

# Board Update

Mental Health & Recovery Services (MHRS) Board  
Serving Coshocton, Guemsey, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble & Perry Counties  
1500 Coal Run Road, Zanesville, Ohio 43701  
Phone: 740-454-8557

Regular Board Meeting  
Highlights  
March 12, 2026

## FinancialMatters

Under the guidance of Finance/Audit Committee Chair Dr. Dan Scheerer, members reviewed and acted upon the following issues:

- **Mortgage Transfer – Allwell Behavioral Health:** Approved a resolution in support of the transfer of existing capital assistance mortgages (totaling \$63,662.30) on Allwell’s property located at 121 N. 18<sup>th</sup> Street in Cambridge to a capital assistance mortgage on Allwell property located at 3405 Dillon Acres Drive in Zanesville.
- **Reconciliation Report:** Approved the February 2026 Reconciliation Report that showed deposits, checks written for MHRS Board operations, payments to in-network contract service providers and out-of-network community partners, and journal entries.
- **Other Financial Reports:** Reviewed the following February 2026 fiscal reports: 1) Balance Sheet through February 28, 2026; 2) Monthly Report of Funding Reserves; 3) Year-to-Date Status Report for the MHRS Board’s Operating Budget; 4) a Dashboard Report that provides a high-level overview of key fiscal indicators; and 5) Individual Counties’ FY 2026 Levy Fund Accounts.
- **MHRS Board’s CY 2027 Operations Budget:** Approved the MHRS Board’s Calendar Year 2027 Operations Budget in the amount of \$1,399,410.88.
- **‘Then and Now’ Certificate:** Approved a ‘then and now’ certificate for Columbus Behavioral Health LLC – Purchase Order #26-120628 in the amount of \$4,800.
- **Special Allocation Request – Coshocton Behavioral Health Choices:** Approved a \$9,698.24 special allocation for Coshocton Behavioral Health Choices for upgrades to the organization’s phone, e-mail, and cybersecurity systems.

### ***Executive Director***

*Misty Cromwell*

### ***Board of Directors***

*Sean Brady*

*Reid Carpenter*

*Abby Corder*

*Leondra Davis*

*Randi Earnest*

*Dennis Hitchcock*

*Sue Hoover*

*William Johnson*

*Tony Mayle, Jr.*

*Lt. Dave Peoples*

*Dan Scheerer, M.D.*

*Wendy Starlin*

*Ben Taylor*

*Bonnie Taylor*

### ***Board President***

*Leondra Davis*

### ***Board Vice President***

*Ben Taylor*

### ***Mission Statement***

*Our mission is to distribute federal, state, and local funding to community mental health providers in a way that facilitates the existence of (and access to) high-quality mental health and substance use recovery services in our six counties.*

## *New Employee – Cassie Springer*



Cassie Springer is the MHRS Board’s new Director of Community Engagement and Crisis Services. Cassie is passionate about building community connections. She shared that being able to work directly in the community to help improve access to care is what makes her efforts so meaningful to her.

We are excited to have Cassie on our Mental Health Board team and look forward to the work ahead, as we continue strengthening mental health and recovery support across our communities.

## ***Perry County Mental Health & Recovery Services Levy Renewal Approval is Critical!***

A group of hard-working Perry County advocates is currently mapping out a campaign strategy to renew our system’s one mill levy (*on the May 5, 2026, ballot*) — that will support mental health and substance use recovery services. Renewal levies aren’t new taxes—they continue existing local support that keeps essential services running. This renewal levy directly affects programs for people living with mental illness and those struggling with addiction. Why this renewal is so critical: 1) It keeps lifesaving services available ‘close to home;’ 2) it helps local people (families, friends, neighbors); and 3) it protects community safety and stability. This levy is one of the most direct ways Perry County voters can strengthen their community and protect people who need help the most.



## *Recent Coshocton Dads' Breakfast*



MHRS Board staff members are continuing their engagement with the Coshocton County Fatherhood Initiative, supporting collaborative efforts to strengthen fatherhood involvement and promote healthier family systems within the community (*pictured above are attendees at a recent "Dads' Breakfast"*). Current discussions are focused on expanding outreach to fathers, increasing access to parenting and behavioral health supports, and identifying opportunities to align fatherhood programming with local prevention and early intervention efforts.

The Coshocton County Fatherhood Initiative is a community-based program designed to support fathers and father figures through education, mentoring, and family-strengthening activities. It focuses on helping dads build stronger relationships with their children and co-parents, offering both practical resources and positive engagement opportunities.

## *ARPA Project Updates*

MHRS Board staff are continuing to work on The Village Network (TVN) ARPA Youth Crisis Stabilization Center Project, focusing on project coordination, funding alignment, and monitoring of progress as the initiative advances toward completion. The facility is slated to open in 2026. They also are working with the Genesis Healthcare System on the development of an 8-bed youth crisis stabilization unit within their hospital (that also will be opening in 2026).

These facilities will provide:

- Short-term stabilization
- Safe, youth-appropriate environment
- On-site clinicians, nurses, and crisis counselors
- Family engagement and safety planning
- Diversion from hospitalization or juvenile detention
- Reduced transportation burden for families and law enforcement

**SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY IMPACT**  
**COSHOCTON COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST – FEBRUARY 19, 2026**



LtoR - Front: Rep. Brenner; Stephanie Conn, Coshocot Regional Medical Center; Denise Nelson, Job & Family Services; Jeanette Hall, CBHC; Tyra Hixon, CBHC

LtoR – Back: Tom Wilson, Allwell BH; Roger Birch, MHRS Board; Jed McCoy, Job & Family Services; Judge Jason Given, Coshocot Juvenile/Probate Court; Doug Schounauer, Administrator, Juvenile Court; Rep Mark Hiner; and James McDonald, Allwell Behavioral Health

On February 19, 23 individuals met with Ohio Senator Andrew Brenner and Ohio Representative Mark Hiner to talk about behavioral health issues being faced by Coshocot County residents.

Some attendees helped to provide a “community snapshot,” stressing the importance of sustaining mental health and alcohol/drug addiction services, as well as addressing other crises that are being faced by community partners. Community Snapshot presenters included: James McDonald, CEO, Allwell Behavioral Health; Jeanette Hall and Tyra Hixon, Co-Directors of Coshocot Behavioral Health Choices; Tom Wilson, Director of Allwell’s Coshocot Counseling Center; Jed McCoy, Director, Coshocot Dept. of Job & Family Services; Theresa Kane, CEO, Behavioral Health Choices; Judge Jason Given, Coshocot County Juvenile Court, and Doug Schonauer, Juvenile Court Administrator; and Stephanie Conn, Coshocot Regional Medical Center.

A recurring issue was voiced by several of the speakers — *Cash-Flow Instability that Threatens Basic Operations*. Legislators were asked to help develop an improved funding module that would ensure reimbursements are promptly processed. It was noted this would reduce administrative burden, protect taxpayer resources, and ensure that essential services remain stable for persons in need of assistance.

Important Note: Children with the most severe mental health needs often cannot be safely or effectively treated in outpatient or community settings. The Dept. of Job & Family Services asked for support in strengthening access to adequately-staffed intensive residential treatment, so that children in higher levels of crisis can receive the care they need, when they need it, and return to their families and communities with the best chance of success.

Legislators expressed interest in forming a workgroup to more clearly identify community needs.

Conversations during the meeting made one thing immediately clear: mental illness and addictions are realities for our families, our neighbors, and our communities. The information shared reminds us that behind every statistic is a person who deserves dignity, care, and a path to recovery.