



Lake County  
ADAMHS Board

# FY 2025

---

# Annual REPORT

**PREPARED BY**  
**KIM FRASER AND**  
**THE LEADERSHIP TEAM**

☎ 440-350-3117

✉ [Info@LakeADAMHS.org](mailto:Info@LakeADAMHS.org)

🌐 [www.HelpThatWorks.us](http://www.HelpThatWorks.us)





Lake County  
ADAMHS Board



# Table Of Contents



Statement from the Director

03

About Lake County ADAMHS Board

04

Celebrity Art Auction

05

Board Renewal Levy Passes

05

NBA Player Chris Herren visits

06

Task Force Name Change

07

Remembering Curt Lau

08

Expanded Focus on Crisis Services

08

Welcomes Three New Members

08

Financial Report

09

Board Members

10

Our Team

11





## Statement From Kim

“ As I reflect on Fiscal Year 2025, I am proud of the milestones our Board and community partners achieved together. This year marked transformative growth for Lake ADAMHS as we expanded our Board membership to 15, streamlined staff roles to maximize impact, and strengthened the behavioral health system across Lake County. A highlight of the year was the successful passage of the 0.9-mill levy renewal, ensuring continued support for vital mental health and substance use services.

Our annual Celebrity Art Auction reached record-breaking success, raising funds to expand access to treatment and prevention initiatives. We also advanced partnerships focused on overdose awareness, suicide prevention, and youth

### Executive Director

substance use prevention, reinforcing our commitment to addressing community needs comprehensively. This year, we celebrated individuals whose work embodies the spirit of collaboration and innovation in behavioral health. Amber Torres Gonzalez concluded her Board service, leaving a legacy of advocacy for youth-focused programs, and we honored Curt Lau, whose integrity and guidance shaped many of our decisions. Additionally, the first-ever Behavioral Health Champion Award was presented to Pat Hengst of Lake County's Narcotics Agency, recognizing his leadership in expanding the Quick Response Team, co-launching youth vaping prevention, and collaborating across systems to connect residents with critical supports.

These accomplishments reflect not only organizational achievement, but also the dedication, creativity, and compassion of our community. Each success is a reminder that behavioral health is a shared responsibility, strengthened by collaboration between providers, schools, law enforcement, local government, and families.

As we move forward into FY2026, our focus remains on improving access, addressing workforce challenges, and innovating services to meet the evolving needs of Lake County residents. I am deeply grateful to our Board, staff, and community partners for their unwavering commitment to building a healthier, more supportive future for all.

”





## About Lake County ADAMHS Board

### Lake County

#### Population - U.S. Census

- 2020 - 232,603 (+1.1%)
- 2010 - 230,041

#### Population - Estimates

- 2023-2024 - 232,500  
(-0.04%) decrease



We are established by Ohio statute, and the Lake ADAMHS Board plans, monitors, evaluates, and funds services for Lake County residents with mental illness and/or substance use disorders. These services are delivered through a network of providers.

#### Network Service Providers :

- BRIDGES: Mental Health Consumer Empowerment
- Catholic Charities Community Services
- Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
- Crossroads Health
- Extended Housing
- Family Pride of Northeast Ohio
- Fine Arts Association
- Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers
- Lifeline, Inc. and 2-1-1
- NAMI Lake County (National Alliance on Mental Illness)
- Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare / Community Services Network
- Signature Health, Inc.
- Torchlight Youth Mentoring Alliance
- University Hospitals
- Windsor-Laurelwood Center for Behavioral Medicine
- WomenSafe, Inc.

[www.HelpThatWorks.us](http://www.HelpThatWorks.us)





## Celebrity Art Auction



On September 19, the Friends of Lake ADAMHS (Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services) hosted its annual Celebrity Art Auction at The Banquet Center at St. Noel's in Willoughby Hills. More than 310 community members—including first-time advocates and local leaders—joined together to raise awareness and funds for individuals living with mental illness and substance use disorders.

Guests enjoyed inspiring artist stories, recovery testimonials, live auction excitement, and music by Elliot Stone. Attendees also connected with local behavioral health providers and learned how to get involved.

"The success of Celebrity Art Auction is a testament to the community's commitment to breaking the stigma," said Melanie Blasko, FOLA President. "By coming together, attendees reinforced the message that recovery is possible, and support is available."



### ADAMHS Board Renewal Levy Passes

Lake County voters overwhelmingly approved Issue 10, the 0.9-mill renewal levy supporting the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board. First passed in 1976, the levy generated \$5.48 million in 2024—about 30% of the Board's annual budget—and will now continue for another 10 years beginning January 2026.

The levy's renewal is not a new tax, but a continuation of longstanding community support. Its passage guarantees that essential behavioral health services will remain available for thousands of residents.





## NBA Player Chris Herren

### Speaks to 3,000+ Lake County Students

The Lake County ADAMHS Board, in partnership with Kids Win!, United Way of Lake County, and the Lake County Commissioners, hosted former NBA player Chris Herren for presentations to nearly 3,000 seventh and eighth graders across multiple school districts.

Herren, who has lived in recovery for over 16 years, shared his powerful story of addiction, loss, and redemption. His honest, direct approach resonated deeply with students, many of whom relate to his experiences of growing up in a home affected by addiction.

"Middle school is the age to talk about drug use," Herren said. "If they're not ready to stop now, at least I plant the seed that recovery is possible."

The event fostered critical conversations, empowering educators, families, and community leaders to become trusted voices of support for Lake County youth.







# New Names

## Curt Lau

### Opiate Task Force Becomes Lake County Addiction Task Force

In 2024, the Lake County Opiate Task Force adopted a new name: The Lake County Addiction Task Force. This change reflects its expanded mission to address not only opioids, but also other emerging challenges such as sports gambling, vaping, marijuana, cocaine, and amphetamines.

Founded in 2010 by the Lake County ADAMHS Board to respond to the opioid epidemic, the task force now serves as a collaborative hub for schools, churches, law enforcement, healthcare providers, and community groups. Ongoing initiatives include educational trainings, medication drop-off bins at every municipal police office, and the Compass Line (440-350-2000), which connects residents to treatment and recovery resources.

"Addiction takes many forms," said Kim Fraser, ADAMHS Executive Director. "By reducing stigma and increasing access to services, we can help more individuals and families find the support they need."

Lake County  
ddiction  
Task Force



### Remembering Board Member Curt Lau

The Board mourns the passing of long-time board member Curt Lau, whose dedication and service left a lasting impact on the community. Curt was a committed advocate for individuals and families affected by mental illness and substance use disorders, consistently bringing insight, compassion, and integrity to the Board's work.



## Expanded Focus on Crisis Services

In 2024, the Lake County ADAMHS Board advanced several key initiatives to strengthen crisis response in our community. Together with the Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, we are working toward the development of a regional Crisis Stabilization Center. A state legislative earmark has already been secured, and efforts are underway to pursue federal funding to bring this critical resource to life.

The Quick Response Team (QRT) also expanded its outreach, with a focus on diverting crisis situations for individuals struggling with addiction. At the same time, the Board began planning new services for multi-system youth, who are presenting with increasingly complex needs. Looking ahead, the transition of mobile crisis and crisis hotline services to Signature Health will allow the new stabilization center to serve as the hub for a full continuum of crisis care.



## Lake County ADAMHS Board Welcomes Three New Members

The Lake County ADAMHS Board is proud to welcome Kristin Hess, Philip Orley, and Dr. Frances Webb, sworn in by Commissioner Richard J. Regovich during the February meeting. The Board oversees planning, funding, and monitoring of mental health and substance use services across Lake County through a network of partner organizations.

Kristin Hess brings over 22 years of nursing experience and a background as a paramedic and firefighter, focusing on access to prevention, education, and recovery resources. Philip Orley, with 40 years of entrepreneurial experience, contributes expertise in finance, operations, and community support. Dr. Frances Webb, retired OB-GYN, is dedicated to strengthening resources and empowering individuals.

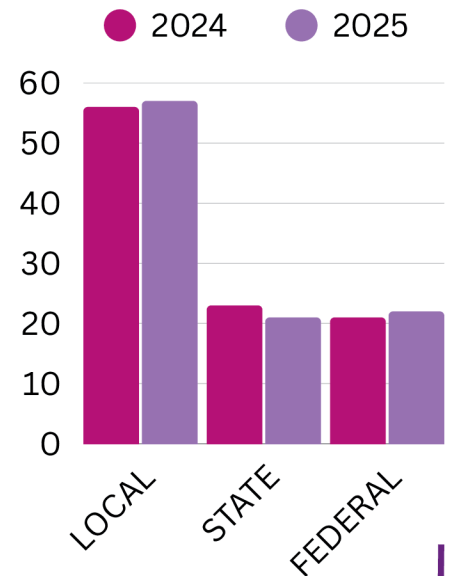
The Board looks forward to the positive impact these new members will bring to the community.



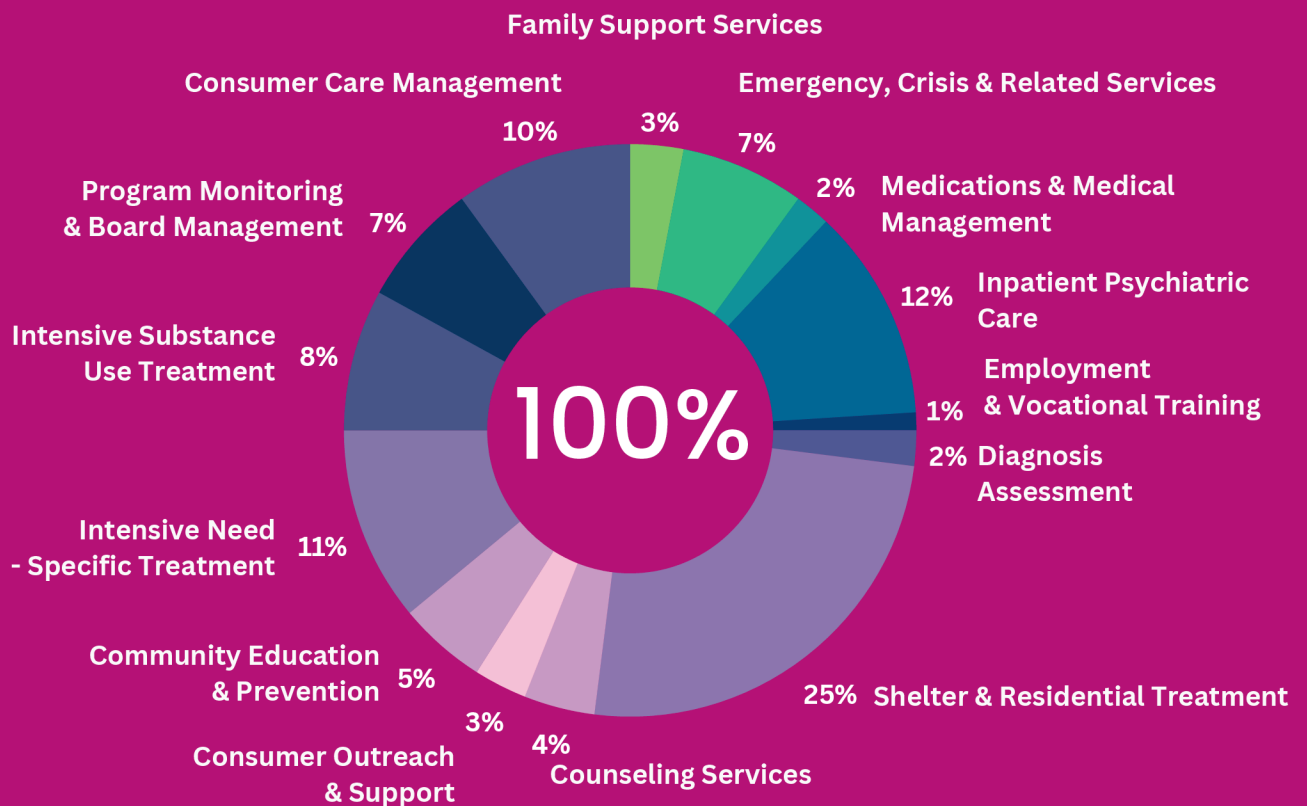
# Financial Report

Lake ADAMHS FY2025 annual budget reflects an increase in federal funding from year-two American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars. The additional revenue expanded mental health residential treatment capacity from 14 to 30 beds. The FY2025 budget also shows a slight decrease in state funding due to the discontinuation of the Alcohol Use Disorder grant, along with a very small increase in local funding.

Expenses reflect modest increases in Inpatient Psychiatric Care, Shelter & Residential Treatment, and Counseling Services. Lake ADAMHS contracted with an additional inpatient provider to meet growing hospital demand, though current utilization indicates a decrease for FY26. With ARPA-funded residential expansion complete, expenditures in this area are expected to level out. System-wide, wait-lists for Counseling Services remain, driven by workforce shortages. In FY25, the Board also eliminated one full-time position and continues to operate on a lean budget with low administrative costs.



## FY 2025 Expenses Chart: Percent of every dollar invested







# FY 2025 Executive Committee

All board members are Lake County residents who serve with passion and without compensation.



**Roberta Kalb**

Chair



**Pam Kurt**

Vice-Chair



**Amber Gonzalez**

Treasurer



**Nicole Parker**

Secretary

**Matt Sabo**

Past Chair



## Board Members

Carl Dondorfer

Kristin Hess

Mike Hatton

Stacy Kramer

Philip Orley

Curtis Lau

Marty Phillips III

Beverly Schilero

Jeffery Taylor

Frances Webb

William Wilson





# FY 2025 – Team



**Jackie Bruner**

Director of Business Operations



**Dan Rowles**

Director of Quality & Clinical Operations



**David Schick**

Director of Marketing & Communications



**Carla Reynolds**

Billing & Operations Specialist



**Sandra Tenkku**

Community Outreach Specialist



**Amy Tulenson**

Fiscal & Reporting Specialist



**Kelly Tuttle**

Transportation & System Navigation Specialist



**Justin Williams**

Administrative Assistant



**Milica Fiedler**

Former Staff Accountant



**Danette Richards**

Former BH Navigation Specialist