



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

Serving Athens, Hocking and Vinton Counties for Over 50 Years

Earl Cecil, Executive Director



After 31 years on the Board staff, first as Fiscal Director and the last twenty as Executive Director, it is time to pass the leadership of our System of Care on to a new generation. I have been reflecting on our system of care today, how it has changed since August 1979 when I was appointed to serve as a Board member from Vinton County. There were eight agencies providing limited mental health outpatient services. Today we have agreements with 34 providers, agencies and community partners that are providing community based services, intensive outpatient services, residential treatment, psychiatric inpatient, housing, peer and recovery supports to the residents of our three counties and employing over a thousand dedicated staff helping those with mental health and addiction disorders.

Also, the public understanding and acceptance that mental illnesses and addictions are treatable brain disorder—that treatment and recovery supports work—and that people can improve their health and wellness and live self-directed lives has significantly changed over these years. With the continued support and collaboration of caring and supportive communities, elected officials, and forward-thinking providers, the Board will continue the work to building a person-centered System of Care, focused on the individual needs of the residents of Athens, Hocking and Vinton Counties.

Board Members and Board Staff as of June 30, 2020

Board Members		Board Staff
Athens County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Laura Hopstetter ▪ Candy Kemmerer ▪ Roger Stivison ▪ Jacqueline Stobbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Earl L. Cecil, Executive Director ▪ Diane Pfaff, Deputy Director ▪ Svea Maxwell, Associate Director ▪ Amanda Conrath, Fiscal Manager ▪ Sherri Tyree, Community Services Mngr. ▪ Beth Mohammed, Executive Assistant ▪ Kim O'Rourke, Administrative Assistant
Vinton County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jeffrey R. Griffith ▪ Tonya Bowden ▪ Heidi McIntire 		

This year's annual report is dedicated to the behavioral health staff in our network of care for their compassion and dedication during the pandemic, and to Earl Cecil's forty years of public service.



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. The Board works with community partners to ensure that individuals and families effected by mental illness or substance use disorders have access to high-quality prevention, treatment and recovery supports.

The Board held its Annual Meeting at the Hocking Hills Golf Club & Urban Grill on October 28, 2019 with approximately 70 in attendance. The Rita Gillick Mental Health Advocate Award was presented to Tracie Dearing and the Valeria “Taffy” Marks Substance Abuse Prevention Award was given to Bill Dunlap.



Hocking County Award Winners and 317 Hocking County Board Members

Contract Partners

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 2020 Highlights

Helping Those with Mental Illness—



Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) is a five-day training program for area law enforcement officers and other first responders. This training teaches SE Ohio officers to recognize persons in mental health crises and arrange help rather than jail. Sixteen officers/first responders were trained during November, bringing the total number trained to 415.

Photo: CIT 2019 Graduating Class

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. Hopewell Health Centers crisis staff conducted 2849 hospital crisis screens. In state hospitals, there were 160 episodes of care for a total of 6236 patient days in SFY 2020.

The Connett Road Group Home opened in March 2020. Operated by Hopewell Health Centers, this ten-bedroom home fills a much-needed gap in the system of care.

NAMI Athens is filling a community gap by providing guardianship services for persons with serious and persistent mental illness. This program is currently very limited, but there are hopes to expand in the future as funding permits.

Helping Those with Substance Use Disorders—

The Overdose Response Teams in Athens and Hocking Counties continued to make friendly visits to persons treated for an overdose to check on their well-being and to encourage treatment. Board funding for a sheriff deputy in Vinton County offers response to individuals with behavioral health issues who are involved with criminal justice or child protective services.

Hocking County hosted their 8th Town Hall meeting on October 3, 2019, with nearly 100 community members in attendance. Board staff participated in the community plan developed by the Vinton County Prevention and Recovery Council. The Athens HOPE and Athens Opiate Task Force hosted a Trauma-Informed training on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at the Mary Hill Center in Nelsonville.

Behavioral Health During the Pandemic—

On March 22, 2020, a stay-at-home order was issued in Ohio in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board office closed to the public and most employees moved to working from home. The Board took several steps to help agencies—advancing payments for purchase of supplies, providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and a partnership with the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation of Nelsonville.

Behavioral health is essential health care that serves vulnerable and at-risk populations. The 317 Board Network of Care providers quickly adopted new technologies and strategies to continue to meet community needs—telehealth, smaller group sizes and use of outdoor space. Reggie Robinson, Director of Prevention Programming at Health Recovery Services, initiated a weekly prevention show on Zoom to continue community education throughout the pandemic. <https://www.hrs.org/hrs-presents>



Social Distancing Twelve Step Meeting at the John W. Clem House

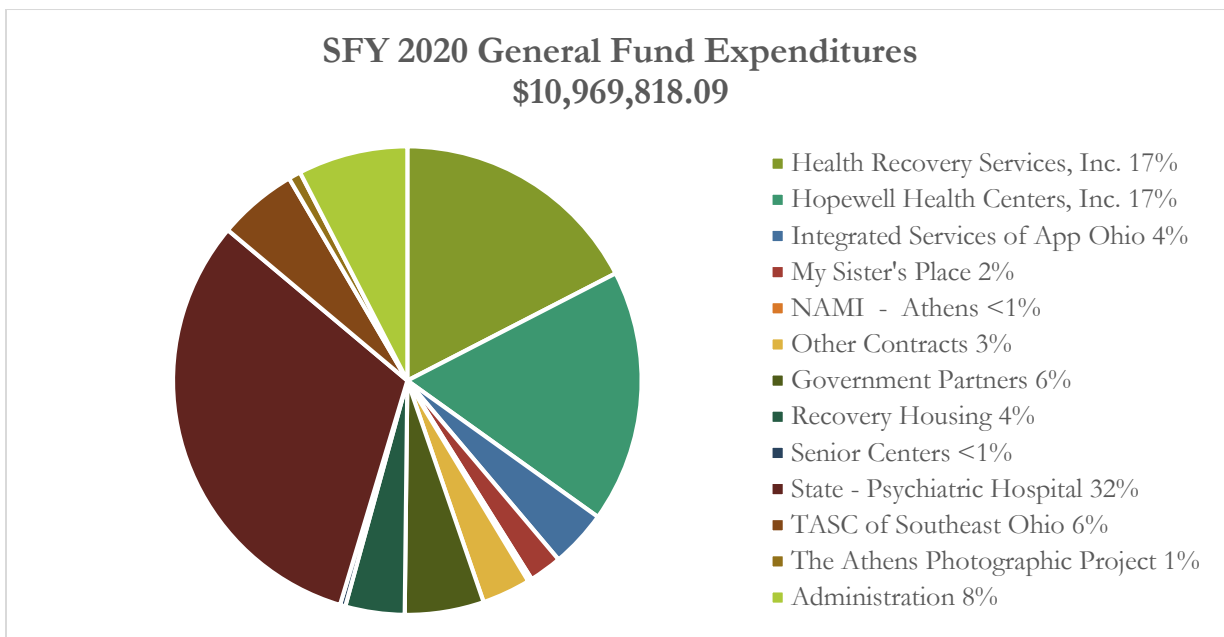
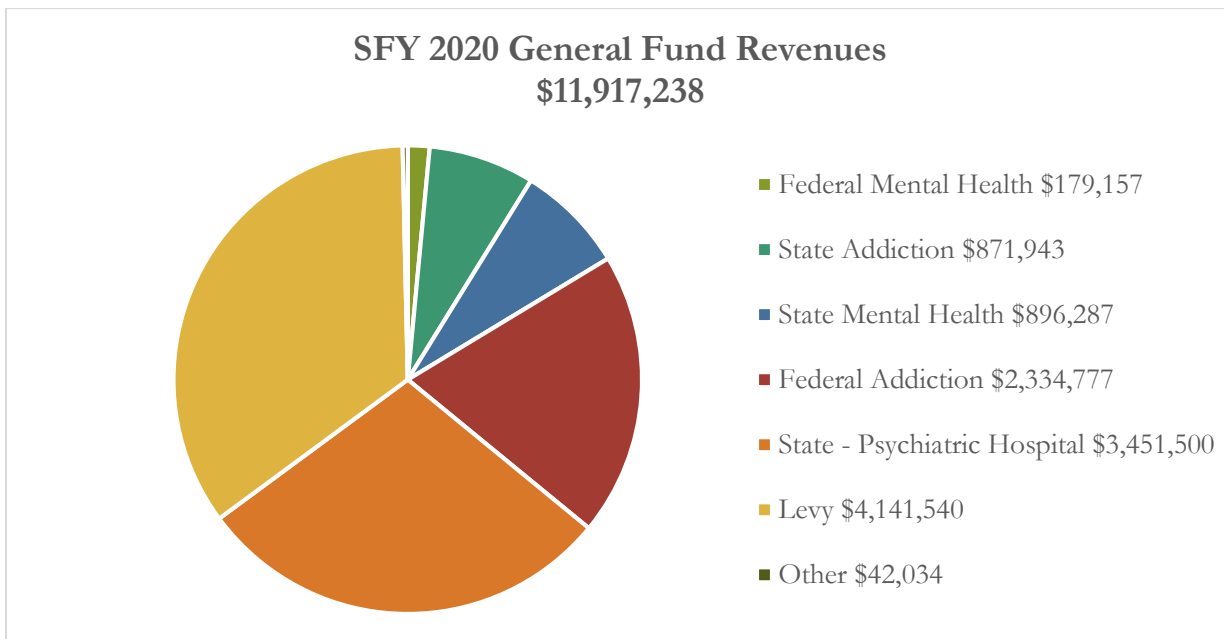
Increasing Revenues to Address Community Needs—

In 2020, the Board received State and Federal funds from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services as well as two local levies.

In collaboration with our provider network, the Board was awarded State Opioid Response Federal \$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.

Ohio MHAS granted \$84,696 to the Board for a new Community Transition Program to help address the needs of persons released from an Ohio prison. The goal of the program is to engage them in treatment and to reduce recidivism.

Ohio MHAS awarded capital funding of \$437,375 to Sojourners Care Network for a new youth resiliency center in Athens. Ohio MHAS awarded \$371,625 in capital funding to Integrated Services for Behavioral Health for The Hive youth resiliency center in Nelsonville.



As reported through the SFY 2020 month of September General Fund Financials.

**The difference between revenues and expenses is due to funding carried over to the next year due to COVID service disruptions*

Partnership with the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation of Nelsonville

The 317 Board and the OHFN partnership began in 2012 with a multi-year commitment to collaboratively support innovative and effective strategies designed to improve the health and quality of life for vulnerable individuals and their families affected by addiction and mental health issues. To date over two million has been committed through a 1:1 funding commitment by the partners.

In state fiscal year 2020, the following projects were completed and new investments were made to improve the well-being of children and families, and to respond to the COVID 19 pandemic. Below is a summary of this work.

Organization Name	Project Summary	Award
Athens Photographic Project	Studio and gallery capital improvements	\$65,000.00
The John W. Clem Recovery House	New Level I recovery house in The Plains	\$51,950.00
Athens Mental Health Inc.	The Gathering Place kitchen and bathroom upgrade	\$66,740.00
Hocking Metropolitan Housing Authority	Hocking Hills Inspire Shelter equipment & furnishings	\$50,000.00
Hopewell Health Centers	Expanding access to evidence-based care	\$60,000.00
Integrated Services for Behavioral Health	Hocking and Vinton peer support transportation	\$33,000.00
Integrated Services for Behavioral Health	Level II recovery house for women and children in McArthur	\$60,000.00
Edna Brooks Foundation	My Sister's Place office, bedroom and bathroom addition	\$59,639.00
Vinton County Commissioners	Vinton County law enforcement behavioral health collaborative	\$130,000.00
Vinton County Senior Citizens, Inc.	Senior citizens transportation support	\$24,007.00
Women for Recovery	Serenity Grove transportation and driveway improvements	\$50,000.00
Hopewell Health Centers	Trauma-Informed schools and Handle with Care in seven (7) districts	\$185,000.00
Sojourners Care Network	Youth resiliency center in Athens	\$162,500.00
Child-Serving Organizations	Trauma-Informed Adventure Therapy	\$76,100.00
COVID Rapid Response	Funding for technology, supplies and staffing to eight (8) organizations to continue service delivery during COVID	\$388,816.00
TOTALS		\$1,462,752.00

