Athens-Hocking-Vinton 317 Board Annual Meeting

Minutes

September 28, 2026

Present: Robert Orth, Chair, Heather Batin, Tonya Bowden, Dr. Tom Davis, Rhea Hopstetter, Dr. Ron Luce, Patricia Robinette, Anne Rubin, Dumitru Sabaiduc, and Shei Sanchez

Absent: Joanna Carter, Maeve Gallagher, and Justin Maiden

Staff: Kim Crum, Svea Maxwell, Beth Mohammed, Diane Pfaff, Tamara Tate, Hattie Sherman, Tisha Springer, and Sherri Tyree

The 2026 Annual Meeting recognizing community advocates was held in Vinton County at the Lake Hope Lodge. Due to unforeseen circumstances Mr. Orth was unable to chair the meeting. Dr. Davis as Chair Elect graciously stepped in to lead the meeting.

I. **Award Presentations**

Dr. Davis called the Annual Meeting to order at 5:56 p.m. and welcomed guests, board members, and agency staff. Advocacy awards were presented to individuals from the three-county area for their dedicated service to the Athens, Hocking and Vinton communities.

Behavioral Health Awards

- Ginger Schmalenberg nominated and presented the Athens County Behavioral Health Advocate award to Kerry Pigman. In her role as Director of the Athens County Foundation, she has been a true change-maker, empowering and strengthening community mental health nonprofits and other organizations while helping to create a stronger, more connected community.

- Emily Malone nominated and presented the Hocking County Behavioral Health Advocate awards to Tim Daugherty for his work with Hopewell Health Centers that spanned over 22 years with the most recent service beginning in 2016 at Our House men's recovery house in Logan. Mr. Daugherty has since retired.

- Laurie Bartkowiak nominated and presented the first Vinton County Behavioral Health Advocate award to Kimberly Lopez. Ms. Lopez is Vinton County's As the only Family Peer Mentor with the Ohio START program,

she goes above and beyond the call of duty to support her clients, helping them overcome challenges and improve their lives.

- Carol Gillum nominated and presented the second Vinton County Behavioral Health Advocate award to Melanie Carte. Ms. Carte works at the VC Health Department's Post Overdose Response Team (P.O.R.T). She consistently goes above and beyond what her job requires to help as many people as she can. Her dedication to helping others is evident in the extra effort she puts forth every day.

- Jodi Jones nominated and presented the Rita Gillick Mental Health Advocate award to Shayla Caudill for her work at Vinton County As a counselor with Hopewell Health Centers, she works with students at the middle and high school levels. She has also worked with foster children and previously served with Sojourners Care Network, demonstrating a longstanding commitment to supporting children, youth, and families.

- Amy Isaac nominated and presented the Valeria "Taffy" Marks Substance Abuse Prevention award to Judge Laina Rogers for her strong advocacy for addiction treatment and recovery. When someone who is struggling appears before her in court, she looks beyond the circumstances that brought them there and strives to give them a chance to change their life and begin a path toward recovery.

- An award was presented to the Vinton County community and accepted by Lindsay Sparks in recognition of outstanding commitment to the Vinton County Community.

II. Dr. Davis and Ms. Pfaff thanked all the board members, agencies, and guests for their advocacy and attendance at the meeting.

III. **Adjournment**
The meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm.

Submitted by,

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Diane Pfaff, Executive Director Dr. Tom Davis, Acting Chair