
**MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY BOARD
BELMONT-HARRISON-MONROE COUNTIES**

Minutes of AUGUST 18, 2026

Tuesday, August 18, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.

Members Present: Jamie Betts*, Jessica Cook, Courtney Fiutem, Joe Hise**, Jacquelyn Knight, Caitlyn Romshak, Richard Schenk, Joe Vavra, Nicole Weigand

Members Absent: Lisa Carpenter, John Carr, Stephen Williams

Staff Present: Lisa Ward, Patricia Allen, Lisa Jones, Judi Hanse

Others Present: Todd Hollett, Absolute Business Services

Preliminary

1. Chairperson, Caitlyn Romshak called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.
2. Oath of Office – Nicole Weigand – OH Dept. of Behavioral Health (DBH) Appointment – Oath of Office was administered by Joe Vavra. Ms. Weigand's appointment has been renewed for an additional 4 years.
2. Executive Secretary Judi Hanse called the roll of members. It was noted that a quorum was present.
3. Board Meeting Agenda – August 18, 2026 – **Jacquelyn Knight made a motion, seconded by Richard Schenk to approve the August 18, 2026, Board Meeting Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.** (copy attached)
4. Board Meeting Minutes – July 21, 2026 – **Jessica Cook made a motion, seconded by Jacquelyn Knight to approve the July 21, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.** (copy attached)

*Jamie Betts arrived at 5:37 p.m.

Executive Director's Report – Lisa Ward

1. **Ohio Department of Behavioral Health will assume responsibility for the certification of recovery housing residences throughout Ohio.** Ms. Ward explained that Ohio Department of Behavioral Health has been named responsible for the certifications of recovery housing residences throughout Ohio.
2. **DBH proposed Rule 5122:1-5-01 - Annual budget, financial reporting, and independent financial audit requirements for ADAMH Boards** – Ms. Ward stated that every 5 years the Department reviews rules. In the most recent review 5122:1-5-01 was included regarding ADAMH Board's responsibilities in auditing and monitor providers. OACBHA is waiting to see if more specific procedures will be developed and sent out for review in the coming months.
3. **Update on the remaining ARPA fund amount of \$418,500.00** – Ms. Ward commented the last portion of the ARPA Funds for the CSU/BH Urgent Care project will be released to Coleman Professional Services for \$418,500.00. The Board is just waiting on the Department to send the funds through OAKS.
4. **Planning and Program Meeting September 14th 5:00pm -- Strategic Plan FY2027-FY2030** – Ms. Ward explained that a Planning and Program Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, September 14, 2026 @ 5:00 p.m. to discuss the Strategic Plan for FY2027 – FY2030.

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The committee members consist of: Jamie Betts, Lisa Carpenter, John Carr, Joe Hise, Caitlyn Romshak and Nicole Weigand.

** Joe Hise arrived at 5:41 p.m.

5. **ADAMH Board Spotlight Topic: What is the ADAMH Board responsible for under the ORC 340.03?** – Ms. Ward explained that each month she wants to take the opportunity to provide a brief educational/information spotlight on a topic that pertains to the ADAMH Boards' responsibilities under ORC 340. This month the discussion was focused on the primary role of the ADAMH Boards as a planning agency not a funder.
6. **New Board Member Appointment – Belmont County** – Ms. Ward reported that she heard from Dr. Warren Galbreath, he is interested in coming on the MHR Board. Dr. Galbreath recently retired from Ohio University (Belmont) where he was a professor in the Social Work Department for 25 years and has extensive experience in collaborating with many community partners. Ms. Ward connected Dr. Galbreath with the Belmont County Commissioners office to apply for a Board appointment.

Community Partnerships/Announcements – Director Patricia Allen

1. **SFY27 Ohio 988 Awareness Mini Grants** – Ms. Allen explained that OACBHA has received another Ohio 988 Awareness Grant from DBH that will allow them to offer FY27 mini-grants to Boards. The grant amounts are \$5,000 for the purpose of promoting and increasing awareness of Ohio's 988 Lifeline.
2. **Belmont County Stepping Up Coordinator** – Ms. Allen commented that she has been asked to be the Coordinator of the Stepping Up Program for Belmont County. She explained that Stepping Up is a national initiative targeted at reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in jails and seeks to break the cycle of jail being the de facto mental health hospital. Stepping Up's philosophy and goal is to affect positive change through strong community and statewide partnerships, so persons with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders get connected with the help they need. Ms. Allen also stated that the Stepping Up Initiative and Peg's Foundation is sponsoring a Zoom meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2026 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with retired Ohio Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton and Rick Kellar, President of Peg's Foundation. This meeting will explore how our community can better support individuals with mental health challenges who repeatedly cycle through local correctional facilities – an issue affecting communities across Ohio and the nation.
3. **Appalachia Ohio Suicide Prevention Conference – Wednesday, September 23, 2026 – 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Carnes Center** – Ms. Allen stated that the theme for this year's conference is "From Survival to Systems: Our Appalachian Story," it explores how we move forward together – building stronger connections, sharing knowledge and lived experiences, and creating lasting impact within our communities. Whether you are a behavioral health professional, educator, first responder, faith or community leader, advocate, prevention

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professional, or someone with lived experience, there is a place for you in this conversation. Continuing Education (CE) credits are being applied for.

4. **Closer Than We Think** - Ms. Allen commented that our MHR Board is involved in a project with the other ADAMH Boards across the Appalachian region to work together on a video called "Closer Than We Think," focused on reducing stigma and increasing awareness of mental health issues in our communities. Each Board has been asked to identify and bring 10 people from our area to participate in the filming on September 3, 2026 @ 12:30 p.m. at the Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center in Cambridge, Ohio.

Finance Reports – Executive Director Ward

1. **Presentation of Bills (August 2026):** Ms. Jones presented the bills for the Board system for August 2026 totaling \$371,435.67. She reviewed the vouchers for payment and there is not a Then and Now Certificate. **Richard Schenk made a motion, seconded by Jacquelyn Knight to approve the August 2026 bills totaling \$371,435.67. The motion passed unanimously.** (copy attached)
2. **August Financial Reports**
 - a. **FY2027 Board Revenue and Expenditures Report, and Cash Balance** - Ms. Jones presented the financial reports for Income and Expenses for FY2027. **Joe Vavra made a motion, seconded by Jessica Cook to accept the Financial Reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.** (copy attached)
3. **Belmont County Budget Committee Presentation** – Ms. Ward commented that she attended the Belmont County Budget Committee Presentation with the Belmont County Auditor, Belmont County Treasurer and the Belmont County Commissioners to discuss the MHR Board's 5-year plan from the past and going forward. The meeting went well with positive discussion about the information presented and progress made in developing the continuum of care.
4. **CY 2025 State Audit Update** – Ms. Ward stated that the audit continues to move forward with no new updates to give at this time.
5. **Department of Behavioral Health Audit for 2025** – Ms. Ward explained that the Department of Behavioral Health Audit for 2025, Board Assistance Review (BARS) will officially begin this week. An introduction meeting was held on Monday August 17th with Ms. Nancy James who is the auditor at DBH. She informed us that all reviews are done electronically via email and all meetings will be virtual.
6. **Update on Property Tax Exemption for Newell Avenue** – Ms. Ward reported that it had come to their attention that the Board Offices at 104 Newell Avenue was not acknowledged as tax exempt. Ms. Jones submitted the completed paperwork that was not submitted last summer, and we are waiting on our official letter showing the Newell Avenue address as tax exempt.

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New Business

1. **Vendor Viability & Certificate of Good Standing** – Ms. Ward presented a draft of a policy regarding Vendor Viability & Certificate of Good Standing. **Richard Schenk made a motion, seconded by Joe Hise to approve the Vendor Viability & Certificate of Good Standing Policy. The motion passed unanimously.** (copy attached)
2. **The Village Network – Ribbon Cutting – Residential and Crisis Stabilization Center – Wednesday, August 26, 2026 @ 11:00 a.m. – Bethesda Residential Campus, 40060 National Road, Bethesda, OH 43719** – Ms. Ward reminded the Board that the Village Network will have their Ribbon Cutting for the Youth Residential and Crisis Stabilization Center on Wednesday, August 26, 2026 @ 11:00 a.m. at the Bethesda location.
3. **Donation of Sick Time – Policy** – Ms. Ward referred to a policy regarding Donation of Sick Time in the Board Packet. She asked the Board to review the policy and two attached forms for the donation request and the donor consent form. She explained that after the MHR Board has completed their review she will ask for approval.

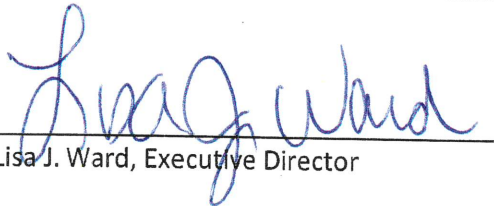
Old Business

There was none.

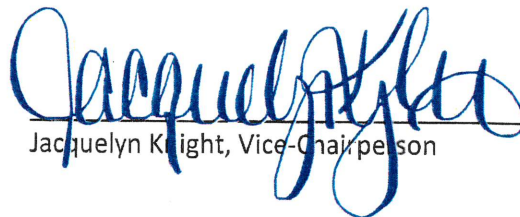
Public Comment

There was none.

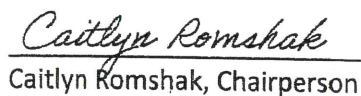
Adjournment - At 6:20 p.m., Richard Schenk made a motion, seconded by Joe Hise to adjourn the August 18, 2026, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.



Lisa J. Ward, Executive Director



Jacquelyn Knight, Vice-Chairperson



Caitlyn Romshak, Chairperson

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 @ 4:30 P.M.
BOARD MEETING: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 @ 5:30 P.M.