Athens-Hocking-Vinton 317 Board Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2026

Meeting Was Held In-Person and Virtual

Members Present:	Rhea Hopstetter, Chair, Heather Batin, Dr. Tom Davis, Dr. Ron Luce, Justin Maiden, Robert Orth, Anne Rubin, Dimitru Sabaiduc, Shei Sanchez, and Dr. Wenda Sheard
Members Virtual:	None
Members Absent:	Tonya Bowden, JoAnna Carter, Maeve Gallagher, Patricia Robinette, and Robert Salizzoni
Guests Present:	None
Guests Virtual:	Nancy Dotson, HRS, Kelly Madewell, MSP, Dr. Sherry Shamblin, HHC, Nate Thomson, APP, and Steve Thomas, TASC
Staff Present:	Amanda Conrath, Kim Crum, Svea Maxwell, Beth Mohammed, Diane Pfaff, Kim Robinson, Tisha Springer, Board COMCorps Volunteer, and Sherri Tyree

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

I. **Adoption of Agenda**
26:06:66
Ms. Batin moved to approve the June 22, 2026 agenda; Dr. Sheard seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

II. **Approval of Minutes**
26:06:67
Ms. Sanchez moved to approve the May 26, 2026 Board meeting minutes; Mr. Orth seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. **Public Comment**
None

IV. **Agency Updates**
A. **Dr. Sherry Shamblin, Hopewell Health Centers**
Dr. Shamblin reported its summer programming for children is underway. She also noted that the agency is in the three-year competitive renewal cycle for its HRSA grant. Additionally, staff are evaluating and refining internal workflows to support clients in navigating recent changes to Medicaid service limits.

B. Nancy Dotson, Health Recovery Services

Ms. Dotson reported that the agency is focused on year-end administrative activities and grant-related work. She announced that the agency recently received tentative approval for the **Responsible Fatherhood Initiative**, *Strong Fathers, Strong Families*, which will provide services in Hocking County. She also shared that the agency is actively working through a leadership transition.

C. Steven Thomas, TASC of Southeast Ohio

Mr. Thomas reported that the agency plans to launch its mental health program within the next two months. He also announced the hiring of Justin Saunders to support prevention services.

D. Nate Thomson, Athens Photographic Project

Mr. Thomson presented an update on APP's expansion project in Hocking and Vinton counties involving the peer recovery houses in each county. He reported that the project is now six months underway and that APP will assume full operational responsibility on July 1st. The current house managers will remain in their positions, with their salaries supported through alternate funding sources, an approach jointly agreed upon by ISBH and APP as the most stable option for both members and staff.

Mr. Thomson also provided an update on the agency's youth program expansion, noting that APP currently serves 42 youth across Athens, Vinton, and Ross counties. He shared that the program is expanding beyond photography to include a broader range of arts, wellness, and peer support services. As part of this initiative, the Athens Photographic Project will transition into a program under the agency's new umbrella brand, Elise Sanford Studios, named in honor of Athens Photographic Project founder Elise Sanford.

Finally, Mr. Thomson reported that the agency is working toward expand peer services and currently holds an interim certification to provide peer support services.

V. Staff Updates

A. Amanda Conrath, Fiscal Director

- Ms. Conrath announced that the April and May financial statements have been posted to the board members' online portal. She added that the June financial statements will be posted once the reconciliation process is complete.
- Ms. Conrath reviewed the SOS report.

B. Kim Crum, Community Services Manager

Ms. Crum reported on a presentation she and other contract agency staff delivered at the 2026 Ohio Association for County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) Mental Health & Addiction Conference. The presentation, titled *Cross-System Collaboration in Southeastern Ohio*, highlighted collaborative efforts among partner agencies across the region.

C. Sherri Tyree, Quality and Planning Director

Ms. Tyree reported on the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health site visit related to the Board's grant to enhance the youth and family system of care. She provided an overview of the visit and the agency's ongoing work to strengthen services and support for youth and families.

D. Tisha Springer, COMCorps Volunteer

Ms. Springer provided a brief overview of the Ohio Coalition Institute learning opportunity which she and three Hocking County Prevention coalition members will attend.

E. Svea Maxwell, Deputy Director

Ms. Maxwell reported that Ms. Springer's term as a COMCorps volunteer with the Board will conclude on July 31st. She shared that staff interviewed prospective candidates and selected Hattie Sherman to serve as the next COMCorps volunteer. Ms. Sherman will begin her term on September 1, 2026, and serve through July 31, 2027.

VI. Executive Director Report

- Ms. Pfaff referred her report to the Board member page on the Board website and to the members' notebooks.
- Ms. Hopstetter inquired whether the report regarding advertising on Shriver's Pharmacy bags also included Hocking County. Ms. Pfaff responded that advertising is currently limited to Athens County; however, she noted that staff are aware of the Board's interest in expanding advertising into Hocking and Vinton Counties.
- Dr. Sheard announced that prior authorizations are being required under the Medicare initiative titled *Wasteful and Inappropriate Services Reduction*. She noted that an exception exists for providers with a "gold key" designation, who are not required to obtain prior authorization for services. She also suggested contacting senators for additional information regarding provider eligibility under this process.

VII. Contracts and Construction

There was no report.

VIII. Old Business

A. Nominating Committee

Ms. Batin reported that after careful consideration the committee had selected Dr. Tom Davis as the 2028 Chair Elect. Ms. Hopstetter asked for additional nominations and as there were none declared Dr. Davis the Chair Elect for fiscal year 2028 by acclimation.

B. Woods at Dairy Lane
26:06:68

- Ms. Pfaff referred to the email she had sent to the members regarding the $100,000 included in the capital budget.
- Ms. Pfaff said she and Ms. Maxwell had a meeting with Unibuilt Modular, a company in Dayton, to explore cost savings for the project. The company did not have any existing design that would meet our needs but could make modifications. They may be interested when the project is out for bids.
- Ms. Pfaff discussed the previous discussion related to partnering with Hopewell Health Centers to bring financing to the project. The HHC board and finance committee reviewed the proposed request, but with the current economic and policy uncertainties, did not feel this was a good time to invest financially but are fully committed to being our operational partner.
- Ms. Pfaff said she had a meeting with Terri Donlin Huesman, president/CEO of the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation (OHF) regarding the remaining partnership funding. Ms. Donlin Huesman suggested applying the remaining unutilized funding to the Woods at Dairy Lane project. Ms. Pfaff presented a slide presentation with the program funding that has not been completely utilized which totals $478,448.41. Ms. Donlin Huesman said she is supportive of making the Woods at Dairy Lane a recipient of these funds. After further discussion Dr. Davis moved to apply the remaining OHF partnership funding to the Woods at Dairy Lane project; Ms. Batin seconded. <u>The motion was unanimously approved.</u>

C. Financial Risk Management Policy
26:06:69
Ms. Pfaff reviewed the revisions in the policy. Dr. Sheard moved to approve the Financial Risk Management policy; Dr. Luce seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

IX. New Business

A. SFY 2026 Board Budget Amendment
26:06:70
Resolution 26-06-19
Ms. Conrath reported that the Board was awarded funding to continue the SOS program. She noted that the amendment increases the budget by $87,001. The funding will be contracted through Health Recovery Services, Athens Photographic Project, and allocated for in-house administrative personnel time and the Overdose Awareness Campaign. Ms. Batin moved to approve Resolution 26-06-19, SFY 2026 Budget Amendment. Ms. Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. SFY 2026 Contract Authorization
26:06:71
Resolution 26-06-20
The SFY 2026 Contract Authorization resolution was presented for approval. Dr. Sheard moved to approve Resolution 26-06-20. Ms. Batin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. SFY 2027 Budget Resolution
26:06:72
Resolution 26-06-21
Ms. Conrath reviewed the SFY 2027 Budget Resolution, noting a beginning budget of $14.8 million, comprised of state, federal, and local levy funding. She explained that the full budget packet contains additional detail supporting the budget. Ms. Conrath also stated that for budget amendments she typically presents only a one-page summary for approval in order to reduce paper usage; however, the full report is available upon request. Ms. Batin asked if the full report could be posted to the Board member page. Ms. Conrath agreed to provide it. Dr. Sheard moved to approve Resolution 26-06-21; Dr. Davis seconded. A roll call vote was taken with the following results: Ms. Hopstetter, Yes, Ms. Batin, Yes, Dr. Davis, Yes, Dr. Luce, Yes, Mr. Maiden, Yes, Mr. Orth, Yes, Ms. Rubin, Yes, Mr. Sabaiduc, Yes, Ms. Sanchez, Yes, and Dr. Sheard, Yes. The motion was unanimously approved.

D. SFY 2027 Contract Authorization
26:06:73
Resolution 26-06-22
Ms. Pfaff explained the contract authorization and asked members to review the listed agencies to ensure there were no dual relationships that would require abstention from voting. During review, it was noted that the funding amounts did not align with the approved budget amounts. Dr. Sheard requested that language be added indicating that funding is contingent upon available funding. Ms. Pfaff noted that contract execution would be delayed until the contract authorization was approved. Ms. Conrath asked if the Board could proceed with approval based on the budget pages containing the correct funding amounts. Dr. Sheard moved to approve authorization for the Executive Director to sign contracts based on page 5 of the SFY 2027 Budget and to include contingency language in the authorization. Ms. Batin seconded the motion. Following further discussion, Dr. Davis suggested that the Executive Committee meet

to further address the matter. Dr. Sheard subsequently withdrew her motion. Dr. Sheard then moved to hold a special Executive Committee meeting on Monday, June 29th, and to authorize the Executive Committee to approve authorization for the Executive Director to enter into contracts consistent with the SFY 2027 Budget Resolution. Ms. Batin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

E. Calendar Year 2027 County Budget
26:06:74
Ms. Conrath reported that the County Auditor's Office requires submission of estimated receipts, expenditures, and fund balances as outlined in the forms included in the Board packet. She reviewed each page of the document, and noted that, once approved, the submission will be forwarded to the County Auditor's Office.
Dr. Davis moved to approve the Calendar Year 2027 County Budget; Ms. Batin seconded. A roll call vote was taken with the following results: Ms. Hopstetter, Yes, Ms. Batin, Yes, Dr. Davis, Yes, Dr. Luce, Yes, Mr. Maiden, Yes, Mr. Orth, Yes, Ms. Rubin, Yes, Mr. Sabaiduc, Yes, Ms. Sanchez, Yes, and Dr. Sheard, Yes. The motion was unanimously approved.

F. Property and Liability Insurance
26:06:75
Ms. Conrath reported that after multiple unsuccessful attempts to work with the Board's current insurance representative to review replacement values and explore premium reductions, staff began evaluating alternative insurance options. The process was delayed until the claim related to the fire was closed out. Staff worked with Mathews Insurance to obtain options. Ms. Conrath noted that due to the agency's multiple buildings and service types, coverage options with first-tier carriers are limited. After review, CORSA (County Risk Sharing Authority) was identified as the best fit.

CORSA is a self-insurance pool established by the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, with approximately 72 member counties, including Athens County. The Board currently pays approximately $32,000 annually for separate property, D&O, and crime policies. CORSA offers combined coverage for approximately $27,500 annually. Ms. Conrath noted key differences, including an increase in the property deductible from $1,000 to $5,000 and a requirement that tenants at The Plains and Logan properties carry renters' insurance. Board members discussed affordability concerns for tenants.

Dr. Sheard moved to authorize purchase of insurance through CORSA, contingent upon confirmation that tenants are able to obtain renters' insurance. Mr. Sabaiduc seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

G. Authorization to Lease Vinton Property to Athens Photographic Project
26:06:76
Ms. Pfaff reminded members that the Board owns property in Vinton County currently used by New Beginnings, a peer program operated by ISBH. She noted that, effective July 1st, the Athens Photographic Project will assume operation of the program. A lease agreement is required, and Board Attorney Cherie Gall, who previously developed leases for the Clem House and Adam Amanda House properties, has prepared a lease based on similar terms. Dr. Davis moved to approve entering into a lease agreement with Athens Photographic Project for the Vinton County property. Ms. Batin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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H. Revised Personnel Policy; Section 3.06: Recruitment and Selection 26:06:77

Ms. Pfaff reported that, due to a staff retirement, a position has been advertised in the Athens, Hocking, and Vinton County newspapers for two weekends, with interviews scheduled for the following week. She noted that the Public Affairs Manager position was previously not filled after a staff departure. Since that time, the Board has contracted with Modo Communications to support public affairs functions. Responsibilities previously held by the Public Affairs Manager related to coalitions have been transitioned to the COMCorps members.

Ms. Pfaff discussed the need to fill the duties related to coalitions, and her intention to change the vacant position to part-time. She indicated it may be mutually beneficial for both Ms. Springer and the Board to consider her for the role. Given this, Ms. Pfaff presented draft language suggested by legal counsel to revise personnel policy to allow the Executive Director to waive external posting when it is in the best interest of the Board. Ms. Batin moved to allow the policy change. Mr. Maiden asked whether state regulations require public job postings; Ms. Pfaff responded that they do not.

Board members discussed concerns about making this change and how it might be misused. Ms. Pfaff asked, as an alternative, if the Board would consider a motion to waive the external posting requirement for this current circumstance, rather than amending the policy. Dr. Sheard moved to authorize the Executive Director to hire for the Community Prevention position without requiring a public advertisement as outlined in policy. Ms. Pfaff clarified that the position had not yet been finalized and that discussions with Ms. Springer were ongoing. Dr. Luce subsequently moved to authorize the Executive Director to select the appropriate individual for the Community Prevention position. Dr. Sheard seconded the motion. The motion passed with one dissenting vote.

I. Annual Meeting Nominations

Ms. Pfaff discussed the nomination process and noted that the meeting will be held in Vinton County. She stated that nomination forms are available online via the Board member page on the website, as well as in paper form in the members' notebooks. Nominations are due by July 17th. She further noted that the major awards will be presented to recipients from Vinton County, while the behavioral health advocate awards will recognize individuals from all three counties.

X. Other

- Ms. Hopstetter recognized Dr. Sheard for her service on the Board and presented her with a photograph from the Athens Photographic Project.
- Mr. Orth, 2027 Chair-Elect, presented Ms. Hopstetter with a plaque in recognition of her dedication to the Board and the Athens, Hocking, and Vinton County communities.
- Ms. Batin inquired about the possibility of developing a questionnaire for Board members to help facilitate greater familiarity among members.
- Board members and staff extended birthday wishes to Dr. Luce.
- Dr. Davis acknowledged the retirement of Randy Leite, executive director of the Appalachian Children Coalition.

XI. Adjournment

Ms. Hopstetter adjourned the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Submitted by:

Diane Pfaff	Rhea Hopstetter
Executive Director	Chair