



**ATHENS-HOCKING-VINTON
Alcohol, Drug Addiction and
Mental Health Services Board**

Executive Director Update: July 2026

Hamden Crisis: The Board's Behavioral Health plan for community crisis events was operationalized to support the front-line workers involved in the response to the extreme child safety situation in Hamden. Chaz Canter, Director of Crisis Services, Hopewell Health Centers, led a supportive response outreach the day after the event, and several weeks later with Child Welfare staff, after they were able to take a short break from the urgent needs. We are grateful for the staff who have been trained and for their outreach efforts. Svea received this response from the EMA Director in Vinton County: *I also like to say that as far as the last call out is concerned I got nothing but positive feed back from all that attended and the agency leads. I have to say for the first real world test of the plan it worked good on our side of the event.*

Property Taxes: The group, *Ohioans to Protect Public Services*, has more than 80 organizations working together to provide information about the risk of doing away with property taxes without an alternative plan. They will also keep an eye on Florida, which has "Amendment 3" on the Sunshine State's November ballot. Amendment 3 is a proposed constitutional amendment that, if passed, will sharply reduce non-school property taxes, with no plan to replace lost funding for cities, counties and other local jurisdictions. A 60% yes vote is needed for approval. One recent poll indicates 64% voter support.

Health Insurance in Ohio: On July 10th, the Health Policy Institute of Ohio published a *Data Snapshot* reporting that "Marketplace enrollment in Ohio fell by 161,000 people over the previous year, a 32.4% decrease. . . .The decline followed the expiration of enhanced federal subsidies at the end of 2025." This loss of coverage may mean increased demand for Board funded treatment.

Medicaid Utilization: New caps on Medicaid services went into effect July 1, 2026. The limits will be re-set by January 1, 2027, so the impacts may not be evident this year. We have been checking in with our clinical treatment providers to identify issues. We have been pleased to hear that our non-profit agencies are actively engaged in conversations about how to coordinate care when someone receives services from more than one agency.

Medicaid Engagement rules advocacy: I submitted written comments on the proposed federal rules related to expectations and documentation of work requirements for Medicaid recipients. I am most concerned about young adults with first episodes of serious mental illness, workforce shortages affecting the ability to document health conditions, and cost-shifting to local government.

Meeting with Representative Johnson: On Tuesday, July 21st, Sunday Creek Horizons facilitated a meeting with Representative Mark Johnson, who represents Vinton and Hocking counties. This one-on-one meeting provided a valuable opportunity to further develop our relationship with the Representative.

Communications: The Modo team is a real asset to the Board. We have access to experts on graphics, story-telling, media-buys, social media, and strategy. This month activities include:

- Adding the 317 Board logo to Shriver bags in Vinton county.
- Promoting 988 (photo below) on the HAPCAP weekly *Resource Wednesday*.
- Updated Strategic Plan metrics related to communications.
- Development of a Board branding guide.
- Completed the SFY 2025 Annual Report. We are ordering printed copies.
- Social Media: Tisha has been doing an excellent job of sharing content on the Board's social media page. Modo is helping us to increase original content, such as the photos from the June board meeting. If you are not yet following the Board's Facebook page, please do so: Athens-Hocking-Vinton Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board.



Staff Updates: Board staff participated in 123 meetings, trainings or events in the month of June. Here are a few highlights:

- **Professional Development & Training:** Kim Crum and others presented at the Mental Health & Addiction Conference, and Tisha is now certified to teach the Trauma & Resilience 101 course.
- **Coalition & Strategic Planning:** The Hocking County Prevention Coalition was selected to participate in the Ohio Coalition Institute. Activities are focused on SWOT analysis, bylaws, planning, and membership recruitment.
- **Community Outreach & Prevention:** Community events included the Nelsonville Music Festival Safe and Sober Tent and the 1st Responder Mental Health & PTSD Summit. Celebrated a successful COMCorp year with partners.
- **Partnership Development & Collaboration:** Met with regional and state partners, including Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO) and Ohio State Appalachian and Rural Center for Health (ARCH), to explore opportunities for collaboration to address community needs.
- **Data, Reporting & Organizational Improvement:** Focused on enhancing internal operations through advanced Smartsheet training, including data analytics, dashboards, automations, and reporting improvements, while participating in budget preparation and fiscal planning activities.
- **Operations:** Worked on the SFY 2027 budget and interviewed candidates to fill the vacancy created by Kim's retirement.