



TRUMBULL COUNTY
Mental Health and Recovery Board

Board Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2025 4:30 PM

Board Members Present: Carol Henderson, Laurie Perry, Robert Walton, Teri Lacy, Laura Green, Virginia Cluse, Carl Clark, Lance Grahn, John Hugley, Maria Placanica, Julia Wike

Board Members Absent: Charles Baldwin, Thomas Harwood, Louise Kline, Rachel Nader, Kevin Stringer

Staff Present: Carie Garris, Lauren Thorp, Katie Cretella, John Myers, Laura Domitrovich, Patricia Shepherd, Holly Williams, Valdeoso "Bud" Patterson, Kim Walker

Guests: Darryl Alexander*, YUMADAOP; Matt Kresic*, Cadence Care Network; Rebecca Bayley*, Belmont Pines; Catherine Blankenship*, Coleman Health Services; Vince Brancaccio*, Help Network of NEO; Erica Westenfelder and parents, Chalker High School

*Denotes Virtual Attendees

Preliminary

1. President Carol Henderson called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.
2. President Carol Henderson lead the pledge of allegiance.
3. Secretary Teri Lacy called the roll of members and certified that a quorum was present.
4. President Carol Henderson recognized guests and staff.
5. Laurie Perry made a motion, seconded by Robert Walton to approve the February 18, 2025 Board meeting minutes with the correction Virginia Cluse requested, adding her name to board members absent. The motion passed unanimously.

Report from the Executive Director

1. The Executive Director report opened with AD Lauren Thorp giving an update on ED April Caraway's recovery from surgery. She shared that Caraway would spend one more day working from home and then would be back in the office on Thursday.
2. PSA winners – Katie Cretella and Laura Domitrovich presented the winning videos from the Suicide Prevention Coalition's PSA contest. They reported that these videos were submitted by Trumbull County students in 9th through 12th grade. WKBN and WFMJ will air for free the 3 winning videos. There were 25 entries this year. First place winner, Erica Westenfelder from Chalker High School and her parents attended the board meeting. When asked what inspired her to be a part of the contest, she said that she learned about it when shadowing Carol Holmes-Chambers on Civic Day at the Board office.
3. State Update – AD Lauren Thorp gave updates in Caraway's absence. Thorp reported that Governor DeWine has submitted a waiver that, should the federal match portion of Medicaid go below 90%, Ohio will impose new eligibility criteria for the adult Medicaid expansion population. The attachment included in the board packet illustrated how many people in Ohio

will lose their coverage if that happens. Partner Solutions is working to get specific data for our county. Their goal is to get that information by the beginning of April to help the Board plan financially for the increased need. She stated that the proposed work requirement is gaining momentum. Thorp directed the attendees' attention to the OneOhio Foundation/Region 7 Grants information in the packet. All of the awards for the current funding cycle have been announced. Approximately \$100,000.00 remains unallocated. This money will be included in the next funding cycle, for which the timeline has yet to be announced. One program awarded grant money was a recovery house for women and their children. It is a partnership between Children Services and First Step Recovery. Listed as "Eagles Nest", the name was changed to "Brighter Beginnings" due to a change in the project partners.

4. Local Update – AD Thorp reported that the Pine Crisis Center is still scheduled for a September 2025 opening. Pictures were shown of the progress. Katie Cretella reported that Sunrise Vista has been accepting patients from the Trumbull County jail with mental health needs. Katie Cretella met Dr. Matta, the new psychiatrist at Insight. Insight is still admitting Psychiatric patients, but only to 3 South. Dr. Matta is open to serving the jail population, stating they will admit inmates as long as their Medicaid stays intact. This is good news because clients will no longer have to leave the County for treatment.

AD Thorp reviewed overdose data from January and February. The significant increase in the percentage of fatal overdoses in the African American population was noted. There has also been a significant decrease in the percentage of toxicology reports that include fentanyl and an increase in the presence of cocaine. Possible contributing factors were discussed. Thorp reported that this change was also discussed at today's ASAP Coalition meeting and will continue to be a focus of the Coalition.

The State Fiscal Year 2026 Request for Information (RFI) and Community Grant Application have been released and posted on the Board's website. They are due by April 26th. AD Thorp explained the two types of applications. Despite wanting to get new, innovative programs, the budget priority is sustaining existing programs due to increased expenses, looming Medicaid changes and the uncertainty of State and Federal funding. Staff will present a budget proposal to the Board Budget & Finance committee who will make recommendations and then present the budget for approval at the June board meeting. President Carol Henderson shared that she recently came across a Narcan box in the restroom of a rest stop. She discussed the importance of Narcan availability in those locations. Governor DeWine has reportedly had them installed at all Ohio rest areas.

5. Finance Reports –Patricia Shepherd, CPA, reviewed the February 2025 unaudited revenue and expenditure reports. She stated that both were near what we would expect at this time of the fiscal year. She also gave a separate update on the Pine project. The ARPA grant requires a 10% retention of funds until the completion of the project. Now that we have reached 90% of the grant, we will begin pulling from the Capital grants from OhioMHAS. We have also been approved for the SOR 4.0 grant which will be used to increase Flying HIGH's budget and to cover a new contract for housing with First Step Recovery Housing.

Committee Reports

1. Addictions and Mental Health Program Committee – Vice President, Lance Grahn reported on the February 4, 2025 meeting. The program presenter was Joe Caruso of COMPASS Family & Community Services. Mr. Caruso shared that Riverbend is now providing transitional housing for individuals experiencing homelessness and mental health issues.
2. Budget and Finance Committee- The next meeting is set for March 25th at 4:00 PM.
3. Administrative Committee – There were no meetings to report.

Announcements/Community Partnerships/Information

1. OACBHA - AD Thorp directed the board to refer to the sports gambling page in the packet. She said that March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month and that staff members, Laura Domitrovich and Kim Walker have been participating in community events to spread awareness. Hollywood Gaming is partnering in these efforts as well.
2. OSPF- AD Thorp drew attention to the report, "Gambling: The High Stakes of Mental Health and Suicide Risk" that was included in the packet and encouraged everyone to read it.
3. Community Health Needs Assessment Survey – AD Thorp highlighted the information included in the packet for taking the survey. This is part of the community improvement plan. She encouraged everyone to participate in the survey.
4. Unmute the Uncomfortable, April 3, 2025 – Information was included in the packet. AD Thorp stated that anyone interested in attending should contact Katie Cretella.

New Business

1. Carl Clark made a motion to approve the February 2025 Revenue and Expenditure Report held subject to audit. Robert Walton seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

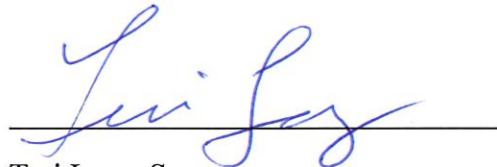
Adjournment

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 5:29 PM on a motion by Teri Lacy seconded by Laura Green.

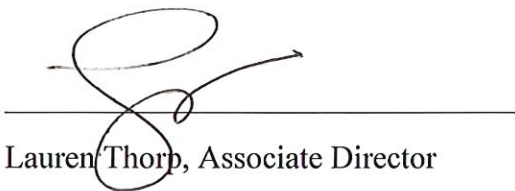
Next Board Meeting – April 15, 2025 at 4:30 PM



Carol Henderson, President



Teri Lacy, Secretary



Lauren Thorp, Associate Director



Date

