

317 Board
Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services Board

Athens-Hocking-Vinton 317 Board Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2025

Meeting Was Held In-Person and Virtual

Present: Heather Batin, Chair, Jayne Darling, Ralph Evans, Maeve Gallagher, Dr. Ron Luce, Robert Orth, Anne Rubin, Dumitru Sabaiduc, Wenda Sheard, and Jacqueline Stobbs

Absent: Tonya Bowden, JoAnna Carter, Dr. Tom Davis, Rhea Hopstetter, Patricia Robinette, Robert Salizzoni, and Shei Sanchez

Guests: Linda Sistrunk, Memorial Hospital System and Ginger Schmalenberg, The Gathering Place

Virtual: I.J. Chima, Voinovich School, Kahla Cospers, HC Health Department, Kim Dement, ISBH, Kelly Madewell, MSP, Ellen Martin, HRS, Ashley Mount, HC Health Department, and Dr. Sherry Shamblin, HHC

Staff: Amanda Conrath, Svea Maxwell, Marissa McDaid, Beth Mohammed, Andrea Pierson, Board Intern, Diane Pfaff, Kim Robinson, and Sherri Tyree

Ms. Batin called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and welcomed Wenda Sheard as a board member who was appointed by the Athens County Commissioners to fill Dr. Gay's vacated seat. She also reported that Tamara Norway has submitted her resignation letter and asked board members to help identify persons from Hocking County who could fill this seat.

I. Adoption of Agenda

25:03:56

Ms. Rubin moved to approve the agenda; Dr. Luce seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

II. Approval of Minutes

25:03:57

Mr. Orth moved to approve the January 27, 2025 board meeting minutes; Mr. Sabaiduc seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. Public Comment

25:03:58

Resolution 25-03-26

Ms. Cospers and Ms. Mount provided information on the Hocking County Health Department's tobacco use prevention and cessation grant and asked for the Board to pass a resolution in support of this work. Ms. Stobbs moved to approve the resolution; Ms. Gallagher seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.



Serving Athens, Hocking, and Vinton Counties

7990 Dairy Lane, PO Box 130, Athens, OH 45701 ~ Voice and TDD (740) 593-3177 ~ Fax (740) 592-1996
Equal Opportunity Employer

Linda Sistrunk, Memorial Health System

Ms. Sistrunk said they are also expecting their accreditation survey and they received a 1.5 million dollar grant from OMHAS to initiate Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for pregnant women in the hospital and to decrease stigma about accessing treatment.

IV.

Agency Updates

1. Dr. Sherry Shamblin, Hopewell Health Centers

Dr. Shamblin reported they are working on annual reporting to HRSA, annual recertification for patient-centered medical home, OhioMHAS annual certification as a community mental health center, HRSA grant application and Joint Commission accreditation. She said the building in The Plains is progressing and estimated completion date is mid-to-late fall, and HHC submitted a letter of intent for an OhioMHAS grant opportunity for crisis services to build upon the work identified by the Board's TBD crisis assessment process.

2. Ellen Martin, Health Recovery Services

Ms. Martin reported they have their CARF recertification this year. She said that Dr. Gay appreciated the card he received and is now residing at Lindley Inn and enjoys hearing from people. She also reported that March is Problem Gambling Awareness month. Casinos and Racinos posted less revenue in January as compared to the previous year, overall gambling revenue has tripled due to online gambling. She reported that parents are putting apps on their child's phone to avoid paying taxes on winnings.

3. Stephen Thomas, TASC of Southeast Ohio

Mr. Thomas reported they will receive their first site visit from CARF in the next two months.

4. Kim Dement, Integrated Services for Behavioral Health

Ms. Dement reported on the restructuring at ISBH. The Southeast region includes Athens, Hocking, Vinton, Gallia, Jackson, and Meigs and will have a new regional director to manage all programs. Ms. Dement accepted a new position as Director of Community Partnerships. She also reported they are working with the Hocking Juvenile Court for an In-home Based Treatment (IHBT) grant opportunity and may include Vinton County and a partnership with Ross County.

5. Kelly Madewell, My Sister's Place

Ms. Madewell reported they are moving forward on services in Hocking County, using grant funding provided by the board for billboards, radio ads, and a brochure that focuses on services in Hocking County. She said one of their previous shelter aides, now a professor at the university of Cincinnati, will be assisting with research interviews to understand what services Hocking County residents want. She also reported she attended the Ohio Domestic Violence Network's Advocacy Day which included over 90 meetings scheduled with representatives.

6. Ginger Schmalenberg, The Gathering Place

Ms. Schmalenberg reported they are working with a consultant on their strategic vision plan. She said they are expanding programming thanks to more staff—four who are peer supporters. They are focusing on SUD support at the GP and will attend the Ohio Recovery Housing conference. They are also one of five Peer Tech centers in Ohio and they are also holding their annual Community Illumination event.

V.

Staff Updates

1. Amanda Conrath, Fiscal Manager

Ms. Conrath reported the 2024 board audit is beginning and the entrance conference is scheduled for April 9th at 10:00. She also discussed the Fraud Risk Assessment questionnaire and encouraged Board members to complete the questionnaire which is required as part of the audit.

2. Marissa McDaid, Public Affairs Manager

- Ms. McDaid reported that she will be conducting an EnCompass training at Ohio Job and Family Services for their staff and invited board members to attend.
- The Vinton County Department of Developmental Disabilities is having a Champion of Rights walk-a-thon on May 23rd. The members were invited to join a 317 Board team to raise funds for an accessibility playground at Wyman Park.
- Board staff participated in meetings to address safety concerns at the Athens parking garage as the result of two suicides in the last year. The city has posted signs with information about the 988 crisis line.

3. Svea Maxwell, Deputy Director

Ms. Maxwell reported the coroner's office has been working to organize the Athens County Suicide Fatality Review Board (SFRB). An organizational meeting was held in March to review how other SFRBs operate. The Athens County Commissioners have officially established the SFRB per the Ohio Revised Code. Another planning meeting will be held in November to prepare for the first official review in February. The ADAMHS Board is a required member of the SFRB. She also reported that the Board renovation project has been officially completed.

VI.

Executive Director Report

Ms. Pfaff reported on the following:

- Ms. Pfaff reported the Governor's budget has increases for behavioral health, but there is some uncertainty about how funds will be allocated out to Boards. There is a focus on mobile crisis services for youth and adults, block grants for workforce development, prevention, and criminal justice. They are proposing to change the name from Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to Ohio Department of Behavioral Health to combat stigma.
- Ms. Pfaff also said OhioMHAS has proposed block grants in response to ADAMHS Board's request for more local flexibility and decreased administrative burden. Because this represents a shift in how funds are allocated, there may be delays in funding notifications.

Ms. Pfaff said the changes in Medicaid are being watched closely because it is the biggest funder of clinical behavioral health services. She said there will likely be work requirements for individuals in the expansion group which is mostly single adults with incomes up to 138% of the poverty level.

There is also language in the Governor's budget to eliminate the expansion group if the federal government reduces their share of funding to this group. Advocates are working to change this language from "shall" eliminate coverage for the expansion group to "can"—which provides more time to assess and plan. Ms. Pfaff said the

federal government is also discussing changes to Medicaid. Ms. Pfaff said there on resource documents available on the board webpage related to Medicaid and policies, housing programs, and federal funding impacts.

VII. Contracts and Construction

1. Service Contract Renewals

Ms. Pfaff reported that she had signed the renewal of annual service contracts with no increase in costs/rates for The John Clem Recovery House (mowing), Fine Lawn Care (landscaping and snow removal) and Myles Cleaners for (office cleaning). She also reported a 3% increase for the Board's liability insurance for an annual premium of \$3,356.

2. Contract Authorization Resolution

25:03:59

Resolution 25-03-27

Southeast Ohio Regional Jail-Contract Amendment. \$1,868 new funding from OHMHAS for partial reimbursement of behavior health medications at the jail. Dr. Luce moved to approve Resolution 25-03-25 SEORJ Reimbursement for Behavioral Health Medication; Ms. Gallagher seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Construction

John W. Clem House

- Ms. Maxwell explained that part of the requirements for the Clem House to have their certification renewed this year is to remove the carpet from the building for safety and cleanliness. The board paid to have the building repainted prior to our renovations. She said she has been working with the executive director of the Clem House on this project and are looking into ways to cost-share the expense.

- **Hopewell Health Centers-988**

25:03:60

HHC received two bids for the upstairs renovation of the kitchen and bathroom. Per the architect's recommendation BDT added 5 alternate projects to the workplan to cover some smaller items for the board office that had been identified and two additional items for upstairs that were not part of the original scope of work. If the Board would like to proceed, the Board would reimburse HHC for the 5 additional projects, for a total \$6,860. Staff recommends acceptance of all 5 alternates as priced with Goodin Builders. Ms. Stobbs moved to approve the 5 alternates with the board reimbursing HHC; Mr. Sabaiduc seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

VIII. Old Business

There was no old business to come before the Board.

IX. New Business

1. Annual Records Commission Meeting

Ms. Conrath reported that the Annual Records Commission met on February 19th to review the 2024 records retention and destruction information. The Commission also reviewed public records requests received in the past year. The Commission meets annually in February.

2. Strategic Planning Retreat

Ms. Pfaff discussed the Strategic Planning Retreat being held on April 16th at the Education Service Center (ESC) in Chauncey. Ms. Pfaff also discussed the survey that had been sent by email regarding the planning, and offered interview and paper options.

3. Executive Director Evaluation Survey

Ms. Batin discussed the Executive Director Evaluation survey and explained the next steps. Eight surveys have been returned, and board members have until March 27th to complete their evaluation.

4. 2025 Budget Amendment Resolution

25:03:61

Resolution 25-03-28

Ms. Conrath explained the budget amendment. Funding was received for the Access Success program for clients of Hopewell Health Centers, the Southeast Ohio Jail and Star program in Nelsonville for behavioral health drug reimbursement, and a grant from Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities for 988 promotion. Ms. Sheard requested that future budget amendments include the original and changes clearly identified. Ms. Conrath said she does present a document that covers the changes in the budget every two months, and she will send the document to Ms. Sheard. Ms. Gallagher moved to approve Resolution 25-03-28 the 2025 Budget Amendment; Ms. Stobbs seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Selection of Architect-Dairy Lane Housing

25:03:62

Ms. Maxwell explained that in the beginning of 2025 the Board approved advertising to solicit Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) for professional design services/architect to establish a pool of qualified organizations to work with on future projects. Two submissions were received: BDT Architects Designers in Athens and TC Architects from Akron. After reviewing the RFQ's, the staff recommendation is to work with BDT on the Dairy Lane housing project to begin some preliminary discussions on design and site preparation while we are waiting on the property to be transferred. She said BDT is familiar with the property and there were concerns TC Architects and availability due to their distance from the project site.

Dr. Luce asked about the pricing, Ms. Maxwell said pricing was not a part of the RFQ, as it was seeking general qualifications which would identify a pool of architects and designers for future projects and is a process similar to what the county uses.

There was much discussion with questions and concerns about the process and the timing of this recommendation. Ms. Pfaff said there is no rush and that more information could be brought to the April board meeting. Ms. Batin asked if the members would like to vote or table until the April meeting. Dr. Luce moved to table the decision on the RFQ until the April meeting; Mr. Evans seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Virtual Meeting Option

25:03:63

Ms. Pfaff discussed HB 257 which authorizes Boards to meet and conduct business virtually with certain conditions being met. The Governor signed the bill into law on January 8, 2025 and will be effective April 8, 2025. Ms. Pfaff asked if the members were interested in a fully virtual or hybrid meeting options. Ms. Batin explained that the decision would require a policy development on the virtual option. Ms. Darling moved to approve the development of a virtual meeting policy; Ms. Gallagher seconded. The motion passed with one abstention.

7. Community Plan Update

Ms. Tyree briefly updated the members on the history of Community Assessment Plan (CAP). The current plan is for 2023-2025 which was approved by the Board. She said each year it is monitored and progress and metrics are updated.

X. Meeting Review

Ms. Batin reminded the members of time sensitive items: Executive Director Evaluation due by March 27th, Strategic Plan Retreat survey due by April 2nd, complete the menu for the retreat, and Dr. Gay's sympathy card.

XII. Adjournment

25:03:64

Ms. Gallagher moved to adjourn the meeting; Dr. Luce seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Submitted by:

Diane Pfaff
Executive Director

Heather Batin
Chair