LAKE COUNTY ADAMHS BOARD

Board Meeting
Monday, September 21, 2026
6:00 p.m.
Lake County ADAMHS Board, 9237 Mentor Ave., Unit B, Mentor

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

ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Nicole Parker – Chair
Carl Dondorfer
Mike Hatton
Kristin Hess
Pam Kurt
Martin Phillips
Beverly Schilero
Jeff Taylor
Frances Webb
William Wilson
Joanne Zeroske

Members Excused:

Roberta Kalb
Frank Kovacic
Stacy Kramer
Philip Orley

Staff Present:

Kim Fraser, Executive Director
Jackie Bruner, Director of Business Operations
David Schick, Director of Marketing & Communications
Amy Tulenson, Fiscal & Reporting Specialist

Guests:

Carol Casey	Bridges	David Malinowski	Fine Arts Association
Jonathan Clemente	Bridges	Tia Lawrence	Torchlight
Angi Daugherty	Family Pride	Shari Thompson	Catholic Charities
Nicole Abbott	WomenSafe	Michelle Bertman	Lake Geauga Recovery
AnnMarie Gunsch	Crossroads	Brant Duda	Strategy Design Partners

MINUTES OF MEETING:

Ms. Zeroske moved to accept the minutes of the August 16, 2026 Board meeting as mailed. The motion was seconded by Ms. Schilero, the Motion Passed Unanimously. (27-009)

CORRESPONDENCE:

Ms. Fraser reported a letter was received from Ohio Department of Behavioral Health awarding the Lake County ADAMHS Board $41,250 for FFY 2027 Bipartisan Safer Community Act (BSCA) Behavioral Health Disaster Preparedness Projects. This funding is used for our Code Blue program through Lifeline when the weather is too cold for it to be safe to be outside.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

Beginning Cash Balance	$3,335,601.61
Plus: Cash Receipts for the Month	$1,323,161.08
Total to Account For	$4,658,762.69
Minus: Cash Disbursements for the Month	$1,531,440.50
Ending Period Adjustments	$ 0.00
Ending Cash Journal Balance	$3,127,332.19

Ms. Schilero moved to accept the financial report for the month of August 2026 as read. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dondorfer and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (27-010)

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 thanked the Hometown Heroes who were recognized at the Lake County Captains game on August 13,2026 for their hard work and dedication to the behavioral health system. Ms. Fraser reported that, despite the weather, the 2nd annual Recovery Concert of Hope was a success. She thanked the Fine Arts Association for hosting and agency partners for being there to provide information.

Ms. Fraser provided board updates including the following: management has begun interviewing for a new Administrative Assistant. Board committees are up and running. Board merchandise is available to board members for purchase. Board members are reminded that they are invited to attend system-wide events, with no financial commitment required. Ms. Fraser reminded that the Annual Board Member training will be in the spring and if you have a topic you would like covered, please let staff know. There will be no Board meeting in November, and our annual Holiday Open House will be held prior to the December Board Meeting.

Ms. Fraser provided a brief overview of the Property Tax one-pager, which was included in board member packets. The one-pager will be sent electronically to all board members and contract agencies following the board meeting.

Ms. Fraser informed the Board that Lake ADAMHS and the Lake County General Health District are encouraging all Lake County school districts to participate in the Ohio Healthy Youth Environments Survey (OHYES), which collects anonymous data on student health, mental health, substance use, and related factors affecting youth.

Ms. Fraser provided an overview of the proposed FY27-FY29 Strategic Plan. This strategic plan establishes a shared direction for improving mental health, addiction, and recovery services across Lake County. The plan focuses on strengthening the network of providers, improving accountability, and ensuring long-term organizational sustainability. She shared the proposed mission and vision. Ms. Fraser shared the three overarching goals of: A Collaborative and Connected Network, a High Performing and Accountable System, and A Trusted and Sustainable Organization, in addition to supporting strategies. Ms. Fraser outlined Year One Priorities for each Goal. Ms. Fraser stated that once the plan is approved by the Board, staff will be responsible for the implementation of the Action Plan, along with the development of a dashboard which will be shared with the Board on a quarterly basis to report progress.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Mr. Hatton moved that the full Board approve the Culture of Quality Policies and Procedures as presented.

- Mission, Vision, Values Policy (01-01-07)
- Personnel Files Policy (04-07-26)
- Board Bed Placement Policy (07-01-26)
- Service Utilization and Threshold Policy (07-02-26)
- Ransomware Policy (09-01-26)

The motion was seconded by Mr. Phillips and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (27-011)

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Mr. Taylor moved that the full Board enter a one-time FY27 Non-Medicaid grant-type contract with Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers for an amount not to exceed $11,068.98 for diagnostic assessment and individual counseling services in the Lake County Juvenile Detention Center. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zeroske and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (27-012)

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Ms. Kurt moved that the full Board enter a one-time FY27 Non-Medicaid grant-type contract with Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers for an amount not to exceed $8,000.00 ($6,960 treatment, $1,040 ATP court admin funds) for Addiction Treatment Program (ATP). The motion was seconded by Mr. Phillips and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (27-013)

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Mr. Dondorfer moved that the full Board enter a one-time FY27 Non-Medicaid grant-type contract with Lake County Sheriff's Department for an amount not to exceed $45,907.00 for 1st Half SFY27 Jail CBCF Behavioral Drug Program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hatton and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (27-014)

EVALUATION/QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:

Mr. Taylor reported that the Evaluation/Quality Improvement Committee met on Monday, September 14th and the following agenda items were discussed:

Quality Improvement Review of UH Lake Health Ms. Hearn-Vance shared a PowerPoint on UH Lake Health reviewing the organization's Concord Behavioral Health Unit It is a 20-bed unit that provides inpatient psychiatric services for adults over the age of 18. The multidisciplinary team's daily focus includes psychiatry, internal medicine, nursing, social work, recreation therapy, nutrition, music and expressive therapy groups.

UH Lake Health works hard to prioritize the ADAMHS Board Care Continuum by providing high-quality psychiatric services to Lake County residents in need of inpatient stabilization. The utilization review process is followed closely to ensure responsible stewardship of county funding. In collaboration with ADAMHS providers and community partners, UH Lake Health works to develop safe discharge plans early in the stay. In FY26, UH Lake Health admitted 18 patients for inpatient psychiatric care, accounting for a total of 158 bed days (49 covered by UH). The average length of stay was 11 days. Of the patients admitted, 61% were female and 39% were male. There was 1 readmission during the fiscal year.

Mr. Varanese noted that on September 9th they became a closed unit in the hospital and only their trained staff works in the unit. They are working towards having Behavioral Technicians who have more education in mental health.

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.

On behalf of the Evaluation/Quality Improvement Committee, Mr. Taylor moved that the full Board accept UH Lake Health's Quality Improvement Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hatton and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (27-015)

Quality Improvement Review of BRIDGES: Mental Health Consumer Empowerment Mr. Clemente shared a PowerPoint on BRIDGES: Mental Health Consumer Empowerment (MHCE) which is a non-clinical, consumer-operated, peer-run organization led by a volunteer Board of Trustees made up of individuals living with mental health challenges. The organization's mission is to create, maintain and expand a safe welcoming and supportive environment where mental health consumers can make informed choices, strengthen their independence and empower themselves. We educate, inform and advocate at the local, state, and federal levels to promote understanding, recovery, wellness and consumer empowerment.

This past year Bridges MHCE Board of Directors collaborated with staff to generate a vision statement, distinguish core values and refine their current mission statement. The agency also implemented new groups, are working on a quarterly newsletter and launching a website by the end of the year.

Mr. Clemente shared that the agency's peer outreach, number of activity center participants and recovery

group visits have all increased each year since FY24. Activity center referrals are received through several avenues such as provider agencies, family members and peer outreach day.

Chuck, who is the Bridges MHCE Board Chair, shared his experience at Bridges giving a testimony on how Bridges has given him a community of people to be around and tell his story. He has come to a place where he is not only a member but is helping others.

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.

On behalf of the Evaluation/Quality Improvement Committee, Mr. Taylor moved that the full Board accept BRIDGES' Quality Improvement Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dondorfer and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (27-016)

Next Meeting Date: Monday, October 5, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at Concord Pines, 760 Oak Street, Painesville

As the **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE** *did not meet since the last full Board meeting, the Board moved on to the next agenda item*

LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT:

Mr. Hatton reported that the Long-Range Planning Committee met on Monday, September 14th and the following agenda items were discussed:

Review & Approve Draft Mission & Vision Mr. Duda shared quotes from surveys during the strategic planning surveys. He presented a draft mission, "Improving the quality of life for the people of Lake County by leading and investing in a coordinated, effective system of mental health, addiction, and recovery services". The committee discussed the mission.

Mr. Duda presented a draft vision, "A Lake County, where people have access to the care and support they need to live their best lives". The committee discussed the vision.

The committee brainstormed on words which will be the most impactful for a mission statement. A lot of discussion took place by all present.

Review & Approve the Draft Goals & Strategies Ms. Fraser stated there are 3 strategic plan goals: A Collaborative & Connected Network, A High-Performing & Accountable System, and A Trusted & Sustainable Organization. She reviewed the strategies for a collaborative & connected network which includes Improve system-wide coordination between provider agencies; incentivize and monitor partner collaboration; examine opportunities to address key service gaps, including senior services and crisis response; explore using digital tools to improve navigation, communication, and service accessibility.

Mr. Rowles talked about sample metrics for the Collaborative & Connected Network goal.

Ms. Fraser reviewed A High-Performing & Accountable System which includes develop a community-wide dashboard to share community-and system-level success metrics, such as client satisfaction, retention, utilization, and long-term outcomes; create consistent tool and criteria to evaluate grantees; conduct scenario planning for potential funding reductions and changing community needs.
Ms. Bruner talked about sample metrics for the High-Performing & Accountable System goal.

Ms. Fraser reviewed A Trusted & Sustainable Organization which includes develop an organizational succession plan; create long-term financial sustainability and contingency plans; establish and implement a targeted outreach and engagement strategy; expand workforce development, training, education, and professional development opportunities; maintain and strengthen the Board's role as a statewide leader to shape state and local practices and policies.

Mr. Schick talked about sample metrics for the Trusted & Sustainable Organization goal.

Ms. Fraser reviewed what the Board's year one priorities for our network, system, and organization.

On behalf of the Long-Range Planning Committee, Mr. Hatton moved that the full Board approve the Lake County ADAMHS Board revised Mission, Vision, and FY27-FY29 Strategic Plan. The motion was seconded by and the motion was seconded by Ms. Schilero and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (27-017)

Next Meeting Date: TBD

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to bring before the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

Payment of Bills Ms. Zeroske moved that the Board approve the August bills totaling $768,905.78 be paid as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Webb and the Motion Passed Unanimously. (27-018)

GOOD OF THE GROUP:

Ms. Kurt announced there are two agency events this week: Extended Housing's Partners In Purpose on September 23rd from 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. at the Extended Housing Wellness Center and NAMI's walk on Saturday, September 26th at the Lake County Fairgrounds at 10:00 a.m.

As there was no further business, Mr. Hatton made a motion to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Schilero. (27-019)

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Parker
Chair

Carl Dondorfer
Secretary