

Sandusky County Commissioners – 622 Croghan Street, Fremont, OH 43420			2024 MEETING	
Meeting: Board Of Commissioners	Location: Commissioners' Board Room	Date: 2/20/2024	Time: 8:00AM – 9:44AM	
Present: Commissioners: Russ Zimmerman – President; Scott Miller– Vice President; Charles Schwochow				
Present: Theresa Garcia – County Administrator				
Others Present: Sheriff, Tom Fullen, Mircea Handru, Judge Brad Smith				
(*action items)				
AGENDA ITEMS	BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS / ACTION STEPS:	PERSON RESPONSIBLE:	DOLLAR AMOUNT:	MOTION / VOTE
Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance (8:00am)		Russ Zimmerman, President		
*Review & Approval of Commissioner Meeting Minutes, incoming Mail Review & External Meeting Notices	The 2/15/2024 minutes were reviewed/approved by the Board. The Board reviewed incoming mail and external meeting notices.	Russ Zimmerman Scott Miller Charles Schwochow		*Motion: Move to Approve minutes Moved by: Scott Miller 2nd: Charles Schwochow Yes – 3
Review of External board / Meetings Attended by Commissioners	Commissioner Miller attended the Airport Board meeting last Thursday. FAA council was also in the meeting along with council from the accounting group. During the discussion they talked about the fact the Airport is in debt and needs new equipment and how do you replace this equipment without funds. They asked if the Commissioners could assist. Commissioner Miller stated he would like to see a plan presented to the Commissioners and not just a general ask. All agreed they wanted to see a plan for needs along with a plan to pay for the needs. They are going over contracts and lease agreements to make sure they are current and beneficial to the airport. This board is already proving they will get things done. Administrator Garcia is going to research what responsibilities the Commissioners have for the buildings at the airport.	Scott Miller		

	Commissioner Zimmerman attended the Madison Township meeting. They talked about the lack of zoning in the township. They have about 40 – 50 acres in the Township that someone wants to use for a Solar Field. They wanted to know if there was anything they needed to do and if they could put restrictions on the plan. Because they have no zoning there is not much they can negotiate other than cleanup of the field when it is no longer used.	Russ Zimmerman		
Commissioners and Administrator Discussion	Commissioner Miller noted that John Willey, Regional Planning Director, resigned last week.	Scott Miller		
* Then /Now Documents	None			
* Personnel	None			
* Travel Requests	None			
Sheriff	Chris Hilton – Sheriff. Sheriff came in for his regular meeting with the Commissioners. Prisoner transport may need more funding. Their Tasers are going to need to be replaced. He may have special funds to cover this for this year and will have to work on maintenance fees for the next couple years. Sheriff talked about how important the Tasers are and how they are used. Commissioner Miller asked if there was any other equipment they knew would have to be replaced in the next year or two. Sheriff noted possibly they will have to replace guns in the next couple years. March 20th will be the next IGNITE graduation event. The program is expanding Nationwide and Sandusky County program is a model program right now. They are attempting to track graduates to see how they are doing. They are struggling to get consistent internet for the program.	Chris Hilton - Sheriff		
Mental Health Board	Mircea Handru – Mental Health Board. Mircea came in for a regular meeting with the Commissioners. Mircea provided updates on the Village House. They have a signed lease with the Church. They have been working on an inventory list on items to be donated to the Mental Health Board for the building. Mircea toured the house with Melanie Allen and Sarah Zimmerman to see what type of inventory they would want to keep. They do need	Mircea Handru – Executive Director		

	<p>to do some renovations. Board of DD has received a grant to assist with some of the renovations including handicap entrance, sensory rooms and accessible restrooms. They are hoping to open back up this summer. Mircea plans to come back to the Commissioners with a budget to ask for some of the Opioid funds for assistance with the renovations. He is talking to some non-profits to ask for help. He has visited other organizations that provide observed visitation services. They will most likely need to hire Visitation Managers who will have to provide different assistance depending on the Tier of Visitation needed. Judge Brad Smith, Juvenile Court Judge, came in with Mircea to express his thanks on how they are moving forward with the Village House. Mircea plans to put together financials showing expenses and revenue coming in to bring to the Commissioners. Mircea provided an update on the One Ohio funding. This March funding will be released to the Regions. They have PR ready to send out when there are listening sessions on how to apply for funds. Mircea did present the annual fiscal report from the Mental Health Board (see attached).</p>			
* Resolutions	<p>2024 – 77 APPROVING APPROPRIATION TRANSFER IN REVOLVING LOAN FUND FROM CAPITAL OUTLAY TO FEES (\$230.44) FOR GLCAP ADMIN FEES</p>	Revolving Loan Fund	\$230.44	<p>*Motion: Move to Approve resolution Moved by: Charles Schwochow 2nd: Scott Miller Yes – 3</p>
	<p>2024 - 78 APPROVING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO DOG KENNEL CONTRACT SERVICES (\$800.00) FOR BACK FLOW PREVENTOR TO WATER LINE</p>	Dog Kennel	\$800.00	<p>*Motion: Move to Approve resolution Moved by: Scott Miller 2nd: Charles Schwochow Yes – 3</p>
Public Open Session	<p>Citizens Attendees – none Media Attendees – Tom Fullen, Eagle 99 Elected Officials – Chris Hilton, Sheriff. Brad Smith, Juvenile/Probate Judge.</p>			
* Adjournment	With business completed for the day the meeting was			* Motion: Move to adjourn

(9:44am)	adjourned.			Moved by: Scott Miller 2nd: Charles Schwochow Yes - 3
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Signature of:

Russ Zimmerman, President

Scott Miller, Vice President

Charles Schwochow

Board of County Commissioners, Sandusky County Ohio

Attest:
Clerk to the Board / County Administrator

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Board of Commissioners, Sandusky County, Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy from the official record of said Board of County Commissioners as recorded in its Journal.

Clerk, Board of County Commissioners, Sandusky County, Ohio

FISCAL YEAR 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Board Members

Charity Ames	Kellee Hoover
Mark Apple	Pamela McLaurin
Charlie Bassett	Matthew Otermat
Dean Bliss	Tony Paulus
Marsha Bordner	Luke Riesen
Pat Del Turco	Celinda Scherger
Markus Finley	Karen Van Horn
Dee Frankart	Ruth Watson
Kurtiss Hirt	Polly Woodard



MHRSB
Mental Health & Recovery Services Board
SENECA, OTTAWA, SANDUSKY & WYANDOT COUNTIES

WHO WE ARE

The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Ottawa, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties is a volunteer Board made up of community members representing the counties it serves. The Board is empowered to plan, develop, fund, administer and evaluate the local system of care for mental health and addiction services. Responsibilities include establishing a unified system of prevention, treatment, and recovery support services. The Board is uniquely positioned to rapidly identify and effectively respond to evolving community needs through federal, state and local levy funds received. Local levy funds allow the Board to independently plan and implement much needed community services such as in-school counseling, community mental health and addiction education, crisis intervention team training for first responders, critical incident stress management teams, child support services in partnership with other local organizations, housing assistance for individuals with mental illness, and other support services.

Promote healthy and drug-free communities

Ensure quality mental health and addictions services

Values

Financially accountable and outcome driven

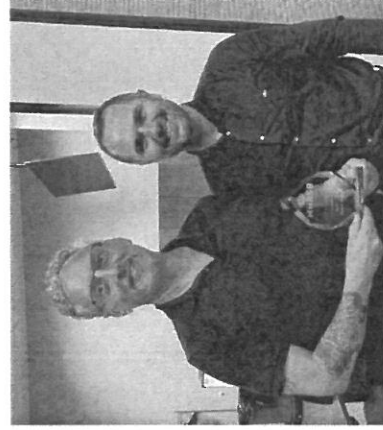
Promote culturally sensitive and innovative services

Our Vision

Healthy, stigma-free communities with resources that support recovery.

Our Mission

Establish high quality, innovative, cost effective and culturally sensitive mental health and addiction services.



Pamela McLaurin receives an award for 8 years of volunteer service to the Board.

Pat Del Turco receives an award for 8 years of volunteer service to the Board.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUMMIT



From left to right: Amber Smith, Michelle Clinger, and Bobbie Boyer answer questions in regards to 988.

On August 29, 2022, the Board held it's first Behavioral Health Summit at the Ottawa County Fairgrounds. The event featured speakers in the mental health and recovery field such as Amber Smith, Director of Crisis Services for the Nord Center; Bobbie Boyer, Deputy Director for Prevention Services of Ohio MHAS; Michelle Clinger, Clinical Director for Firelands Counseling and Recovery Services; Dr. Philip Atkins, Chief Care Coordination Officer for OhioRISE; Tony Coder, Executive Director of the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation; and Mircea Handru, Executive Director of the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Ottawa, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties.

The goals of the summit were to educate our community stakeholders on information about 988, OhioRise, the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation and how the Board is serving the residents in our counties. Legislators were also featured and included, Representative D.J. Swearingen, Senator Theresa Gavarone, Representative Gary Click and Senator Bill Reineke. They discussed what actions they are taking at the state level for mental health and recovery support services.

There were 78 individuals in attendance from our service providers and community partners. At the end of the summit, there was a survey conducted. Of the 17 providers that completed it, 88% stated they strongly agree the Board is supportive of their organization and the services they provide. Individuals also stated that they would like to see the Board focus on education, work force development, and housing for mentally ill individuals.



Attendees listen to Dr. Philip Atkins speak about OhioRISE.

988 LIFELINE



On July 16, 2022, the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline was launched as a transition from the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255). The Lifeline provides free 24/7 confidential support from a licensed counselor to people in mental or emotional distress. “The need for quick, easy and reliable access to emotional support and crisis counseling has never been greater,” said Tom Coderre, Acting Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use and the interim head of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Research indicated that most calls to the Lifeline could be managed and resolved through a consultation over the phone. If a person needs an emergency in-person response, 988 counselors are trained to connect the person in crisis with a mobile response team, which may be a behavioral health team or first responder team (or a combination of both) who will meet the person at their place of crisis. The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline also offers services for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing, veterans, and Spanish-speaking individuals.

In fiscal year 2023, Seneca County had a total of 154 calls, Sandusky County had 195 calls, Ottawa County had 318 calls and Wyandot County had 27 calls to the 988 hotline. The highest month was June 2023 with a total of 130 calls. The smallest number of calls in a month was September 2022 with 6 calls.

The Board has distributed 988 materials to Tiffin City Schools, Vanguard Sentinel, Upper Sandusky Middle School, Norwalk State Patrol, county fairs and other local community events. Business cards, posters, magnets, and stickers are free to order on SAMHSA’s website in the 988 Partner Toolkit section.



HOPE RECOVERY NETWORK AT OAK HOUSE

Hope Recovery Network started in June 2022 through Oak House in Port Clinton. Hope Recovery Network is a peer support service that serves residents from Seneca, Ottawa, Sandusky or Wyandot Counties. Their mission is to support those striving to overcome mental health and/or substance use disorders using strength-based goal setting while sharing their lived experience overcoming similar challenges. Through this mutual partnership, they work to help individuals attain a better life and to thrive in the face of difficulty.



Peer supporters and their clients gather for a Christmas party.

Peer supporters are trained and certified in using their experience to help others impacted by mental illness or substance use disorders. They have skills such as empathy and encouragement, as well as experience that help them better serve the individuals they work with.

Certified peer supporters are required to complete an approved 40 hour training or have three years of verifiable work experience providing behavioral health peer services. They also must pass an approved exam, sign and agree to the Ohio MHAS Peer Support Services Code of Ethics and pass their Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) background checks.

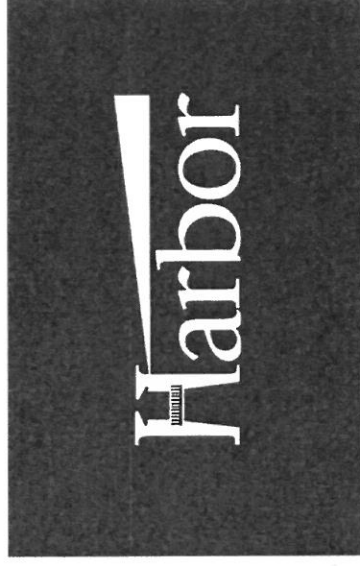
The need for peer support has greatly increased in our four-county district. Hope Recovery Network served 133 individuals with 88 currently receiving services as of the end of 2023. Men and women are both receiving peer support services. Thirty-nine individuals are receiving mental health peer support and 49 are receiving peer support for substance use disorder or both mental health and substance use disorder. There are 52 residents from Ottawa County, 18 residents from Sandusky County and 18 residents from Seneca County receiving peer support services. Wyandot County currently doesn't have any clients within the Hope Recovery Network, but it is available to the residents if the need arises.



Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated by peer supporters and their clients.

HARBOR

The Board selected Harbor as the Wyandot County community mental health and addiction services provider starting March 1, 2023. Harbor plans on providing outpatient mental health and addiction services to Wyandot County residents. Services include individual assessments, counseling, case management, crisis services, linkage to inpatient facilities, discharge planning, mental health and addiction medications and other supports.



On October 19, 2022, Firelands Counseling and Recovery Services issued a 120-Day Notice advising the Board of their plan to discontinue the provision of services in Wyandot County and to close its office effective February 28, 2023. “We are thankful for community stakeholders who assisted our organization in selecting a new provider for Wyandot County. I am very optimistic that Harbor will be able to continue to provide quality mental health and addiction services in Wyandot County. Through various outreach efforts, we are going to keep Wyandot County citizens informed of available mental health and addiction services,” explained Board Executive Director, Mircea Handru.

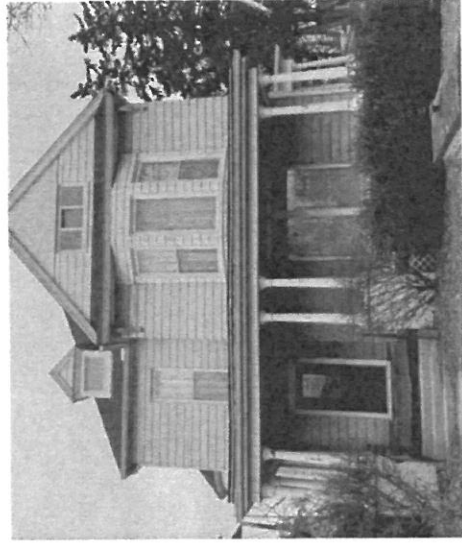
Through June 30, 2023, Harbor served 137 mental health clients, 13 substance use disorder clients, 99 adult clients, 1 medication assisted treatment client, 42 youth clients, 26 crisis clients, and 9 clients at the Wyandot County jail.



Community stakeholders from Wyandot County attended an introductory meeting from Harbor.

Harbor’s previous President and CEO, Donna Jablonski said, “Harbor is pleased to have the opportunity to serve Wyandot County residents providing the supportive services they need for mental health and addiction services. Harbor’s mission is to improve the health and well-being of individuals and families by providing the highest quality compassionate care possible. We look forward to providing the same care to Wyandot County residents.”

LOTUS II - WOMEN'S RECOVERY HOUSE



Lotus II in June 2022.



Lotus II in June 2023.

The Board held an open house for Lotus II, the second women's recovery house in Tiffin on June 22, 2023. Renovations have been made throughout the whole house since it was purchased in June 2022. The house can serve 7 women at a time with 4 bedrooms in the house. The recovery houses are available to any resident in Seneca, Ottawa, Sandusky or Wyandot Counties. The house will be managed by HOPE in Fostoria who oversees the other women's recovery house, Lotus I. Both houses are certified through Ohio Recovery Housing. The goal of a recovery house is to support individuals in recovery from addiction to live in safe, healthy, family-like substance-free living environments. The recovery homes are centered on peer support and connection to services to promote long-term recovery.



Individuals look at before and after pictures of Lotus II at the open house.



Before picture of the living room.



After picture of the living room.

I.G.N.I.T.E. PROGRAM

Sandusky County Sheriff Chris Hilton helped bring the Individual Growth Naturally and Intentionally Through Education (I.G.N.I.T.E.) program to the county. The Board provided funding for the program to educate the inmates on mental health and addiction. At its core, the program offers classes taught by community partners that help inmates with life skills, job preparedness, and post-incarceration work opportunities. It allows the inmates to further their education, achieve certifications and receive mental health services among other opportunities while they serve their time.

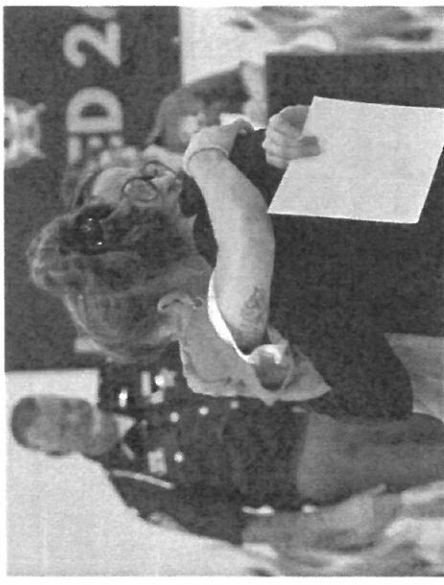
The program is designed to better inmates' outcomes during and after incarceration by participating in educational programs while in jail. Beyond its educational benefits, the program creates a more structured environment for participating inmates and offers incentives. "More or less, it's about making people feel better about themselves and believing in themselves," Hilton said.

As of May 2023, twelve men and five women graduated from the program. All of the graduates had successfully completed several classes offered through the program. The program's courses were offered through the support of local partners that included Green Bay Packaging, Local Ironworkers 55, Croghan Colonial Bank, Corporate Anointing Ministries, Great Lakes Community Action Partnership, Compass Church of Castalia and Beacon Behavioral Health.

"I learned about different obstacles I faced growing up and how to be closer to my mom," a graduate said. "I learned resume and interview skills. I think my job is being held for me when I get out, but I want to get a second job with the skills I learned."



Sheriff Hilton shares his excitement about the overwhelming success of the program.

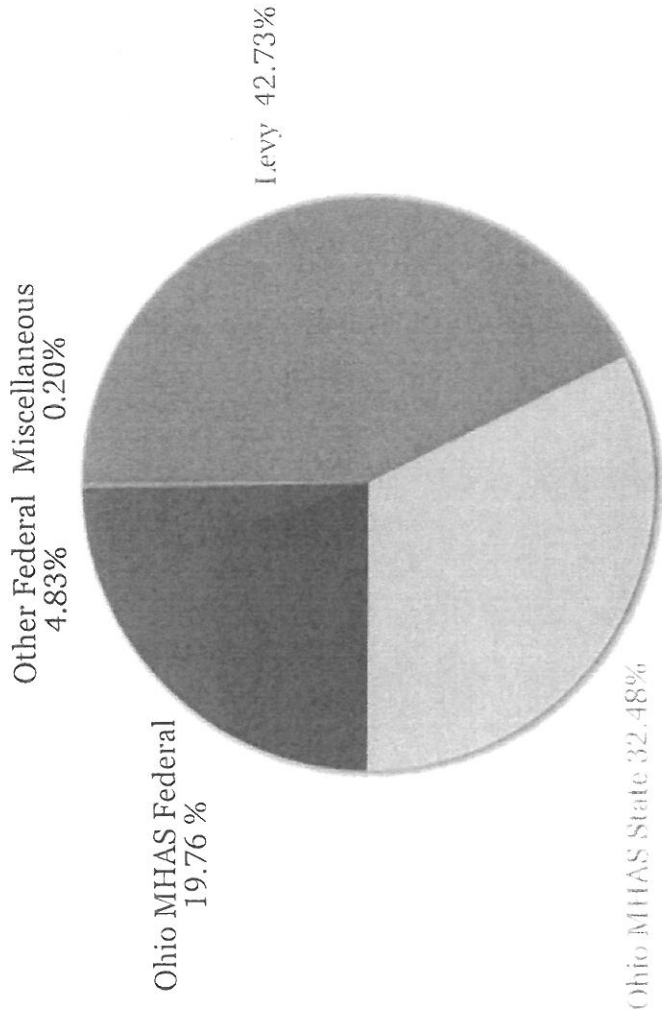


I.G.N.I.T.E program participant Helen Hahn hugs her mom at the I.G.N.I.T.E. graduation ceremony.

FISCAL REPORT

Revenues

Source	Amount	Percentage
Levy Funds	\$ 4,373,370.83	42.73 %
Ohio MHAS State Funds	\$ 3,324,647.00	32.48 %
Ohio MHAS Federal Funds	\$ 2,021,981.70	19.76 %
Other Federal Funds	\$ 494,851.57	4.83 %
Miscellaneous Funds	\$ 20,269.31	0.20 %
Total	\$ 10,235,120.41	100.00%

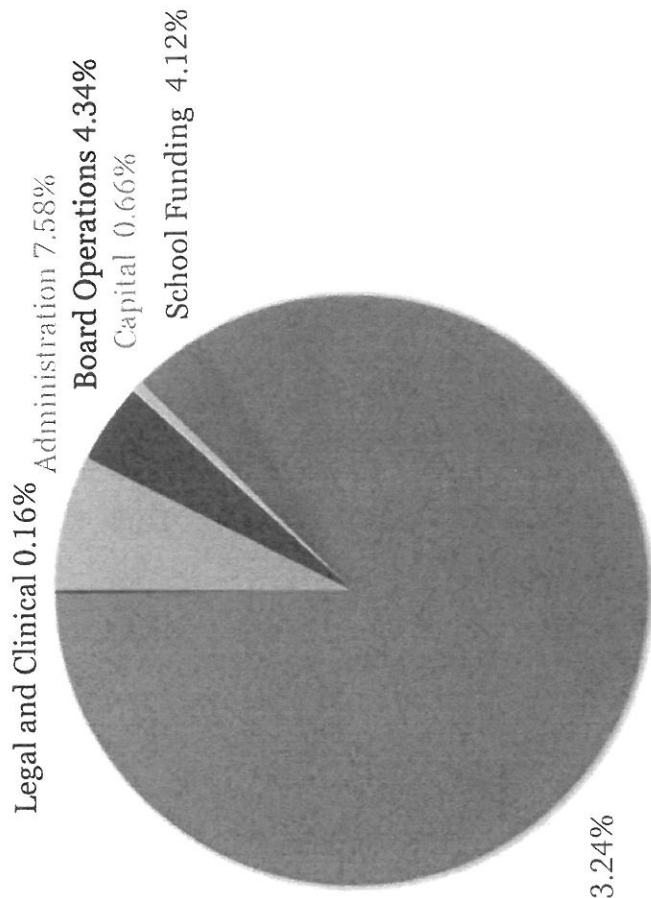


FISCAL REPORT

Expenses

Item	Amount	Percentage
Administration	\$ 704,480.21	7.48 %
Board Operations	\$ 408,556.81	4.34 %
Capital	\$ 62,226.17	0.66 %
School Funding	\$ 388,235.00	4.12 %
Behavioral Health Services	\$ 7,838,366.11	83.24 %
Behavioral Health Legal and Clinical Reviews	\$ 15,236.00	0.16 %

Total **\$ 9,417,070.70** **100.00%**



Behavioral Health Services 83.24%

BOARD STAFF



Mircea Handru

Executive Director



Robin Reaves

Deputy Director



Rose Robbins

Office Manager



Tanya Hemmer

Fiscal Manager



Elyssa Hays

Community Outreach
Coordinator of Seneca
and Wyandot Counties



Nicole Williams

Community Outreach
Coordinator of Ottawa
and Sandusky Counties

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