

Athens-Hocking-Vinton 317 Board Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2025

Meeting Was Held In-Person and Virtual

- Present:** Rhea Hopstetter, Chair, Tonya Bowden, JoAnna Carter, Dr. Ron Luce, Dr. Anne Sessums-Rubin, Dumitru Sabaiduc, Shei Sanchez, Dr. Wenda Sheard, and Tom Williamson
- Absent:** Heather Batin, Dr. Tom Davis, Maeve Gallagher, Robert Orth, Patricia Robinette, and Robert Salizzoni
- Guests:** Kelly Madewell, MSP
- Virtual:** Kim Dement, ISBH, Rose Frech, ISBH, Doug Himes, ISBH, Mateja Holter, Memorial Health System, Ellen Martin, HRS, Chris MacNeal, SEO Hope Center, Jordan Pepper, NAMI Athens, Dr. Sherry Shamblin, HHC, Tisha Springer, COMCorps, Steve Thomas, TASC
- Staff:** Amanda Conrath, Svea Maxwell, Beth Mohammed, Diane Pfaff, Kim Robinson, and Sherri Tyree

Ms. Hopstetter called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

I. Adoption of Agenda

25:07:01

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

II. Approval of Minutes

25:07:02

Dr. Rubin moved to approve the June 23, 2025 meeting minutes with a correction of the Ohio Heritage Foundation corrected to Osteopathic Heritage Foundation; Mr. Sabaiduc seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment

IV. Agency Updates

1. Dr. Sherry Shamblin, Hopewell Health Centers (HHC)

Dr. Shamblin reported they had their Joint Commission Review site visit which went well. She also reported that work continues on the building in The Plains with a projected move-in date of September.

2. Ellen Martin, Health Recovery Services (HRS)

Ms. Martin reported they had submitted funding proposals to OMHAS but have not yet heard back on most of them. She said they received less funding this year for the Women's Treatment grant than they did last year. Ms. Martin said she appreciates the support the Board has given them; it is needed more now than ever now. Also, a mother served by their agency delivered healthy and drug-free twins.

3. Stephen Thomas, TASC of Southeast Ohio (TASC)

Mr. Thomas thanked the Board for their support. TASC is continuing to work on CARF certification. They have been participating in various training, Back-to-School Bashes, and County Fairs. He said TASC is doing well and congratulated Dr. Shamblin on the success of their Joint Commission Review.

4. Rose Frech, Integrated Services for Behavioral Health

Ms. Frech reported that ISBH received an earmark of \$250,000 per year, for two years in the biennium budget to build out Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Teams across the region. She also said ISBH will be serving as the supportive services partner for the Sunset Shelter. Ms. Frech introduced Mr. Himes as the new director of the Southeast region. Mr. Himes discussed the structure and staff of the region

5. Mateja Holter, Memorial Health System (MHS is not a contract agency)

Ms. Holter said they are doing outreach outside of the hospital and are serving increasing numbers of people. She said they have given The Gathering Place an iPad to provide telehealth for their members who may be experiencing a crisis or withdrawal symptoms.

6. Kelly Madewell, My Sister's Place

Ms. Madewell presented an overview on the work they are doing to grow services in Hocking County.

7. Chris MacNeal, Southeast Ohio Hope Center

Mr. MacNeal discussed the needs assessments being done in Hocking and Vinton counties and their plans for the next year.

8. Jordan Pepper, NAMI Athens

Ms. Pepper discussed their work in Hocking and Vinton counties and their plans for next year.

IV. Staff Updates

Ms. Tyree reported on the following:

- Ms. Tyree presented an overview of the Board's call log. The Board receives Non-routine calls, MH, SUD, Co-Occurring, and other types of calls with different levels of complexity. There have been 39 of these types of calls logged this calendar year.
- Osteopathic Heritage Foundation Partnership. Ms. Tyree provided an overview of partnership and the most recent focus on service continuity. Applications were released to board-contracted agencies on July 21st and funding will continue through June 30, 2026 or until funding has been depleted.

Ms. Maxwell reported on the following:

- Ms. Maxwell said Andrea Pierson's year of service through COMCorps has come to an end. Ms. Pierson provided valuable staff support, organization, and visibility to the Board. Ms. Pierson will be serving at the Sojourners Care Network Resiliency Center this year. There will be a new COMCorps member starting in September; Tisha Springer.
- 988 license plates – The Governor signed SB 163 establishing the Ohio's 988 license plate earlier this year. In May the plates were officially released. The plates not only provide additional awareness to the 988 Lifeline call centers across the nation but will also provide funding directly to the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation.

VI. Executive Director Report

Ms. Pfaff reported on the following:

- Ms. Pfaff announced that Marissa McDaid, Public Affairs Manager has resigned her position at the Board. She said staff will assess the needs of the Board before making a decision on how to fill this position.
- There are collaborative conversations taking place in Hocking and Vinton Counties regarding agencies sharing space. Athens Photographic Project, NAMI Athens, and SEOHC are sharing space at the APP building.
- There is also collaborative planning around proposed changes to Medicaid and how to assist people in meeting the new requirements.
- The Staff Updates will be adjusted to focus on what staff learn about community needs and opportunities through their work with stakeholders.

VII. Executive Committee Report

Ms. Hopstetter reported on the following:

- The methodology for using the data from the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) salary survey was reviewed by the Executive Committee.
- **Financials**
26:07:04
The Executive Committee recommends approval of the SFY 2025 Financial Reports. Dr. Luce moved to approve the SFY 2025 April, May, and June financial reports to be accepted as submitted and filed for audit; Ms. Sanchez seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Old Business

1. SOS Report

Ms. Conrath explained the handout on SOS funding and how the Board is working with funded agencies to transfer underutilized funds to other projects that have needs. ISBH is under-spending and HHC and The GP can utilize more funding. She explained that these plans are contingent upon OhioMHAS approval.

2. Strategic Plan Document

Ms. Pfaff discussed the draft Strategic Priorities document and asked Board members to review and provide feedback.

VIII. New Business

1. Levy Amounts and Rates Resolution

26:07:03

Resolution 25-07-01

Ms. Conrath explained the Resolution is a county auditor generated form which is completed yearly and authorizes collection of the levy in the next calendar year. Mr. Sabaiduc moved to approve the Resolution 25-07-01 Accepting the Amounts and Rates of Levies; Dr. Luce seconded. A roll call vote was taken with the following results:

Ms. Bowden, Yes, Ms. Carter, Yes, Ms. Hopstetter, Yes, Dr. Luce, Yes, Ms. Rubin, Yes, Mr. Sabaiduc, Yes, Ms. Sanchez, Yes, Dr. Sheard, Yes, and Mr. Williamson, Yes. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. SFY 2026 Board Budget Amendment

26:06:05

Resolution 26-07-02

Ms. Conrath explained the budget changes:

- \$53,380.86 of levy funding plus \$65,397.14 in carryover is being used for the Access to Wellness project that HHC administers.
- Staff reviewed and accepted proposals from NAMI Athens and SEO Hope Center totaling \$76,790 for their projects in Hocking and Vinton Counties for recovery and family support.
- Staff assigned \$12,000 of levy funding to ISBH for the Community Transition Program (CTP) for a project total of \$30,000.
- The Board received an Overdose Awareness Day grant award from OhioMHAS totaling \$23,100 which was awarded to APP (peer program and anti-stigma campaign) and SEO Hope Center (day events).
- System of Care Update – New Request for Proposals process being released in August with a grant start date of September 29th. A competitive process will be used to determine future funding and is open to all boards, not just the 8 boards who have received funding in the past.

Dr. Luce moved to approve Resolution 26-07-02 SFY 2026 Board Budget Amendment; Dr. Rubin seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Authorization to Enter Into Contracts

26:07:06

Resolution 26-07-03

Ms. Pfaff explained the resolution authorizes the executive director to enter into contracts with agencies and is based upon the SFY 2026 Board Budget Amendment. Dr. Sheard moved to approve Resolution 26-07-03; Ms. Bowden seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Hocking County Recovery House

Ms. Pfaff explained that ISBH Hocking County Women's Recovery House is in need of additional funding due to construction bids coming in higher than projected. She explained that ISBH had received funding from the Board in 2023 for a new Peer Drop-In Center space, but despite several attempts, this project did not come to fruition. The funding is available and she recommends it be used for the recovery house as the

building has been purchased and the planning and additional capital funding has been received. It was suggested that a new cost estimate be obtained. Dr. Sheard suggested that the recovery house should be inclusive with LGBTQ community. Dr. Luce moved to approve funding the Hocking County Women's Recovery House with previously awarded funds for another project that will be addressed at a later date; Mr. Sabaiduc seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. **Annual Meeting Nominations**

The members selected the following nominations for the 2025 Annual Meeting award:

- **Rita Gillick Mental Health Advocate**-Stephanie Seibel
- **Valeria "Taffy" Marks**-Reggie Robinson
- **Athens County Behavioral Health Advocate** -Autumn Brown
- **Hocking County Behavioral Health Advocate**-Candy Kemmerer
- **Vinton County Behavioral Health Advocate**-Tricia Sands

IX. **Adjournment**

26:07:07

Ms. Hopstetter adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Submitted by:

Diane Pfaff
Executive Director

Rhea Hopstetter
Chair