

**LAKE COUNTY ADAMHS BOARD**

Regular Board Meeting

Monday, March 17, 2025

6:00 p.m.

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

Ms. Kalb called the meeting to order 6:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Members Present:	Chair – Roberta Kalb
Mike Hatton	Beverly Schilero
Kristin Hess	Jeffrey Taylor
Philip Orley	Amber Torrez-Gonzalez
Martin Phillips	Frances Webb
Matt Sabo	William Wilson

Members Excused:

- Carl Dondorfer
- Stacy Kramer
- Pam Kurt
- Nicole Parker

Staff Present:

- Kim Fraser, Executive Director
- Jackie Bruner, Director of Business Operations
- Dan Rowles, Director of Quality & Clinical Operations
- Justin Williams, Administrative Assistant

Guests:

Cindy Skinner	Crossroads Health	Kim Hearn-Vance	UH/Lake Health
Mike Matoney	Crossroads Health	Jill Portman	Family Pride
Ann Marie Gunsch	Crossroads Health	Tia Lawrence	Torchlight
Mike Crislip	Crossroads Health	Damir Pavicic	BRIDGES
Karen McLeod	Extended Housing	Andrea Gutka	WomenSafe
Carrie Dotson	Lifeline, Inc.	Michelle Bertman	Catholic Charities

**MINUTES OF MEETING:**

Mr. Phillips moved to accept the minutes of the February 24, 2025 regular Board meeting as mailed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hatton and abstained by Mr. Sabo and Ms. Kalb. The Motion Passed. (25-058)

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Ms. Fraser reported that Crossroads Health submitted a 120 day notice to the Lake County ADAMHS Board stating they would not be applying for provision of services and operational oversight at North Coast House (residential treatment), respite and trauma response team for SFY2026.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

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

Beginning Cash Balance	.....	\$2,780,087.79
Plus: Cash Receipts for the Month	.....	\$ 286,893.18
Total to Account For	.....	\$3,066,980.97
Minus: Cash Disbursements for the Month	.....	\$1,357,267.54
Ending Period Adjustments		\$ 0.00
Ending Cash Journal Balance	.....	\$1,709,713.43

Ms. Schilero asked what the Landlord Incentive Program was? Mr. Rowles stated, it is a new grant awarded to the ADAMHS Board to incentivize current landlords and attract new landlords to rent to clients with mental health or substance use disorder issues with a criminal record. Funding can be used for things like small repairs or additional security deposits. There is a maximum of \$2,000 per client to be used.

Ms. Schilero asked why Suicide Prevention was only in the financial at \$5,000 per year? Ms. Fraser stated this is funding from the Ohio Suicide Prevention Coalition capped at \$5,000 per year that has been traditionally been used for training manuals.

Mr. Sabo moved to accept the financial report for the month of February, 2025 as read. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hatton and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (25-059)

#### **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 funds were received from SOS 4.0 grant, a grant aimed to address the overdose crisis, the ADAMHS Board partnered with the Lake County Narcotics Agency and is currently running campaigns aimed at spreading awareness about vaping and the prevention of vaping in Lake County. The ongoing campaigns include drink coasters in English and Spanish that have been provided to local establishments and digital and traditional billboards around Lake County. Coming soon there will be website, radio, and streaming video advertisements. Ms. Fraser shared the impressive video ad created by the ADAMHS Board Director of Marketing & Communications, David Schick, who will educate the Board on the reach and impact of the ads once the data becomes available.

By virtue of a grant from SAMHSA, the Lake County ADAMHS Board is thrilled to partner with the Ohio Center of Excellence on their National Underage Drinking Campaign "Talk. They Hear You." This campaign is aimed at having real discussions with the youth of Lake County, educating them on underage drinking, at every given opportunity. A video advertisement was shared by Ms. Fraser that showed a comparative situation where a father tells his daughter to be safe at a party versus having an actual discussion about his child's plans and safety. Ms. Fraser stated that the ad is currently running in local cinemas and we also have a digital billboard advertisement along Route 2. In the near future, there will be Laketran Dial-A-Ride rear door advertisements for this campaign as well.

Ms. Fraser reminded the group that the Lake ADAMHS Board is hosting an Ethics Training on April 10, 2025, presented by Susan Willeke from the Ohio Ethics Commission. This 90-minute training will be open to our board members and staff beginning at 9:30 a.m. and ending promptly at 11:00 a.m. The training will fulfill the mandated annual board member training requirement. The Ashtabula County ADAMHS Board and their board members have also been invited.

Ms. Fraser also reminded the group that the Board is currently accepting FY2026 Request for Proposals through March 31, 2025, and reiterated the process and timeline. On April 15, 2025, the Operations Committee will review the new proposals and changes in proposals before the full board votes on the SFY26 contracts on April 21, 2025. The Board will vote on school-based services in either July or August, as schools will not have this information ready by March 31, 2025. On May 1, 2025, contracts will be sent to providers and signed contracts will be due to the Board June 30, 2025. July advances will be held until signed contracts are received.

The Board voted on how they would like to hold the Annual Board Meeting on June 16, 2025. The majority voted in favor of a dinner held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mr. Williams will be researching facilities to hold the annual meeting.

Ms. Fraser was proud to announce some new grants and initiatives for the Lake ADAMHS Board. The first being the Recovery Housing Program Grant. Within this program, the Board has requested \$114,920 which would provide support to 4 houses and 21 individuals. A Disaster Relief Grant was received and allotted the Board with \$56,000 to provide support to expand and enhance Lake County's Code Blue. Code Blue provides resources for the unhoused population of Lake County when the temperatures are below freezing. With the news of the grant, the Board has updated the Lake County ADAMHS Behavioral Health Disaster Plan. A huge kudos was given to Mr. Schick and Mr. Rowles who worked tirelessly on updating this plan making it something the staff of the ADAMHS Board is incredibly proud of. The plan was activated during COVID-19 and we were able to use the data from this activation to build upon the plan. The State of Ohio will be able to share our Disaster Plan with the rest of the state to show officials and organizations how a plan should look.

#### **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:**

Ms. Kalb assigned the 3 new board members to official committees. Kristin Hess has been assigned to the Operations Committee. Philip Orley and Dr. Frances Webb have both been assigned to the Evaluation/Quality Improvement Committee.

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

At least forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting of the Board, the Board shall elect a Nominating Committee composed of at least five (5) of its member not then officers of the Board. Such Nominating Committee shall report to the Board at the Regular Meeting prior to the annual meeting a list of candidates for officers to be voted for at the ensuing election of officers.

At least ten (10) days before the Annual Meeting, the Secretary shall mail by first class mail, postage pre-paid, to each member of the Board at his/her last known address, the list of candidates selected by the Nominating Committee. Nominations for any office may be made from the floor with consent of the nominee. Once appointed, the Nominating Committee shall remain a standing committee until replaced in the succeeding year as set forth above.

Ms. Torres-Gonzales motioned that the full Board elect the following Board members to the Nominating Committee to develop a recommended slate of officers for FY26: Mike Hatton (Chair), Jeffrey Taylor, Carl Dondorfer, Stacy Kramer, and Martin Phillips. The motion was seconded by Ms. Schilero and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (25-060)

Mr. Sabo motioned that the full board enter into a one-time grant type contract with Lifeline in the amount of \$56,000 Behavioral Disaster Preparedness grant effective April 1, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mr. Phillips and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (25-061)

#### **EVALUATION/QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Mr. Taylor reported that the Evaluation/Quality Improvement Committee met on Monday, January 13th and the following agenda items were discussed:

**Quality Improvement Review of Family Pride** Ms. Daugherty shared a power point on Family Pride and began by reviewing their mission which is to support and inspire the community's well-being through highly qualified, engaged staff, providing responsive and flexible behavioral health services to individuals and

families. Family Pride is a CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) accredited community-based behavioral health organization that services 8 counties in Ohio in addition to Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula Counties.

Ms. Daugherty went on to display and discuss some information on services provided in Lake County specifically. She stated that 21% of Family Pride's clinical service population resides in Lake County. The majority of their Lake County clients in FY2025 range from 5-12 years old (30%), 30-64 years old (26%), and 13-17 years old (21%). In total, they have provided 3,646 services to Lake County residents with the majority being individual counseling of which they have provided 2,121 services.

Ms. Sullivan then took over and proceeded to highlight a specific Lake County ADAMHS Board funded Program, the Senior Support Services Program. The program focuses on individualized behavioral health services to seniors in their homes and communities, with the purpose being to increase access to care, reduce the impact of individual mental health symptoms, and improve the quality of life. They are able to fulfill this purpose by addressing social isolation, hoarding, inter-generational family concerns, grief and loss, and needs for resources, all of which are prevalent concerns amongst the senior population. Within the program, they have 69 clients this fiscal year as opposed to FY2024 where they only had 45 clients. Year to date, they have provided 866 of these services to seniors which equates to over 1,700 hours of direct care. Ms. Sullivan informed us Family Pride is on track to meet their goals within this program for FY2025. These goals include providing service to at least 70 Lake County Seniors by 06/30/2025, 85% of clients will reduce the number of issues related to social determinants of health, and 90% of clients will report satisfaction with services.

Ms. Sullivan gave the floor back to Ms. Daugherty who reviewed their SWOT Analysis. Some highlighted strengths include a qualified and caring staff, mobility and flexibility of programs, connections to community resources and partners for Lake County seniors, and a flexible intake process. Ms. Daugherty addressed Family Prides' weaknesses among which are clinical workforce shortages, transportation for those with physical ailments, and safe and affordable housing for those in their care.

Ms. Daugherty was elated to share a new partnership with the Lake County Senior Services Levy which aides in housing, food insecurity, access and outreach, and offers family caregiver groups. Among the news for Family Pride in March of 2025, they will begin offering Intensive Home-Based Services Treatments and their Chardon office will be relocating. Family Pride will be looking for an office in Lake County to assist with the local residents in FY2026.

Discussion: In regards to the Senior Support Services Program, there was there was an inquiry as to what can be done specifically to support seniors who are isolated and are un-willing to go receive the help they require. Ms. Sullivan relayed that Family Pride understands there is a lack of readiness for seniors to support themselves, they may not want to admit they need the assistance or may not want to go through the suspected hassle of receiving said assistance. Family Pride works extensively with referrals, which can come from insurance agencies, family members, doctors, and rarely but notably the clients themselves, to adapt to the seniors in need. They provide all of their senior services in person and only use paper documents, making it easy and reliable for a demographic that is not as technologically adept. Ms. Sullivan reiterated that Family Pride is on the way to meet their goal of providing service to 70+ seniors in Lake County by July, even with the agency losing about 3-4 senior clients per month. Most clients receive services and stay will Family Pride for a minimum of 3 months.

Mr. Rowles has reviewed the agency's QI plan. It is in compliance with their certification through OhioMHAS and it is his recommendation that we approve their plan.

On behalf of the Evaluation/Quality Improvement Committee, Mr. Taylor moved that the full Board accept Family Pride's Quality Improvement Plan. Seconded by Mr. Hatton the Motion Passed Unanimously. (25-062)

**Quality Improvement Review of Torchlight Youth Mentoring Alliance** Ms. Lawrence began by sharing the mission statement of Torchlight, to foster the development of youth to reach their highest potential as responsible, caring, and adaptable adults. Torchlight was previously known as Big Brothers Big Sisters, which had been around nationally since 1904. The agency has been serving the Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula Counties since the 1960s. In 2019, Big Brothers Big Sisters changed their name to Torchlight YMA to expand programs and meet the current needs of the community.

Torchlight offers 4 different programs which have served 200 clients year to date. Under their Community Based Program, they pair an adult volunteer over the age of 18 with a child of the same sex. The children in this program are referred by a parent or guardian for mentoring. Volunteers make a one-year commitment minimum to spend a minimum of 2 hours every other week with their match. Ms. Lawrence relayed that the program currently has 55 children on their waiting list, most being boys as Torchlight does not have many male volunteers. 70% of their Community Based Program assists children in Lake County. Torchlight also offers an After School/Site Based Program where they take high school volunteers to match with younger students one day a week after school in a supervised setting. The matches last the entirety of the school year and offers the opportunity to younger students to be able to participate in something they may not have the chance to do outside of school. These "mentees" are referred by teachers and sign up through parents or guardians. There are currently 2 schools in Lake County partnering with this program. Foster Care Mentoring is also offered by Torchlight. Within this program, adult volunteers provide mentoring in a relaxed group setting for those in the foster care system. Ms. Lawrence stated this program provides the youth opportunities they may not otherwise get to experience. Their final program is called the COUL Club which stands for Club of Unmatched Littles. This program is a group mentoring program designed to address the needs of their community based unmatched mentees through monthly supervised activities. Ms. Lawrence stated that each mentee involved in these programs all improved or maintained in categories such as positivity in self-confidence, ability to express feelings, decision making, and improved relationships with family and others.

Ms. Lawrence provided an informative glance into Torchlights' strengths and weaknesses. Torchlight prides themselves in their collaborations with other agencies, positive outcomes of their programs, and offering many different volunteer opportunities for those who want to be involved. Standing in the way of their progress would be the lack of name recognition, staff spread thin performing multiple roles, and a lack of diversity among their board.

Ms. Lawrence reiterated multiple times throughout her presentation that Torchlight is always looking for volunteers and she would be happy to speak with anyone who is interested.

Discussion: If someone is not able to make a monetary donation or volunteer their time, what does Torchlight accept as donations? Ms. Lawrence revisited the After School/Site Based programs as a wonderful example. This program specifically offers many opportunities for youth and their mentors to bond while doing regular activities such as arts and crafts, watching movies, reading books, and playing games, all of which are made possible by donations given by the community.

Mr. Rowles has reviewed the agency's QI plan. It is in compliance with their certification through OhioMHAS and it is his recommendation that we approve their plan.

Ms. Schilero interjected that she was incredibly impressed with the Torchlight YMA program and presentation Ms. Lawrence gave.

On behalf of the Evaluation/Quality Improvement Committee, Mr. Taylor moved that the full Board accept Torchlight YMA's Quality Improvement Plan. Seconded by Ms. Torrez-Gonzales the Motion Passed Unanimously. (25-063)

Next meeting date: April 14,2025 at 5:30 p.m. at the Lake County ADAMHS Board.

*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 March bills totaling \$1,173,140.11 be paid as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Phillips and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (25-064)

**GOOD OF THE GROUP:**

There was nothing to report.

As there was no further business, Ms. Kalb requested a motion for adjournment at 6:33 p.m. The motion was moved by Ms. Schilero and seconded by Mr. Hatton. (25-065)

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Kalb  
Chair

Amber Torrez-Gonzales  
Treasurer