



mental health &  
recovery board  
UNION COUNTY

# ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023





## GREETINGS UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY:

I am proud to present our annual report for the fiscal year 2023. The past year has been very busy at the MHRBUC. Our work has continued to grow in critical priority areas while we have maintained services that support individuals who are struggling. We have also continued our efforts to foster a community where recovery is not only possible but celebrated.

Thankfully, COVID-19 no longer governs our daily lives, but some lasting effects of the pandemic are only now beginning to become clear. This is especially evident when we consider the impact on children and their families. Between 2019 and 2022, there was a 57% increase in the number of youth served in the Union County public behavioral health system. Increased anxiety, depression and suicidal thoughts are driving this increase, and nowhere has it become more obvious than within the school setting. To face these issues head-on, in December 2022 the MHRBUC was awarded a four-year, \$7.1 million grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). This funding is being used to drive the growth and development of comprehensive behavioral health services and supports within our school districts.

In Union County, just like everywhere across the nation, law enforcement agencies and courts are too often the first to engage with an individual suffering from a mental illness. In September 2022, the MHRBUC was awarded a three-year, \$549,973 Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program grant from the United States Department of Justice. This funding is being used to continue our partnership efforts with law enforcement and the criminal justice system and embed additional recovery supports alongside those working to keep our community safe.

Bringing federal grant dollars into our community to tackle tough problems not only allows us to expand services, but it also allows us to direct local resources to other critical priorities. In the past year, we have used local property tax levy funds and other local contributions to provide treatment for those who cannot afford it, provide housing for individuals with severe mental illness, and fund services that help seniors stay connected to the community.

While the accomplishments of the past year are many, we must continuously look towards the future and make plans to align with emerging needs. In the spring of 2023, the MHRBUC began a comprehensive strategic planning process. This plan, scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2023, will serve as our "North Star" for the next few years as we navigate the changes brought about by continued rapid growth, increased needs, and our duty to ensure all Union County residents have equal access to comprehensive mental health and addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

Thank you for your continued support of our work,

**Adam Negley**  
Executive Director



## STAFF



Adam Negley  
Executive Director



Holly Zweizig  
Associate Director



Randi Bargo-Smith  
Youth Systems of Care Director



Deb Schaner  
Administrative Assistant



Mackenzie Poling  
Clinical Outcomes Director



Wren Hawkins  
Lead Family Coordinator



Lindsay Altizer  
Finance Director



Nancy Beals  
Drug Free Coalition Coordinator

## BOARD MEMBERS

Janell Alexander Vice Chair  
Savannah Allen  
Michael Barton  
Karen Chuvalas

Kimberly Cutler  
Adam Davis  
Annette Doughty  
Ian Evans Chair

Jake Fishman  
Dr. Amy Garbrecht  
Paula Lynch  
Beau Michael

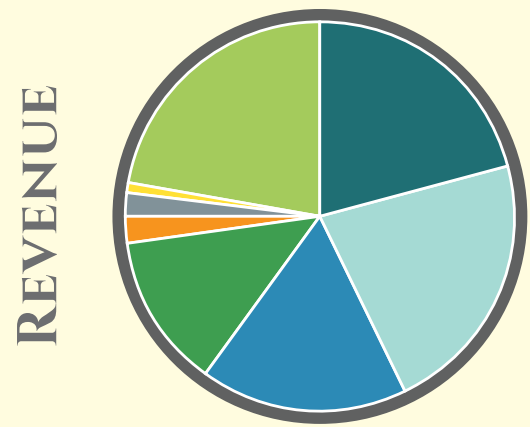
Jasmine Rausch Treasurer  
Glenna Reed Secretary  
Scott Zwiezinski

## FUNDED PARTNERS

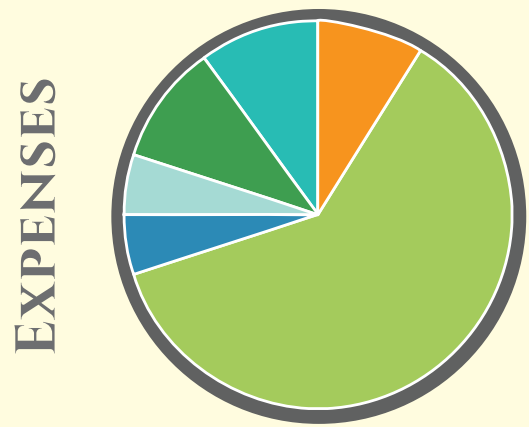




# BUDGET

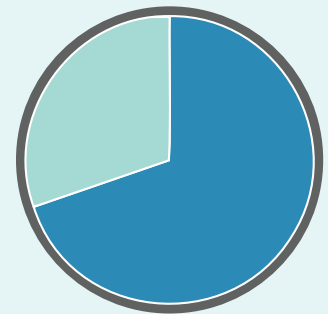


Source	Percentage	Amount
Levy	21%	\$ 1,676,715
State	22%	\$ 1,711,698
Federal	17%	\$ 1,361,667
SAMHSA	13%	\$ 1,014,049
Drug Free Coalition	2%	\$ 131,654
DOJ	2%	\$ 188,079
HUD	1%	\$ 100,064
Misc*	22%	\$ 1,767,985
<i>*includes the sale of Mill Center</i>		
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 7,951,911</b>



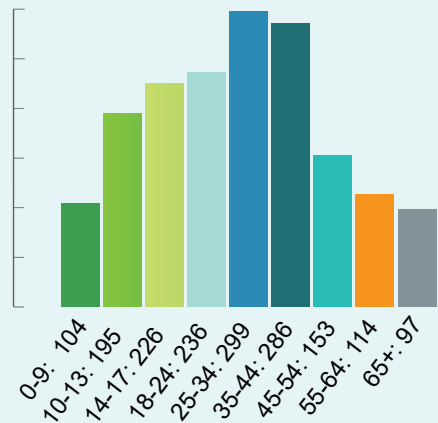
Category	Percentage	Amount
Treatment	9%	\$ 474,790
Community Services	61%	\$ 3,403,191
Peer Support/Employment	5%	\$ 270,360
Prevention	5%	\$ 304,193
Housing	10%	\$ 551,332
Operations	10%	\$ 561,632
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 5,565,498</b>

# BY THE NUMBERS



Category	Count
Adults	1708
Youth	523
<b>Total</b>	<b>1708</b>

Total Served by Age

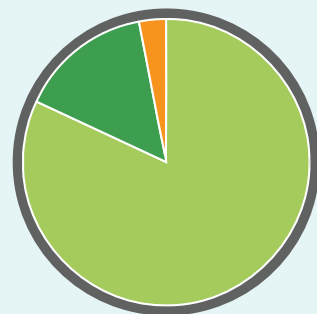


## Top 5 Diagnosis Adults

- 26% Depressive Disorders
- 15% Anxiety Disorders
- 14% Bipolar Disorders
- 12% Opioid Use Disorders
- 7% Post Traumatic Stress Disorders

## Top 5 Diagnosis Youth

- 35% Adjustment Disorders
- 17% Anxiety Disorders
- 15% ADHD/Disruptive Behaviors
- 14% Depressive Disorders
- 5% Post Traumatic Stress Disorders



Category	Percentage
Client Pays Zero	82%
Client Pays Some	15%
Client Pays All	3%

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

Each year the MHRBUC supports local events and partnerships throughout Union County. These are opportunities to work with partner agencies, raise awareness of our local system of care, and celebrate our community. Some of the events we participated in during FY23 include the Union County Suicide Prevention Walk, Veteran & Resiliency Symposium, Opioid Overdose Awareness Day, Red Ribbon Celebration, Marysville Pride Fest, Union County Wellness Fair, Friday Night Uptown, and more.



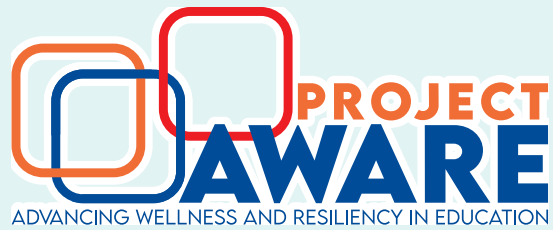
# 2022 AWARD WINNERS

In October 2022, the MHRBUC Board of Directors hosted a dinner and recognition event. The evening was an opportunity to highlight the successes of the MHRBUC and showcase some of the professionals and volunteers who have championed local efforts to support consumers and their families.

The 2022 Award Winners included: Consumer Advocate Award: Natalie Evans - Maryhaven; Seeds of Hope Award: Vanessa Prentice - Prevention Awareness Support Services; Professional of the Year Award: Deputy Morgan Brown - Union County Sheriff's Office; and Community Partner Award: Mike Montgomery - Marysville Division of Fire.







## SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOLS

The MHRBUC was awarded the Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education) Grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) on December 30, 2022. This is an award of \$1,780,932 per year for a total of \$7,123,728 across four years. Project AWARE is supporting the development and expansion of comprehensive school-based mental health systems in Union County including establishing student assistance programs, expanding school-based tiered interventions, supporting student and staff wellness, expanding the school navigation program, implementing school-based family peer support, providing mobile response and stabilization services, and more.



*Project AWARE District Coordinators (L-R): Kathryn Tummino, Thomas Rogan, Halle DuMoulin-Camella*

The Project AWARE District Coordinators (pictured on the right) joined the MHRBUC team to champion the work for Fairbanks, Marysville, and North Union school districts and to partner with their existing multi-tiered system of support teams. The coordinators are working to be responsive to the needs of each district and assist with the expansion of community mental health services and supports for Union County students and families. Other Project AWARE initiatives will expand prevention, screening, early intervention, and behavioral health treatment to reduce barriers and help students and families thrive.

Grant partners include the Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and our community partners, including Marysville Schools, Fairbanks Local Schools, North Union Local Schools, Maryhaven, Wings Support and Recovery, Prevention Awareness Support Services, and Council for Union County Families.

## SUPPORTING OUR FAMILIES

The MHRBUC is committed to a System of Care approach that values the engagement and participation of families and youth in all aspects of our community behavioral health system. Family Peer Support embodies these core values. Family Peer Supporters are highly trained professionals who utilize their lived experience as a parent of a child with mental health concerns. In turn, they support other parents and caregivers of youth experiencing behavioral health challenges. We recognize that family peer support is a critical component in our youth system of care. Last year, we were thrilled to have the opportunity to train over 70 participants across the state of Ohio to bring family peer support to families in need.



*Family Peer Support Trainers (pictured from L-R): Julli Griesheimer (Wings), Wren Hawkins (MHRBUC), Nicole Gerty (CUCF), Tracie Nelson (Wings)*

Research has shown that family peer support increases parents' sense of empowerment, collaboration, and self-efficacy while decreasing internalized blame and family isolation. We are excited to continue to see improved outcomes for youth and families with the additional support of Family Peer Supporters. During the last federal fiscal year, more than 50 families received services from a Family Peer Supporter.

Through Project AWARE, we are excited to integrate Family Peer Supporters into our partner school districts to work with families that would benefit from this level of support.



## SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) is a community program responding to 911 calls that involve a mental health or substance use concern, with the goal of connecting these individuals to treatment and diverting them from the criminal justice system. Union County continues to achieve this goal with 150 CIT calls in FY23 and 97% of those resulting in no further criminal justice involvement. However, little has been done after the initial CIT call to ensure individuals are connected to services and prevent future crisis interactions. To address this, MHRBUC has partnered with the Union County Sheriff's Office and Wings Support & Recovery to implement CIT follow-ups in the community. This involves the CIT Coordinator and a Certified Peer Recovery Supporter personally connecting with the individual post-CIT call to offer support and resources. Local resources can include information related to treatment services, peer support, Narcan for overdose-related calls, and other community resources.

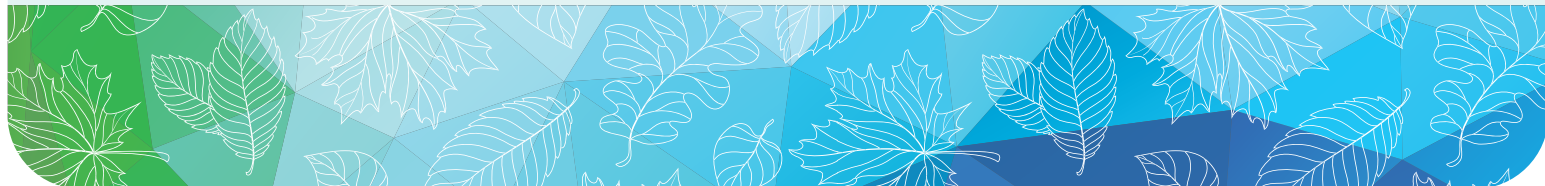
The CIT program and related follow-ups are supported by funding from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the U.S. Department of Justice grant secured by the MHRBUC in 2022.

## PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT

Lower Lights Christian Health Center (LLCHC) offers accessible and affordable healthcare in seven locations in central Ohio. UnionStar is the Marysville location and offers onsite primary care and behavioral health services with access to additional services at the Franklin County office.

Since 2019, MHRBUC has contracted with LLCHC to provide care navigation for patients with substance use disorders in need of medication assisted treatment (MAT) to support their recovery. The program is funded in part by the State Opioid Response funding from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Sarah Channell, MSN, APRN, FNP serves as the Clinical Director of Addiction Services for LLCHC and has led the Union County initiative. Her leadership has created strong partnerships in the community to advocate for addiction treatment services and promote "whole person wellness". "Addiction is a disease that can take over a person's entire life and every thought process. Our goal is to provide support as a client walks their path to recovery and to help them care for themselves in mind, body, and spirit," said Channell. "We want to work with their recovery support team to provide counseling, treatment for all medical concerns, and reconnect clients to their families as well as find positive self-worth. Patients should know they are not alone, and recovery is possible." Also featured is Lauren Levingston, LSW who serves as a MAT Navigator at UnionStar. She works directly with clients to connect them to treatment services and resources within the community to support ongoing recovery needs.

Each year, nearly 100 Union County clients with substance use disorders receive MAT services at UnionStar.







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**MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY BOARD OF UNION COUNTY**

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 937.642.1212

24/7 HOTLINE 800.731.5577 or text 4help to 85511

**mhrbuc.org**

*The Mental Health and Recovery Board of Union County is comprised of citizens, commissioned under Ohio law to serve as the local mental health and substance abuse authority, responsible for planning, funding, and evaluating services. Our mission is to bring about positive mental health and to prevent, reduce, or eliminate the limiting effects of mental illness and addictive behaviors through a community-wide effort.*

