



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

Executive Director Update: August 2026

Certified Peer Recovery Supporters: We are excited to celebrate a growing network of 129 Certified Peer Recovery Supporters in the Board area! Peer Recovery Supporters bring something unique to behavioral health services: **lived experience, hope, understanding, and connection**. Their personal journeys can help others navigate recovery and see that positive change is possible.

A special thank-you to Ginger Schmalenberg for leading Peer Recovery Supporter training efforts across our region—and to the many local organizations that continue to promote peer careers and create opportunities for people with lived experience to use their strengths in the behavioral health field.

Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT): The Ohio Department of Behavioral Health invited Probate Courts to apply for state funding to support and improve their AOT programs. Magistrate Huck, under Judge Saunders, applied for this funding which includes funds for the Board and Hopewell Health Centers.

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:

- Updated our signs promoting 988 by adding Board logo at bottom.
- Development of billboard messaging to promote Recovery Month.
- Press Release issued and published related to O'Bleness emergency department renovations funded through Board grant.

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- Substance Use Concerns
- Thoughts of Suicide
- Mental Health Crisis

**Veterans
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PRESS 0

**988
SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE**

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317board.org

AHV 317 Board Funds Behavioral Health Care Enhancements at OhioHealth O'Bleness Hospital

SUBMITTED BY 317 BOARD

ATHENS, Ohio — The Athens-Hocking-Vinton Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board recently toured OhioHealth O'Bleness Hospital to celebrate the completion of five renovated behavioral health rooms. These redesigned rooms create a safe and more therapeutic environment for people experiencing a mental health crisis.

Supported through a partnership with the Athens-Hocking-Vinton 317 Board, the project created five renovated behavioral health-safe patient rooms at OhioHealth O'Bleness Hospital. The Board provided funding for the project through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant it received from the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health to improve local behavioral health crisis services.

The redesigned rooms include ligature-resistant fixtures and furnishings, secure storage, and improved patient monitoring. The spaces were designed to provide a calm, supportive environment while improving safety for both patients and hospital staff.

Since the enhancements were completed, the rooms have already served hundreds of behavioral health patients and have helped reduce the need for restrictive interventions.

"Seeing the completed rooms firsthand really brought the impact of this investment to life," said Sherri Tyree, Quality and Planning Director for the Board. "Every detail was intentionally designed with both patients and staff in mind. These improvements create an environment that supports the safety and dignity of people who are experiencing a mental health crisis."

Representatives from the Board recently toured the renovated spaces and learned more about the project's planning and implementation from members of the O'Bleness Hospital team. The project is part of the AHV 317 Board's ongoing work with community partners to strengthen the behavioral health system in Athens, Hocking and Vinton counties and support access to effective, compassionate care close to home.

"The Athens-Hocking-Vinton 317 Board is proud to be part of an initiative that will benefit our community for years to come," Tyree said. "We appreciate the commitment of the O'Bleness team to behavioral health and look forward to continuing our partnership."

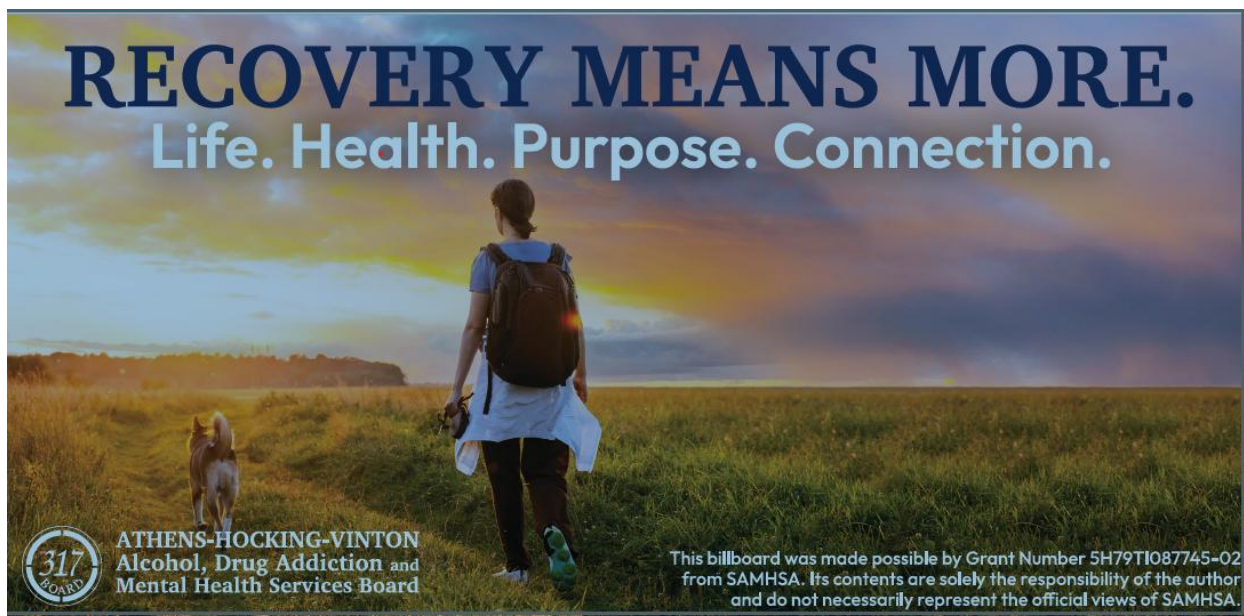
About the 317 (AHV) Board

The Athens-Hocking-Vinton Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board supports behavioral health and community wellness across Athens, Hocking and Vinton counties. The Board plans, funds, and evaluates public behavioral health services. It works with community partners to strengthen prevention, treatment, and recovery services throughout the region.

Learn more at 317board.org

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Staff Updates: Board staff participated in 117 meetings, trainings or events in the month of July. Here are a few highlights:

- 1. Ongoing coaching and leadership support for the Hocking County Prevention & Recovery Coalition.**
 - Development of mission, vision, strategy, bylaws, recruitment/retention plans, and organizational structure.
 - Regular cohort, executive team, and coaching meetings, along with substantial behind-the-scenes coordination.
- 2. Community Engagement, Awareness & Prevention Events and Activities**
 - Coordination and promotion of Overdose Awareness Day activities across counties.
 - Participation in community events such as Glouster Community Day of HOPE and the Still Standing event.
 - Safe Home Kit bag-making event, with 90 bags labeled.
- 3. Behavioral Health & Crisis Services**
 - Recognition of the impact of ARPA-funded behavioral health improvements: Tours and assessment of newly renovated behavioral health-safe rooms at OhioHealth O'Bleness Hospital. Site visit to the new Paint Valley Crisis Center and consideration of its potential value for Vinton County residents.
- 4. Training, Education & Professional Development**
 - Participation in and coordination of trainings, including *Holding Small Hearts: Supporting Grieving Children and Teens*.
 - Attendance at state Medicaid technical assistance sessions.
- 5. Operations, Planning & Infrastructure**
 - Ongoing work related to capital projects, property management, and housing.
 - Contract closeouts and development of new fiscal-year contracts.
 - Planning for LOSS Teams, including realistic short- and long-term goals.

