

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

**Athens-Hocking-Vinton 317 Board Meeting Minutes**

**May 26, 2026**

**Meeting Was Held In-Person and Virtual**

**Members Present:** Rhea Hopstetter, Chair, Heather Batin, JoAnna Carter, Dr. Tom Davis, Dr. Ron Luce, Justin Maiden, Robert Orth, Anne Rubin, Shei Sanchez, and Dr. Wenda Sheard

**Members Virtual:** None

**Members Absent:** Tonya Bowden, Maeve Gallagher, Dimitru Sabaiduc, Patricia Robinette, and Robert Salizzoni

**Guests Present:** Chris MacNeal, Recovery Connections

**Guests Virtual:** Nancy Dotson, HRS, Ellen Martin, HRS, and Dr. Sherry Shamblin, HHC

**Staff Present:** Amanda Conrath, Kim Crum, Svea Maxwell, Beth Mohammed, Diane Pfaff, Tisha Springer, Board COMCorps Volunteer, and Sherri Tyree

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

**I. Adoption of Agenda**

**26:05:61**

Ms. Rubin moved to approve the May 26, 2026; Dr. Luce seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

**26:05:62**

Ms. Rubin moved to approve the April 27, 2026 Board meeting minutes; Dr. Davis seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

**III. Public Comment**

None

**IV. Agency Updates**

**A. Dr. Sherry Shamblin, Hopewell Health Centers**

- Dr. Shamblin reported that the state Medicaid department will be implementing service limits, and requiring prior authorization to exceed those limits. The changes will affect case management and peer support services. She stated that the organization is awaiting additional details and will develop processes to ensure clients continue to receive the level of service they need.
- Dr. Shamblin also reported that, with the school year ending, preparations are underway for summer group programming. She expressed appreciation for System of Care funding, which will provide support for supplies and activities associated with the summer groups.



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**B. Ellen Martin, Health Recovery Services**

Ms. Martin reported that she is retiring on July 1, 2026. She introduced Nancy Dotson as the new CEO.

**C. Chris MacNeal, Recovery Connections**

Mr. MacNeal announced that on May 4<sup>th</sup> the Recovery Connections board members passed a resolution to dissolve the organization due to lack of sustainable funding. Recovery Connections will cease operations by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**V. Staff Updates**

**A. Sherry Tyree, Quality and Planning Director**

- Ms. Tyree reported on new state reporting metrics, including Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). She stated that she is participating in a statewide workgroup comprised of representatives from boards across the state. She noted that the Board's outcome measurement requirements will need to be adjusted to align with the new reporting standards.

**B. Amanda Conrath, Fiscal Director**

- Ms. Conrath reported that the state fiscal budget process is underway; however, the state has not yet released Board allocations. She expects to receive funding allocation figures from the state and present a proposed budget at the June Board meeting.
- Ms. Conrath discussed the organization's insurance coverage for board properties, liability, and vehicles. She noted that, after more than 15 years with the current insurance provider, staff is evaluating alternative options. This review includes obtaining a quote from Mathews Insurance for coverage through CORSA, a risk-sharing pool sponsored by the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO). The current policy expires on June 30, and Mathews Insurance is expected to provide a quote prior to that date.
- Ms. Conrath provided an update on the SOS program, reporting that The Gathering Place received its certification, and invoices submitted from January through the current month are now eligible for payment.

**C. Svea Maxwell, Deputy Director**

- Ms. Maxwell reported that she, Ms. Pfaff, and Ms. Mohammed met with the Board's IT provider to discuss cybersecurity enhancements. Proposed upgrades include improvements to the firewall, an advanced antivirus solution with capabilities to automatically stop, reverse, and roll back threats on individual devices, and the implementation of mandatory multi-factor authentication for all devices. She noted that these upgrades will strengthen HIPAA security compliance, address items identified in the Board's ongoing risk assessment, align with the Cybersecurity Policy, and reflect measures recommended by cyber insurance carriers.
- Ms. Maxwell provided an update on repairs to the Adam and Amanda House parking lot. She reported that drainage improvements and other repairs to address erosion issues are scheduled to begin the following day. The parking lot will also be resealed while the contractor is on site.
- Ms. Maxwell reported that the AppCare Boards within the ABH region are applying to OACBHA for Overdose Awareness Day funding for August 2026. The participating boards will submit a collaborative list of planned activities and, if awarded, will share the funding among the participating boards.

**D. Tisha Springer, COMCorps Volunteer**

- Ms. Springer provided a brief overview of the Suicide Prevention Foundation's Coffee Conversations program. Coffee sleeves promoting the initiative were distributed to Board members.
- Ms. Springer reported that the Kidfest and Kidpalooza events were held during the past two months.

**VI. Executive Director Report**

- Ms. Pfaff reported that her full update is available on the Board's website. The update includes resources on Medicaid changes and information regarding the proposed property tax repeal ballot initiative and its potential impact.
- Ms. Pfaff reported that the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) has appointed a new Executive Director, Jeremiah Wagoner, who will begin his role on June 15.
- Ms. Pfaff provided an update on efforts to secure a legislative appropriation in the state capital budget. She reported that she spoke with Reid Courtney of Sunday Creek Horizons and was informed that legislators have submitted their funding requests. The outcome of those requests will not be known until the budget bill is introduced on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Ms. Pfaff reported on county behavioral health board levies that appeared on the May ballot. The Perry County renewal levy passed with 55% voter approval, while the Marion County renewal levy failed with 52% voting against the measure. She also noted that the Athens city income tax issue passed by a margin of ten votes.
- Ms. Pfaff provided an update regarding options for management of Board-owned properties, following a question raised by Ms. Rubin at the previous Board meeting. She reported she had discussions with HAPCAP and Athens Metropolitan Housing Authority, but neither have the capacity to provide such services to the Board. Ms. Pfaff stated that she will also contact for-profit providers.
- Ms. Pfaff reported that the Board terms of Ms. Batin and Dr. Sheard will expire on June 30. As these are County Commissioner appointments, reappointment requests must be submitted to the County Commissioners. Dr. Sheard announced that she does not intend to seek reappointment and will conclude her service on the Board at the end of her current term.

**VII. Contracts and Construction**

There was no report.

**VIII. Old Business**

**A. Nominating Committee**

Ms. Batin reported that the committee had discussed all eligible Athens County Board members as potential Chair-Elect candidates. She stated that she would be contacting members to discuss their interest in the position.

**B. Woods at Dairy Lane**

**26:05:63**

Ms. Pfaff discussed the need for a project partner due to funding requirements that necessitate either financing capacity or expertise not currently available to the Board. She reported that a potential partnership with Hopewell Health Centers has been explored based on the organization's experience with construction and development projects. A PowerPoint presentation outlining a phased project approach was presented.

Ms. Pfaff further reported that discussions with Hopewell Health Centers included the possibility of addressing an approximately \$1 million funding gap through a lease arrangement under which the Board would repay the funding amount over time. She also noted that the proposal would include an annual Board investment of \$300,000, which would cover operational costs.

Following discussion, Ms. Batin moved to proceed with the general plan to partner with Hopewell Health Centers regarding the Woods at Dairy Lane housing project. Ms. Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**C. Financial Risk Management Policy**

Ms. Pfaff discussed the Financial Risk Management Policy. She reported it is still in draft form because of the need for further review to clarify the two sections of the Ohio Revised Code pertaining to reserve and construction funds and how they apply. Ms. Pfaff stated that she would consult with legal counsel to obtain clarification regarding the applicable requirements before bringing the matter back to the Board.

**D. Fraud Risk Assessment Questionnaire**

Board members were reminded to complete the Fraud Risk Assessment Questionnaire (FRAQ) required by the Auditor of State. Staff reported that the remaining three Board members who had not yet completed the questionnaire have been contacted, and all questionnaires are expected to be completed.

**IX. New Business**

**A. SFY 2027 Funding Application Summaries**

Ms. Tyree presented the funding application summaries for Hopewell Health Centers and Health Recovery Services. She explained that agencies were not permitted to request funding in excess of the amount received during the previous fiscal year. She noted that the applications provide a clearer understanding of the agencies' programs, services, and planned activities.

**B. Resolution**

**26:05:64**

**Resolution 26-05-18**

A resolution recognizing Ellen Martin for her service to the Athens, Hocking, and Vinton County communities was presented for approval. Dr. Sheard moved to approve Resolution 26-05-18. Dr. Luce seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**X. Other**

- Ms. Batin reported that the Nominating Committee would contact members by phone. Ms. Pfaff announced that the June Board meeting will include consideration of the SFY 2027 Board budget requiring all members to attend in person.
- Ms. Hopstetter reported that Hocking County will host a United States 250th Anniversary event on July 4<sup>th</sup>, and she hoped the Hocking County Task Force could table and provide information on the Board's mental health and addiction services.

**XI. Adjournment**

**26:05:65**

Ms. Batin moved to adjourn the meeting; Dr. Davis seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Submitted by:

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Diane Pfaff  
Executive Director

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Rhea Hopstetter  
Chair