

Executive Director Updates: January 2026

Board Operations:

CY 2025 Appropriations: At the November board meeting, you passed an authorization allowing me to adjust the CY 2025 appropriations, if needed, to close out the year. No action was needed on my part.

Cost Savings: In November, the Board moved our claims data off from our servers and into a Cloud-based service offered by Cantata Health Solutions, LLC. We were able to make this change because we partner with many other ADAMH Boards for this service, which is managed by the Fairfield County Board. Other Boards were already utilizing this solution and they were able to add our Board at no additional cost. This change saves us \$8,000 annually and decreases our liability related to data breaches.

SFY 2027 Application for Funding: The Board released its application for funding to current contract agencies at the beginning of January, as planned. We held two TEAMS meetings to go over the application and answer questions. Applications are due at the end of February.

Clem House: We had planned to have the John W. Clem House present their renovation concepts at the January meeting. Because of the volume of other business, we are delaying this conversation until the February board meeting.

Woods at Dairy Lane: Svea and I have been focused on the Woods at Dairy Lane and the necessary components for OHFA funding. We are proceeding toward the goal of meeting the February 5th application deadline, while also acknowledging that documents related to zoning and site control may still pose a problem. We are so close!

Svea has led the effort to identify and secure a housing developer who is OHFA approved and who has the capacity to work on our project. We have explored partnerships with a half dozen developers and expect proposals from two. Moving forward will require entering into an agreement with a Housing Developer and paying them to lead this project for us. We will discuss this further at the Board meeting.

Serenity Village: The Board's five one-bedroom units in The Plains currently rent to persons referred by the Balance of State Region 17 homeless prioritization waiting list. HUD has announced intention to change that program, and the Board is finding that we have not been successfully housing this population. We would like to discuss changing the population to focus on referrals from My Sister's Place. Currently two of the four tenants are former MSP shelter residents.

Employee Evaluations: I have completed all annual employee evaluations except one (delayed due to scheduling). The Board is fortunate to have a skilled staff, with a diversity of skills, who

are dedicated to their work. Following our Personnel Policy and utilizing the same approach as was used for my position, I compared each staff person's salary with similar positions from similar Boards. Two staff were below the average for their position and I made this adjustment to their compensation.

Board Vacancies: We have four vacancies on the Board—two in Athens and two in Hocking County. Mr. Wheeler, who applied to serve on the Board, accepted a position with Integrated Services for Behavioral Health, which means he is ineligible to serve on our Board. Mr. Williamson (Hocking County) has resigned from the Board. To keep gender balance per ORC, three of the four should be men. Interested persons can be referred to the Board's webpage to complete an interest form: <https://www.317board.org/board-members/>

Board staff participated in 113 meetings, trainings or events in the month of December. Here are a few highlights:

- We hosted our Regional Liaison from the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health and took her to see program spaces and hear from agency staff. We visited The Hive, Serenity Grove, Hopewell Health Center's new Family Center, Athens Photo Project and Adam-Amanda Rehabilitation Center.
- Kim Crum has been engaged on helping to develop a board-to-board agreement with the Franklin ADAMH Board for a forensic patient assigned to our Board, but who will live in Columbus. ADAMH Boards are responsible for monitoring forensic clients who are on a conditional release plan with the criminal courts.
- Tisha Spangler, our ComCorp Member, received the Volunteer of the Year award at the NAMI Annual meeting. Tisha has also been working on 988 promotion and distributed more Safe Home Kits to veterans, among many other things. She is very deserving of the NAMI award!
- Svea and Diane focused most of our attention on the Woods at Dairy Lane project. There are many components and many moving pieces.

State Updates:

Property Taxes: In late 2025, Ohio passed a property tax reform package that was signed by Governor DeWine. Below is a summary:

- **House Bill 186:** Creates an inflation cap credit, preventing school district property tax increases from exceeding the rate of inflation.
- **House Bill 335:** Limits revenue increases from "inside millage" (unvoted taxes) to the rate of inflation, not dollar-for-dollar with rising property values.
- **House Bill 129:** Includes emergency and substitute levies in the 20-mill floor calculation, creating more room for tax reductions.

- **House Bill 309:** Grants county budget commissions authority to reduce unnecessary or excessive voted levies.
- **House Bill 124:** Gives county auditors more power in property valuation disputes, shifting the burden of appeal to the Department of Taxation if they disagree with auditor findings.

Federal Updates

SAMSHA Cancellation: Late on January 13, 2026, the Trump Administration unexpectedly cancelled grants for roughly two billion dollars for mental health and addiction treatment programs. Perhaps in response to calls from elected officials, the White house reversed this decision late on January 14th.

Federal budget: Without further appropriations, the federal government faces a partial government shutdown on January 30th as the continuing resolution (CR) will expire. In November, Congress moved on three of the twelve appropriation bills (Agriculture, Legislative Branch, and Military/Veterans). All other government funding will need to be addressed.