



Staff Connections: July 2025

AHV 317 Board staff participated in 21 meetings, 2 trainings, and 4 events, interacting with 1,227 people in July 2025. Below is a summary of the key needs and opportunities.

Needs

- **Transportation Barriers** – Limited transportation in Vinton County may restrict access to SUD treatment and recovery services located outside of county.
- **Crisis Service Gaps** – Adult crisis services need a follow-up model like MRSS for youth to ensure ongoing support after initial contact.
- **Shelter and Program Sustainability** – Hocking Hills Inspire Shelter faces reduced hours due to budget constraints; concerns exist over the sustainability of the Anchor Addiction Mobile MAT project and the preference for permanent facilities.
- **Peer Support Improvements** – Feedback that the peer support system requires better structure, fair wages, and resources to address vicarious trauma and moral injury.
- **System and Legal Barriers** – State law limits 9-1-1 to 9-8-8 call transfers, and anonymity concerns remain; a small group of “high utilizers” strains emergency departments; behavioral health is heavily influenced by social determinants.
- **Emerging Behavioral Health Challenges** – Online sports betting has increased gambling-related harms, and stigma and misinformation about SUDs and MOUD hinder effective treatment.

Opportunities & Resources

- **Housing Initiatives** – Explore the Oxford House model for veterans’ housing; ISBH developing a new Connett Road housing project; and HAPCAP received additional \$2 million in funding to renovate all buildings at the Sunset project shelter site.
- **Crisis Response and Peer Support** – Consider something similar to an overdose outreach team for high utilizers of crisis services, integrate peers into mobile crisis teams, and build a more structured peer support system with proper oversight.
- **Community Collaboration** – Partner with the Appalachian Children’s Coalition for a food giveaway and resource fair in Vinton County; collaborate across board areas; and work with the College of Medicine to educate future doctors.
- **Education and Prevention** – Expand education on Vivitrol (including outreach to prosecutors), improve school access to prevention programs (anti-vaping and other topics), and ensure awareness of changing prevention rules for supervision and certification.
- **Innovative Programs and Technology** – Leverage Recovery Ohio’s Continuum of Care Information Portal, consider CBCS’s in-reach and aftercare model, and Chess Health’s online confidential assessments and digital supports.
- **Specialized Training and Outreach** – Engage in statewide gambling disorder training, utilize OhioHealth’s HRSA-funded MOUD education outreach, share more success stories on buprenorphine, and explore pairing OhioHealth’s outreach team with the Athens SO Overdose Outreach team.