

TRUMBULL COUNTY
Mental Health and Recovery Board

Board Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2026 4:30 PM

Board Members Present: Carol Henderson, Lance Grahm, Louise Kline, Matt Martin*, Curtis Green, Laura Green, Tom Harwood, Teri Lacy, Rachel Nader, Emily Ward, Julia Wike

Board Members Absent: Kevin Stringer, John Hugley, Cherese Patterson, Robert Walton

Staff Present: Carie Garris, April Caraway, Lauren Thorp, Laura Domitrovich, Patty Shepherd, Kim Walker, Lindsay Simstad, Daniela Ghizzoni

Guests: Hope Haney* & Michael Nyers*, NAMI MV; Attorney Brendan Keating; Vince Paolucci*, Alta Care Group; Rebecca Bayley*, Belmont Pines; Vince Brancaccio*, Help Network of Northeast Ohio; Tammy Weaver*, Coleman Health Services; Nikunj Patel*, Cadence Care Network; Renee Klaric*, Axxess Pointe

*Denotes Virtual Attendees

Preliminary

1. President Lance Grahm called the meeting to order at 4:34 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Curtis Green called the roll of members in Secretary, Matt Martin's absence and certified that a quorum was present.
3. President Lance Grahm recognized guests and staff.
4. Attorney Brendan Keating Administered the Oath of Office to new Board member, Emily Ward.
5. Teri Lacy made a motion, seconded by Julia Wike to approve the July 21, 2026 Board meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Report from the Executive Director

1. State Update – ED Caraway referred members to the one-page handout regarding rule changes to recovery housing and explained that problems were occurring in Scioto County that led to statewide concerns and the subsequent changes. Recovery House owners, Agency and Board Directors have submitted concerns about the changes, which have resulted in some revisions.

An update on the OneOhio Region 7 funding was then provided with a written update in the Board packet.

2. Local Update – A copy of the Board’s three-year renewal of the Culture of Quality certification was shared for members to review. ED Caraway summarized the report and thanked staff and Board members who participated.

The financial report for the Friends of the TCMHRB 2026 Golf Outing Levy Fundraiser prepared by Tom Harwood and Bud Patterson was reviewed. After all expenses were paid, proceeds totaled \$9,403.45. This report will be submitted to the Board of Elections.

ED Caraway reported that new board member orientation took place for newly appointed member, Emily Ward. Several current board members also attended. President Lance Grahn reiterated that each orientation is a good refresher for current board members.

ED Caraway reminded members that Laurie Perry submitted her resignation, citing health issues, and a motion to accept will occur later in the meeting.

She then shared that the Trumbull County Commissioners provided a resolution declaring September as Recovery Month. It is also Suicide Prevention month. Daniela Ghizzoni shared that the Suicide Prevention Coalition continues to search for new ways to reach people needing help and to reduce stigma. Suicide rates are increasing, especially among males 55 and older, and the majority are dying by firearm. Outreaches include the Senior Collaborative and medical offices. She invited everyone to attend the coalition meetings that are held every second Tuesday of the month at 3:00 PM in the Board conference room.

AD Lauren Thorp reported on Overdose Awareness Day activities that took place on August 31st. She thanked the Board members that participated in distributing around 800 Narcan kits and hygiene supplies. This year, participants also placed door hangers at homes in the neighborhoods with the highest overdose rates. The Recovery Rally will take place on Saturday, September 19th at the 7/17 Credit Union Eastwood Field. Kim Walker shared that the ASAP Faith Based Coalition has 15 churches signed up for Recovery Sunday.

3. Finance Reports –Patty Shepherd, CPA, reviewed the July and August 2026 unaudited revenue and expenditure reports. The Board’s funding from the state was delayed due to the county audited financials being received and uploaded to the state just last week. We anticipate \$620,000 to be deposited before the end of September, then we will return to the quarterly payment schedule. She explained that the auditor’s office placed uncleared checks as unclaimed funds, which resulted in \$74,200 being listed as both revenue and expenditures in July. The Board will continue to accept invoices for FY26 until September 30th.

Committee Reports

1. Addictions and Mental Health Program Committee – Lance Grahn reported on the September 1, 2026 meeting in Vice President, Kevin Stringer’s absence. Josette Landis from COMPASS Family and Community Services spoke about residential and supportive housing for those with behavioral health conditions. Lance Grahn commented that this reinforced why it was so important that the Board supported the hiring of Lindsay Simstad as the Housing Manager.
2. Budget and Finance Committee – No meeting was held so there was no report.
3. Administrative Committee – Rachel Nader, Chairperson asked if there would need to be a meeting scheduled to respond to the one correction indicated in the COQ Certification. ED Caraway indicated she would provide the response, and a meeting was not necessary.

Announcements/Community Partnerships/Information

1. ED Caraway pointed out the media items that were included in the packet and discussed the Tribune article, "YSU receives \$2 million to support graduate students in behavioral health programs". She reached out to Director Moretti of DBH to share her appreciation.
2. ED Caraway encouraged board members to read the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation articles that were in the packet. She reminded members that we contract with the LOSS team that is in place to support families who have experienced loss from suicide.
3. NAMI Ohio Blueprint for Mental Health flyer was included in the packet and the NAMI-MV walk will take place October 3rd at Austintown Township Park. Staff will have a team.

New Business

1. Carol Henderson made a motion to approve the July 2026 Revenue and Expenditure Report held subject to audit. Julia Wike seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
2. Tom Harwood made a motion to approve the August 2026 Revenue and Expenditure Report held subject to audit. Louise Kline seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
3. Carol Henderson made a Motion to remove the Health Officer appointment of Kerrigan Skruck, previously of COMPASS Family Services, effective immediately. Julia Wike seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
4. Louise Kline made a motion to accept the resignation of Board member Laurie Perry. Laura Green seconded the motion, which passed, with regret, unanimously.

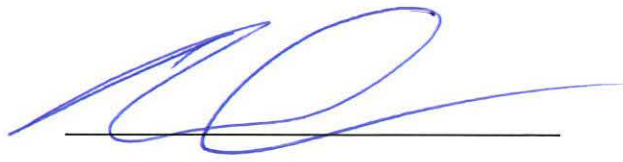
Adjournment

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM on a motion by Teri Lacy seconded by Curtis Green.

Next Board Meeting – October 20, 2026 at 4:30 PM



Lance Grahn, President



Matt Martin, Secretary



April J. Caraway, Executive Director



Date

