

LAKE COUNTY ADAMHS BOARD

Regular Board Meeting

Monday, May 18, 2026

6:00 p.m.

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

Ms. Kurt called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Pam Kurt – Chair	Carl Dondorfer
Mike Hatton	Matt Sabo
Philip Orley	Beverly Schilero
Martin Phillips	Nicole Parker
Jeffrey Taylor	Frances Webb
William Wilson	Joanne Zeroske
Stacy Kramer	

Members Excused:

Kristin Hess	Roberta Kalb
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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
Amy Tulenson, Fiscal & Reporting Specialist
Justin Williams, Administrative Assistant

Guests:

Tia Lawrence	Torchlight	Carrie Dotson	Lifeline
Carol Casey	BRIDGES	Karen McLeod	Extended Housing
Jonathan Lee	Signature Health	Suzette Miller	Generations BH
Andrea Gutka	WomenSafe	Angi Daugherty	Family Pride
Leslie Quilty	Crossroads Health		

MINUTES OF MEETING:

Mr. Hatton moved to accept the minutes of the April 20, 2026 Board meeting as mailed. The motion was seconded by Ms. Parker and abstained by Mr. Sabo. The Motion Passed. (26-082)

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence to report.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Ms. Tulenson read the financial report of Board operations for the month of April, 2026 as follows:

Beginning Cash Balance	\$6,301,221.84
Plus: Cash Receipts for the Month	\$1,064,357.30
Total to Account For	\$7,365,579.14
Minus: Cash Disbursements for the Month	\$1,436,335.20
Ending Period Adjustments	\$ 0.00
Ending Cash Journal Balance	\$5,929,243.94

Mr. Dondorfer moved to accept the financial report for the month of April, 2026 as read. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zeroske and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-083)

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 an outgoing member, Matt Sabo. During his 8-year tenure, Mr. Sabo served in every Board leadership role, providing steady guidance and commitment to the Board's mission. Mr. Sabo brought invaluable insight and leadership to the development of the First Responder Program. The Board sincerely appreciates his leadership, advocacy, and lasting contributions to the behavioral health system in Lake County. Ms. Fraser thanked Mr. Sabo and the Board presented him an award for his diligence. A round of applause naturally occurred as Board, Board staff, and agency members thanked Mr. Sabo.

Ms. Fraser reminded the group of the upcoming Celebrity Art Auction which will take place on Thursday, June 25 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at The Banquet Center at St. Noel. Ms. Fraser stated the Board is still looking for donations and presented some ideas for baskets.

Ms. Fraser reported the ThinkFast Interactive Prevention Program is currently taking place in local schools. ThinkFast Interactive is an engaging game show-style prevention program that engages middle and high school students. The program was brought to Lake County via funding through Ohio's State Opioid and Stimulant Response (S.O.S. 4.0) Grant. The programming focuses on mental health awareness, stress management, vaping and substance misuse prevention, peer pressure, and how to seek help. A brief video clip was shared from a program event.

Ms. Fraser announced the Mental Health Awareness Month Campaign – "More Good Days, Together." May is Mental Health Awareness Month and this campaign initiative placed mental health messaging on coffee sleeves and coasters throughout Lake County. Campaign messaging encourages residents to pause, connect, seek early support, and reduce stigma surrounding mental health challenges. Participating local businesses are helping share reminders that support is available and that mental health conversations can happen anywhere. Participating locations across Lake County include: 1922 Coffee & Brew, Ana's Attic in Painesville, BIGGBY COFFEE in Perry, Blu Bee in Painesville Township, Calico Jack in Mentor, Couchland Coffee House in Wickliffe, and Open Door in Madison.

Ms. Fraser reported Lake County was awarded \$160,039 to expand recovery housing access for residents in recovery. Funding provides rental assistance and supports long-term recovery stability in certified housing.

Ms. Fraser reported there are new Utilization Management Policies from the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM). New ODM authorization thresholds begin for select behavioral health services in July, 2026. The goal is to ensure appropriate care coordination, oversight, and Medicaid system integrity.

Ms. Fraser reminded the group of the impacts of eliminating Ohio Property Taxes. Property taxes provide nearly two-thirds of local government revenue in Ohio. Eliminating property taxes would result in substantial cuts to public services statewide. Impacts include reductions in police, fire, EMS, 911 response, schools, and services for seniors, children, and individuals with disabilities. Communities could face crippling increases in sales and/or income taxes to offset lost revenue if property taxes were eliminated. For example, a 2.75% income tax would more than quadruple to 15% and a 5.75% sales tax would jump to approximately 18%.

ADAMHS Boards rely heavily on voter-approved property tax levies to fund local behavioral health services. Eliminating property taxes would severely impact the entire continuum of services including prevention, treatment, crisis response, and recovery support services. Levy funding supports mobile crisis teams, urgent care facilities, prevention programming, housing support, and core behavioral health treatment services.

Ms. Fraser shared that The Ohioans to Protect Public Services Coalition has launched a statewide public education campaign regarding the potential elimination of Ohio property taxes. OACBHA and local ADAMHS Boards are participating in efforts to educate communities on the impact to behavioral health and other public services. This includes formally passing motions and resolutions opposing the elimination of property taxes. Additional advocacy and public education resources are expected to be released in the coming months.

Ms. Fraser shared updates on the work Strategy Design Partners is doing with the Board. The Strategy Design Partners survey included 347 participants through interviews, surveys, and provider workshops. Feedback highlighted strong confidence in the Lake County behavioral health system and the ADAMHS Board's leadership, coordination, and community partnerships. Providers also emphasized the need for stronger collaboration across organizations and clearer system navigation for residents. Stakeholders encouraged more focused investment discussions to maximize impact in a challenging funding environment. Strong interest was expressed in developing consistent outcomes, shared metrics, and more data-informed funding decisions. Findings from the scan will help guide the development of the Board's next strategic plan and future system priorities.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

There was nothing to report.

EVALUATION/QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:

Quality Improvement Review of Torchlight Youth Mentoring Alliance

A PowerPoint presentation on Torchlight was provided by Tia Lawrence, Executive Director of the agency. Ms. Lawrence began with Torchlight's mission which is to foster the development of youth to reach their highest potential as responsible, caring, and adaptable adults. Torchlight is formerly known as Big Brothers Big Sisters, which has been around nationally for over 100 years. Locally, the agency has been around since the 1960's. The agency became Torchlight Youth Mentoring Alliance in 2019 to expand programs and meet current needs of the community.

Torchlight offers four different programs, which over the past year have served just over 215 clients to date. The Community Based Program is their "Traditional Match" where a child is paired up with an adult volunteer of the same sex. Children in the program are referred by parents or guardians and are typically ages 6-26. Volunteers in the program are adults over the age of 18 who make a one-year minimum commitment to spend at least two hours every other week with their match. Torchlight tries to match specific needs and interests. The program currently has about 57 kids on the waitlist, which has continued to grow as they continue to accept more youth. Torchlight is mostly in need of male volunteers as the majority of the waitlist are young men.

Torchlight's After School/Site Based Programs are unique in that they take high school volunteers and match them with younger students one day a week after school in a supervised setting during the school year. The high school volunteers are asked to commit for the entirety of the school year as the longer the match, the better the relationship. The younger students in the program, the "mentees," are referred by teachers and sign up through parents or guardians. Cross gender matching does occur in the school program as it is a

supervised setting and matches cannot meet outside of the program. Torchlight offers this program in various schools across Lake, Ashtabula, and Geauga Counties.

Torchlight's Foster Care program provides mentors to youth in foster care in a relaxed group setting in Geauga County on Tuesdays in the early evenings and in Lake County every Saturday morning. During the program, they provide a group setting where volunteers and youth learn life skills, as well as identify resources to promote a path to success in the future. The youth are provided with opportunities they may not otherwise get to experience. It is Torchlight's hope that over time matches will be made at the request of the youth as trust and relationships are developed. Ms. Lawrence was elated to share that Torchlight continues to work with young people who have aged out of foster care and are now young adults. These young adults are choosing to stay in the program and want to be connected.

The final program offered by Torchlight is the COUL Club, the Club of Unmatched Littles. The COUL Club is a group mentoring program designed to address the needs of community based unmatched mentees through monthly staff-supervised activities. All children accepted into the Torchlight Community Based Program immediately become COUL Club members.

Ms. Lawrence shared some benefits of mentoring and provided some of Torchlight's outcomes. For Fiscal Year 25, they found: Youth in the Community Based Program all improved or maintained positively in their self-confidence, sense of future, avoiding drugs and alcohol, better relationships with their peers and adults. Torchlight's Site Based Programs all saw youth improve or maintain in being able to express their feelings, better sense of their future, trust in their mentors and better relationships with their families. The Foster Care Programs saw youth improve or maintain in their self-confidence, ability to express their feelings more accurately, trust in their mentors, better relationships with their peers, as well as a better sense of their community. Over half of the agency's overall matches have been matched for two years or longer. 22 have been matched for five years or more. Ms. Lawrence also mentioned their collaborations in which they work closely with a lot of various agencies with referrals and support.

Ms. Lawrence shared Torchlight's SWOT analysis. The agency's strengths include having a dedicated staff and strong outcomes, weaknesses include lack of volunteers and stretched workforce, opportunities include growing already strong partnerships with other agencies, and threats include flat funding and inflation.

Ms. Lawrence thanked the ADAMHS Board for their support and answered some questions from the group.

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

Mr. Taylor motioned that the full Board accept Torchlight's Quality Improvement Plan. Seconded by Mr. Hatton, the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-084)

Quality Improvement Review of Catholic Charities Lake County

A PowerPoint presentation on Catholic Charities was presented by Lynn Burner, Senior Grants Specialist, and Senta Kline, Program Coordinator. Ms. Burner began by sharing Catholic Charities Lake County's appreciation for the ADAMHS Board which funds their behavioral health services and Families of Promise Program.

Ms. Burner reported that their behavioral health services, which include counseling, assessment, and case management, served 90 clients in FY2025 and 68 clients and counting as of the end of March FY2026. Thus far in FY2026, their demographics are 72% female clients, 57% of clients reside in 44077 zip code, 40% of clients

are Hispanic, and 17% of clients are seniors. For behavioral health, Catholic Charities Lake County has two desired outcomes, both of which have benchmarks of 80% of clients reviewed. Outcome #1 being clients receiving mental health services will show improvement based on clinical review of the Discharge/Transfer summaries. Outcome #2 being clients will show progress toward treatment goals as measured in the Goal Assessment Scale as demonstrated by a score of 3 (partially met) or 4 (met) at 6-month review. In FY25 and so far in FY26, these outcomes have been met with a minimum percentage of 85%. Ms. Burner shared outcomes of the agency's Client Experience Survey and shared some survey comments.

Ms. Kline reported on the agency's Families of Promise Program which offers intensive case management services for children and caregivers in families where a parent is or has been incarcerated, parent skills training and support through individual skill-building, and grandparent/caregiver support. In FY2025, Families of Promise served 60 families: 74 parents/caregivers and 130 children. Thus far in FY2026, 50 families have been served: 62 parents/caregivers and 99 children. Ms. Kline announced that all goals in the Families of Promise program have been exceeded by a minimum of 9% thus far in FY2026. Those goals are that children gain one or more developmental assets, parents report Families of Promise was a benefit to their child/children, and that children increase their protective factors for resilience. Families of Promise has collected 24 Client Experience Surveys so far, with 95.8% to 100% satisfaction in all categories: communication, effectiveness, values, accessibility, cultural competency, and staff. Ms. Kline shared some satisfied client comments and was excited to announce two members of their grandparent support program have recently created a podcast using the information they've learned in the program which already has an international reach.

Ms. Burner shared Catholic Charities Lake County's SWOT analysis. Strengths include the dedication and cohesiveness of staff along with their partnership funders. Weaknesses include the scarcity of behavioral health staff and potential staff burnout. Opportunities include their new upcoming Case Management for Self-Sufficiency Program. Threats include funding cuts and political environmental impact.

Ms. Burner thanked the ADAMHS Board for their support and she and Ms. Kline answered some questions from the group.

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

Mr. Taylor motioned that the full Board accept Catholic Charities' Quality Improvement Plan.

Seconded by Mr. Dondorfer, the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-085)

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Next Meeting Date is TBD.

A discussion regarding the Podcast took place.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Recovery Housing Grant

Ms. Bruner reported that the Lake County ADAMHS Board has been awarded a Federal grant for Recovery Housing for \$160,039. The funds were awarded by OhioDBH and the Board has a signed agreement with Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers to ensure compliance with Federal laws. The funding is for recovery housing rents.

Mr. Hatton motioned that the full Board enter into a one-time SFY2027 non-Medicaid Grant type contract with Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers for Recovery Housing Program in an amount not to exceed \$160,039. This funding is provided through OhioDBH. Seconded by Mr. Phillips, the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-086)

PATH – Pass Thru

Ms. Bruner stated the PATH program is a Federal program which has been awarded for SFY2027 from OhioDBH. She welcomed Ms. Houser from Extended Housing to present on the PATH program. Ms. Houser began by sharing the mission of the program which is to identify newly homeless individuals with behavioral health conditions that are not yet receiving assistance and engage with them to attempt to provide assistance. PATH stands for Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness. Ms. Houser shared that there are two outreach workers which make up the team for this project. The outreach team receives referrals from other agencies or community members who identify a potentially homeless individual for the team to engage with. The team reaches out and does what they can for the individual. In many instances, it is already someone with a history with Extended Housing that is receiving assistance from them. Ms. Houser mentioned that these individuals have a legal right to be homeless and although Extended Housing wants to help them, they cannot force them to accept the assistance. It can take days, weeks, months, or even years for an outreach member to build a relationship with the individual or to get them to want or accept assistance. If they do accept, the team is able to provide them with things like housing, securing identification, and behavioral health and substance abuse assistance. Ms. Bruner added that the Board does match PATH dollars with local funding.

Ms. Houser and Ms. McLeod answered some questions from the group.

Mr. Hatton motioned that the full Board enter into a one-time SFY2027 non-Medicaid Purchase of Service type contract with Extended Housing for PATH Program for an amount not to exceed \$118,780. This funding is provided through OhioDBH. Seconded by Ms. Zeroske, the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-087)

Shelter Plus Care

Ms. Bruner stated the Lake County ADAMHS Board has been awarded a Federal grant for Shelter Plus Care from HUD. She explained that the funding provides rental assistance for individuals in approximately 15 different locations. Extended Housing manages the program.

Ms. McLeod and Ms. Houser answered some questions from the group.

Mr. Hatton motioned that the full Board enter into a one-time SFY2027 non-Medicaid Purchase of Service type contract with Extended Housing for Shelter Plus Care for an amount not to exceed \$827,881. This funding is provided through HUD. Seconded by Ms. Parker, the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-088)

Indigent Drivers Treatment

Ms. Bruner explained that the ADAMHS Board has received pass-through funding from the three Municipal Courts in Lake County for Indigent Driver Treatment Program (IDTF). Individuals whom have an OVI are court ordered to the Jail Treatment Program. If a client completes the program, the Lake County ADAMHS Board is able to bill the court for the services provided. The court can elect to use surplus funding for other charges if an individual does not have an OVI charge.

Mr. Hatton motioned that the full Board enter into a one-time SFY2027 non-Medicaid Purchase of Service contract with Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers for Indigent Drivers Treatment Funds (IDTF) for an amount not to

exceed \$51,000. This funding is provided through the Lake County Municipal Courts. Seconded by Ms. Kramer, the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-089)

County Budget

Ms. Bruner reported the CY 2027 budget has been prepared. Appropriations of the ADAMHS Board follow this budget and the Board is audited on a calendar year basis. The budget is created before the Board is even aware of what allocations they will be receiving.

Mr. Hatton motioned that the full Board approve the CY2027 218 ADAMHS Board Budget as planned. Seconded by Mr. Phillips, the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-090)

As there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: TBD

*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 April bills totaling \$794,479.05 be paid as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sabo and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (26-091)

GOOD OF THE GROUP:

Ms. Fraser reminded the group that EQI and Operations Committees are done meeting for the year, the next Long Range Planning Meeting will be on Wednesday, June 3, and there will be no Board Meeting in July. The June meeting will be our annual meeting and will include a Social hour beginning at 5:00 p.m. Board packet in June will include a sheet on Committee Preferences.

Mr. Sabo took a moment to thank the Board for all the hard work he has seen over the past 8 years and said, "Continue to do good work."

As there was no further business, Mr. Sabo made a motion to adjourn at 6:38 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Parker. (26-092)

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Kurt
Chair

Jeff Taylor
Secretary