

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

Athens-Hocking-Vinton 317 Board Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2025

Meeting Was Held In-Person and Virtual

Present: Rhea Hopstetter, Chair, Heather Batin, Dr. Tom Davis, Maeve Gallagher, Robert Orth, Dr. Ron Luce, Dr. Anne Sessums-Rubin, Dumitru Sabaiduc, Shei Sanchez, and Tom Williamson

Absent: Tonya Bowden, JoAnna Carter, and Patricia Robinette, Robert Salizzoni, and Dr. Wenda Sheard

Guests: Amanda Douglas, Carlson Center

Virtual: Chris MacNeal, SEO Hope Center, Ellen Martin, HRS, Jordan Pepper, NAMI Athens, Dr. Sherry Shamblin, HHC

Staff: Amanda Conrath, Svea Maxwell, Beth Mohammed, Diane Pfaff, Kim Robinson, and Sherri Tyree

Ms. Hopstetter called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

I. Adoption of Agenda

26:08:09

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

II. Approval of Minutes

26:08:10

Ms. Batin moved to approve the July 28, 2025 meeting minutes; Dr. Rubin 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 that construction The Plains building is complete, with phased move-in planned and final inspections expected to wrap up in October. She also summarized the report related to behavioral health services in Athens, Hocking, and Vinton counties.

2. Ellen Martin, Health Recovery Services (HRS)

Ms. Martin reported that August 31st is National Overdose Awareness Day, with many events planned. She also noted that the team has been busy preparing reports for OhioMHAS and other funders.



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3. **Jordan Pepper, NAMI Athens**

Ms. Pepper reported that they are expanding services into Hocking and Vinton Counties and are recruiting volunteers in those counties to assist with planned trainings. The NAMI Basics class will begin on September 8th, and is a class taught by parents with lived experience who have children with mental illness. Ms. Pepper also announced their upcoming speakers series.

4. **Chelsey Young, John W. Clem Recovery House**

Ms. Young reported they are preparing for their Ohio Recovery Housing recertification in September and their annual fundraiser is September 13th at 9:00 a.m. at the Dairy Barn.

5. **Chris MacNeal, Recovery Connections of Southeast Ohio**

Mr. MacNeal reported the agency's name has been changed from Southeast Ohio Hope Center to Recovery Connections of Southeast Ohio. He also said they have relocated to the Blue Line Dr. building along with NAMI Athens and Athens Photographic Project. Mr. MacNeal is also working with partners to facilitate four Overdose Awareness Day activities.

6. **Kelly Madewell, My Sister's Place**

Ms. Madewell highlighted the contributions of survivor Stephanie Seibel, who is serving as a bridge between the task force and local agencies. Ms. Seibel has also launched a support group, Broken Halos, which has grown from one participant to nineteen in just three months. She also noted that the COVID funding previously used for hotel stays when shelters were full is no longer available. However, funding from the Board will support hotel stays for Hocking County survivors, and Broken Halos is contributing additional funds from its fundraising efforts. Ms. Madewell shared that it is heartbreaking to hear stories from individuals they are unable to shelter. She explained that limited housing options slow the transition process for shelter residents; while these individuals are not in immediate danger, they have nowhere else to go.

7. **Amanda Douglas, Carlson Center**

Ms. Douglas said Dr. Bays was unable to attend the meeting. She promoted Overdose Awareness Day and Recovery Jam which will take place in the Carlson Center parking lot. Ms. Douglas provided an overview of their services, noting that it is a 32-bed facility offering detoxification and residential treatment services. Detox typically involves a 7–10 day stay, while residential treatment can last 30, 60, 90, or up to 120 days; the center serves 10–15 clients per day.

Ms. Pfaff explained that the Board covers costs for individuals without insurance or Medicaid, with the stipulation that women must first be denied at Rural Women's Recovery Program (RWRP) since RWRP receives state funding and does not require Board payment. Men may access the Carlson Center at any time.

V. **Staff Connections**

Ms. Pfaff explained the new format of the renamed *Staff Updates*, noting that the focus is now on key learnings rather than activities completed. Dr. Rubin asked about the context of the needs related to transportation. Ms. Pfaff explained that adjustments may be needed to the new report.

VI. Staff Updates

1. Amanda Conrath, Fiscal Director

Ms. Conrath reported that the Fraud Risk questionnaires have all been collected. She also said an amended engagement letter was received to reflect an increase of \$1,890 in the audit fee due to the increased hours needed to review two major federal programs instead of one program. The members will receive information from the auditor regarding the audit report, and exit conference.

2. Kim Crum, Community Services Manager

Ms. Crum reported on conversations taking place about how nonprofit organizations might collaborate around shared program space. Several agencies met at HAPCAP's Market Place and the proposed Integrated Services for Behavioral health women's recovery house in Hocking county to explore the possibility of shared use of these sites.

3. Sherri Tyree, Quality and Planning Director

Ms. Tyree discussed the System of Care for Youth and Families grant. This grant to the Board has historically provided \$113,000 to HHC, HRS, ISBH, and APP for after-school and summer programs for at-risk youth. The grant is competitive this year but allows for requests up to \$250,000. There is a very tight timeline with 21 days from grant release to deadline. The Board met with community partners from each county to solicit input into the Board's application. The Board submitted an application for a total of \$187,047 to fund five programs.

Ms. Tyree also reported on the consumer and stakeholder satisfaction surveys on the board website. The surveys provide an opportunity for stakeholder input, and are designed to assess impact of the mental health and recovery services in the region

4. Svea Maxwell, Deputy Director

Ms. Maxwell reported on the crisis response to the community emergency at Beasley Mills apartments which is owned by ISBH. HHC, ISBH and TGP were all involved in responding to the immediate needs after the event. HHC and ISBH also led two debriefing sessions—one for first responders and one for the residents of Beasley Mills. This was an opportunity to see implementation of the behavioral health disaster preparedness plans that are under development.

Ms. Maxwell also reported on Ohio's new Cyber Law which requires all political subdivisions to enact a cybersecurity program to safeguard data and information technology. Compliance reporting for incidents begins September 30, 2025, with a full compliance deadline of July 1, 2026.

VII. Executive Director Report

Ms. Pfaff announced that invitations for the Annual Meeting have been sent. The meeting will be held September 22nd at the Olde Dutch Restaurant in Logan. Ms. Pfaff commended the agencies for their collaborative efforts to use resources efficiently and recognized the Board staff for their work on the System of Care grant. She also discussed the ballot initiative to eliminate property taxes in Ohio, noting the serious implications this could have for local governments and service delivery. There is currently no information on how the lost revenue would be replaced. The Governor has created a Property Tax Work Group to address rising property tax concerns. She emphasized that the Board's two 1-mill levies are essential for funding services in the counties. The Board has consistently pursued renewal levies, which

maintain existing tax rates without increases. The only way the Board's property tax revenue can grow is through new construction on existing properties.

VIII. Old Business

1. SOS Report

Ms. Conrath provided an update, and discussed plans to fully utilize the grant.

2. Strategic Plan Document

Ms. Pfaff discussed the second draft of the Strategic Priorities document and thanked board members for their feedback which has improved the document. The next step is to build out strategies for each objective for CY 2026. She also discussed the data being collected by the board and the goal of developing dashboards and metrics that can be reviewed by the Board.

IX. New Business

1. Service Continuity Fund Recommendation

26:08:11

Ms. Pfaff explained the Service Continuity Fund is in partnership with the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation, and presented a PowerPoint presentation of the three applications submitted by HRS, TASC, and TGP; staff recommend approval for all three, as submitted. Dr. Davis moved to approve the Service Continuity Funding of \$50,000 each for HRS, TASC, and TGP and their contract amendment authorization; Dr. Luce seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. SFY 2026 Board Budget Amendment

26:08:12

Resolution 26-08-04

Ms. Conrath explained the budget changes. Ms. Batin moved to approve Resolution 26-08-04 FY 2026 Board Budget Amendment; Ms. Sanchez seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Authorization to Enter Into Contracts

26:08:13

Resolution 26-08-05

Ms. Pfaff explained the Authorization. Dr. Davis moved to approve Resolution 26-08-05 Authorization to Enter Into Contracts; Ms. Gallagher seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Communications-Audit Plan

26:08:14

Ms. Pfaff said communications is a priority in the strategic plan. With the vacancy in the Public Affairs position, she recommended an audit of the Board's communications strengths and limitations to guide next steps. After speaking with colleagues, MS. Pfaff requested quotes from 5 agencies and asked for approval to enter into a contract with the best vendor based on the quotes that will be received. Dr. Davis moved to approve Ms. Pfaff entering into a contract with a communications firm not to exceed \$10,000. Dr. Rubin seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

X. Adjournment

26:08:15

Ms. Batin moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Sanchez seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Submitted by:

Diane Pfaff
Executive Director

Rhea Hopstetter
Chair