



TRUMBULL COUNTY
Mental Health and Recovery Board

Board Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2026 4:30 PM

Members Present: Kevin Stringer, Teri Lacy, Carol Henderson, Maria Placanica, John Hugley, Curtis Green, Lance Grahn, Robert Walton, Cassandra Drumm, Julia Wike*, Matt Martin*, Louise Kline*

Members Absent: Rachel Nader, Laura Green, Laurie Perry, Thomas Harwood

Staff Present: Holly Williams, Patricia Shepherd, Lauren Thorp, Carie Garris, April Caraway, Laura Domitrovich, Valdeoso "Bud" Patterson

Guests Present: Susan Bancroft*, Valley Health Services; Darryl Alexander*, Youngstown UMADAOP; Vince Paolucci*, Alta Care Group, Adria Rovnyak*, Glenbeigh; Matt Kresic*, Cadence Care Network; Noelle Hollis, Aurora Drumm, Jeff Hollis, Dominic Buonopane, Thomas Buonopane, and Logan Drumm

*Denotes Virtual Attendees

Preliminary

1. President Lance Grahn called the meeting to order at 4:34 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Attorney Maria Placanica administered the Oath of Office to Cassandra Drumm as a newly appointed Board member. Remarks of congratulation were extended by her mother, Noelle Hollis, former board member.
3. Secretary Teri Lacy called the roll of members and certified that a quorum was present.
4. President Lance Grahn recognized staff and guests.
5. Robert Walton made a motion, seconded by Kevin Stringer to approve November 18, 2025, Board meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Report from the Executive Director

1. State Update – ED Caraway shared that, in order to get funding from the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health, they must approve our Community Assessment and Plan (CAP) every three years. AD Lauren Thorp took the lead on this project. She surveyed the providers for input, included Community Health Improvement Plan findings and PRIDE survey data from local school districts. Lauren thanked all of the staff who assisted. ED Caraway then announced that the governor officially appointed Tia Moretti as the DBH Director. Tia had previously been appointed Interim Director when Director Cornyn resigned.
2. Local Update – Included in the packet was financial tracking of the Pine project since it started in 2023. The board is still working on closing the last miscellaneous items, such as two more sets of bunk beds. Both female and family units are now full. The TCMHRB is paying for heat and electricity for the Urban League side of the building. ED Caraway shared that Mercy Health's new

free standing behavioral health hospital, Mercy Health Behavioral Hospital, is now open. DBH indigent hospital funds will be used for single case agreements until the funding runs out. Joe Caruso, previously of COMPASS, is CEO. The hospital will not be at full capacity until DBH gives full certification, and is opening in stages, as required. ED Caraway stated that the Board is still seeking an Addiction Programs Coordinator. She then provided copies of the FY2025 Annual Report. President Lance Grahn reiterated that the Board went into the planning of the BH Crisis Center because they recognized the need was there, and the fact that it is already at capacity confirms that need. He congratulated the Board and staff along with partners, Coleman and the Urban League for making it happen. He then commended the staff for providing the budget summary previously reviewed. He said that one of the strengths of this Board and its staff is its transparency. ED Caraway gave credit to CFO Patty Shepherd and Holly Williams for creating the budget sheet.

3. Finance Report – Patty Shepherd, CFO reviewed the November and December 2025 unaudited revenue and expenditure reports. She stated that November still reflected our prior budget before approved adjustments were made, which took effect December 1st. December is the mid-way point of the fiscal year, and it reflects the approved budget adjustments. She also highlighted the \$70,590.56 from the Opioid Abatement Funds designated to us from the commissioners for services provided by Flying HIGH and Meridian. Also reviewed were the HUD grant reports for the end of Federal FY23 and first quarter of Federal FY24, which pay for housing and other services provided by Coleman Health Services.

Committee Reports

1. Addictions and Mental Health Program Committee – Kevin Stringer, Vice President, gave a summary of the meeting that included updates on the Behavioral Health Crisis Center and Sister Jean's Lighthouse. He also mentioned the motion to bring the 2026-28 Community Assessment and Plan (CAP) to the full board for approval. Valley Health Services was the featured program. They have a variety of services that include behavioral health, physical health and dental services and a pharmacy on site.
2. Budget and Finance Committee – Next meeting TBD.
3. Administrative Committee – In Rachel Nader's absence Carol Henderson chaired the January 12th meeting. Committee members reviewed Board Policies, mainly for changing terminology, including DBH (from Ohio MHAS), and added a new cybersecurity policy. The committee recommended policy changes to the full board for approval.

Announcements/Community Partnerships/Information

1. ED Caraway noted the OACBHA one-pager about supporting caregivers.
2. ED Caraway referenced the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation's articles in the packet about prevention for female veterans and prevention in the agricultural community. The Board has done some targeted work in the past with postcards and Man Therapy billboards to promote available resources.
3. ASAP – ASAP's 2026 meetings and events schedule was included in the packet. The Annual Golf Outing was also discussed with Friday July 31st as this year's date.
4. Media items highlighted included good coverage about the reduced overdose numbers. The preliminary report shows that Trumbull County has been on a downward trend over the last 3 years. AD Lauren Thorp will go over the final data at the next meeting.

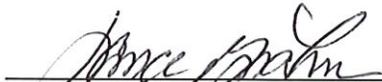
New Business

1. Robert Walton made a motion to approve the November 2025 Revenue and Expenditure Report held subject to audit. Kevin Stringer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
2. Maria Placanica made a motion to approve the December 2025 Revenue and Expenditure Report held subject to audit. Carol Henderson seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.
3. Carol Henderson made a motion to approve Federal FY23 HUD 4th quarter Income & Expenditure reports and close out report. John Hugley seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
4. Kevin Stringer made a motion to approve the Federal FY24 HUD 1st quarter Income & Expenditure reports. Curtis Green seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
5. Teri Lacy made a motion to appoint Crystal Aleshire, LPCC-S, Bill Aley-Byrne, LISW-S, and JoAnna Villanueva, LPC of Axess Family Services, DBA Valley Health Services as Health Officers upon completion of training. Maria Placanica seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
6. Kevin Stringer made a motion to approve the 2026-2028 Community Assessment and Plan (CAP) and signatures of President Lance Grahn and Executive Director April Caraway. Robert Walton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
7. Carol Henderson made a motion to approve Board policy revisions as recommended by the Administrative Committee. John Hugley seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
8. Before closing the meeting, ED Caraway announced that there will be a board member orientation meeting scheduled in the coming weeks. She encouraged current board members to attend as a refresher and to get acquainted with the new member. Once it is scheduled, an email invitation will be sent.

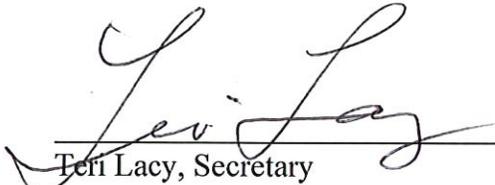
Adjournment

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 5:18 PM on a motion by Cassandra Drumm seconded by Kevin Stringer.

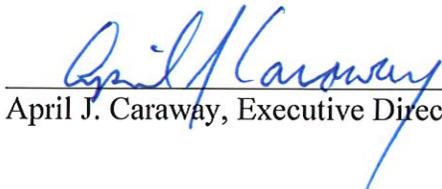
Next Board Meeting –February 17, 2026 at 4:30 PM



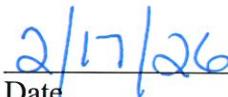
Lance Grahn, President



Teri Lacy, Secretary



April J. Caraway, Executive Director



Date

