

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

Athens-Hocking-Vinton 317 Board Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2025

Meeting Was Held In-Person and Virtual

Present: Rhea Hopstetter, Chair, Heather Batin, JoAnna Carter, Dr. Tom Davis, Dr. Ron Luce, Anne Rubin, Dumitru Sabaiduc, Shei Sanchez, Dr. Wenda Sheard

Absent: Tonya Bowden, Maeve Gallagher, Robert Orth, Patricia Robinette, Robert Salizzoni, and Tom Williamson

Guests: Chris MacNeal, RC, Rose Frech, Ginger Schmalenberg, TGP, Nate Thomson, APP

Virtual: Doug Himes, ISBH, Mateja Holter, MHS, Kelly Madewell, MSP, Ellen Martin, HRS, Dr. Sherry Shamblin, HHC

Staff: Amanda Conrath, Kim Crum, Svea Maxwell, Beth Mohammed, Diane Pfaff, Kim Robinson, Sherri Tyree, and Tisha Springer, Board COMcorps member volunteer

Ms. Hopstetter called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

I. Adoption of Agenda

26:10:16

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

II. Approval of Minutes

26:10:17

Dr. Luce moved to approve the August, September and Corrected January 24th, 2025 meeting minutes; Mr. Sabaiduc seconded. The motion was approved with one abstention.

III. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment

IV. Agency Updates-Ms. Hopstetter asked that agencies briefly summarize reports due to a full agenda.

1. Ginger Schmallerberg, The Gathering Place

- A grant was received for a chair lift due to members aging and mobility issues
- A trip to Mothman museum
- A scavenger hunt/hike through the Ridges
- Focusing on obtaining grants with thanks to the Board and OHF for the grant to continue their work.
- Launched an endowment campaign



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- The capital campaign and community that cares is going well
- They have five staff and one parttime staff
- Working with the state for their peer recovery supporters program including trainings
- Spoke about the Conestoga Hut project concerns and support

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

Dr. Shamblin reported moving has gone well at The Plains building, an open house will be held on Wednesday, November 21st from 1:00 to 4:00. She also said they are pleased to be on the tour with Ms. Pfaff when the Ohio Department of Behavior Health's new regional director will be in Athens.

3. Ellen Martin, Health Recovery Services (HRS)

Ms. Martin reported they have been busy with Halloween; they work closely with the courts for intervention and will be getting referrals from the weekend. She also said it is National Red Ribbon Week and they have been working with the schools during this week.

3. Kelly Madewell, My Sister's Place (MSP)

Ms. Madewell said that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) tallies the number of fatalities in Ohio due to domestic violence and in the last fiscal year there were 157 fatalities in Ohio due to domestic violence. She said this is a huge increase from previous years; last year there were 114 fatalities and the two years before that it was 112. There is a graphic on ODVN that breaks it down; the youngest victim was 6 months old and the oldest was 89 years old. In 35% of the cases the relationship was ending which is the most dangerous time for a victim and was in over 1/3 of the cases and 36 children witnessed a parent's murder. There were no fatalities in Athen, Hocking, or Vinton counties.

4. Doug Himes, Integrated Services for Behavioral Health (ISBH)

Mr. Himes reported they are growing their children and family services with the I-FAST behavioral health services.

5. Mateja Holter, Memorial Health Systems (MHS)

Ms. Holter reported they have an OU masters student and a Belpre high school student interning with them. She also said they are meeting with the community agencies about how they can be a resource for them.

Chris MacNeal, Recovery Connections of Southeast Ohio (RC)

Mr. MacNeal reported they are expanding into Hocking and Vinton counties and are meeting with agencies about sharing space. He also said they have a new website and working with marketing for their new name. There have been activities for the recovery community. He said they coordinated four events for the Overdose Awareness day.

V. Staff Updates

1. Amanda Conrath, Fiscal Director

Ms. Conrath reported the Auditor of State's office issued a recent bulletin regarding reimbursing sales tax when employees have made expenditures on behalf of the public office using their personal credit card or checking account. When staff travels personal cards are used for hotel stays. Hotels would typically accept a tax-exempt form and not charge sales tax, but since a personal credit card is being used, this is no longer going to be accepted. The staff will be looking into an office credit card along with appropriate policies and procedures for use of such

card. The credit card information and policy will be brought before the Board for approval. Ms. Conrath had copies of bulletin for those interested in reading it.

2. **Sherri Tyree, Quality and Planning Director**

Ms. Tyree discussed the System of Care.

3. **Kim Crum, Community Services Manager**

Ms. Crum distributed a handout of a press release from Anchor Addiction Mobile which is a mobile medication assisted treatment (MAT) unit which will be in Vinton County two days a week in Hamden and McArthur.

4. **Tisha Springer, COMCorps Member Volunteer**

Ms. Springer discussed distributing Lethal Means kits which has been rebranded as Safe Home kits. The kit includes a gun lock, a medication disposal bag, 988 information, safety planning information.

Svea Maxwell, Deputy Director

Ms. Maxwell reported that 988 renovation is complete; a small kitchenette was added and the restroom was upgraded. She invited members to see the space. The Safer Communities grant received for 2026 for \$20,000 has been received and the Board is partnering with the Gallia-Jackson-Meigs board to contract with the National Organization for Victim Advocacy for trainings for six counties.

VI. **Executive Director Report**

Ms. Pfaff highlighted information in her written report. The Ohio Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (OHMAS) has a new name: Ohio Department of Behavioral Health (ODBH). Director Cornyn has left her position with ODBH; the assistant director Tia Marcel-Maretti is interim director. Also, the fiscal director is leaving as well. Ms. Pfaff said staff are following the property tax reform movement, the Governor's office releases its report and it had 21 recommendations taking action to provide relief to people.

She also said the Board has done renewal levies in the past two cycles which does not raise property taxes and property taxes are rising but the Board is not the cause of this. Also discussed was the board approval of \$10,000 for a communications audit and received four quotes. Two firms were interviewed and the one selected has the most experience working with boards at a cost of \$3,500. Ms. Pfaff explained that eight boards known as the APP Care group attended a retreat in the summer and they discussed how they could collaborate more to increase efficiencies and save costs with an area discussed being legislative advocacy. The discussion included boards contributing funding to hire someone who could work those relationships and have events in each of the board areas. Ms. Pfaff will update members as more information is available.

VII. **Executive Committee Report**

1. **Executive Directors Evaluation and Compensation**

Ms. Hopstetter reported the committee had discussed obtaining comparisons for the different directors. A vote will be held in November.

2. **Financials**

26:10:18

Ms. Hopstetter said the committee reviewed the financials and recommends the SFY 2026 Financials. Dr. Luce moved to approve the SFY 2026 July, August, and September financial reports be accepted and submitted and filed for audit; Mr. Sabaiduc seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Audit

Ms. Conrath reported the 2024 Audit was released to the public. The board received three comments regarding the audit:

- There were discrepancies in resolution and motion numbers in Board minutes. Extra review of the numbers assigned will be taken in future Board minutes. Minutes have been corrected.
- One board member did not complete their fraud risk assessment, it is required that all members complete.
- In our 708 SAMI Housing fund held at the auditor's, deposits were made into the only revenue open with that account at the time. Due to the nature of the deposit (insurance check) and since they weren't service related, they should have been entered into a miscellaneous or other line. A new line has been opened and corrections made for 2025 insurance deposits.
- The auditor's office issued a finding due to not posting a board-approved appropriation increase to the Construction fund which would have initiated the need to increase our Certificate of Available Resources, the requested appropriation increase exceeded our Certificate. It was determined that final invoices were not going to exceed the previously appropriated amount, and the additional increase was not going to be needed. The Fiscal Director will proceed with all requested increases or bring back the Board the need for not proceeding with the increase at the next Board meeting. Language to the amendment can be added if determined necessary such as, 'if needed'.

4. John W. Clem Recovery House

Ms. Pfaff explained the Clem House would like to continue to have a conversation about the property and their plans. She said the executive committee discussed inviting them to the January board meeting to present their plan. Ms. Hopstetter said they have asked this before and have redesigned their ask.

5. Draft Procurement Policy

Ms. Pfaff said the Board follows the policy but the official policy codifies what is being done and it follows the federal guidelines which are the most restrictive. She explained different types of procurements. Also, if the source of funds are non-federal staff can come to the Board and request an exemption since there is no requirement to follow the guidelines for state and local funding.

VIII. Old Business

1. SOS Report

Ms. Conrath reported the 2025 federal award of five hundred and fifty-three thousand, four hundred and sixty-five dollars SOS funding was fully spent. The Clem House and APP both came in at budget with no revisions needed. In order to fully spend the funding, there were decreases in the asks of Women for Recovery (WFR) and Integrated Services for Behavioral Health (ISBH), who both underspent on projects, where The Gathering Place (TGP) and Hopewell Health Centers (HHC) needed a small increase to cover overspending. HHC was reassigned \$47,457.09 of SOS funding from unallocated levy funding used to supplement their recovery house program, assigned board administration to cover a portion of personnel with remaining funding. The continuation for SOS 4.0 Year two will be due to

the department by November 14, 2005. No new projects are being funded, only continuation from current funding. the agencies have been asked to revise their year 1 budgets based on their final expenditures. The funding amount for continuation remained the same as year 1.

2. Strategic Plan

Ms. Pfaff said there isn't a draft of the Measurable Smart Objectives, these are being worked on by staff and the meeting scheduled with the consultant was canceled.

3. Woods at Dairy Lane

Ms. Pfaff said there have been discussions on apply for a grant from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) for smaller housing projects. Governments agencies may not apply for this funding it must be a housing developer. The staff is in discussions with ISBH to be the housing developer for this project. Ms. Maxwell said the deed for the property has not been transferred to the Board, however, permission has been received to begin the environmental stage once a form is received by Ohio University. Staff is working with an attorney regarding site control preapplication application for the OHFA funding.

If the deed is not received by the February deadline it can be shown the site control will belong to the Board. The attorney is also working with the city on zoning; there is a process where the city can rezone the property before the deed is received. The zoning documentation is required by mid-March. The first draft of architectural drawings have been received. Ms. Pfaff said one million dollars has been set aside for this project at ODBH with a possibility of doing a phase II with the next capital budget and getting two million dollars. This will not be known until it is know if there will be capital funding. Two million dollars can be applied for with OHFA. Ms. Pfaff reminded the Board they had set aside \$500,000 in capital funding. She said staff is talking with other agencies about additional funding. The projected operations cost is \$200,000 to provide rental subsidies and supportive spaces. She also said capacity and experience must be submitted by December.

IX. New Business

1. Hocking and Vinton Peer Houses

26:10:19

Ms. Pfaff reported that ISBH has decided to partner with the Athens Photographic Project to hand over the daily running of the Hocking and Vinton peer houses. Mr. Thomson and Ms. Frech explained the partnership and what aspects each agency would be involved in. Mr. Thomson explained what the additional funding request would include for the startup of managing the peer houses. Ms. Pfaff said it would be up to an additional \$165,000. Dr. Luce moved to approve up to \$165,000 for the Athens Photographic Project for the Hocking and Vinton Peer Houses management; Ms. Sanchez seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Indigent Hospitalization Program

Ms. Pfaff discussed the program being started during the COVID pandemic due to hospitals not accepting patients with COVID. The state provided funding to all the Boards to allow people to go to private hospitals. Staff tracks the hospitalizations and there is \$180,000 in the budget and \$97,600 has been approved. Over 50% of funds have been spent in the first quarter. This funding provides hospitalization for people who do not have insurance or a payer source and need inpatient treatment. The state hospital does not have openings as they have forensic patients so patients have to be sent to hospitals in Columbus. Ms. Pfaff

requested \$120,000 in unallocated funding and explained it is in the budget amendment so would not need a motion.

3. **SFY 2026 Board Budget Amendment**

26:10:20

Resolution 26-10-06

Ms. Conrath explained the budget changes. Ms. Sheard moved to approve Resolution 26-10-06 FY 2026 Board Budget Amendment; Ms. Rubin seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. **Authorization to Enter Into Contracts**

26:10:21

Resolution 26-10-07

Ms. Pfaff explained the Authorization. Ms. Pfaff explained that the Athens Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA) overspent their 2025 contract and the Hocking Metropolitan Housing Authority (HMHA) underspent theirs so this leaves funding in that line item than can be used for AMHA. She also explained the renewal of guardianship services with the Ohio Network of Innovations (ONI). Ms. Sheard moved to approve Resolution 26-10-07 Authorization to Enter Into Contracts with a correction to the funding amount for the Athens Photographic Project; Ms. Sanchez seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

X. **Other**

Dr. Sheard discussed that people who are not citizens of this country are unable to get a drivers license due to regulations that would require them to pay \$500 for the all of the training needed. This is difficult for international students in Ohio. She said she would be meeting with a state representative about the situation.

XI. **Adjournment**

26:10:22

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

Submitted by:

Diane Pfaff
Executive Director

Rhea Hopstetter
Chair

