

Athens-Hocking-Vinton 317 Board Meeting Minutes

November 25, 2024

Meeting Was Held In-Person and Virtual

- Present:** Heather Batin, Chair, Jayne Darling, Dr. Tom Davis, Ralph Evans, Maeve Gallagher, Rhea Hopstetter, Dr. Joe Gay, Robert Orth, Anne Rubin, Dumitru Sabaiduc, Shei Sanchez, and Jacqueline Stobbs
- Absent:** Tonya Bowden, JoAnna Carter, Dr. Ron Luce, Tamara Norway, Patricia Robinette, and Robert Salizzoni
- Guests:** Kelly Hatas, HAPCAP and Jessica Stroh, HAPCAP
- Virtual:** Kim Dement, ISBH, Kelly Madewell, MSP, Ellen Martin, Ginger Schmalenberg, TGP, and Trish Springer, OMJ
- Staff:** Amanda Conrath, Kim Crum, Svea Maxwell, Marissa McDaid, Beth Mohammed, Diane Pfaff, and Kim Robinson, and Sherri Tyree

Ms. Batin called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

I. Adoption of Agenda

25:11:37

Dr. Davis moved to approve the agenda; Ms. Stobbs seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

II. Approval of Minutes

25:11:38

Ms. Stobbs moved to approve the October 28, 2024 board meeting minutes; Mr. Orth seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

III. Public Comment

Ms. Hatas and Ms. Stroh presented an overview of the Sunset Motel Shelter Project. Ms. Hatas thanked the Board for the financial support for the project which was important for securing the capital funding.

IV. Agency Updates

1. Ginger Schmalenberg, The Gathering Place

Ms. Schmalenberg reported they received a 2-year expansion grant from OMHAS which has allowed expansion of SUD and case management services. She reported that they now have five full-time employees and one part-time; four are peer recovery supporters. She also said the funding will pay for consulting services for strategic visioning. Ms. Schmalenberg also discussed recent activities of their Conestoga Hut project.

2. **Ellen Martin, Health Recovery Services**

Ms. Martin reported they are trying to prepare for possible changes to national and state budgets. She also said staff is working hard to meet the needs of people who find holidays stressful and assist in preventing relapses.

3. **Kelly Madewell, My Sister's Place**

Ms. Madewell reported they have received increased requests for shelter this fall. She also said they have worked closely with the Athens Housing Co-Create group and MSP has taken the lead on a motel voucher program with funding from the Athens County Foundation; Marietta Memorial is collaborating on the project. MSP is moving forward in services in Hocking County through Board funding and Hocking County Commissioners grant funding for additional services.

4. **Kim Dement, Integrated Services for Behavioral Health**

Ms. Dement reported they are fully staffed for their local Intensive Home-Based Treatment program (IHBT) and OhioRise is also fully staffed. She also said there has been an increase in schools' requests for mental health services for students.

V.

Staff Updates

1. **Sherri Tyree, Quality and Planning Director**

Ms. Tyree reported on the recent Crisis Intervention Training (CIT); twenty officers were trained. She also said the Crisis System of Care monthly meetings are continuing in each county with data and discussion specific to each.

2. **Kim Crum, Community Services Coordinator**

Ms. Crum said her updates are in the members' books.

3. **Marissa McDaid, Communications and Community Engagement Specialist**

Ms. McDaid reported she is participating in the Appalachian Children Coalition Leadership Academy and was accepted and will continue monthly through June. She also reported on a Safer Communities grant that was used to purchase 988 promotional materials.

4. **Svea Maxwell, Deputy Director**

- Ms. Maxwell reported that while AEP was working on the transmission line behind the Board office, heavy trucks and equipment damaged Board's blacktop parking lot, which was old and not in good shape before they arrived. AEP will cover the cost of all repairs.
- Ms. Maxwell reported post-renovation monitoring has shown that new windows and thermostats in the older section of the building have resulted in a reduction in energy and cost.
- Ms. Maxwell reported that OU provided a copy of the legal description for the parcel that we will be receiving and she learned that the property transfer is now expected to go to the State Controlling Board in early 2025. She also reported we are waiting for the OU attorneys to give the official okay for the County Port Authority to move ahead with the Phase One property assessment.

VI. Executive Director Report

Ms. Pfaff reported on the following:

- Ms. Pfaff reported that there were 11 Board levies on the November 5th election ballot and they all passed; 9 were renewals, 1 was a replacement, and 1 was an additional levy. The average rate for approval was 62%.
- Ms. Pfaff reported she had spoken with CORSA staff regarding liability and property insurance. She said that CORSA had concerns about the large habitational exposure for the rental properties and the recent fire, and she facilitated a meeting with Matthews Insurance (MI) for the board's insurance needs. Ms. Pfaff, Ms. Maxwell, and Ms. Conrath met with the MI agent and discussed updating property values, consideration of flood insurance and working with CORSA to cover the board office and program spaces.
- Ms. Pfaff reported that staff will receive a 2.4% cost of living adjustment effective January 1, 2025, per the personnel policy. This does not apply to the Executive Director, which is handled separately.
- Ms. Pfaff discussed the planning that is underway for the Woods at Dairy Lane, 16-unit, permanent supportive housing project. The Board has one million dollars from OhioMHAS, and other funds will be needed such as Federal Home Loan Bank funding and Board funds; more will be known once there is site control and the architectural plans are done. The goal is to begin construction in spring of 2027.
- Ms. Pfaff said the Board office is closed on Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday.

VII. Contracts and Construction

Ms. Maxwell reported the state permit for the roof project has been received; the project can now begin, weather permitting.

VIII. Old Business

There was no old business.

IX. New Business

1. Integrated Services for Behavioral Health (ISBH) Hocking County Peer House Update

Ms. Pfaff discussed the ISBH award of \$245,000 previously approved in September 2022 to purchase a new space for the peer house in Hocking County. They are currently in a rented space adjacent to the library, which is two stories, not ADA accessible and has heating and cooling issues. ISBH has been actively searching for a new location but due to zoning restrictions and other obstacles, they were unable to secure a new location. They approached the board with an idea to rehabilitate their current office building in Logan that has unutilized space that can be used to accommodate a new peer house.

Ms. Dement reported there will be a private entrance and program space, three restrooms, two showers, two laundries, a full kitchen and will be fully ADA accessible. The redesign has been reviewed and approved by the Hocking County building department. The rear portion of the building will house their treatment and clinical services. The budget for the project is \$275,000 and ISBH will contribute the remaining funding. The peer house members had requests for changes and ISBH made those accommodations to meet their needs.

2. Hocking County Domestic Violence Services Funding Recommendations

25:11:39

Ms. Pfaff reminded the members that \$200,000 was approved at the July meeting for new domestic violence, family and recovery supports in Hocking and Vinton counties. Staff created an application process and invited My Sister's Place to apply for funding to address the needs raised through the monthly Hocking DV meetings. Ms. Madewell applied for funding to increase staff time in Hocking County, public awareness activities, and direct support for victims such as housing, transportation and other emergency needs. The term dates in the application are for January through June. They will begin services and in May will do an additional application for next year. Mr. Orth asked what was happening for Vinton County. Ms. Pfaff explained that the DV application is for Hocking County, but that family and recovery supports funding will be for both Hocking and Vinton counties. Ms. Madewell confirmed they do serve Vinton County but not as much since they have a dedicated shelter--Shepherds House in Vinton County; Hocking County does not have a shelter. Mr. Sabaiduc moved to authorize the executive director to enter into a contract with My Sister's Place for \$33,594.35 for domestic violence services in Hocking County; Ms. Gallagher seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. SOS 4.0 Contract Authorization

Ms. Pfaff briefly explained the background of SOS funding. She said the state made the funding competitive this year rather than making allocations to Boards as they have in past years. She said the Board requested \$851,486.05 and was awarded \$553,465.93 which is 65% of the total requested which is a reduction of \$298,202.12. She said staff asked for clarity in the scoring method and were told cuts were made across the board and that the Board should use their best judgment in how to allocate the reduced amount. She also said Ms. Maxwell and Ms. Conrath have been working on a plan that would constitute minimal cuts to the agencies from their initial requests.

Ms. Conrath said current funding will support five recovery houses, The Hive youth program, and Athens Photographic project. The recovery houses will be funded at their requested level by making up the difference with recovery housing funding and levy funding. There will be a shortfall in the Hive and APP funding. ISBH is able to assign other funding to cover the shortage for The Hive.

Ms. Conrath also explained that the funding would not be received by the board until late January or early February. She explained a plan to utilize currently awarded levy funds to cover recovery housing expenses for October and November and so that agencies do not have to wait until late February for payment. Mr. Sabaiduc asked if SOS funding has been reallocated in the past from Boards who did not utilize it. Ms. Conrath said they have reallocated funding in past years but each year they change the reallocation process.

4. SFY 2024 Budget Amendment Resolution

25:11:40

Resolution 25-11-16

Ms. Conrath explained that the amendment will update final allocations for highlighted agencies based on their final SOS and state recovery housing expenditures and for additional funding for Southeast Ohio Regional Jail. Dr. Davis moved to approve Resolution 25-11-16 SFY 2024 Budget Amendment; Dr. Gay seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. CY 2024 Appropriation Authorization

25:11:41

Resolution 25-11-17

Ms. Conrath explained that due to the Board not meeting in December, the resolution gives the executive director the authority to close out the calendar year books. Ms. Pfaff will report on any adjustments at the January meeting. Ms. Darling moved to approve Resolution 25-11-17-CY 2024 Appropriation Authorization; Ms. Gallagher seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. CY 2025 Appropriation Authorization

25:11:42

Resolution 25-11-18

Ms. Conrath explained the proposed expenditures for CY 2025. The proposed amounts may be adjusted throughout the year based on grants and other funding received. Mr. Sabaiduc moved to approve Resolution 25-11-18-CY 2025 Appropriation Authorization; Ms. Sanchez seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

7. Federal and State Budgets

Ms. Pfaff explained the potential for significant changes in federal and state funding. There is a new administration and congress at the federal level and the state will develop a new biennium budget. There may be a need to talk with elected officials about the potential negative impact on families if funding for services is cut.

X. Other

1. Mr. Orth suggested forming an ad hoc committee to discuss county needs. Ms. Pfaff explained that a new community plan must be developed for 2026-28 and that it is time for strategic planning to begin.
2. Ms. Pfaff said the Board would not meet in December.
3. Ms. Batin distributed a word search puzzle she created.

XII. Adjournment

25:11:43

Having no other business come before the Board Dr. Davis moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Stobbs seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Submitted by:

Diane Pfaff
Executive Director

Heather Batin
Chair