



MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 15, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: Adam Brown, Michael Aurin, Michael Barton, Kellie Bischoff, Janel Chapman, Sarah Channell, Adam Davis, Jake Fishman, Amy Hamilton, Beau Michael, James Pleasant, Tracy Thien, Jasmine Rausch, Scott Zwiezinski

MEMBERS ABSENT:

MEMBERS ZOOM:

STAFF PRESENT: Adam Negley, Lindsay Altizer, Dr. Randi Bargo-Smith, MacKenzie Poling, Allison Bruner, Halle DuMoulin-Camella, Kathryn Tummino

STAFF ABSENT: Holly Zweizig

GUESTS ZOOM: Kasey Bisch, Denise Casto, Bethan Miller, Julli Griesheimer, Bethan Miller, Holly Novak, Amanda Wattenberg, Hattie Tracy

GUESTS PRESENT: Vanessa Humphrey, Jennifer Rigano

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

MISSION STATEMENT: Fishman read the MHRBUC Mission Statement.

PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT: Coleman Health Services - Coleman Health Services, led by President & CEO Hattie Tracy, introduced their organization and services. Founded in 1978, Coleman operates in 58 Ohio counties, serving 31,000–41,000 individuals annually with about 850 employees and \$82M in FY25 revenue. Services include psychiatry, counseling, case management, peer support, employment programs, crisis intervention, 988 call centers, OhioRISE care management, guardianship, payeeship, and permanent supportive housing. Coleman emphasizes filling gaps rather than duplicating services. In Union County, Coleman serves as the Regional Managing Partner for Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) for youth under 21, partnering with Maryhaven. Since September, there have been 35 calls and 33 evaluations, with most referrals entering stabilization. Adult mobile crisis services will launch Feb. 9 with a staff member embedded in local law enforcement through a OneOhio Recovery grant.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Brown asked members to review the minutes from the December meeting.

***Michael moved; Aurin seconded to accept the October minutes as presented.
Motion carried. No discussion.***

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT – Casto presented the financial report, noting a cash balance of \$3,133,000 and total equity of \$2,962,000. Year-to-date revenues were \$7,236,000 against expenses of \$6,568,000, resulting in a surplus of \$668,000. Revenues are slightly ahead of budget, while expenses reflect the building purchase. Contracts are approximately 56% complete, with most agencies reporting through November. Supporting documents included the balance sheet, budget vs. actual report, QuickBooks reconciliation, and county verification.

***Zwiezinski moved; Barton seconded to accept the Financial Report as presented.
Motion carried. No discussion.***

RESOLUTION 2026-49 – Updated Fiscal Year 2026 Permanent Budget – Altizer presented the revised permanent budget for 2026, noting adjustments primarily related to the new building and associated costs. Revenue increased by \$1 million for anticipated state reimbursement of the capital purchase and an additional \$300,000 donation from Memorial, bringing total revenue to \$9.4 million. Expense updates included debt service payments to Richwood Bank for seven months (November–June), capital costs for the building purchase and one-time improvements, and minor adjustments under provider agreements and grants. Total expenses are projected at \$11.8 million, offset by \$2.8 million from capital reserves, resulting in a net income of \$529,000.

***Fishman moved; Hamilton seconded to approve the permanent budget as presented.
Motion carried. No Discussion.***

RESOLUTION 2026-50 – Calendar Year 2026-2028 Community Assessment and Plan – Negley reviewed the Community Assessment and Plan, a required submission to the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health due January 30, covering calendar years 2026–2028. Negley reported the plan includes an assessment of current behavioral health needs, goals and objectives across the continuum of care (prevention through recovery supports), and inventories of crisis systems and contracted services. This cycle introduces a streamlined approach for easier monitoring and quarterly reporting, with no major changes from current priorities.

***Channell moved; Zwiezinski seconded to approve the CY 2026-2028 CAP as presented.
Motion carried. No Discussion.***

RESOLUTION 2026-51 – Ohio Department of Behavioral Health Capital Application – Negley reported that the Board is prepared to submit its application to the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health for \$1 million in reimbursement for the purchase of 715–717 South Walnut Street. Pre-application documents have been provided, and the state’s capital team visited and toured the facility in December. The resolution approved today authorizes the application process and permits the Executive Director and Board Chair to execute required documents, including a 20-year forgivable mortgage and promissory note. The application will be submitted promptly, with timing dependent on placement on the Controlling Board agenda.

***Chapman moved; Bischoff seconded to approve the capital application as presented.
Motion carried. No Discussion.***

RESOLUTION 2026-52 –SAMHSA Grant Cancellation –

Negley presented a resolution formally condemning SAMHSA’s termination of the CMHI and Project AWARE federal grants. The resolution affirms the devastating impact these actions would have on Union County’s Youth System of Care and school-based mental health infrastructure, calls for immediate review by federal and state authorities, and directs the Executive Director to pursue advocacy and funding strategies to mitigate harm and sustain essential services.

***Zwiezinski moved; Rausch seconded to approve the capital application as presented.
Motion carried. No Discussion.***

RESOLUTION 2026-53 –Temporary Funding –

Negley presented a resolution to authorizing the temporary use of alternative Board-controlled funding sources to cover eligible federal grant-funded positions within contracted provider agencies through January 31, 2026, in response to the uncertainty surrounding SAMHSA grant terminations.

***Rausch moved; Zwiezinski seconded to approve the capital application as presented.
Motion carried. No Discussion.***

DIRECTOR’S REPORT –

SAMHSA Grant Termination Update- Negley reported that the Board received notice late on January 13 that all SAMHSA grants were terminated effective immediately, prohibiting further expenditures. This caused significant disruption and concern for providers and the community. Subsequent media reports indicate the decision may have been overturned, though no official confirmation has been received from SAMHSA. The Board discussed contingency plans, including resolutions to use non-federal funds for personnel expenses through January and to advocate for grant reinstatement if necessary. Potential impacts include loss of school-based prevention services, family peer support, early childhood mental health consultation, and other programs funded by Project AWARE and Building Strong Foundations. Board members expressed appreciation for staff efforts under difficult circumstances and committed to supporting advocacy efforts.

HUD Funding Update - Negley reported that HUD has re-released its previous NOFO following a court stay on recent changes that de-emphasized permanent supportive housing. If this decision holds, current grants will continue for another year as originally intended, which is positive news. However, pending court action could still reverse this and shift priorities toward transitional housing. Ohio is monitoring developments closely, and a training session for grantees is scheduled at the end of the month to guide continuation funding applications. The Board will be updated as the situation evolves.

OLD BUSINESS – December Board Evaluation- Brown reviewed the evaluation and thanked all members who completed the board meeting evaluation report.

NEW BUSINESS –

2026 Board Calendar – Negley presented the 2026 calendar, outlining anticipated actions and meeting topics for the year. The format remains consistent with prior years, with adjustments to accommodate

the continued requirement for 120-day provider notices due to legislative implementation timing, now set for March 30, 2026. A finance subcommittee meeting will occur in February to prepare related materials. Additional priorities include policy and bylaw updates in preparation for the Culture of Quality recertification due in early 2027.

Strategic Plan Update - Negley reported a minor update to the Strategic Plan this quarter, noting completion of the objective related to purchasing the new building, which has been marked as achieved. Other in-progress objectives remain unchanged, as they represent more complex, long-term goals. Timelines will be adjusted as needed, and the Board anticipates pivoting in late spring or early summer to begin updating the Strategic Plan to incorporate new priorities and reevaluate existing goals.

Project AWARE Year 3 Impact Report – Dr. Bargo-Smith presented highlights from the professionally designed annual report summarizing Year Three outcomes of Project AWARE and related initiatives. Key achievements include a significant increase in behavioral health screenings (from 4,000 in Year One to over 17,000 in Year Three), nearly doubling student referrals to mental health services (506 to 978), and training 978 individuals to strengthen workforce capacity. Outcomes also include improved social-emotional learning skills through prevention programming, successful implementation of BCBA services and school-based supports, and notable reductions in disciplinary actions in schools with bryt Rooms (48% decrease in suspensions and 94% decrease in expulsion recommendations). The report underscores the positive impact of these programs on students, families, and school systems, as well as the sustainability of certain structures beyond grant funding.

ADJOURNMENT –

Michael moved; Aurin seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 AM. Motion carried.