk on May 18th. Attendees were very interested in the materials at the Board's table. There were great networking opportunities with David, who is scheduled to appear on an upcoming WMFD podcast with radio and television personality Chelley Kemper.
- David met with OhioMHAS's new Heartland Regional Coordinator, Laura Mann, on May 15th. David explained the "Three Legs of the Stool" and the unique approach the Board uses in fulfilling its statutory responsibilities.
- On May 20th David met with Brittany VanTilberg and other staff with OhioRise – Coleman. The team in Ashland has grown substantially, and there was a good discussion of the Board's preference of keeping youth in their own homes/counties whenever possible.
- Sandy Hoffman represented the Board on May 23rd at the Senior Fair! Well over 600 seniors from Ashland County attended and appreciated the information we distributed.
- On May 24th, Dr. Ashley and David met with Michelle Allison-Smith and her team from OhioMHAS. They are visiting all 50 Boards to survey the crisis services available in each county.

VI. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS

- Kurt Schnieder, Elected Ashland County Sheriff
- Jerry Strausbaugh, Appleseed
- Tammy Hill, CCS
- Connie Shields, CCS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Hoffman, Community Relations Coordinator



David C. Ross, Executive Director



Mary Deeter, Board Chair