

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
October 9, 2025

FinancialMatters

Under the guidance of Interim Finance/Audit Committee Chair William Johnson, board members addressed the following matters:

- **Reconciliation Report:** Reviewed and approved the September 2025 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 September 2025 fiscal reports: 1) Balance Sheets through September 30, 2025; 2) Monthly Report of Funding Reserves; 3) Year-to-Date Status Report for the MHRS Board's Operating Budget; and 4) a Dashboard Report that provides a high-level overview of key fiscal indicators.
- **Special Allocation Request – Winter Warming Shelter:** Approved an allocation of \$42,000 to the Ohio District Council to provide continued support for an Emergency Winter Shelter Program at Hallowed Hills in Zanesville. The shelter will be a welcoming and safe center where unsheltered adults can spend the night and be safe from the environmental hazards of the street during the winter months (December 2025 and January and February of 2026). Many homeless individuals face stigma. Warming shelters offer a respectful environment where they can rest and recover without judgment. Winter warming shelters are not just seasonal conveniences—they are critical infrastructure for public health and human dignity. Their presence can mean the difference between life and death for those without a home.

Payments for Services: Below is a breakdown of September payments for mental health and addiction recovery services.

<i>Accounts Payable</i>	<i>In-Network Providers</i>	<i>Out-of-Network Partners</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>September 4, 2025</i>	<i>\$134,758.48</i>	<i>\$27,004.45</i>	<i>\$161,762.93</i>
<i>September 18, 2025</i>	<i>\$32,801.12</i>	<i>\$43,826.79</i>	<i>\$76,627.91</i>
<i>September 29, 2025</i>	<i>\$40,145.06</i>	<i>\$59,265.06</i>	<i>\$99,410.12</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$207,704.66</i>	<i>\$130,096.30</i>	<i>\$337,800.96</i>

Executive Director

Misty Cromwell

Board of Directors

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Reid Carpenter

Abby Corder

Leondra Davis

Randi Earnest

Dennis Hitchcock

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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.

“Strategies to Coordinate Overdose Prevention Efforts” (SCOPE)

Britney Tangeman, MS, PITT-PERU, met with members of the MHRS Board’s Program Committee to provide an update about the SCOPE Program. The consulting entity for this program is the University of Pittsburgh’s Program Evaluation and Research Unit.

The MHRS Board will soon begin Year 3 of this program, expanding services to Coshocton County. This program offers free continuing education to equip and empower first responders (emergency medical services and firefighters) to reduce the impact of opioid overdoses in their communities.

First responders play an essential role by aiding those experiencing an overdose and referring them to local drug and alcohol treatment services. This service aims to increase naloxone administration and eliminate overdose deaths. By empowering first responders with effective and practical strategies, community members at risk of substance use disorder (SUD) can better access the care they need.

SCOPE training provides an overview of several topics that apply to all first responders when assisting patients or community members with SUD.

- Understanding SUD as a disease.
- How trauma-informed care, including an understanding of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can lead to better patient outcomes.
- Naloxone administration and practices for naloxone leave-behind materials for family and friends with SUD.
- How to be a part of a recovery-oriented system of care by making referrals to local drug and alcohol agencies.
- The importance of de-stigmatizing language and behavior as well as empathy for survivors.

Since the beginning of the program, 252 individuals have been trained in SCOPE and its supplemental topics over 29 training sessions.

In Year 3, with the help of SCOPE Outreach Coordinator Dyrall Newlon, the program will offer 4-hour trainings for Coshocton EMS and Coshocton Fire. Year 2 agencies in Morgan County will begin scheduling training for Motivational Interviewing. Year 1 agencies in Muskingum County will begin scheduling training in Compassion Fatigue.

OhioMHAS Officially Becomes “Ohio Department of Behavioral Health”



On October 1, OhioMHAS officially became the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health (DBH). Ohio Governor Mike DeWine notes, *“This change reflects a renewed commitment to meeting the evolving needs of Ohioans and aligning with national best practices. More than a new name, this represents an ongoing evolution to reduce stigma, strengthen communities, and ensure*

every Ohioan has a pathway to reach their full potential.”

In the announcement about the name-change, it was noted the behavioral health field has evolved, and there is a need to emphasize integrated, person-centered care and language that reduces stigma and encompasses a broader, more inclusive range of concerns.

While the agency’s name is changing, its core services, leadership, and commitment to excellence remain unchanged.

Change in Leadership @ Ohio Department of Behavioral Health

LeeAnne Cornyn is moving on from her role as Director of the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health to pursue another opportunity. DBH Assistant Director Tia Moretti will serve as interim director until a new director is named.

Liberty Manor Grand Re-Opening



MHRS Board Executive Director Misty Cromwell helps to cut the ribbon at the Liberty Manor Home's Grand Re-Opening held on October 8.

Earlier this year, the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health announced they would no longer be Liberty Manor's operator. From that time – until the grand re-opening — the Mental Health & Recovery Boards who supported the residents, tirelessly worked to make needed changes, so that current residents would not lose their home (some residents have been at this group home since the old Cambridge State Hospital closed more than 20 years ago).

Liberty Manor plays a vital role in providing group home care and essential services for persons dealing with severe mental illness. It was developed many years ago to provide residential care for persons being discharged from a State Hospital. Liberty Manor promotes a family-like atmosphere for their residents, providing respectful supports, resources and activities to increase their quality of life.

The home's new operator is New Housing Ohio, Inc.



Special Events for Clients & Families

Two important events were hosted in September – our Annual Recovery Summit (9/19) and Appalachian Stories of Resilience and Recovery (9/25). These events played a vital role in promoting recovery, reducing stigma, and fostering a community for individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders.



The ***Annual Recovery Summit*** (pictured above) was a resounding success, drawing 215 participants. In addition, 10 provider agencies hosted resource tables, giving attendees the opportunity to connect with services and take home valuable information and support. The event included keynote presentations, recovery panel sessions, a panel of behavioral health professionals, and breakout sessions. This continues to be a cornerstone event in our community. With strong attendance and meaningful content, the 2025 Summit reinforced that recovery is happening in our communities. Attendees left encouraged, connected, and equipped with hope.



The ***"Appalachian Stories of Resilience & Recovery"*** event (panel pictured above) was also a success, where participants engaged in a full day of learning, storytelling, and discussions around trauma, addiction, recovery, and resilience. The keynote speaker, Dr. Mark Hurst, talked about *"Trauma & Addiction: Why Does It Happen? What Can We Do about It?"* Dr. Hurst was a former Medical Director and Director of OhioMHAS.

Recovery-focused events honor the achievements of individuals overcoming mental health and substance use challenges, reinforcing hope and resilience. Public recognition of recovery journeys helps others see that healing is possible.

