



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



*State Fiscal
Year 2025*

ANNUAL REPORT

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear community members,

I'm pleased to present our annual report and share highlights from the past year. A major focus was the development and launch of our new three-year strategic plan. In May, Board members and staff reflected on our mission, vision, and values. We affirmed our role as champions for a local network of accessible, effective, and stigma-free behavioral health services. **Our Board brings valuable perspectives as individuals with lived experience, family members, clinicians, and advocates.** Together, we remain dedicated stewards of our local behavioral health system and accountable to the communities we serve.

This report highlights the impact of recovery, strong community partnerships, and a responsive local system of care, including:

- Bridgette McVey's recovery journey and employment as a Certified Peer Recovery Supporter. We are grateful she shared how treatment and recovery services change lives.
- Our financials and network listing which recognize more than 30 agencies and 54 programs.
- Our work with the community to increase awareness and help reduce suicides and overdoses.
- New initiatives which address housing for people with mental illness and expand domestic violence, family, and recovery supports in Hocking and Vinton counties.

These highlights represent only a portion of the dedicated work happening every day, often outside the public eye. We are grateful for the providers, peers, advocates, and community members who help people access support when and where they need it.

Thank you for your continued support. It is a privilege to serve our communities, and we welcome your ideas, feedback, and questions.

Diane Pfaff, Executive Director

STATE FISCAL YEAR 2025 GOVERNING BOARD

Heather Batin, Athens County
Tonya Bowden, Vinton County
JoAnna Carter, Hocking County
Dr. Tom Davis, Athens County
Maeve Gallagher, Athens County
Rhea Hopstetter, Hocking County
Dr. Ron Luce, Athens County
Robert Orth, Vinton County
Tricia Robinette, Vinton County
Anne Rubin, Athens County
Robert Salizzoni, Hocking County
Shei Sanchez, Athens County
Dr. Wenda Sheard, Athens County
Thomas Williamson, Hocking County

Thank you to the following board members who ended their service on our board during Fiscal Year 2025:

Jayne Darling, Athens County
Ralph Evans, Athens County
Dr. Joe Gay, Athens County
Tamara Norway, Hocking County
Jacqueline Stobbs, Hocking County

MISSION

We champion behavioral health and community wellness in Athens, Hocking, and Vinton counties through a network of prevention, treatment, and recovery services that are accessible, effective, and stigma-free.

VALUES

Accountability – Ensuring public trust through the highest standards of transparent governance, fiscal stewardship, meaningful program outcomes, and ethical conduct.

Collaboration – Cultivating trusted relationships with individuals, families, service providers, and community leaders to leverage resources and strengthen collective impact.

Responsiveness – Adapting to the ever-changing field of behavioral health services through data-informed best practices.

Mandate – The 317 Board is empowered by Ohio Revised Code 340 to plan, develop, fund, administer, and evaluate public behavioral health services in Athens, Hocking, and Vinton counties.

VISION

Every person in Athens, Hocking, and Vinton counties lives in a supportive community with access to high-quality behavioral health care and the opportunity to thrive.

Accessibility – Eliminating barriers and expanding pathways to care built on the unique needs and strengths of each community.

Advocacy – Promoting behavioral health as essential to community and individual wellbeing.

Prevention – Fostering resilience through investments in people and initiatives that promote social connection and healthy behaviors.

Population – We focus on individuals and families who are at the highest risk of negative outcomes because of behavioral health conditions.



317 BOARD STAFF

Diane Pfaff, Executive Director

Svea Maxwell, Deputy Director

Amanda Conrath, Fiscal Director

Sherri Tyree, Quality and Planning Director

Kim Crum, Community Services Manager

Beth Mohammed, Executive Assistant

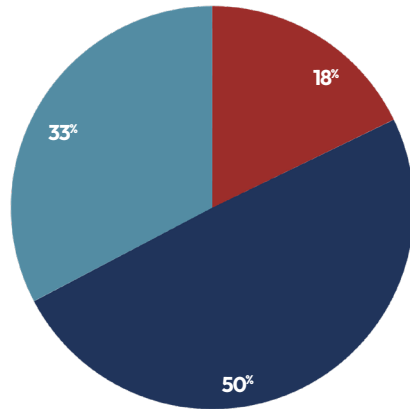
Kim Robinson, Administrative and Fiscal Assistant

Andrea Pierson, ComCorp Member



FISCAL OVERVIEW

GENERAL FUND REVENUE

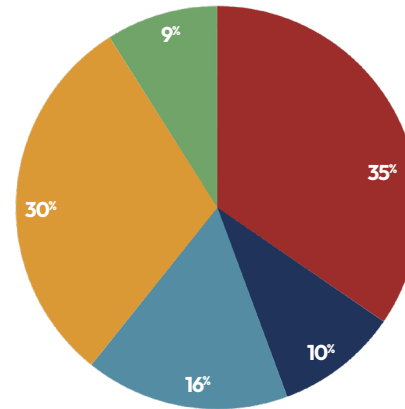


Federal	\$2,689,064.35
State*	\$ 7,482,770.72
Local/Other	\$ 4,929,392.27
Total	\$15,101,227.34

*State revenue includes the in-kind value of state psychiatric hospital stays.

- Federal 18%
- State 50%
- Local/Other 33%

GENERAL FUND EXPENSES



State Psych Hospital	\$4,723,686
Health Recovery Services	\$1,343,049
Hopewell Health Centers	\$2,237,296
Additional Contract Agencies & Projects	\$4,135,277
Board Operations	\$1,227,058
Total	\$13,666,366

- State Psych Hospital 35%
- Additional Contract Agencies & Projects 30%
- Hopewell Health Centers 16%
- Board Operations 9%
- Health Recovery Services 10%

ADDITIONAL CONTRACT AGENCIES & PROJECTS

- Athens Photo Project*
- County Health Departments
- Crisis Infrastructure Projects
- Crisis Text Line Promotion
- Emergency Shelter
- Family & Children First Councils
- Forensic & Civil Patient Care
- Forensic Monitoring
- Guardianship
- Integrated Services for Behavioral Health*
- John W. Clem Recovery House*
- Metropolitan Housing Authorities
- My Sister's Place*
- NAMI - Athens*
- Overdose Awareness Events
- Probate Attorney
- Public Awareness
- Rural Action
- Scenic Hills Senior Center
- Sheriff's Offices
- Southeast Ohio Regional Jail
- Specialized Dockets
- TASC of Southeast Ohio*
- The Gathering Place*
- Vinton County Senior Citizens
- Vinton School Project Boost
- Women For Recovery (Serenity Grove)*

*Certified Behavioral Health Provider

NEW INITIATIVES IN FISCAL YEAR 2025

- In response to identified needs in the community, the 317 Board provided funding for three new initiatives in the Board area.
- Supported community efforts to establish a low-barrier shelter by providing operational funding to Hocking-Athens-Perry Community Action Agency. Board funding was instrumental in securing capital funding for the project.

- Expanded domestic violence services in Hocking County in response to community conversations about the need. My Sister's Place dedicated a staff person and increased public awareness.
- Facilitated the expansion of family and recovery supports in Hocking and Vinton counties by funding NAMI Athens and Recovery Connections to do outreach to identify local needs.

NETWORK OF CARE

Clinical Treatment Providers

- Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare
- Health Recovery Services
- Hopewell Health Centers
- Integrated Services for Behavioral Health
- My Sister's Place
- TASC of Southeast Ohio

Residential Programs

- Adam-Amanda Rehabilitation Program
- Bassett House
- Carlson Center
- Connett Road Group Home
- My Sister's Place
- Rural Women's Recovery Program

Recovery Homes

- John W. Clem House
- Briggs House
- Groundwork Residences
- Mike's Bridge House
- Our House
- Serenity Grove

Senior Programs

- Scenic Hills Senior Center
- Vinton County Senior Citizens

Criminal Justice Partners

- Post Overdose Outreach Programs
- Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training
- Drug Court Programs in Athens, Hocking and Vinton counties
- Southeast Ohio Regional Jail
- Vinton County Sheriff's Office Mental Health Deputy

Peer and Family Support Programs

- Athens Photo Project
- Athens, Hocking, and Vinton County Family and Children First Councils
- Home Away From Home
- HAPCAP Emergency Shelter
- NAMI Athens
- New Beginnings
- Mental Health Housing
- Rural Action
- The Gathering Place
- The Hive
- Recovery Connections of Southeast Ohio

Community Coalitions & Prevention Activities

- Athens, Hocking, and Vinton County Health Departments
- Athens, Hocking, and Vinton County Metropolitan Housing Authorities
- Health Recovery Services Prevention Programming
- Hocking County Prevention and Recovery Task Force
- Logan-Hocking School District School Wellness Coordinator
- Vinton County Prevention & Recovery Coalition
- Vinton County Schools Partnership

Crisis Services

- Hopewell Health Centers 988 Crisis Call Line and Crisis Assessments
- Behavioral Health Disaster Response
- My Sister's Place Domestic Violence Hotline
- Crisis Stakeholder Groups in each county

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- Appalachian Children's Coalition
- Athens County Suicide Prevention Coalition
- Athens HOPE
- Athens County Reentry Task Force
- Athens, Hocking, and Vinton County Boards of Developmental Disabilities

- Athens, Hocking, and Vinton County Children Services
- Athens, Hocking, and Vinton County Job and Family Services
- OhioDBH 988 and MRSS programs
- Osteopathic Heritage Foundation
- Veterans Services

- Hocking County Domestic Violence Task Force
- Hopewell Health Centers Handle With Care Program
- Tomcat Bridgebuilders



FROM ADDICTION TO ADVOCACY

After two failed attempts at rehab, Bridgette McVey of Nelsonville finally found success in her sobriety when she received services close to home.

Bridgette found the local support she had been searching for in 2023 through the residents and staff at Serenity Grove Women's Recovery House, a Level 2 recovery residence located in Athens County. Operated by Women for Recovery, Serenity Grove is supported with levy and federal funding from the 317 Board and uses house rules and peer accountability to maintain a safe and healthy living environment for its residents.

"I would go away to rehab, come back home, and relapse because I no longer had the support system," explained Bridgette. "But with each relapse I learned a valuable lesson about myself, and finally the third time, I was like, there has to be something in Athens County that can help me."

Since opening in 2018, Serenity Grove has served 85 women between the ages of 18 and 65 who struggle with addiction and substance use disorders.

Surrounded by nature, Bridgette found structure, support, and the beginning of her sobriety journey during her year-long stay at the eight-bed facility.

"They say sobriety is like a house, and you got to build that foundation, and it's got to be solid or the whole house will crumble," said Bridgette. "So I had to have that solid foundation under me so that I could keep doing good and keep my house together."

A LONG ROAD TO RECOVERY

Bridgette's struggles began when she was just nine years old and her mother passed away. Mental illness runs in her family on her mother's side, but stigma and a lack of education prevented her from talking about her struggles. Instead, she coped by sleeping.

"I didn't understand why God would take her away from me, and I was mad, and I was angry, and I was depressed and sleep could get me out of that reality," said Bridgette.

By age 13, she was drinking. After moving out of her father's

house, she began relying on drugs to self-medicate. Over the next 20 years, her substance use progressed from alcohol to Percocet, OxyContin, and methamphetamines.

“I didn’t want to be addicted to drugs. Nobody says I want to be an addict when I grow up, but it was my only way of coping with the reality of my life at that time,” explained Bridgette.

GIVING BACK THROUGH RECOVERY

Now sober since February 22, 2023, Bridgette credits the Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program (SAOP) for providing case management and support services, as well as Habitat for Humanity for helping her establish stable housing.

Today, she works as a Certified Peer Recovery Supporter at Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare and says the position provides her with a renewed sense of purpose. Peer Supporters use their lived experience recovering from substance use or mental health disorders to provide support, mentorship, and advocacy for others navigating their own paths to wellness and long-term recovery.

“I know so many girls that have gotten help through these services and are giving back to the community and that’s what we need,” said Bridgette. “It makes our community better, and now I’m one of those people.”



Bridgette is also reconnecting with her family, including her father and the two teenage children he took custody of while she was living with addiction. She is hopeful for future generations in Athens County because she sees agencies working together to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health and substance use disorders.

“I only knew myself as an addict,” said Bridgette. “I didn’t know who I was and I was scared and fear kept me in a loop. But luckily with the support I’ve been given, little by little I’ve started believing in myself again.”

FINDING SUPPORT CLOSE TO HOME

The Board is proud to support quality recovery housing in each county. Recovery houses provide safe housing and peer support providing time for people to build a strong foundation for long-term recovery. There are six recovery houses across our service area.

Level 1

- Briggs House - Athens

Level 2

- Groundwork Residences (Integrated Services) - Vinton
- Mike’s Bridge House - Athens
- Our House (Hopewell Health Centers) - Hocking
- Serenity Grove - Athens

Level 3

- John W. Clem House - Athens

Fiscal Year 2025 Recovery Housing Data

- 81 served
- 58 successfully discharged or remain engaged
- 72% overall success rate

INVESTING IN SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

A \$500,000 investment launched the Board's commitment to the planned Woods at Dairy Lane supportive housing project.

The Woods at Dairy Lane will provide safe, stable homes for adults living with mental illness while helping address a critical gap in affordable housing in Athens County. Located on historic mental health land on Dairy Lane, the project will provide new housing units that help residents stay healthy, maintain independence, and avoid homelessness.

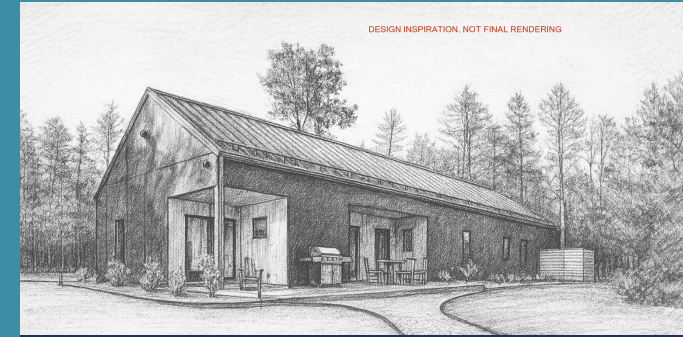
The project aligns with the Board's mission to champion behavioral health services that are accessible, effective, and stigma-free while supporting neighbors living with mental illness to live fully integrated and independent lives.

317 BOARD OFFICE RENOVATION PROJECT

The 317 Board office building received significant improvements in 2025 through a comprehensive rehabilitation project. Located on the former Athens State Hospital property on Dairy Lane in Athens, the building has a long history in the community. The original section dates back to the 1930s and served as a dormitory for patients who worked at the property's dairy operation.

An addition was constructed in 1993, and few major updates had been completed since that time. **The FY 2025 renovation project addressed several aging building systems and enhanced the safety, appearance, and functionality of the facility.**

These improvements help preserve the historic building while creating a more welcoming, efficient, and functional environment for staff and visitors. Artwork purchased from Athens Photo Project was used to decorate the space, providing support to both the artists and the program.



The Woods at Dairy Lane supportive housing project.



Artwork from the Athens Photo Project is now displayed in the 317 Board office building.

EXPANDING SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS IN HOCKING COUNTY

In 2025, the 317 Board provided new funding to My Sister's Place to expand domestic violence outreach and support services in Hocking County. The investment strengthened local efforts to connect survivors with resources, increase awareness of available services, and build a coordinated community response to domestic violence.

A key component of this work was the continued growth of the Hocking County Domestic Violence Task Force. The 317 Board remains an active partner in this collaborative effort and led a data tracking process, helping the group measure community needs, monitor results, and guide future efforts.

My Sister's Place reported steady increases in hotline calls, shelter stays, outreach contacts, and court advocacy services throughout the year. Agency staff attribute this growth to stronger community partnerships, increased self-referrals, and expanded outreach efforts. Public awareness initiatives included a billboard along Route 33, radio advertising, and ongoing community engagement activities designed to connect individuals with available services.

Additional support was made possible through funding from the Hocking County Emergency Services grant. These resources helped survivors overcome immediate barriers to safety and stability by providing assistance for hotel stays, cell phones, transportation and car repairs, security deposits, utility payments, veterinary care, and other essential needs.

Together, these efforts helped more survivors find safety, stability, and support when they needed it most.



NATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY EVENTS

With federal funding provided through the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (now called Ohio Department of Behavioral Health), the 317 Board partnered with Athens Photo Project, Recovery Connections of Southeast Ohio, and numerous local organizations to host National Overdose Awareness Day outreach events across Athens, Hocking, and Vinton counties.

The events provided community members with access to prevention, treatment, recovery, and support resources while honoring those lost to overdose.

Activities included

- Four community events held across three counties
- 66 participating organizations
- 245 attendees

The Athens Photo Project's Recovery Reframed campaign was present at each event providing a mini exhibit to counter stigma. Individuals in recovery also had the opportunity to have their photo taken and share their personal story.



Learn more about Athens Photo Project and Recovery Reframed at recoveryreframed.org/home. Or scan the QR code.



STRENGTHENING SUICIDE PREVENTION IN ATHENS COUNTY

In 2025, the Athens County Health Department established a Suicide Fatality Review Board to conduct annual reviews of suicide deaths and identify opportunities for prevention. The 317 Board is a mandated member of the Review Board and also participates in the Vinton County Overdose Review Board.

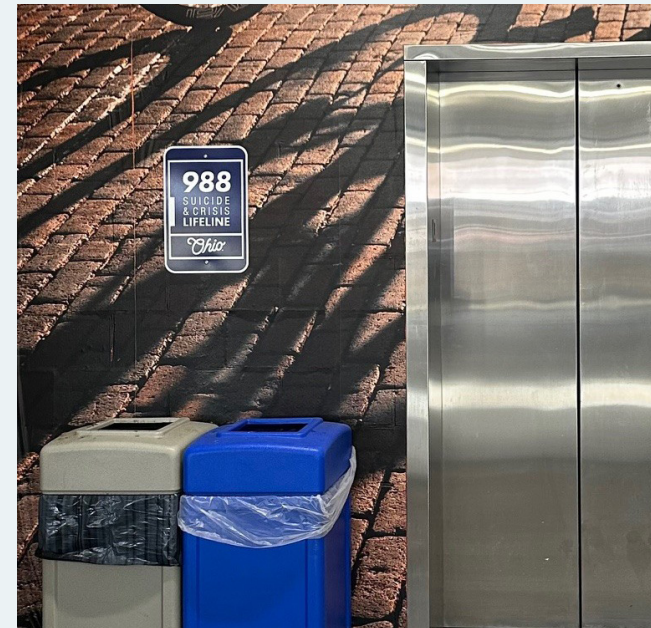
Athens County continues to expand suicide prevention efforts through community partnerships including leadership by the City of Athens and Athens Police Department for installation of public 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline signs. **The Board partners with the LOSS Team to provide education and distribute Safe Home Kits.** These initiatives aim to increase awareness, reduce stigma, and connect residents to crisis support and prevention resources.



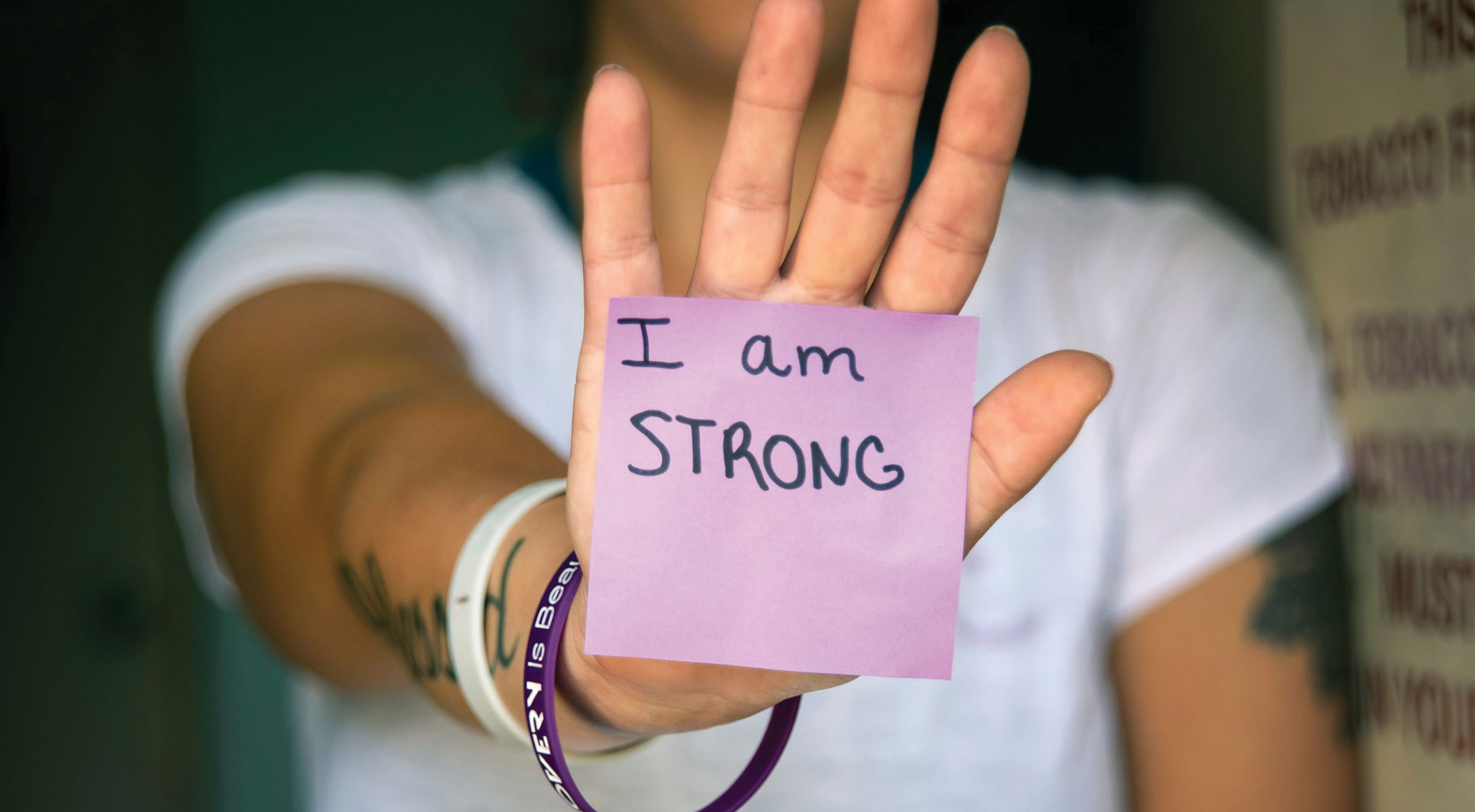
To learn more about the Athens County Suicide Fatality Review Board, visit athensindependent.com/athens-county-suicide-fatality-review-board or scan the QR code.



The 317 Board and NAMI train police officers and first responders each year to recognize and respond to mental illness and suicide. Members of the 2025 graduating class are pictured.



Photos are examples of our efforts to increase 988 awareness.



CONTACT US

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