

LAKE COUNTY ADAMHS BOARD

Regular Board Meeting

Monday, October 20, 2025

6:00 p.m.

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

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

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Chair – Pam Kurt

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| Matt Sabo | Carl Dondorfer |
| Roberta Kalb | Jeffrey Taylor |
| Beverly Schilero | Martin Phillips |
| Nicole Parker | Frances Webb |
| William Wilson | Kristin Hess |
| Joanne Zeroske | Stacy Kramer |

Members Excused:

Mike Hatton
Philip Orley

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:

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Tia Lawrence | Torchlight YMA | | |
| Melanie Blasko | Lake-Geauga Recovery | Andrea Gutka | WomenSafe |
| Michelle Bertman | Catholic Charities | Carol Casey | BRIDGES |
| Angi Daugherty | Family Pride | Ann Marie Raddell | Fine Arts Association |
| Suzette Miller | Generations BH | Kim Hearn-Vance | UH Lake Health |

Ms. Fraser took a few moments to honor Damir Pavicic, a fundamental part of our network and lives as the founder of BRIDGES, who passed away recently.

MINUTES OF MEETING:

Ms. Zeroske moved to accept the minutes of the September 15, 2025 Board meeting as mailed. The motion was seconded by Dr. Webb and abstained by Ms. Kramer. The Motion Passed. (26-023)

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence to report.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

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| Beginning Cash Balance | \$6,709,413.77 |
| Plus: Cash Receipts for the Month | \$ 752,140.65 |
| Total to Account For | \$7,461,554.42 |
| Minus: Cash Disbursements for the Month | \$1,949,964.64 |
| Ending Period Adjustments | \$ 364.51 |

Ending Cash Journal Balance \$5,511,225.27

Mr. Sabo moved to accept the financial report for the month of September, 2025 as read. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kalb and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-024)

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 provided an update from the Marketing and Communications department. She was pleased to report the Board's continued support of our agencies, including enjoying recent events for NAMI and the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center. Upcoming events include the Festival of Trees Gala, benefiting Torchlight Youth Mentoring, which will take place on November 15 at the Cleveland Marriott East. Ms. Fraser reminded the group that there will be no Board Meeting held in November. The December meeting will feature a holiday gathering from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., followed by a condensed Board Meeting from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m.

Federal and state legislative updates were presented by Ms. Fraser. At the federal level, Ms. Fraser discussed the ongoing government shutdown that began on October 1, 2025. The Board recently applied for a five-year SAMHSA grant to support two prevention initiatives. Although the proposal was not selected in this funding cycle, Ms. Fraser expressed the Board's continued commitment to these prevention priorities and plans to pursue similar opportunities in the future.

At the state level, Ms. Fraser reviewed several significant policy updates. The Ohio Senate voted to override the Governor's veto concerning replacement levies, resulting in the elimination of replacement levy authority effective January 1, 2026. Lake ADAMHS levies from 2005 and 2008 will remain capped at their current collection levels, with the 2005 levy having been renewed in 2024 for another ten years. This means if the Board wanted to pursue additional local funding, the Board must create a new levy or additional levies. The Governor also signed an executive order expanding the legalization of test strips and reagent kits, effective October 1, 2026. Ms. Fraser reported that Director Maureen Corcoran announced her departure from the Ohio Department of Medicaid, and LeeAnne Cornyn, Director of the newly renamed Ohio Department of Behavioral Health (formerly the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services), will also be leaving her position.

Ms. Fraser explained that The Department of Behavioral Health is currently contracting with a consulting firm to design a fiscally sustainable crisis continuum model for the state. Locally, it was decided that Lake County would discontinue pursuit of a regional crisis stabilization center, aligning with the state's current focus. Ms. Fraser also discussed prevention services noting that certification is no longer required to provide such services. While the state intends to develop a standardized "menu" of evidence-based prevention practices, there are no immediate plans to implement this requirement.

Ms. Fraser discussed local updates including information about the Trauma Response Team, which provides counseling and emotional support following large-scale community crises such as accidents, assaults, or other traumatic incidents. Ms. Fraser also reviewed key notes from the newly released 2015-2024 Suicide and Overdose Fatality Report. This report offers an in-depth analysis of local data to better understand the circumstances surrounding suicide and overdose deaths in Lake County. The goal is to guide prevention strategies, reduce stigma, improve access to care, and strengthen community response efforts.

Ms. Fraser reported that suicide deaths in Lake County have remained relatively stable over the past decade, with female youth reporting higher rates of depression and suicidal thoughts, while middle-aged men remain at greatest risk for suicide death. No single city in Lake County consistently holds the highest number of

suicide deaths, confirming that suicide remains a countywide concern. Ms. Fraser noted that over the past six years, the Board has supported more than 100 community presentations promoting prevention, outreach, and safe storage messaging. Since 2022, the Lethal Means Safety Committee has been an active part of the Suicide Prevention Coalition. Ms. Fraser stated that the Board continues its work through initiatives such as AMSR training, Zero Suicide implementation, and promotion of the 988 Crisis Hotline.

Regarding overdose trends, Ms. Fraser highlighted that unintentional drug overdoses surpassed motor vehicle crashes as Ohio's leading cause of accidental death by 2016, with adults aged 25 to 44 remaining most at risk. However, a rising number of overdoses among adults over age 55 indicates a shifting age trend that warrants further attention. Non-Hispanic White residents accounted for more than 96% of overdose deaths in Lake County, although nearly one-quarter of residents identify as another race or ethnicity. Ms. Fraser stated that substance use continues to affect multiple generations, with more than 1,000 grandparents in Lake County becoming primary caregivers each year due to a parent's substance use disorder.

Ms. Fraser discussed local efforts to address addiction and recovery, including expanded access to residential treatment, recovery housing, community partnerships through the Addiction Task Force, Quick Response Team, and Project DAWN. Public awareness and outreach continue to be promoted through events such as the Concert of Hope, Overdose Awareness Day, and school-based educational campaigns.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

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

- Quality Improvement Policy (03-01-07) *Revised*
- Record Retention Policy (02-05-07) *Revised*

The motion was seconded by Mr. Dondorfer and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-025)

Mr. Taylor motioned that the full Board approve the FY2026 Lake ADAMHS Safety Manual as updated. The motion was seconded by Mr. Philips and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-026)

Ms. Kalb motioned that the full Board approve the 2025-2031 Addiction Task Force Strategic Plan as updated. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hess and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-027)

Ms. Parker motioned that the full Board reconcile SFY2025 Non-Medicaid grant type contracts as follows:

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|--|--------------|
| ➤ BRIDGES Mental Health Consumer Empowerment | \$4,223.25 |
| ➤ Catholic Charities Community Services | \$15,000.00 |
| ➤ Crossroads Health | \$72,384.00 |
| ➤ Extended Housing | \$15,114.00 |
| ➤ Lake Geauga Recovery Centers | \$22,465.00 |
| ➤ Lifeline | \$2,145.92 |
| ➤ Signature Health | \$40,289.00 |
| ➤ University Hospitals | \$121,737.90 |

The motion was seconded by Mr. Sabo and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-028)

Mr. Taylor motioned that the full Board enter into a SFY2026 non-Medicaid grant type contract with Lifeline for BSCA Disaster Preparedness Grant in an amount not to exceed \$33,000. This is a pass thru grant from DBH. The motion was seconded by Mr. Philips and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-029)

Ms. Kalb motioned that the full Board increase Board Capital account #811 in the amount of \$250,000. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zeroske and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-030)

EVALUATION/QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:**Quality Improvement Review of Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers**

Ms. Luckner shared a presentation on Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers, beginning with their mission statement: *To promote lifelong recovery from addiction through education, prevention, and treatment regardless of ability to pay.* Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers was founded in 1971 and offers a complete continuum of care. Some of the programs and services they provide include but are not limited to prevention services, drug-free workplace services, residential and outpatient treatment services, MAT/ambulatory detox, recovery housing, family programs, and peer recovery support.

Ms. Luckner's presentation highlighted the agency's accomplishments, progress, and challenges from FY24 through FY25. FY24 included successful community and alumni events. Two LGRC Alumni gatherings were hosted: *Breakfast with Santa* and the *St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance*, along with a National Recovery Month event: *Putt-Putt for Recovery*. The agency achieved its seventh three-year CARF accreditation since 2006 and completed a comprehensive overhaul of all job descriptions, performance evaluations, and onboarding procedures. A federal grant was awarded to provide substance use disorder (SUD) treatment to Lake County residents on federal probation, expanding access to care for a critical population. Additionally, services for adolescents were expanded, with eight new admissions—one for mental health and seven for substance use.

Ms. Luckner noted that significant progress was made toward the agency's three-year Strategic Plan, with 27 of 34 objectives completed, representing a 79% completion rate, and seven objectives currently in progress. The organization also celebrated the births of its 36th and 37th drug-free babies, marking an ongoing commitment to healthy outcomes for families in recovery.

A SWOT analysis of Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers was presented by Ms. Luckner, outlining key organizational strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Strengths include solid financial management, pursuit of new funding opportunities, and a passionate, mission-driven leadership team and board. The agency also benefits from a comprehensive continuum of care, strong staff, competitive benefits, and an excellent community reputation. Identified weaknesses include high client volume, recruitment and cross-training challenges, and leadership capacity stretched by property management and staffing coverage demands. Opportunities for growth include continued expansion of adolescent and mental health services, pursuit of new grants and revenue streams, and enhanced staff development, technology integration (including EHR and AI), and alumni engagement. Noted threats include potential Medicaid and government funding changes, a competitive service market, staffing shortages, and safety concerns such as medication errors, emergencies, and cybersecurity risks.

Ms. Luckner concluded her presentation with expressions of gratitude to the Lake County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board for their continued partnership and support. Appreciation was also extended to all funders and community partners for enabling the agency to expand services and improve outcomes for Lake County residents.

Ms. Luckner answered some questions from the group which led into a conversation revolving treating stimulant substance abuse. Some education was provided to the group on the effects and the dangers of these new stimulants.

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.

Mr. Taylor moved to recommend to the full Board that they accept Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers' Quality Improvement Plan. Seconded by Ms. Kalb, the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-031)

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Following adjournment, a tour of the Concord Pines facility ensued led by Ms. Geigerich.

Next EQI Meeting Date is Monday, November 3, 2025. The location of the meeting is TBD.

*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. Dondorfer moved that the Board approve the September bills totaling \$2,137,177.21 be paid as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sabo and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-032)

GOOD OF THE GROUP:

Ms. Gutka announced that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and encouraged the group to wear purple as a sign of solidarity and take photos to tag WomenSafe or to send to WomenSafe for them to post online.

As there was no further business, Mr. Sabo made a motion to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dondorfer. (26-033)

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Kurt
Chair

Mike Hatton
Treasurer