

**MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY BOARD OF ASHLAND COUNTY**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**September 24, 2024**

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

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

**GUESTS:** Jerry Strausbaugh, Appleseed  
Sheryl Villegas, CCS  
Rick Ford, ACCADA  
Matt Miller, Mayor – City of Ashland

Andrew Kinney, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Martha Jordan room at 1605 County Road 1095, Ashland. He explained that we have several board members that are unable to attend the meeting and Chad Brown is not feeling well and needs to go home. Before Chad leaves, we will bring the items for vote first, to maintain a quorum.

**I. CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME**

A. Roll Call- Mary Deeter took roll call in the absence of Secretary Katie Wright, and a quorum was present. There was a quorum to pass the warrants.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 27, 2024, BOARD MINUTES**

**RESOLUTION:** A motion was made by Connie Butler to recommend approval of the August 27, 2024, Board  
**24-09-01** meeting minutes. Tom Gaus seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**B. FINANCE, Chad Brown, Chair**

**I. September Warrants**

**RESOLUTION:** A motion was made by Tom Gaus to recommend approval of the September 2024  
**24-09-02** warrants for payment. Ben Key seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**II. August Financials**

**RESOLUTION:** Connie Butler made a motion to recommend approval of August Financials.  
**24-09-03** Tom Gaus seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Patty reviewed the financial highlights. She indicated we are at 30% for revenues, 28% last year this time. The board has received \$7698.84 from the Ashland Community Foundation, 2 separate estate gifts. The board will receive these funds on an annual basis, the amount may vary as it is based on average fund balance. We were informed that we will receive \$8284.00 in

FY26 from these two funds. The target for this month is 17%. Non-Medicaid is trending higher than last year at this time. Board Programmatic is trending higher also, due to the number of events we have been involved in over the last couple of months. She reported that we've received 3 different small grants, Appreciation Grant, Overdose Awareness grant, and BSCA Community initiative. The Boards health insurance will be going up 15.5% beginning January 1, 2025.

### III. SFY 2024 Closeout & Carryover Discussion

Patty reviewed the SFY 2024 Closeout & Carryover sheet. The total carryover currently is \$592660.78. Staff recommendations for the carryover were highlighted. She pointed out salary reserve \$3,200 and operating/services \$9,230, these amounts will keep the board current with our policies for these two items. Referring to IT/Capital Match, Patty explained that we talked to the neighbors a while back and the property next door will likely come up for sale, we are moving \$200,000 to have dollars available if it comes up for sale. The property is likely in probate right now. The property could serve as parking as Coleman is growing, or we could use it as office space and rent other space. There are several options to consider. Looking at the General Reserve line, Patty indicated we are adding \$266,730 to be used when needed. She explained that in FY25 we have some projects that have been quoted and have \$30,000 to balance our current budget. Projects include the Professional building hallways, the MHRB conference room floors and ceilings. These are just some ideas for the carryover from 2024 into 2025. We don't have final close out numbers yet so there is \$40,000 for final Non-Medicaid billings, if they come in higher we will pull funds from the General Reserve line.

There was discussion around reserves and the reason we must have reserves is because our agencies and community rely on us.

#### A. **PLANNING**, Sara Battison, Chair

Sara Battison, Chair

##### i. Urban Meadow- Next Steps – Matt Miller

David Ross, Executive Director asked Mayor Matt Miller to provide the Board with an update on the Urban Meadow. Matt expressed his appreciation for the Boards patience. He indicated Ohio Edison is burying power lines and the old railroad spur needs to be removed before we can move forward. Originally, all the space was going to be used for the Urban Meadow, however, now there will be approximately two acres with apartment buildings and hotel surrounding it. Contracts have been signed and things are moving forward. Matt indicated he understands if the Board decides this is not what they envision for the Urban Meadow.

Mayor Miller answered questions from Board members. Once members learned that housing in the area would be market rate and not for low income, and likely have amenities such as workout facility, dog park, walking area and pool, they decided the area would not be viable for the Urban Meadow as it is intended to be a quiet comfort zone. The Board still needs to do that project somewhere and Mayor Miller explained there are other parks in the city that could be made into the original purpose. The consensus of Board members was to explore the other park options and not ask for the money back at this time. Mayor Miller is comfortable to explore other options at another meeting. He explained that Brook Side West is getting a new look soon and things change quickly. He noted Brook Side West has a trail that could be an asphalt trail with stations, just to name a possibility.

##### ii. SOS 4.0 Grant Submission

David reported the SOS 4.0 grant was submitted. The grant changed, as it is now competitive. If we are approved, he asks that dollars be advanced to the agencies so they wouldn't have to wait, as there is always a delay; they are projecting a two-week turnaround time, but this does

not always happen. The parameters made the grant challenging and it's hard to know how many will be submitted. SOS has been a huge injection of funding for our agencies. These are federal dollars.

iii. Family & Children First Council- Update

David explained that several years ago the Board was admin agent for FCFC but gave it back to the Commissioners because we could not subsidize the program. The Department of Job and Family Services is currently the admin agent, however, they expressed at the last meeting that they no longer want to be the admin agent as they don't have the money to subsidize the program. It's been about a year since there has been an FCFC director. The Commissioners are looking to get legislative language that will allow counties to decide if they want an FCFC in their county.

iv. Mobile Response Stabilization Services (MRSS)- Update

David indicated we talked about Mobile Response Stabilization Services (MRSS) at the last meeting. Since that time David talked with The Counseling Center in Wayne/Holmes County who have applied to serve Richland, Ashland, Wayne, and Holmes counties, and found out that if they are selected, they will subcontract MRSS services to Applesseed for local coverage. No regional MRSS applicants have been selected yet.

v. Board Respite House- Change in Focus

We have not been successful in finding people to meet criteria for the Board Respite House. Therefore, Mr. Ross suggested a change of focus, and one idea is for Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) who need assistance with temporary housing. David is meeting with Sheryl at the space tomorrow to look at that option. This would be a big help in getting the youth used to paying rent etc. If not, we will look at other possibilities. David will have an update after their meeting.

vi. Mental Health Peer Support Now a Medicaid Billable Service

Substance use peer support has been a billable service, and now Mental Health Peer Support is a Medicaid billable service. David explained that this could potentially assist Catholic Charities and the Pathways program which they've wanted to grow for some years.

vii. Training & Event Updates

- Another Successful Fair in the Books!
- Record Registrations for Awareness Walk- 198 registered!
- Loudonville Resilience Screening
- Dispatcher's Appreciation- Andrew read a thank you note from the dispatchers.
- QPR Trainings Continues
- Overdose Awareness Day Podcast w/Vicky & Rick

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

**Key Items of Focus**

1. Pass the Levy in November 2025
2. Contract for Services for SFY 2026
3. Advocate for Increased Revenue and/or Increased Flexibility (fewer lines) in the SFY 2026-27 Budget
4. Promote and Provide High-Quality Training & Events in SFY 2025 (Annual Luncheon, Awareness Walk, Fairs, RSVP.)
5. Continue to ensure effective Board Operations (Board Members & Staff)

**Highlights**

- ✓ Levy Update – Initial Meeting w/Dr. McKnight and Proposal Forthcoming
  - What additional levy questions for the community should we ask to inform our decision of a renewal vs. replacement?

- ✓ Board staff are doing an incredibly good job at managing our busiest season of the year. I'm overwhelmed with their level of professionalism, teamwork, and positive attitude.
- ✓ Submit questions regarding levy. David read some of the questions that Andy submitted.

#### Lowlights

- ✓ Despite several meetings, OhioMHAS and ODM maintain that Boards will no longer receive claims-level Medicaid data.

#### What's Keeping Me Up at Night

- ✓ Workforce Challenges
- ✓ Flat Funding
- ✓ Suicide & Overdose Deaths
- ✓ Pattern of Regionalization and Top-Down Decision Making in Columbus (Legacy Focus vs. Local Needs Focus)

#### Upcoming Events & Training

- September 26-27 – OACBHA Executive Directors Annual Retreat
- **September 29, 2024, Noon to 3 pm – Annual Suicide Prevention & Awareness Walk**
- **October 1 through October 5 – Loudonville Street Fair**
- October 1<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm (Candlelight Vigil – Domestic Violence)
- October 10<sup>th</sup> a 4:30 pm (Seed of Hope – AU Coburn Art Gallery)
- October 18<sup>th</sup> at Noon (Suicide Prevention Coalition Meeting)
- **October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4 pm – MHRB Board Meeting**
- **October 23<sup>rd</sup> at Noon – MHRB Annual Luncheon**

#### Knowledge of Note

- No one is immune to suicide, which is why it is vital for friends and family members to be prepared if they suspect someone they care about is considering suicide. In fact, most of the time, a person considering suicide first expresses their thoughts and feelings to a trusted friend, colleague, or family member. Read more [HERE](#) or the handout.

#### The Board Making News

- Thank you to all the Board Members for volunteering at the fair! It really helps to have so many folks help out. I hope you enjoyed your time there and meeting all our county residents.
- Thank you for attending the one-hour Board training on September 17<sup>th</sup>. We're working on how to provide a make-up for those who were not in attendance.
- We appreciate the Board members and staff able to attend Dr. Ford's funeral service on 9/7. Dr. Ford served on several of the Board's past levy committees and was a consistent supporter of our work and behavioral health services generally. Her granddaughter, who happens to be a clinician, spoke at the service.
- I appreciate Sandy assisting me in recognizing our county dispatchers employed through the Sheriff's office and the Sheriff himself making time for the recognition.

#### V. Acknowledgement of Guests:

Mayor Matt Miller

Jerry Strausbaugh, Appleseed Director, invited the Board to the Oct. 10 art show.

Sheryl Villegas, CCS Director, talked about the mind shift regarding the Medicaid billable service. Rick Ford, ACCADA Director, might be able to help Sheryl a little with that Medicaid service transition. SOS dollars have been a huge asset for ACCADA. A lot of prevention services were made possible with those dollars. Thanks to David for submitting the grant on the agency's behalf.

County Appraiser came to Mary's door. Mary called the Auditor's office, and they have contracted with an appraisal company to reappraise our property.

David discussed the art displayed

in the meeting room which is used for the upcoming Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk.

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board meeting was adjourned by Mary Deeter at 5:10 p.m. Connie Butler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sandy Hoffman, Community Relations Coordinator

  
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David Ross, Executive Director

  
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Mary Deeter, Board Chair