LAKE COUNTY ADAMHS BOARD

Board Meeting

Monday, August 17, 2026

6:00 p.m.

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

Ms. Parker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Nicole Parker – Chair	Mike Hatton
Kristin Hess	Roberta Kalb
Frank Kovacic	Stacy Kramer
Martin Phillips	Beverly Schilero
William Wilson	Joanne Zeroske

Members Excused:

Carl Dondorfer	Pam Kurt
Phillip Orley	Jeffrey Taylor
Frances Webb	

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

Guests:

Morgan McIntosh	Lake Co. Commissioner	Ann Marie Raddell	Fine Arts Association
Angi Daugherty	Family Pride	Carrie Dotson	Lifeline
Angel Burton	WomenSafe	Michelle Bertman	Lake Geauga Recovery
Tracy Mason	Crossroads	Karen McLeod	Extended Housing

SWEARING IN NEW BOARD MEMBER:

Commissioner McIntosh administered the Oath of Office to Francis Kovacic. Mr. Kovacic was welcomed and warmly applauded.

MINUTES OF MEETING:

Mr. Hatton moved to accept the minutes of the June 15, 2026 Board meeting as mailed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Phillips, the Motion Passed Unanimously. (27-001)

CORRESPONDENCE:

Ms. Fraser stated a letter was received from the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) dated July 1, 2026, acknowledging receipt of the Board's CY2026-2028 Community Assessment Plan (CAP). It stated a DBH-approved CAP is a required element for board eligibility for state and federal funding. DBH has reviewed the following components: Needs Assessment, Plan Development, Provision of Crisis Services, and Continuum of Care Service Inventory. The CY2026-2028 of the Lake County ADAMHS Board is approved.

Ms. Fraser stated a letter was received from the Department of Development dated July 27, 2026, regarding the approval of the Recovery Housing monitoring review. There were no findings or corrective actions noted. Ms. Fraser reported the Lake County ADAMHS Board received correspondence thanking them for applying for funding through the OneOhio Recovery Foundation's Regional Cycle 2. After careful consideration of the application, they regret to inform us that OneOhio is unable to approve funding for "Jail-Based Behavioral Health Services" in Region 13 at this time.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

Beginning Cash Balance	$4,878,056.67
Plus: Cash Receipts for the Month	$ 649,893.95
Total to Account For	$5,527,950.62
Minus: Cash Disbursements for the Month	$1,071,660.23
Ending Period Adjustments	$ 0.00
Ending Cash Journal Balance	$4,456,290.39

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

Beginning Cash Balance	$4,456,290.39
Plus: Cash Receipts for the Month	$ 65,143.04
Total to Account For	$4,521,433.43
Minus: Cash Disbursements for the Month	$1,185,831.82
Ending Period Adjustments	$ 0.00
Ending Cash Journal Balance	$3,335,601.61

Ms. Kramer moved to accept the financial report for the month of June and July, 2026 as read. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kalb and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (27-002)

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 Celebrity Art Auction attracted over 300 guests and was the best year yet. We were able to gain more friends by raising awareness and support for mental health and recovery across Lake County.

Ms. Fraser stated we received a success story from the Family of Promise program. Dolly Radcliff shared how the program helped her family overcome grief, incarceration-related challenges, and financial hardship demonstrating the long-term impact of family support services at Catholic Charities.

Ms. Fraser reported that Ms. Tenkku provided free de-escalation training at the Holden Arboretum for staff to equip employees with practical communication and resolution skills to enhance visitor safety and support positive community interactions.

Ms. Fraser reminded everyone that the 2nd Annual Recovery Concert of Hope will be held on Sunday, August 30, 2026, from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Fine Arts Association featuring OPUS 216. There will be food trucks and family-friendly activities. The event will be held rain or shine since the facility can accommodate folks inside or out.

Ms. Fraser announced Board members have updated by-laws; Board member evaluations, which will be distributed every 6 months; a list of upcoming events; and motions for tonight in their packets.

Ms. Fraser reported the Lake County Budget Commission (CBC) held tax budget hearings which were comprised of the county prosecutor, auditor, and treasurer. The CBC has existed since the early 1900's. HB 309 has expanded authority giving them the ability to reduce property tax levies to avoid unnecessary or excessive collections. The new law took effect March 20, 2026. The law mandates that CBC hold public hearings before reducing any tax levies. Ms. Fraser stated her and Ms. Bruner attended the meeting for the Board. The hearing went tremendously well and gave the CBC the importance of our funding.

Ms. Fraser reported the strategic planning process is still on-going and a 3-year action plan will be presented to the Long-Range Planning Committee. We are also working on an updated request for proposal process as well as contingency planning. It will involve staff succession planning for all management as well as fiscal contingency planning with several different scenarios with the reduction or infusion of funding. Information will be brought to the Board in January or February.

Ms. Fraser reported our Culture of Quality 3-year certification is up for renewal and our review is scheduled for November 2026. The review covers 161 standards. New and/or updated standards and policies will be presented at the September Board meeting.

Ms. Fraser reported we will be preparing for our 2027 levy campaign which is our 0.7 mil renewal levy. It will need the Commissioner's approval to go on the ballot. It was first passed in 1989 and is currently collecting at 2008 rates. The levy generates approximately $4,294,000 annually. It expires in December 2028. There is still a movement by Ax the Tax to eliminate property taxes. Ohioans to Protect Public Services are still advocating to keep them.

Ms. Fraser stated there continues to be a focus on overdose deaths and suicide fatalities through community health priorities. Tracking continues of EpiCenter data on non-fatal overdoses and suicide attempts in partnership with the Lake County General Health District. Tracking anomalies continues in partnership with Lake County Narcotics.

Ms. Fraser stated services for at-risk populations are being partnered with Ravenwood Mental Health to expedite crisis services to individuals age 20 and younger, as highlighted in Operations Committee. We are continuing to ramp up prevention services in schools, also highlighted in Operations Committee.

Ms. Fraser reported we have received our DBH funding for SFY2027 and there is a slight decrease in crisis block grant funding. DBH committed to providing capital funding for each Board's first priority. They decided to zero out the ADAMHS Board line item and put all funding into capital for the State hospitals. The line item has been removed, and the ADAMHS Boards are working with DBH to see if the line item was removed in error and how it can be put back in with no funding for this year. There have also been increased reporting requirements along with the funding for SFY2027. We are waiting to get information on the SOS 5.0 funding which normally comes out in September or October.

Ms. Fraser reported the State Medicaid biennium budget is $40 and $42 billion. It is anticipated to be cut to $33 to $37 billion over the next decade. There have been changes in the work requirements for the Medicaid Expansion Group, which mostly affects the SUD population. There are some exemptions. Eligibility verifications have been changed to every six months and there is a lengthier application and redetermination process. There is an increased focus on waste, fraud, and abuse. Service thresholds have been put in place, and the non-Medicaid process has been matched via GOSH.

Ms. Fraser reported crisis services have rules without rates. There is a drive towards using 988 which has consequences for local hotlines. Mobile crisis services for anyone 20 and under must be provided by a 988 provider or the services will not be paid for. This is forcing people to use 988 and not the local hotline.

Ms. Fraser reported there has been changes in licensure and certification which has placed a hold on all new applications. There is also a hold on expanded services. If an agency is already certified but wants to provide services at a different location, they are unable to get the new location certified.
Ms. Fraser reported DBH is centralizing certification of Recovery Housing. This was done prior to this by an independent agency.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Mr. Hatton motioned that the full Board approve the Lake County ADAMHS Board By-Laws, as updated. Seconded by Ms. Kalb, the Motion Passed Unanimously. (27-003)

Mr. Hatton motioned that the full Board approved the FY27 Health Officers as recommended by the Director of Quality and Clinical Operations. Seconded by Ms. Zeroske, the Motion Passed Unanimously. (27-004)

EVALUATION/QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:

Ms. Kramer reported that the Evaluation/Quality Improvement Committee met on Monday, August 10th and and the following agenda items were discussed:

Quality Improvement Review of Family Pride of Northeast Ohio

Ms. Daugherty began with an overview of Family Pride of Northeast Ohio. The organization's mission 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. Its vision is to empower individuals in the community to achieve their optimal level of well-being. Family Pride is CARF accredited through June 2028 and successfully completed its annual fidelity review in May 2026.

Family Pride primarily serves Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula Counties, while providing services across 16 counties. The agency reported having grown to 62 employees as well as providing services or supports to more than 1,700 individuals. Services include individual, couples, and family counseling; trauma-focused therapies including EMDR and TF-CBT; art, play, and music therapy; TBS/case management; parenting programs including Triple P Parenting and 24/7 Dad; school-based services; and services for justice-involved participants, including groups, TBS, counseling, risk assessments, Citizen Circle, and Seeking Safety.

Ms. Sullivan reviewed Family Pride's Senior Support Services and Intensive Home-Based Treatment (IHBT) programs. Senior services include individual counseling and TBS, caregiver support, and W.I.S.E. (Wellness Initiative for Senior Education). IHBT uses a team-based therapist/TBS approach for high-risk youth and families, is a high-fidelity evidence-based program, typically provides three to five hours of service per week, and maintains 24/7 team availability.

During FY26, the agency served 397 Lake County clients and provided 7,440 services in the county. Senior Support Services served 141 individuals, including 33 through W.I.S.E. and 32 through the Caregiver Support Group. IHBT served 25 families. At the time of the presentation, two families in FY27 were supported through Lake County ADAMHS funding.

FY26 outcomes for the ADAMHS-funded programs were reviewed. The Senior Support Services Program met its outcome measures, including serving at least 85 Lake County seniors by June 30, 2026, reducing issues related to social determinants of health for the targeted percentage of clients, and meeting the program's client satisfaction target. IHBT outcomes showed that 85% of youth clients demonstrated improvement following services, 88% of caregivers reported being better equipped to address their child's behaviors and problems, and 90% of clients served remained in the home with a parent or caregiver.

Client survey feedback was also reviewed. Among 75 respondents, 95% described staff as approachable and positive, 93% described staff as knowledgeable and experienced, 89% reported that staff were easy to connect with, 93% indicated they were likely to recommend Family Pride to family or friends, and 88% reported that services helped them achieve their mental health or treatment goals. The presentation included several positive client comments describing supportive staff interactions and meaningful improvements associated with therapy.

Family Pride's SWOT analysis was then reviewed. New partnerships were highlighted, including work with Lake Erie College and efforts related to substance use disorder and school prevention services. A discussion followed as Ms. Daugherty answered questions from the group.

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

On behalf of the Evaluation/Quality Improvement Committee, Ms. Kramer moved that the full Board accept Family Pride of Northeast Ohio's Quality Improvement Plan. Seconded by Mr. Hatton the Motion Passed Unanimously. (27-005)

Quality Improvement Review of Windsor Laurelwood

Ms. Smith began with a general overview of Windsor Laurelwood. Established in 1898, Windsor Laurelwood is a freestanding psychiatric hospital located in Willoughby, Ohio, adjacent to Lake West Hospital. The hospital operates with Universal Health Services (UHS) and is licensed and certified for 159 beds through the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Windsor Laurelwood is accredited by The Joint Commission as both a hospital and behavioral health provider.

The organization's mission and guiding principles were reviewed. Windsor Laurelwood's mission is to provide superior quality healthcare services that patients recommend to family and friends, physicians prefer for their patients, purchasers select for their clients, employees are proud of, and investors seek long-term returns. The organization's principles are intended to define how services are delivered and to reflect the standards, values, and interactions expected at every patient encounter.

Ms. Smith reviewed Windsor Laurelwood's continuum of services, including inpatient adult mental health and dual-diagnosis treatment, inpatient child and adolescent mental health services, inpatient substance abuse treatment, adult outpatient mental health and substance use services, adolescent outpatient services, and telehealth. Care is provided through a multidisciplinary team that includes board-certified psychiatrists, medical providers, registered nurses, LPNs, licensed social workers, case managers, and milieu and activity therapists.

The Therapy Plaza model was also highlighted. Based on diagnosis and assessment, patients are assigned to one of three treatment tracks: Thought & Mood, Trauma, or Dual Diagnosis. Patients participate in targeted therapeutic programming outside of their units, including art, music, and recreation therapies.

Ms. Smith reviewed Windsor Laurelwood's SWOT analysis, and FY26 utilization data. Windsor Laurelwood reported 4,486 total admissions, with Lake County-funded admissions including 8 child/adolescent admissions, 65 adult mental health admissions, and 15 detox admissions. The average daily census was 92, and the average length of stay was 7.4 days.

Outcome and satisfaction measures were compared with FY25. The overall inpatient patient satisfaction score remained the same. Clinical outcome measures continued to show high rates of statistically meaningful improvement. Additional FY26 satisfaction measures were reviewed across areas such as dignity and respect, safety, treatment planning, staff responsiveness, therapy groups, medication understanding, and discharge planning. Windsor Laurelwood's 2026 goals include stabilizing staffing and increasing retention, building the leadership team, participating in job fairs, scheduling town halls with the CEO, improving patient satisfaction, increasing employee engagement and recognition, improving Google reviews, and increasing outpatient offerings and census. A discussion followed as Ms. Smith answered questions from the group.

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

On behalf of the Evaluation/Quality Improvement Committee, Ms. Kramer moved that the full Board accept Windsor Laurelwood's Quality Improvement Plan. Seconded by Ms. Zeroske the Motion Passed Unanimously. (27-006)

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 P.M.

Next Meeting Date is Monday, September 14th at Lake ADAMHS Board office.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

Mr. Phillips reported that the Operations Committee met on Tuesday, August 11th and the following agenda items were discussed:

Board Assistance Review (BAR)

Ms. Fraser reported that a fiscal audit is conducted by Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) every 3 years. Lake County ADAMHS was last reviewed in SFY2019 which covered SFY2016. The current audit covered SFY2024. The Board received a successful review and were praised for accountability and oversight. DBH has come back to our Board for assistance with other audits.

Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS)/Crisis Update

Ms. Fraser reports there are new proposed crisis rules by DBH specifically around adult mobile crisis services. The current MRSS program operated by Ravenwood Health covers Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula Counties, which is mobile crisis for youth with minimal utilization in Lake County. The new DBH rule dictates that those 20 and under MUST be served by MRSS and not alternate mobile crisis team; to date we've used Signature's mobile crisis for all ages in Lake County. Based on new mandate, Lake ADAMHS is partnering with MRSS to promote MRSS in Lake with the goal to ensure youth are linked quickly with crisis services. MRSS and Signature's mobile crisis will work closely together to provide backup and warm handoffs.

FY26 Year-End Data Report

Ms. Fraser presented tracking of various clinical data points over a 10-year period. She stated it helps us identify trends and anomalies. We are unable to track total Lake County psychiatric hospitalizations as UH no longer provides that information to the board. Hotline calls have trended downward over past two years, likely due to more calls going to 988. We'll continue to monitor and determine what the long-term impact will be on our local hotline. We are aware that many local hotlines are sunsetting around the state and moving exclusively to 988 coverage.

School-Based Prevention Update/Menu of Services

Ms. Fraser stated this fiscal year a new partnership with WomenSafe, Family Pride and Lake-Geauga bring prevention services to schools and community. The school-based prevention menu of services was handed out. The menu has just been shared with schools and initial contacts have started.

Crossroads Health – Staff Transition Expenses

Ms. Fraser reported Crossroads Health has requested funding to pay for accrued PTO for staff transitioning to Lake Geauga Recovery Centers into jail programs.

Board Expenditures – Line-item Adjustments

Ms. Fraser stated there were a couple of line items within the Board Operating budget which needed adjusting and they were all budget neutral.

State Opioid and Stimulant Response (SOS) 4.0 Carryover Funding

Ms. Fraser stated we applied for some SOS 4.0 Year 1 carryover funding and were awarded funding for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), Recovery Housing furnishings and vaccines.

Extended Housing Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) Housing Subsidies

Ms. Fraser stated PATH MHBG funding was awarded as pass through funding from DBH.

Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers – Addiction Treatment Program (ATP)

Ms. Fraser stated Addiction Treatment Program funding was awarded and could not be carried over any longer. Since the funding was not fully spent, the funds need to be returned to DBH.

Other:

Ms. Fraser stated Lake ADAMHS has been awarded additional funding for SFY2027 PATH Housing Support and PATH MHBG Housing Support. Funding became available at the very end of SFY2026 and will be carried over into SFY2027.

Ms. Fraser stated additional recovery housing was awarded by DBH in the amount of $45,900.

Ms. Fraser stated we received funding for specialty docket funding for MH Court, SUD Court, and Veterans Court. This is pass through funding from DBH.

Mr. Phillips asked for a motion for the following slate of motions to be presented to the Board:

Motion to recommend to the full Board to enter into a one-time SFY2027 non-Medicaid Grant type contract with Crossroads Health for an amount not to exceed $18,525 for PTO transition costs.

Motion to recommend to the full Board to make the following line-item adjustments to the SFY2027 Lake County ADAMHS Board line-item budget: increase Utilities $11,000 (account #702); increase Hospitalization $12,000 (account #557); decrease Central Pharmacy $23,000 for a budget neutral line-item adjustment.

Motion to recommend to the full Board to enter into a one-time SFY2027 contract with Lake Geauga Recovery Centers in amount not to exceed $52,950 ($36,232 for MAT; $16,718 for Recovery Housing furnishings) and Signature Health for an amount not to exceed $15,500 (vaccines) for SOS 4.0 Carryover funding.

Motion to recommend to the full Board to enter into a one-time SFY2027 non-Medicaid Grant type contract with Extended Housing for an amount not to exceed $32,000 for Housing Support – PATH MHBG funding.

Motion to recommend to the full Board to invoice Lake Geauga Recovery Center in the amount of $56,018.23 for Addiction Treatment Program funding.

Motion to recommend to the full Board to enter into a one-time SFY2026 non-Medicaid Grant type contract with Extended Housing for an amount not to exceed $21,389.18 for Housing Support – PATH. Housing Support – PATH $10,200; Housing Support – PATH MHBG $11,189.18

Motion to recommend to the full Board to enter into a SFY2027 non-Medicaid Grant type contract with Lake Geauga Recovery Centers for an amount not to exceed $45,900 for Recovery Housing.

Motion to recommend to the full Board to enter into a one-time SFY2027 non-Medicaid contract with Mentor Municipal Court in the amount of $85,000 for MH and Drug Court and Willoughby Municipal Court in the amount of $75,000 for Veterans Court.

Mr. Phillips motioned to recommend to the full Board to approve the slate of motions as presented at the Operations Committee meeting on August 12, 2026. Seconded by Mr. Hatton, the Motion Passed Unanimously. (27-007)

As there was no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: 10/13/2026 at 5:30 p.m.

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. Kalb moved that the Board approve the August bills totaling $1,506,094.12 be paid as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Phillips and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (27-008)

GOOD OF THE GROUP:

Ms. McLeod announced Extended Housing will be hosting Partners In Purpose on September 23rd from 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. at the Wellness Center.

As there was no further business, Mr. Hatton made a motion to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kramer. (27-008)

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Parker
Chair

Carl Dondorfer
Secretary