



**Athens-Hocking-Vinton Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and  
Mental Health Services Board  
(317 Board)**



**Serving  
Athens, Hocking and  
Vinton Counties  
for  
Over 50 Years**

**Fiscal Year 2019  
Annual Report**

Photo by Gordon Franciosa from the Healing Visions Exhibit in 2013.

Gordon was a mental health advocate for decades through his artwork and his role as a board member of The Gathering Place. Gordon passed away July 3, 2019. He was 53 years old.



## SFY 2019 Summary of Activities

The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board (317 Board) provides a *Network of Care* for mental health and addiction services to residents of Athens, Hocking and Vinton Counties. The Board assesses service needs, contracts with local service providers and evaluates performance via achieved outcomes. The Board primarily pays for services not reimbursable by Medicaid or health insurance and/or services received by persons without health insurance coverage.

In 2019, the Board received State and Federal funds from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services as well as two local levies. The Board approved the SFY 2019 budget totaling \$13,457,359 which continued funding commitments from the prior year.

The Board contracted with the following providers and organizations for outpatient, residential, prevention, community, and housing services:

- Hopewell Health Centers
  - Our House
- Health Recovery Services
- The Edna Brooks Foundation *dba* My Sister's Place
- Athens Mental Health *dba* The Gathering Place and Mike's Bridge House
- Vinton County Senior Citizens
- Athens Photographic Project
- The John W. Clem Recovery House and Briggs House
- Southeast Ohio Regional Jail
- NAMI Athens
- Scenic Hills Senior Center
- TASC of Southeast Ohio
- Women for Recovery *dba* Serenity Grove
- Integrated Services for Behavioral Health
  - Home Away from Home
  - New Beginnings
  - Ground Works Recovery Residences
- Family and Children First Councils of Athens, Hocking and Vinton Counties
- Athens, Hocking and Vinton Counties Metropolitan Housing Authorities
- Tomcat Bridgebuilders
- Rural Action
- Athens County Prosecutor's Vivitrol Program
- Hocking Municipal Court Drug Court Program
- Vinton County Drug Courts
- Athens, Hocking and Vinton Counties Health Departments
- Athens, Hocking and Vinton Counties Sheriff Offices
- Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare
- Sojourners Care Network

## SFY 2019 Highlights



The Board works with Hopewell Health Centers to manage admissions, discharges and aftercare for residents admitted to Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare and other state psychiatric hospitals. There were 162 episodes of care for a total of 7,128 patient days in SFY 2019.

In collaboration with our provider network, the Board was awarded State Opioid Response Federal funding of \$738,665 from February 2019 thru September 2019; and \$1,443,575 from October 2019 thru September 2020. This funding continues opioid treatment programs, rapid access programs in all counties, peer supporter outreach services and recovery housing.

The Board assisted four local youth-serving agencies to access \$135,201 in special state funding to increase services and programming for youth. The funding was made available as part of a special initiative of the Kasich Administration.

The Osteopathic Heritage Foundation of Nelsonville and the Board entered into a third \$600,000 joint funding project focused on Youth Services. Grants have been awarded to Sojourners for the Youth Resiliency Center in Athens, Hopewell Health Centers for Trauma Informed Schools and Handle with Care trainings in all AHV school districts, and to provide Adventure Therapy training to local clinicians.

The Board provided \$67,500 in funding to Vinton County School District to support Project Boost, an after-school program. Programs were offered at Central, West and South elementary schools and enrolled 534 students. Of these students, 243 (46%) attended more than 30 days of programming.

Local Outreach of Suicide Survivor Teams (LOSS) began official activities in June 2018. The team contacted and provided information to four families.



The Board held its Annual Meeting at the Ohio University Inn on October 22, 2018 with approximately 70 in attendance. The Rita Gillick Mental Health Advocate Award was presented to Dr. Mark “Max” McGee and the Valeria “Taffy” Marks Substance Abuse Prevention Award was given to Women for Recovery-Serenity Grove Founding Members. Margaret Sterling, Kelly Taulbee, Nina Andrews and Katherine Homonai were honored as Behavioral Health Advocates.

The Overdose Response Teams in Athens and Hocking Counties include law enforcement, emergency responders, health departments and behavioral health agencies who make friendly visits to persons treated for an overdose. The purpose is to discuss the person’s well-being and to encourage treatment options. The Athens County team received 110 referrals, contacted 50 of those, engaged 28 in services and distributed 12 Narcan kits. The Hocking County team had 108 contacts with 70 individuals; 42 were referred to treatment and 42 Narcan kits were distributed.





The Adam-Amanda Mental Health Rehabilitation Center accepted its first client on June 2, 2018. The facility added eight beds to an existing eight bed crisis residential center. The sixteen-bed facility provides a bridge between inpatient psychiatric care and return to home, providing additional stabilization services. The Center serves persons from a 21-county area. The Center served 201 people in SFY 2019; 47 of these were admitted as a step-down from inpatient psychiatric care.

Serenity Grove, a five-bed recovery house for women in Athens County, was fully operational in SFY 2019. The house was able to support twelve women and is an important addition to the system of care.

Mike's Bridge House, a five-bed recovery house in Athens County for men with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorder also opened in SFY 2019. The Board provided \$47,100 for structural repairs and provided grant funding for operations. The house supported twelve men and is one of the few recovery houses in Ohio serving those with dual-diagnoses.

The Hocking Hills Inspire Shelter in Logan held a ribbon cutting on October 18, 2019. The 317 Board and the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation of Nelsonville were able to provide funding to help with appliances and furnishings in the shelter and attached housing units.



The Vinton County Peer House—New Beginnings—moved into its new space on Thompson Street. The Board-owned property was renovated on budget and time. Members contributed by painting the outside to create a welcoming space. The new location offers more outdoor space for gardening and recreation.

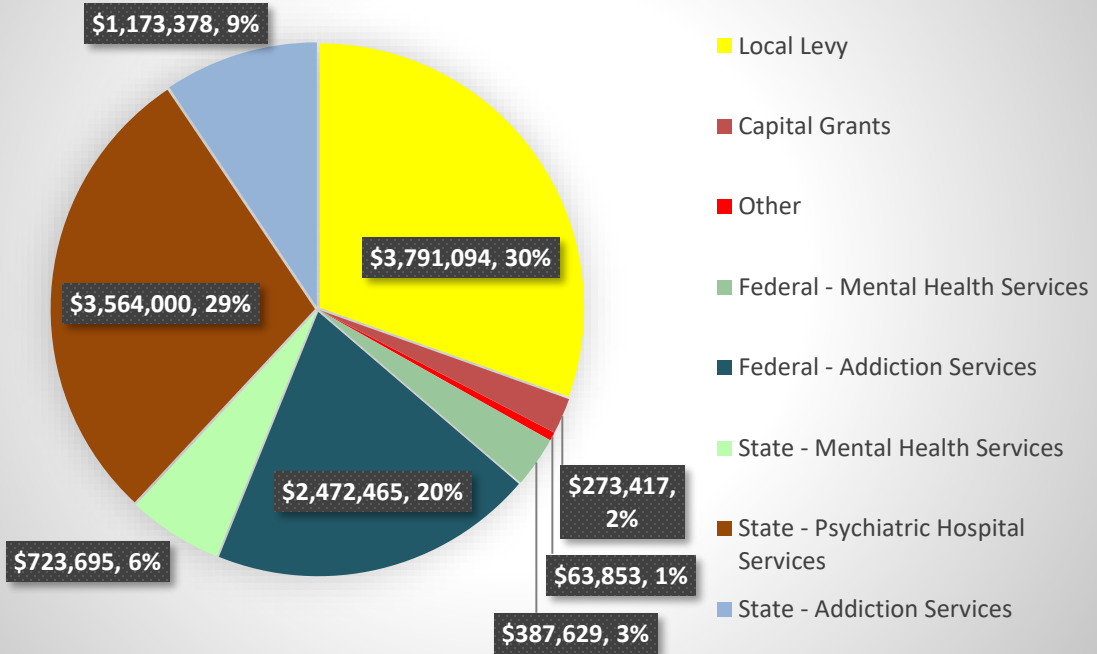
The Board prioritized and supported Hopewell Health Centers' OMHAS capital application for a new behavioral health clinic in Vinton County. The Board also supported capital applications by Integrated Services for The Hive – Youth Drop-In Center in Nelsonville and Sojourners for a Youth Resiliency Center in Athens.

Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) is a five-day training program for area law enforcement officers and other first responders. Participants learn to recognize persons in mental health crises and make connections to behavioral health as an alternative to jail. Eighteen officers/first responders were trained during November, bringing the total number trained to 399.

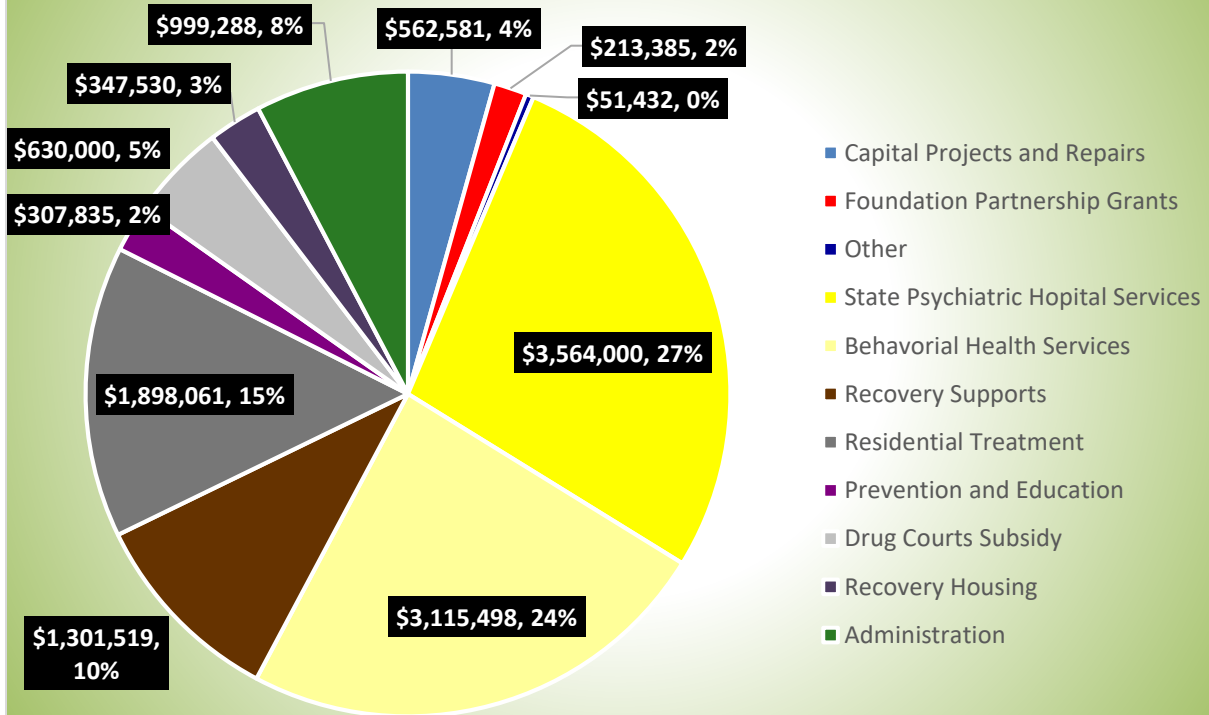
In honor of First Responder's Appreciation week, the Board sponsored "Helping the Helper" trainings in each of the counties to address the compassion fatigue and stress associated with working in the helping professions; nearly 150 people participated in these sessions.

The 317 Board was a sponsor for the Governor's Office of Faith-Based Leap of Faith in Recovery Conference at Hocking College on October 16th.

## SFY 2019 Revenues \$12,449,531



## SFY 2019 Expenditures \$12,991,129



## Board Members and Board Staff as of March 1, 2020

### Board Members

#### Athens County

Tom Davis, Ph.D.  
Deborah Dreifort  
Steven Evans, Ph.D.  
James Gaskell, MD,  
(Chair)  
Paul Grimes  
Romola Hopkins, Ph.D.  
Greg Polzer  
Joe Gay, Ph.D.

#### Hocking County

Laura Hopstetter  
Candy Kemmerer  
Roger Stivison  
Jacqueline Stobbs

#### Vinton County

Jeffrey R. Griffith  
Tonya Bowden  
Heidi McIntire

We thank these additional board members who served in SFY 2019:

Dan Alder, Garett Clark, Erin Gibson, Ralph Harvey, Sr., Julie Mogavero, Tina Phelps

### Board Staff

Earl L. Cecil, Executive Director  
Diane Pfaff, Deputy Director  
Svea Maxwell, Associate Director  
Amanda Conrath, Fiscal Manager  
Sherri Tyree, Community Services Manager  
Beth Mohammed, Executive Assistant  
Kim O'Rourke, Administrative Assistant



Bill Dunlap, Deputy Director at the 317 Board retired in May after 22 years of service to the Board. Bill's leadership was evident in all aspects of the Board's work, but particularly in the areas of legislative advocacy and building a response to the opiate crisis. Bill was great community partner and tireless advocate for those struggling with an addiction or mental illness. We are grateful for his service to the system of care.



7990 Dairy Lane  
Athens, OH 45701  
740-593-3177  
[www.317board.org](http://www.317board.org)

**Cover Photo**  
Copyright 2013  
Gordon Franciosa &  
Athens Photographic Project