

## **LAKE COUNTY ADAMHS BOARD**

Regular Board Meeting  
Monday, August 18, 2025  
6:00 p.m.

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

Ms. Kurt called the meeting to order 6:02 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL:**

Members Present: Chair – Pam Kurt

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| Mike Hatton   | Beverly Schilero |
| Roberta Kalb  | Jeffrey Taylor   |
| Philip Orley  | Martin Phillips  |
| Nicole Parker | Frances Webb     |
| Matt Sabo     | William Wilson   |
| Stacy Kramer  | Joanne Zeroske   |

Members Excused:

Carl Dondorfer  
Kristin Hess

Staff Present:

Kim Fraser, Executive Director  
Jackie Bruner, Director of Business Operations  
Dan Rowles, Director of Quality & Clinical Operations  
David Schick, Director of Marketing & Communication  
Amy Tulenson, Fiscal & Reporting Specialist  
Justin Williams, Administrative Assistant

Guests:

|                |                      |                  |                    |
|----------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Leslie Quilty  | Crossroads Health    | Kim Hearn-Vance  | UH/Lake Health     |
| Leo Chen       | Lake-Geauga Recovery | Angi Daugherty   | Family Pride       |
| Melanie Blasko | Lake-Geauga Recovery | Tia Lawrence     | Torchlight         |
| Shayna Jackson | Signature Health     | Damir Pavicic    | BRIDGES            |
| Karen McLeod   | Extended Housing     | Andrea Gutka     | WomenSafe          |
| Carrie Dotson  | Lifeline, Inc.       | Michelle Bertman | Catholic Charities |

### **SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBER:**

Joanne Zeroske was sworn in by Commissioner Regovich. Ms. Zeroske was warmly welcomed back to The Board.

### **MINUTES OF MEETING:**

Mr. Hatton moved to accept the minutes of the June 16, 2025 annual Board meeting as mailed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Phillips and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-001)

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

There was nothing to report.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

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

|                                               |                |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Beginning Cash Balance .....                  | \$4,215,924.19 |
| Plus: Cash Receipts for the Month .....       | \$ 182,885.70  |
| Total to Account For .....                    | \$4,398,809.89 |
| Minus: Cash Disbursements for the Month ..... | \$1,144,436.77 |
| Ending Period Adjustments .....               | \$ 0.00        |
| Ending Cash Journal Balance .....             | \$3,254,373.12 |

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

|                                               |                |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Beginning Cash Balance .....                  | \$3,254,373.12 |
| Plus: Cash Receipts for the Month .....       | \$ 387,807.45  |
| Total to Account For .....                    | \$3,642,180.57 |
| Minus: Cash Disbursements for the Month ..... | \$ 953,044.23  |
| Ending Period Adjustments .....               | \$ 0.00        |
| Ending Cash Journal Balance .....             | \$2,689,136.34 |

Mr. Phillips moved to accept the financial report for the month of June, 2025 as read. The motion was seconded by Ms. Schilero and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-002)

Ms. Zeroske moved to accept the financial report for the month of July, 2025 as read. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kalb and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-003)

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

Guests were welcomed and invited to comment on any agenda items. Mr. Pavicic took a moment to thank everyone for their support of himself and BRIDGES amidst his health issues.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Ms. Fraser welcomed Board Members and guests back after the Summer and thanked everyone for their involvement with the ADAMHS Board. Ms. Fraser took a moment to remind Board Members of their involvement in their role.

- Be an advocate for the Lake ADAMHS Board
- Share our mission in the community
- Attend meetings, check emails, attend events
- Attend at least one agency event per year and enjoy it with a guest!
- Wear your name tag and logoed apparel
- Support awareness of mental health & addiction services

Ms. Fraser reminded the group of upcoming events. She announced the Hometown Heroes Lake County Captain's Game is Thursday, August 21, 2025. This event celebrates outstanding individuals from local agencies who go above and beyond in serving their communities. Ms. Fraser and Mr. Schick discussed how the recipients are surprised at their agencies and explained why this event is important. Ms. Fraser was excited to announce the Recovery Concert of Hope for Overdose Awareness Day on Sunday, August 31, 2025 at The Fine Arts Association. This event features live family-friendly music and a drug-free community gathering that inspires hope for those in recovery. It is in partnership with the City of Willoughby, the Lake County Commissioners, The Fine Arts Association, and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Ms. Fraser discussed updates within the federal, state, and local levels. At the federal level, Ms. Fraser discussed HR 1, the Budget Reconciliation Bill, that recently passed. This bill reduces healthcare spending by \$1.15 trillion over the next decade and increases the number of uninsured by 11.8 million by 2034. By December 31, 2026 all states must have work requirements in place for certain Medicaid recipients. Ohio already has an application plan submitted. By December 31, 2026, all individuals in the Medicaid Expansion Group must have redetermination every 6 months. The process for redetermination remains unclear. The ADAMHS Board will be working closely with contracted agencies to make sure clients maintain Medicaid status.

Ms. Fraser discussed the state updates and Medicaid 525 line was not funded at the level requested by the Governor. There is no current announcement regarding cuts; however, it is unclear how Ohio Medicaid will cover the gap between what was requested and what was allocated in the biennium budget. The FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage) currently stands at 90% for Medicaid Expansion population. The biennium budget includes “trigger language” (Ohio is one of the 27 states with the trigger law in place) that would immediately end Medicaid for the Expansion Group if the FMAP drops below 90%. Ms. Fraser reminded the group that Medicaid pays for approximately \$6.7 million in behavioral health services annually for Lake County’s Expansion population.

Ms. Fraser discussed property taxes which in the biennium budget, as passed, eliminated replacement levies in Ohio. The Governor line-item vetoed the elimination of replacement levies. The House voted to override the Governor’s replacement levy veto. The Senate has the votes to override the Governor’s replacement veto and is reportedly waiting until fall to take action. The Lake ADAMHS .7 mil levy was last replaced in 2008, and the .9 mil levy was last replaced in 2005. Based on the new law, there will be no further opportunity to replace these levies; our only option will be renewal, renewal plus additional, or new levies.

Ms. Phillips asked if the Board could have their levy on a ballot preemptively to pass before this takes effect? Ms. Fraser stated, we are not eligible to be back on the ballot until 2027. The law states you cannot go on the ballot until 18 months prior to the end of collection of a levy.

Ms. Fraser stated there is a Property Tax Reform Group of 11 members that include County Auditors (The Lake County Auditor is in this group), County Treasurers, County Commissioners, a mayor, and two school superintendents. Ohio property taxes generate approximately \$23 billion annually and ADAMHS Board levies generate \$427 million annually, which is 1.85% of the total property tax collections.

Ms. Fraser stated the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health has a requirement to from the State of Ohio to establish state-wide access to Adult Mobile Crisis. There is a \$7.5 million investment for FY26 and a \$14.7 million investment for FY27. Mobile Response Stabilization Services (MRSS – Youth Mobile Response) is receiving state-wide expansion with an investment of \$20 million for FY26 and another \$20 million for FY27. CCBHC/Crisis Stabilization Units have a “partnership with Medicaid” although there is no dedicated funding to date. The State Block Grant has a reduction in the Criminal Justice Block Grant.

Ms. Fraser discussed updates at the local level. The current challenges facing our system include the elimination of replacement levies, potential reduction/elimination of levies, potential changes to Medicaid, potential elimination of Medicaid Expansion, and an increased demand for service and increased acuity. Our response is our Ethics of Prioritization. The Lake ADAMHS budget is our most important ethics document as it defines how the Board invests. It defines the Board’s values, and it defines the Board’s priorities. We have many assets to aide in our response.

Ms. Fraser stated that Senate Bill 138 affirms the Board's authority to consider any local mechanisms that have been established for determining eligibility for services and supports, which means the Board decides its focus and priorities. This bill specifically authorizes an ADAMHS Board to choose to use a competitive procurement process (RFP). It also shortens the notice of intent not to renew requirements from 120-days to 60-days and removes all collaboration/negotiation/mediation requirements for contract non-renewal and contract changes.

Among the Board's assets are its lean and efficient Board Operating System. The Lake ADAMHS Board has an extremely low Administrative Overhead which drives dollars into direct care. The Board has a cross-trained staff which eliminates risk, has a conservative budget, and is in aggressive pursuit of state and federal grant opportunities. The Board's local and state partnerships allow us to be "at the table" for vital discussions, meaning we have a voice in decision making. As always, the Lake ADAMHS Board is focused on clinical best practices which is achieved by having a seasoned network of providers with outcome-driven programming and having a strategic plan that sets priorities. Consistency is a key asset as ethics are always a question of consistency. Our Board is consistent in direction and decision-making.

The final asset of the Board is time. None of the federal, state, or local changes are coming yet and we have ample time to prepare for said changes to take place. The next steps of the Lake ADAMHS Board include convening the Long-Range Planning Committee, reviewing our mission, vision, values, and strategic plan. The action steps the Board will be taking are identifying mission critical services, triaging services and investments, and allocating investments specific to categories of services.

Ms. Schilero regarded the staff by mentioning that this all seems like a lot of work and wished them well in their upcoming endeavors.

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

Ms. Kalb motioned that the full Board enter into a FY2026 non-Medicaid contract with Fine Arts Association in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 for Creative Art Therapies for multi-system youth. These funds previously flowed through the Family and Children First Council and are not a direct to provider grant. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zeroske and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-004)

Mr. Hatton motioned that the full Board enter into a FY2026 non-Medicaid grant type contract with Lifeline in an amount not to exceed \$52,000 for the Reentry Program. These funds were previously allocated via an OhioMHAS Pass Thru Grant. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sabo and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-005)

Mr. Taylor motioned that the full Board enter into a FY2026 non-Medicaid grant type contract with Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers in an amount not to exceed \$113,620.05 for the Criminal Justice Treatment Program. These funds were previously allocated via an OhioMHAS Pass Thru Grant. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zeroske and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-006)

Ms. Parker motioned that the full Board approve the following Culture of Quality Policies:

- Public Meetings Policy (01-11-25) *New*
- Accounting Policy & Procedure (02-01-07) *Revised*
- Client Rights Grievance Policy (03-02-07) *Revised*
- Workplace Safety Policy (03-07-25) *New*
- Board Health Equity and Cultural Competency Policy (04-13-25) *New*
- FileMaker Policy (05-01-25) *New*

- Board Member Expense Reimbursement Policy (06-01-25) *New*

The motion was seconded by Ms. Kalb and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-007)

Ms. Fraser noted that the Culture of Quality is a self-regulating process for boards.

Ms. Kalb motioned that the full Board enter into a FY2026 non-Medicaid POS contract with Crossroads Health for School Based Clinical Services in an amount not to exceed \$362,000. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zeroske and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-008)

Mr. Hatton motioned that the full Board enter into a FY2026 non-Medicaid POS contract with Signature Health for School Based Clinical \$306,484 and School Based Consultation Services \$103,438 for an amount not to exceed \$409,922. The motion was seconded by Mr. Phillips and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-009)

*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 Ms. Parker moved that the Board approve the July bills totaling \$1,796,361.75 be paid as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sabo and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-010)

#### **GOOD OF THE GROUP:**

Ms. Dotson thanked everyone for their participation in Lifeline's Dancing Under the Stars Event this year.

Ms. McLeod invited the group to an open house for Extended Housing's Wellness Center in Painesville on Wednesday, September 17, 2025 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. This event will have light appetizers, include a facility tour, and more. Ms. McLeod also invited the group to take part in Extended Housing's Dine-In or To-Go Fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse. On Thursday, September 11, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., 10% of proceeds spent at the Willoughby Texas Roadhouse Location will be donated to Extended Housing.

Ms. Blasko invited the group to Lake-Geauga Recovery Center's Overdose Awareness Day Event on Friday, August 29, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. at 760 Oak St., Painesville. This event includes a tree planting ceremony in memory of those lost to overdose and in support of those who live with loss every day. There will be food, beverages, and giveaways as well.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Hatton motioned that the full Board enter into Executive Session to discuss appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official. The motion was seconded by Mr. Phillips. (26-011) the motion passed unanimously following roll call vote.

The board exited Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. at which time Ms. Parker moved that the full board increase the annual salary of the Executive Director by 3.75%, retroactively to July 1, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Phillips, the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-012)

As there was no further business, Mr. Hatton made a motion to adjourn at 7:08 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sabo. (26-013)

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Kurt  
Chair

Mike Hatton  
Treasurer