

**LAKE COUNTY ADAMHS BOARD**

Regular Board Meeting

Monday, February 24, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Lake County ADAMHS Board, 9237 Mentor Ave., Unit B, Mentor

Ms. Kurt called the meeting to order 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Members Present: Vice Chair – Pam Kurt  
Carl Dondorfer Mike Hatton  
Kristin Hess Pam Kurt  
Stacy Kramer Philip Orley  
Nicole Parker Marty Phillips  
Jeff Taylor Amber Torres Gonzalez  
Frances Webb William Wilson

Members Excused:  
Roberta Kalb  
Matt Sabo  
Beverly Schilero

Staff Present:  
Kim Fraser, Executive Director  
Jackie Bruner, Director of Business Operations  
Dan Rowles, Director of Quality & Clinical Operations  
David Schick, Director of Marketing & Communications  
Justin Williams, Administrative Assistant

Guests:

Cindy Skinner	Crossroads Health	Kim Hearn-Vance	UH/Lake Health
Mike Matoney	Crossroads Health	Nicole McKinney-Johnson	Cleveland Rape Crisis
Karen McLeod	Extended Housing	Meghan Zielinski	Signature Health
Melanie Blasko	Lake-Geauga	Samantha	Windsor Laurelwood
Angi Daugherty	Family Pride	Andrea Gutka	WomenSafe
Carrie Dotson	Lifeline, Inc.	Commissioner Richard Regovich	
Patti Orley	Guest		

**SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS:**

Commissioner Regovich administered the Oath of Office to Philip Orley. He was warmly applauded and welcomed.

Commissioner Regovich administered the Oath of Office to Frances Webb. She was warmly applauded and welcomed.

Commissioner Regovich administered the Oath of Office to Kristen Hess. She was warmly applauded and welcomed.

Ms. Fraser announced we have a new Administrative Assistant at the Board, Justin Williams. He was warmly applauded and welcomed.

**MINUTES OF MEETING:**

Mr. Hatton moved to accept the minutes of the January 27, 2025 regular Board meeting as mailed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Phillips the Motion Passed Unanimously. (25-050)

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

There was no correspondence to report.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Ms. Bruner read the financial report of Board operations for the month of January, 2025 as follows:

Beginning Cash Balance .....	\$3,773,786.95
Plus: Cash Receipts for the Month .....	\$1,103,208.01
Total to Account For .....	\$4,876,994.96
Minus: Cash Disbursements for the Month .....	\$2,096,907.17
Ending Period Adjustments	\$ 0.00
Ending Cash Journal Balance .....	\$2,780,087.79

Mr. Dondorfer moved to accept the financial report for the month of January, 2025 as read. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (25-051)

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS & INTRODUCTIONS OF GUESTS:**

Guests were welcomed and invited to comment on any agenda items.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

Ms. Fraser reported the Board has started using the grant received, “Talk. They Hear You.”. The direct message from SAMHSA has been put on local billboards, movie theatre commercials and Laketrans bus advertisements.

Ms. Fraser reported on FY2026 budget planning. HB 96 which is the 2026-2027 biennial budget (as introduced) by the Governor. We are early in the budgeting process. It is going to be a challenging biennium. The Governor reported this is a “more normal growth budget year”. The overall state budget is projected to grow in FY26 by 2.9% and in FY27 by 1.9%. The Ohio Behavioral Health (OBH) budget is projected to grow in FY26 by 4.1% and in FY27 by 2.3%.

Ms. Fraser reported the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction services is proposing to change their name to Ohio Behavioral Health. The OBH portion of the proposed state biennial budget including the following: the prevention line item is focused on Suicide prevention and first episode psychosis. The crisis line item fully funds 988; establishes a statewide mobile crisis system for youth (MRSS) and adults and community behavioral health clinics (crisis stabilization). The 988 calls for Lake County currently goes to Portage Path in Summit County. In the past year, only 1 call was rerouted to the Crisis Hotline in Lake County. The statewide 988 line is projected to receive \$31.7 million in FY26 and \$41.3 million in FY27; none of this will come directly to Lake County as our Crisis Hotline is not allowed to operate our local 988. The proposed budget includes temporary law stating development of MRSS and adult mobile crisis, and crisis stabilization are contingent upon available state and federal funding. Criminal Justice line item includes pretrial behavioral health intervention pilot program, specialized dockets, and drug reimbursement programs. The behavioral health workforce development line item includes recruitment and retention of behavioral health practitioners, creation and expansion of peer-run organizations.

Ms. Fraser reported on the impact of the proposed budget for ADAMHS Boards specifically. OBH is trying to give greater flexibility to Boards. It would move funding from specific line items into larger block grant buckets. There are currently many small buckets of funding which requires a lot of reporting. There is an

overall slight increase in GRF funds to Boards. It is unclear the specific impact across all boards. The budget provides funding to Boards via 6 block grants. 1. Prevention and Wellness - \$3 million to go to Boards. 2. Crisis Services – A portion of \$17 million in FY26 and \$22 million in FY27 to go to Boards. 3. Mental Health - \$69.5 million to go to Boards. 4. Substance Use Disorder - \$9.5 million to go to Boards. 5. Recovery Supports - \$19.5 million to go to Boards. 6. Criminal Justice - \$6.8 million to go to Boards. OBH intends to establish a formula in consultation with Boards to determine the distribution of State Block Grant funds. The factors include: population indicators, poverty rates, health workforce shortages Statistics, relevant emerging behavioral health trends which includes overdose death rates and suicide death rates, and FY25 Board funding awards.

Mr. Wilson asked why OBH has a hard time establishing a formula? Ms. Fraser stated many different formulas were developed based on the different pots of funding over the past 3 decades. The blending of formulas makes it challenging to establish new protocols.

Ms. Fraser reported other FY2026 funding considerations are Federal grants are currently at risk. We currently received funding via 10 different Federal grants. Medicaid expansion is also at risk. If the Federal government removes its current level of contribution toward state Medicaid, it will automatically trigger the elimination of Medicaid Expansion in Ohio. Currently 27.5% of Lake County's Medicaid population is part of the Expansion group. If expansion is eliminated, it will likely result in approximately over 2,400 behavioral health clients losing their Medicaid coverage which would revert to Lake ADAMHS coverage for their core clinical care.

Ms. Fraser reported the ADAMHS Board is currently operating with a deficit budget and will continue to review program successes and the funding required for them. If additional funding becomes available, it may not be reallocated, as the proposed budget remains in a deficit.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Ms. Kurt reported that the Executive Committee met prior to the Board meeting and the following agenda items were discussed:

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Ms. Parker moved that the full board authorize the Executive Director to issue 120-day notice of contract non-renewal to all current non-Medicaid contract service providers by March 1, 2025. Providers include: Bridges, Catholic Charities, Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, Crossroads Health, Extended Housing, Family Pride, Fine Arts Association, Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers, Lifeline, NAMI Lake County, Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare, Signature Health, Torchlight Youth Mentoring Services, University Hospitals/Lake Health, Windsor-Laurelwood, and WomenSafe. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hatton and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (25-052)

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Ms. Torres Gonzalez moved that the full Board to approve the General & Professional Liability Insurance and the Directors and Officers Insurance as recommended by the Executive Director. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dondorfer and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (25-053)

- We will receive a separate quote for cyber insurance; currently covered through another carrier through 10/25.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Ms. Parker moved that the full Board authorize the Executive Director to publish the Lake County ADAMHS Board SFY2026 Request for Proposal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hatton and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (25-054)

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Ms. Torres Gonzalez moved that the full Board make the following line adjustments to the SFY2025 Signature Health Non-Medicaid contract: decrease BH Liaison Grant \$30,000; increase Mental Health Psychotherapy \$30,000; decrease Juvenile Court Liaison \$71,643.79; increase Mental Health Group/Partial Hospitalization Program \$51,643.79; increase Evaluation & Management \$20,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Phillips and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (25-055)

*As the **EVALUATION/QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE** did not meet since the last full Board meeting, the Board moved on to the next agenda item*

*As the **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** did not meet since the last full Board meeting, the Board moved on to the next agenda item*

*As the **LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE** did not meet since the last full Board meeting, the Board moved on to the next agenda item*

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business to bring before the Board.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Payment of Bills Mr. Hatton moved that the Board approve the February bills totaling \$1,141,821.43 be paid as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dondorfer and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (25-056)

**GOOD OF THE GROUP:**

Ms. Fraser reminded the Board that there will be an ethics training for Board members and Board staff on April 10, 2025 from 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at the Board offices. Ashtabula County has been invited also.

Ms. Gutka from WomenSafe thanked the Board for their support of their Casino night.

As there was no further business, Mr. Hatton moved for adjournment at 6:55 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Parker and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (25-057)

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Kurt  
Vice Chair

Nicole Parker  
Secretary