

MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY BOARD OF ASHLAND COUNTY
Board Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2024

PRESENT: Mary Deeter David Ross, Executive Director
Sara Battison Patty Walton, Associate Director
Chad Brown Sandy Hoffman, Community Relations Coordinator
Connie Butler Ashley Ackerman, Director of Program, Training, & Education
Ben Key
Tom Gaus
Dennis Dyer
Ed Kieper
Nancy Udolph
Cindy Kyser

ABSENT: Andrew Kinney*
Katie Wright*
Shari Shafer*
*Provided notice

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

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

I. CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME

Mary indicated that the family directly across from us (on the other side of the driveway) had a house fire last week and lost everything, a sheet is in the packet and was distributed tonight with the needs of the family for those who would like to help the family.

Mary explained that last month we flipped the agenda and lead with the voting items first so that Chad could leave since he was sick. This month Andy is sick, and we could have had to do the same thing, therefore, to prevent this in the future the order of the agenda will be changed going forward.

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 SEPTEMBER 24, 2024, BOARD MINUTES

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Tom Gaus to recommend approval of the September 24, 2024, Board meeting minutes. Connie Butler seconded the motion. The motion carried.
24-10-01

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. PLANNING, Sara Battison, Chair

i. SUD Advisory Committee Updates

David Ross, Executive Director, indicated the substance use disorder (SUD) Advisory Committee meets monthly, and the local agency members like ACCADA, the hospital, health department, and others discuss what is being done about substance use in Ashland County. At the meeting last Friday, Kurt Schneider, Sheriff Elect, was on the agenda to discuss the Boarder issues. Kurt, and Matt and Melanie Miller went down to the Boarder to see what is

happening daily on the frontlines. Both the Times Gazette and the Ashland Source covered the story. Kurt was focused on the Fentanyl problems and our community, and he is seeing the need for more and more services. Kurt would like to do more programming in the jail, such as strengthening linkage to ensure people are connected to mental health and alcohol and drug services. He sees the value in our services and recognizes it helps his staff with the work they do.

ii. Ohio Medicaid 1115 Reentry Demonstration Waiver

David explained that the federal government has made an opportunity for organizations to get a waiver for 30-60 or 90 days while in jail. Before leaving the jail, it would allow for increased services.

iii. Video Series: Ohio First Responders Impacted by Suicide

Steve Click has done training for us in the past and is the Director of First Responder Wellness. He has developed a video series with suicide resources for agencies and first responders. We will be linking our first responders with this video series.

Sara noted that it is sad to know that the first responders who help so many people are struggling themselves. She is glad to know this resource is out there for them.

iv. Training & Event Updates

- Loudonville Street Fair a Success, Thank you. Board members agreed and discussed many good things that happened during the week.
- The World Mental Health Day event at AU- Mary Deeter attended the event with Sandy. The students were very receptive and picked up materials and giveaways.
- Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) Training in Process
- Seeds of Hope Creative Expenses Art Display- Connie attended and was very impressed with the event. David indicated the event was packed, which indicates that we need to be open to the need for art therapy.
- Volleyball Game- Ashley provided resources during the game, and material was being picked up.
- David noted that the new President at the College is seeing the value in our work and our partnership with them.
- Suicide Prevention Coalition Meeting- The meeting happens twice a year, it was via zoom, however, we may have it in person next time.
- Regional Out of Darkness Walk- David attended the event and he noted that the Huron County Board was also in attendance.
- Ashland High School Suicide Prevention Event- Bella, MHRB Intern and Ashley distributed suicide prevention resources during the lunch period. They had some conversations with students. This was the first time that we had an event like this in high school.
- David discussed the fact that our internship and event in the high school is a good way to increase the workforce for our field, which is very important.

B. FINANCE, Chad Brown, Chair

I. October Warrants

RESOLUTION: 24-10-02 A motion was made by Sara Battison to recommend approval of the October 2024 warrants for payment. Cindy Kyser seconded the motion. The motion carried.

II. September Financials

RESOLUTION: 24-10-03 Tom Guas made a motion to recommend approval of September Financials. Nancy Udolph seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Patty reported that we are three months into the new year, first quarter of FY25. Target is 25 percent. Revenues are running a little higher than target, but this is expected and based on timing. Overall expenses for the agencies are trending at or above target. Non-Medicaid is trending below target. Overall Board expenses are a little above target. We just finished up the fairs, the suicide prevention awareness walk, preparing for the annual luncheon, so our programmatic expenses are higher than usual. We have lots of activities going on. There has also been an increase from several of our vendors.

III. SFY 2024 Closeout & Carryover Discussion

Referring to the SFY 2024 Closeout, Patty reported \$576,574 as carryover. She explained that FY25 differences and intent of proposed dollars are identified. She pointed out the difference in salaries and operating/services is based on our polices. She explained that the difference in IT/Capital Match is for capital projects, we have set the dollars aside for the possible purchase of the house next door. We believe the house is in probate currently. General Reserves were increased for possible use at mid-year if necessary. And the FY25 budget line would add monies for some necessary updates at the Board offices and at the Professional Building. There was also funds to balance the FY25 budget.

**RESOLUTION:
24-10-04**

Tom Gaus made a motion to approve the FY25 Carryover of \$576,574.94. Connie Butler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

IV. Grant Funding Updates

David reminded the Board that the Ohio Foundation grant process is highly competitive. We have heard that one of our requests was approved. Rick Ford, Director of ACCADA, is one of our agencies that was contacted. ACCADA's quick response team (QRT) program was approved for 3 years.

Although we have been notified the results for SOS 4.0 are in, the governor's office is waiting to announce the awards. It's concerning as we have people and programs that depend on the dollars for programming, which puts clients at risk. We will need to wait and see about whether any of our requests were supported.

V. CCS Audit

Patty indicated we received the CCS Audit and there were no findings. We have a copy of the audit if anyone wants to see it. No action is necessary.

VI. 2023 Ashland County Audit

Patty reported that the 2023 Ashland County Audit was also received with no findings. The Audit can be seen on the Auditor's website.

David reminded Board members that those who didn't attend the Mandatory Board training need to complete the training. An email went out with a link to watch the video and then attest that it was completed.

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

- ✓ September! – September’s Suicide Prevention & Awareness Month activities, training, and events were the most successful in my tenure. We’ve never experienced the level of partnership and participation as this past September. I appreciate the Board, Board Staff, Contract, and Community Partners for this success.

Lowlights

- ✓ The trend of constructing behavioral health facilities with one-time or time-limited funds but that will require ongoing funds to operate.

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

- **October 23rd at Noon – MHRB Annual Luncheon**
- National Drug Take Back Day is this Saturday, October 26th from 10 am to 2 pm
- Save the Date! ACCADA Annual Luncheon: Dec. 13 at Noon (The Professional Building)

Knowledge of Note

- ‘[Blind Spots](#)’ author Dr. Marty Makary [on chronic disease and the failures of modern medicine](#). In a longer discussion, Dr. Makary [discusses his book](#).
- Dr. Makary is a great example of someone supportive of our Three Legs Approach and the need for critical thinking.
- [Handout](#): Cancer and Mental Health- There is a mind body connection in this handout. Also, people tend to recover more successfully, the better their mental health is. There is some good information on how to support individuals with cancer.

The Board Making News

- Thank you to all the Board Members for volunteering at the Loudonville Street Fair and Suicide Prevention & Awareness Walk! Both events were a huge success!
- W/H Dinner on 9/25
- Candlelight Vigil on 10/1
- World Mental Health Day – Volleyball Game – Seeds of Hope Gallery Exhibition at AU on 10/10/2024
- Suicide Prevention Coalition Meeting on 10/18
- Out of Darkness Walk on 10/20
- Superintendents Meeting on 10/21- David Met with the Superintendents in the county. He discussed the YCRT, Liaison Program, and levy. Superintendents seemed supportive of all three. Schools can’t support their own levies and they are not sure to what extent they can support other levies so David will find out the legalities.

VII. Acknowledgement of Guests:

Jerry Strausbaugh, Appleseed Director

Sheryl Villegas, CCS Director

Rick Ford, ACCADA Director, Let the other Director’s know he received his grant notice in his spam email so they might check that.

Mary reminded everyone that the family next door can use any help we can give them due to the fire. She explained that David offered the first responders and the family this room and restrooms, as well as snacks and water to help during the fire crisis.

David reminded everyone that the next meeting is Dec. 10 which will be the Potluck. Sandy will send something out to organize this.

Mary requested prayers for her daughter as she will be having major surgery on her shoulder. She expressed appreciation for those on the Board.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting was adjourned by Mary Deeter at 5:20 p.m. Tom Gaus seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Hoffman, Community Relations Coordinator



David Ross, Executive Director



Mary Deeter, Board Chair