

Executive Director Update: June 2026

Medicaid: We have continued to monitor the new utilization management criteria that will apply to behavioral health services starting July 1, 2026. We learned that most MCOs (Managed Care Organizations) plan to implement immediately. Billing limitations will require cross-agency coordination to monitor service usage and each MCO has its own process for prior authorizations. This is likely to have a significant impact on our agencies, citizens and partners. I am also concerned about cost-shifting to local government.

I have initiated a conversation with the Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO), the non-partisan leader for health policy, and asked them to submit a proposal to facilitate three planning meetings with local clinical providers to address care coordination and communication, shared documentation of problems for effective advocacy, and identification of needs and best practices.

Property Tax Elimination Ballot Initiative: The group did not secure enough signatures to be on the ballot in the fall of 2026. They plan to continue collecting signatures with the goal of being ready for the 2027 election. One of the Board's levies is up for renewal in 2027.

Property Management Vendors: Board staff are meeting with Capstone and Uptown Realty on July 1st to discuss their property management services.

MoDo Communications: Shriver's Pharmacy reached out to see if the Board would like to advertise on their customer prescription bags. MoDo Communications negotiated for us and achieved a 13% price reduction. The current advertising is just in Athens County locations, but they are aware of our interest in Hocking and Vinton in the future. The Athens location distributes 24,000 bags annually.



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MoDo trained staff on social media best practices. They called out the excellent work that Tisha has been doing with our social media, and provided some additional tips and strategies. With MoDo's help, the goal is to post more original content over the course of the next year.

MoDo is also working on our SFY 2025 Annual Report and Brand guidelines for greater consistency and public recognition.

Staff Updates: Board staff participated in over 87 meetings, trainings, events, etc. with external partners in May. A few highlights include:

- *988 on Athens Public Transit and Logan-Hocking Public Transit officially launched on May 11th. All bus shelters have 22x29 988 posters, all stops and vehicles have 988 stickers &/or window clings.
- Discussion with ISBH about IHBT and IFast as models to intervene and support families; also discussed ideas around time-limited access services;
- Attended the Fairfield County Supportive Housing and Recovery Center Open House to learn more about housing for our Woods at Dairy Lane project.
- Hosted staff from the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health for a day of program review for the Enhancing Youth and Family System of Care grant and site visits.