



Staff Updates: April 2025

New Initiatives

- Board staff and governing board members participated in a strategic planning session with Libby V & Associates on April 16th. The retreat aimed to help the Board define a mission statement, vision, and values.
- Diane and Kim C. met with a potential local guardianship provider to discuss future collaborations. While the need for guardianship is not a huge need, we do need to have the resources to respond to this need. This provides an important safety and advocacy service to persons with mental illness who are most disabled by their illness.

Training/Staff Development

- Svea and Beth attended a Security Risk Assessment program training on April 23rd presented by Compliancy Group, the Board's online program to ensure continued compliance with HIPAA Policies.
- Kim C. worked with the Center of Excellence for Substance Use Disorders to host a CRAFT—Community Reinforcement and Family Training in Athens on April 16th. CRAFT is an evidence-based method for counseling family and friends who have a loved one living with a substance-use disorder.
- Marissa attended the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation's 2025 Statewide Suicide Prevention Coalition Planning Retreat on April 11 in Mount Vernon, Ohio. She was able to connect with individuals from counties with similar demographics to plan and share resources.
- Staff participated in the annual Earth Day litter pick-up along Dairy Lane on their lunch hour. The city of Athens provided vests, gloves, trash bags and trash pick-up.

Grant Management and Planning

- Staff submitted quarterly fiscal and program reports to OhioMHAS and the Bureau of Criminal Justice Services for federal and state grant programs.
- Staff held formal grant review meetings with one-time projects funded in Hocking County—HRS, APP and Hocking homeless shelter. Staff also met with HRS prevention staff to review data from their reports and with several other agencies about their budget expenditures.

Collaboration and Relationship Building

- Staff participated in Wear Blue Day on April 9th in observance of Child Abuse Awareness Month and shared the photo to the Board's Facebook page. Several staff also participated in pinwheel display events in all three counties in observation of the month.
- Diane attended The Gathering Place's Community Illumination celebration on April 4th. TGP's member band, The Gatherers, provided the entertainment.
- Diane attended the Ohio Health Policy Alliance's symposium on "Successful Health Collaborations in Appalachia" at Ohio University on April 7th. Beth Kluding from Hocking Valley Community Hospital presented on the collaborative work with the 317 Board for renovations of the emergency department, community health planning and homeless

shelter grant. The symposium framed the different levels of collaboration and was useful for thinking about the Board's work with community partners.

- The AppCare ADAMH Boards met on April 8th to work on state initiatives and share strategies. The Boards are working on a two-day professional development retreat for board staff.
- Marissa and Andrea attended Athens County Children Services' Kidfest 2025 at Walter Fieldhouse on April 5. They brought the Board's coloring mural and handed out mental health and 988 resources.

Capital Investments and Infrastructure

- Diane and Svea attended the Affordable Housing Program workshop provided by the Federal Home Loan Bank on April 11th. We also met with the Delaware-Morrow ADAMH Board to learn about their permanent supportive housing project which is similar to the one we are planning. This work has helped us to identify potential consultants who can assist us with our project.
- Svea coordinated the replacement of one of the Board office HVAC systems that had stopped working, and three at the Serenity Village apartments.

Care Coordination

- Kim C. continues to work closely with community mental health providers Adam & Amanda Respite Center and Appalachian Behavioral Health staff to assist in care coordination and discharge needs. Kim provides guardianship navigation and group home placement assistance.

Operations

- Svea and Beth are working on office disaster planning.
- There have been several meetings this month to discuss the proposed rate increases for billing software used by the Board. The new company has also proposed a 5-year contract agreement with a 5% increase each year.