

Date Approved: 8/25/26
Presiding Officer: [Signature]

Hancock County ADAMHS Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: June 30, 2026

Meeting Time: 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Blanchard Valley Center Training Center, 1700 East Sandusky Street, Findlay, OH

Recorder: Cheryl Preston

Board Member Attendance:

X	Jim Darrach, Board Chair	X	Sheriff Michael Heldman, Retired	X	Steve Miller
X	Dr. Mary Beth Dillon, Vice Chair	X	Joe Loy	X	Cheryl Lentz
X	Amy Hayslett	X	John Drymon	X	Rick Walter - VIRTUAL
X	Ann Woolum	X	Rick Eakin - VIRTUAL	X	Jim Stahl
X	Anthony Stateler - VIRTUAL		Kris Napier		Susan Bunn
X	Judge Joseph Niemeyer, Retired	X	Rachael Helms		

Staff/Guests Attending:

X	Zach Thomas	X	Victoria Graham		
X	Jennifer Swartzlander				
X	Cheryl Preston				
X	Rob Verhoff				
X	John Bindas				

Jim Darrach, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and introduced guests.

PROGRAM

Zach Thomas, Board Executive Director, presented the Proposed Grant Allocations FY27 Primer.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Coalition for Mental Wellbeing Data – Zach reviewed the data chart; he noted that babies prenatally exposed is trending a little less. The neonatal abstinence syndrome numbers are down and moving in the right direction. There have been no new suicide deaths and none pending. There have been no overdose fatalities since February.

Family Resource Center Chair to Chair Meeting Report of June 1, 2026 - Jim shared the following items that were discussed during the meeting: Funding to sustain The Steady Path due to the federal grant ending, as well as the ending of the System of Care and Certified Community Behavioral Health Center grants that maintain critical services. Fund development planning for a golf outing and the second year of Twinkle Nights were discussed. Lastly, the Agency was asked to provide detailed information on their pursuit of becoming a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).

FOCUS Chair to Chair Meeting Report of June 8, 2026 - Jim shared the following items that were discussed during the meeting. Peer support was discussed as well as a decrease in utilization at the

Agency due to the limited outreach and engagement staff capacity. An endowment fund is set up to help support the Agency and they are preparing to submit a grant. Lastly, Agency staff are developing policies to include additional children at the MOMS recovery home. A new Chair will be appointed for FY27 for the Agency.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Follow-up from May Board meeting – None

Jennifer reported that the Board office renovation is complete. There is some follow-up work on the HVAC system. We are waiting on the invoice from the temporary space rental. Move back to the Board office was Friday, May 29, 2026. She shared that the only remaining issue is a sensor to the thermostat controlling the upstairs temperature and the contractor is addressing this. The project ended under budget.

CORRESPONDENCE

6/2/26 - Notice from the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health of the appointment of Dr. Mary Beth Dillon to the Board. Her new term will begin July 1, 2026, and will end on June 30, 2030.

6/25/26 - The Levy Resolution is complete.

6/10/26 - Notice of award was received from the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health for carryover funds from the State Opioid and Stimulant Response funds (SOS).

6/26/26 - Results from the first site visit and review of the Recovery Housing Grant from the Department of Development. There were no findings.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- To Approve the Board Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2026
- To Approve the Allocations Committee Meeting Report of June 3, 2026
- To Approve the Allocations Committee Meeting Report of June 10, 2026
- To Approve the Governance Committee Report of June 17, 2026
- To Approve the Finance Committee Reports of June 17, 2026, April 2026 Agency Financial Picture
- To Approve the Allocations Committee Meeting Report of June 17, 2026

John Drymon moved to accept the consent agenda as presented. Jim Stahl seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS BROUGHT FROM COMMITTEE

- To approve cancelling the July Committee and Board meetings. **Jim Darrach called for a vote. No questions; no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**
- To approve the May 2026 Board Financial Statements. **Jim Darrach called for a vote. No questions; no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

ACTION ITEMS BROUGHT TO THE FULL BOARD

- To approve the FY27 Allocations Mega Motion. **John Drymon moved to approve the Mega Motion. Jim Stahl seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- FY 27 Selection Committee Member Retired Sheriff Heldman presented the slate of Mary Beth Dillon, Chair and Rachael Helms, Vice Chair. There were no nominations from the floor. **Retired Sheriff Heldman made a motion to close the nominations. Jim Stahl seconded. Motion carried. Jim Darrach asked for a motion to accept the slate as presented. Retired Sheriff made a motion to accept the slate. Anthony Stateler seconded. Motion Carried.**

INFORMATION REPORTS

- Coalition on Wellbeing Guiding Team Meeting Report of June 8, 2026
- Delegation Meeting Report of June 16, 2026
- Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation: How to Tell Your Story as a Loss Survivor

AGENCY/PUBLIC COMMENT

- John Bindas thanked the Board for supporting the Agency another year.

POSITIVE ACTION

- Zach took this time to recognize Tony Grotrian who passed away recently. Tony came to us after losing his grandson to the opiate epidemic. He became an advocate and public figure in this community and at the state level. Zach shared the level of impact he had including the passing of the Good Samaritan Law, attending every Board meeting, every coalition meeting, treatment court hearings, and so much more.
- Susan Bunn (unable to attend the meeting) was recognized for completing her first term, but unable to serve a second.
- Jim Darrach was recognized for his time as Chair and completing his second state appointed term. Jim commented the last four years have been amazing, and a lot has been accomplished. He was thanked for his service.
- Zach recognized Steve Eichorn for the hours he volunteers at Board properties doing landscaping and repairs.
- Lastly, Zach shared his appreciation of Board staff for all the additional work since November 2025 and getting us to this point.
- Orientation will take place in July for our New Board member, Karl Gingrich.

FOLLOW-UP NEEDED FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING

- None

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: August 25, 2026, ADAMHS Office, 438 Carnahan Avenue

Hancock County Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services
438 Carnahan Avenue, Findlay, OH 45840
419.424.1985 – yourpathtohealth.org

Program Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Date: August 12, 2026

Meeting Time: 3:30-4:36 p.m.

Meeting Location: ADAMHS Office

Recorder: Jennifer Swartzlander

Committee Members:

x	Cheryl Lentz, Chair	x	Retired Judge Joseph Niemeyer, Vice Chair
x	Anthony Stateler	x	Kris Napier
x	Karl Gingrich		

Board Members:

x	Dr. Mary Beth Dillon, Board Chair	x	Rachael Helms, Board Vice Chair
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Staff:

x	Zach Thomas	x	Jennifer Swartzlander
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DISCUSSED:

1. **FY26 Q4 Scorecard**- Jennifer reviewed the scorecard and NAMI and Focus report cards. Zach reminded the committee that FRC will have a report card this year due to new benchmarks for services. Report cards are used to determine the amount of the twelfth allocation payment to the agency.
2. **FY27 Outcomes Measures** – Zach shared that the FRC reporting outcomes have been finalized. In the first month of FY27 (July) there have been a few challenges meeting expected outcome measures but Board staff are meeting monthly with FRC to discuss deficiencies and to ensure communication continues throughout the year related to programming concerns.
3. **Existing/Pending Federal Grants** – Zach shared a grant chart update. This chart summarizes current and pending grants (6). Board staff are hopeful to hear the status of applications at any point.
4. **ROSC Implementation Framework Strategic Planning** – Zach shared he and Mary Beth have discussed the ending of the current strategic plan in 2027. Board staff will be presenting a recommendation on how to proceed with strategic planning in the coming months.
5. **ADAMHS Staffing - ADAMHS Staffing** – Zach shared that his replacement has been secured and will start August 31. Krista Pruitt is well known in Findlay and will be an excellent addition to the ADAMHS team. There have been 60 applications for the Administrative and Housing Support Specialist.
6. **2026 HCADAMHS Levy** – Zach shared two documents with the committee which provide talking points for Board members for when they are discussing the levy within their spheres of influence.
7. **September Board Meeting Date Change** – The September Board meeting will be moved to the fifth Tuesday due to a scheduling need. The new date is September 29, 2026. ***The committee also discussed and agreed to moving the committee date to the second Thursday of each month 3:30-5:00 p.m. due to a meeting conflict with the Board Association that Zach and Jen attend.***

ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

1. Staff will complete the Strategic Planning proposal in the coming months for Committee/Board review and feedback.
2. Staff will send out new calendar invites for the new day for Program Committee and new date for the September Board meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 10, 2026, 3:30-5:00pm, ADAMHS Office

Hancock County Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services
438 Carnahan Avenue, Findlay, OH 45840
419.424.1985 – yourpathtohealth.org

Governance Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Date: August 19, 2026

Meeting Time: 8:00-9:30 a.m.

Meeting Location: ADAMHS Office

Committee Members:

>	John Drymon, Chair		Jim Stahl, Vice Chair
>	Steve Miller	>	Amy Hayslett
>	Jim Darrach		

Board Members:

>	Dr. Mary Beth Dillon, Board Chair	>	Rachael Helms, Board Vice Chair
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Staff:

>	Zach Thomas		
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DISCUSSION:

1. **Board Meeting Evaluation.** Committee members reviewed the June Board meeting evaluation – nothing remarkable to note.
2. **Capital Projects Updates.**
 - a. **Board Office:** Project is complete with contractor and project of substantial completion documentation was issued (5.21.26). Staff are settled in the office and report the space is improved and more feasible to operations/meetings. A few minor outstanding items to complete include installing extra HVAC diffuser upstairs, installing blinds, and completion of technology installation in conference room.
 - b. **Grace Boulevard.** Committee members asked for completion status this project. The project is anticipated to be completed by the end of August.
3. **Board Member Recruitment.** No candidates have been identified for the remaining Board Member (Commissioner appointment) opening. Zach Thomas will reach out to Findlay Young Professionals to ask for potential referrals.
4. **Annual Review of Disaster Behavioral Health Response Plan.** Committee members reviewed the existing disaster plan and continuity of operations policy. This plan was created and expanded as part of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Grant. One minor change (primary contact) is necessary on the disaster plan; Board Staff will complete the update.
5. **New Policy Recommendation.** Zach Thomas shared that the cyber-security policy has yet to be completed. The Board is covered through its contract with RCR Technologies, but a board policy is necessary to comply with current law. Zach also suggested the Board consider a formal policy for succession planning and legislative advocacy. Board staff will generate drafts for review by Committee Members.
6. **Existing/Pending Federal Grants.** An updated list of expiring, current, and pending grants was provided to Committee Members for review.
7. **Strategic Planning.** Zach Thomas shared that the current strategic plan ends in FY27. In consultation with the Board Chair, Board Staff will develop a proposal for a recommended approach to strategic planning this year.
8. **ADAMHS Staffing.** Krista Priuitt has been hired as the Director of Community Impact and Prevention, with a start date of August 31, 2026. Board Staff will be interviewing candidates for the Administrative and Housing Support Specialist position the week of August 24, 2026.
9. **2026 HCADAMHS Levy.** The Talking Points Document was shared with Committee Members to reinforce a

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unified message to promote the Levy.

10. September Board Meeting Date Change. Due to a schedule conflict, the September Board meeting will take place Tuesday, September 29, 2026, 3:30-5:00pm, ADAMHS Office.

ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

1. Zach Thomas will reach out to Findlay Young Professionals for referral of potential new Board Member.
2. Board Staff will complete update to the Disaster Behavioral Health Response Plan (contact).
3. Board Staff will be drafting cyber security, succession planning, and legislative advocacy policies.

NEXT MEETING:

September 16, 2026
8:00-9:30 a.m.
ADAMHS Office

Hancock County Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services
438 Carnahan Avenue, Findlay, OH 45840
419.424.1985 – yourpathtohealth.org

Finance Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Date: August 24, 2026

Meeting Time: 3:31-5:05 p.m.

Meeting Location: ADAMHS Office

Recorder: Rob Verhoff

Committee Members:

X	Ann Woolum, Chair	X	Joe Loy, Vice Chair
X	Rick Eakin (Virtual)	X	Rick Walter (Virtual)
X	Retired Sheriff Michael Heldman		

Board Members:

X	Dr. Mary Beth Dillon, Board Chair	X	Rachael Helms, Board Vice Chair
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Staff:

X	Zach Thomas	X	Rob Verhoff
X	Deb Twining	X	Jennifer Swartzlander (Virtual)

Items Discussed:

1. **Board Financial Reports for June 2026, July 2026.** Committee reviewed the reports - no issues identified.
2. **Capital Projects Updates.** Grace Boulevard - The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of August. Closing procedures will follow and occupancy should take place by the end of September.
3. **The Steady Path.** Family Resource Center requested a transfer of \$50,000 from Fee-For-Service to The Steady Path in their FY26 contract. It was noted that their FY26 Grant Allocation had positions not filled (Early Childhood Mental Health, Basu Point Resident Manager); therefore, the request was denied because there are unused grant funds that can cover the deficit for The Steady Path.
4. **NAMI Hancock County – Board Contingency Plan.** Zach and Rob met with NAMI’s executive director, finance department, and board chair. They are working on multiple fund raisers throughout the year to provide steadier cash flow and their FY27 proposal packet reflected a balanced budget. (Prior years reflected deficit spending.)
5. **Existing/Pending Federal Grants.** Zach reviewed the Board’s current and pending grants and reported the \$348,722 OneOhio grant has been approved.
6. **Local Marijuana Excise Tax.** Zach met with Mayor Muryn to discuss using some of this tax revenue as a funding source for prevention services.

Action Items:

1. A motion was made by Joe Loy and seconded by Retired Sheriff Michael Heldman to approve the June and July 2026 Board Financial Statements as presented. Motion approved unanimously.
2. A motion was made by Joe Loy and seconded by Retired Sheriff Michael Heldman to deny Family Resource Center’s \$50,000 transfer request from their FY2026 contract’s Fee-For-Service line to The Steady Path grant line. Motion approved unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: September 16, 2026, 3:30-5:00 p.m., ADAMHS Office

Hancock County Coalition for Mental Wellbeing Guiding Team

REPORT

Monday, August 10, 2026

9:00am-10:00am

Room 120 – College of Business/Student Life Building, University of Findlay

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

>	Debra Parker – Chair, University of Findlay	>	Brian White – FPD	>	Michelle Ladd – Chamber of Commerce
>	Mark Miller – Third District Court of Appeals	>	Carla Benjamin – Welcome to a New Life	>	Bill Kose – BVHS
	Rob Martin – City of Findlay	>	Ash Saum – FOCUS	>	Jeff Hunker – Hancock County Commissioner
	Kim Thomas – BVHS		Allie Yurcak – HPH		Ashley Bell – CASA
	Chris Biltz – University of Bluffton	>	Derek Puchtra – FRC	>	Ginny Williams – FRC
>	Victoria Graham – OhioGuidestone		James Mathias – FPD		Justin Hendren – FPD
>	Jodi Firsdon – University of Findlay	>	Kati Rinker – FRC		Keith Lane – Findlay Treatment Services
	Liana Gott – NAMI		Sara Arthurs – The Courier	>	Shawn Carpenter – Juvenile Court
	Stacy Shaw – Children’s Mentoring Connection		Triena Miller – JFS		Nicole Shively – Custom Staffing
	Kalynn Sommers – HPH		Nichole Coleman – TurboVets	>	Patrick Bzrozka – Adult Probation
	Pastor Gregg Fox				

BOARD/STAFF

	Dr. Mary Beth Dillon – ADAMHS Chair		Rachael Helms – ADAMHS Vice Chair	>	Jennifer Swartzlander – ADAMHS
>	Zach Thomas – ADAMHS		Steve Dillon – ADAMHS		

DISCUSSION:

1. **Committee Progress.** Co-chairs of the coalition subcommittees provided the following updates:
 - a. Prevention Committee – update will be provided at the next Guiding Team meeting (next Prevention Committee meeting will take place August 17, 2026).
 - b. Suicide Prevention Committee – a workgroup has been developing a localized campaign, *Make It Awkward*, which provides messaging and tips to help people have difficult conversations with people about suicide. The campaign will launch at the Hancock County Fair ADAMHS Booth, and will include an event at the October 2, 2026, Findlay High School home football game.
 - c. Treatment & Recovery – the committee will be convening the local Medication Assisted Treatment collaborative to discuss medication interventions for people with stimulant use disorder; FOCUS Recovery & Wellness Community will be hosting RecoveryPalooza on Saturday, September 19, 2026, at St. Mark’s DOCK.
 - d. Legislative Committee – the committee is supporting discussion with the City of Findlay regarding the use of marijuana sales excise taxes to support local prevention strategies.
2. **2026 ADAMHS Levy Campaign.** Guiding Team Members were encouraged to become ambassadors for the levy; talking points and suggestions on how to support the levy were shared with the Members.
3. **ROSC and ADAMHS Strategic Planning.** The Guiding Team will continue to provide community voice on maintaining, enhancing, and expanding the Recovery Oriented System of Care. Over the course of the year, the ADAMHS Board will be working through a strategic planning process; Guiding Team Members were provided a copy of the current strategic plan and were asked to share comments for the Board to consider as it develops its updated strategic plan:
 - a. Work with a consultant to complete a third-party review of the current ROSC Implementation Framework.

Hancock County Coalition for Mental Wellbeing

Guiding Team

- b. There is a significant gap in housing resources and a lack of clarity on how to access affordable housing; a housing navigator would be helpful.
 - c. Emphasize efforts on interrupting generational substance use within families.
 - d. Staff turnover rate is often tied to funding.
 - e. Private practitioners are not connected to the larger community behavioral health system; private practitioners could be a valuable resource to fill workforce shortages.
 - f. Emphasize the importance of integrated care (mental health/substance use and physical health).
 - g. Ensure a reliable referral process for clients beginning community behavioral health services after receiving services from private/for-profit agencies.
 - h. Often, great programs are developed and implemented, but not known within the community for referrals.
4. **Pending Grants.** ADAMHS has several federal grants that are pending which would provide funding to sustain and/or enhance existing programs.
5. **FY27 CFMW Committee Meeting Schedule.** The published schedule was provided for the Guiding Team Members for reference.

NEXT MEETING:

October 13, 2026

9:00-10:30am

ADAMHS Office

THE DELEGATION – A Collaborative to Expand Belonging for All People

August 18, 2026

1:00-2:00 p.m.

Findlay-Hancock County Public Library

Report



Delegation Members (Attendees in **BOLD**)

Kimberly Bash – Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation	Jennifer Swartzlander – ADAMHS	Dionne Neubauer – Findlay- Hancock County Chamber of Commerce
Zach Thomas – ADAMHS	Lindsay Summit – Hancock Public Health	Hiro Kawamura – University of Findlay
Chris Caldwell – Black Heritage Library & Multicultural Center	Scott Lammers – Family Resource Center	Jerome Gray – Black Heritage Library & Multicultural Center
Sarah Foltz – The Alliance	Jaclynn Hohman – City of Findlay	Andy Hatton – Findlay City Schools
Rene Gabriel – Mission Possible	Hachemy Gabriel – Mission Possible	Melissa LaRocco – Legal Aid of Western Ohio
Amber Kear – The Hysteria Company	Kristy Szkudlarek – Findlay-Hancock County Public Library	Sarah Clevidence – Findlay-Hancock County Public Library
Gary Bright – 50North	Jason Aldrich - WOFB	Crystal Whipkey – CCE/Findlay City Schools
Monika Zimmerman – Community Advocate	Peggy Dillon – Hot Yoga Findlay	Sarah Fedirka – University of Findlay
Nichole Coleman – Hancock County Veterans Services	Cyprian Syeunda – Mennel Milling	Lok Lew Yan Von – University of Findlay
Heather Kensinger – Findlay City Council	Gordon Griffin – Community Advocate	Inci Yilmazli – Awakening Minds Art
Mary Fanning – Legal Aid of Western Ohio	Brandon Montague – NAMI Hancock County	Chris Chilcote – Findlay for All
Kevin Cullen – City Council		

DISCUSSION:

1. **Hancock Civic Academy.** Sarah Foltz led a discussion regarding the latest curriculum and implementation plan for the Academy. Sarah has spent several months gathering feedback and guidance on the curriculum and has developed a comprehensive implementation plan that will provide an additional learning opportunity for the community. The Delegation Members participated in a meaningful conversation about the plan.
2. **Insight for Maria White.** Maria White served as consultant for the Delegation in 2020-2021. The Delegation Members were asked to offer what they would share with Maria regarding changes and/or needs since her work with the Delegation. This conversation centered around the lack of desire/ability for people to engage in civil discourse, a post-literate society, and the need to engage in humble curiosity.
3. **Book Study Discussion.** *Mattering*, Chapters 6-7. Little time was left for discussion; the Delegation will begin its next meet with this discussion (September).

AREAS OF FOCUS/PRIORITY/ACTION

1. *Mattering* Book Discussion
2. Civic Leadership Academy
3. Photovoice Project

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, September 15, 2026
1:00-2:00pm

2026 Hancock County ADAMHS Levy Campaign Committee
Citizens Committee for Mental Health & Substance Use Services



Dr. William Kose & Mr. Mark Rimelspach, *Co-Chairs*
 Ms. Ann Woolum, *Treasurer*

MEETING REPORT:

Thursday, July 16, 2026, 7:00 – 8:00 a.m., ADAMHS Office
 Cheryl Preston, Recorder

MEMBERS (Attendees in **BOLD)**

NAME	ORGANIZATION	EMAIL
Dr. Bill Kose, Chair	BVHS	wkose@bvhealthsystem.org
Mark Rimelspach, Vice Chair	Former ADAMHS Board Member	mprimelspach@yahoo.com
John Bindas – Virtual	Family Resource Center	john.bindas@frcohio.org
Brandon Montague	NAMI	brandon@namihancockcounty.org
Kathy Hirschfeld	Community Advocate	kathysueh@aol.com
Carla Benjamin	Welcome to a New Life	director@welcometoanewlife.org
Debra Pees-Arce	Community Advocate	debrapeesarce@gmail.com
Stacy Shaw – Virtual	Children's Mentoring Connection	stacy@cmchancock.org
Shawn Carpenter – Virtual	Juvenile Court	srcarpenter@co.hancock.oh.us
Dr. Mary Beth Dillon	ADAMHS Board Chair	marybeth.dillon@gmail.com
Rachael Helms	ADAMHS Board Vice-Chair	rhelms@steppingstonesfindlay.com
Retired Judge Joseph Niemeyer	ADAMHS Board	bdniemeyer@hotmail.com
Retired Sheriff Mike Heldman	ADAMHS Board	meheldman@gmail.com
Ann Woolum	ADAMHS Board	Awhcpa07@gmail.com
Joe Loy	ADAMHS Board	jloy59@roadrunner.com
Kris Napier	ADAMHS Board	krnapier409@yahoo.com
Rick Walter - Virtual	ADAMHS Board	fgwalter@hotmail.com
Anthony Stateler	ADAMHS Board	anthony@statelerfamilyfarms.com
Zach Thomas	ADAMHS	zthomas@yourpathtohealth.org
Cheryl Preston	ADAMHS	cpreston@yourpathtohealth.org
Deb Twining	ADAMHS	dtwining@yourpathtohealth.org
Steve Dillon	ADAMHS	sdillon@yourpathtohealth.org
Jennifer Swartzlander	ADAMHS	jswartzlander@yourpathtohealth.org
Amy Beach	ADAMHS	adamhs@yourpathtohealth.org

DISCUSSION:

1. **Follow-up on Action Items.** Zach Thomas reviewed the updates on the action items from the 7.9.26 meeting.
 - a. A request was submitted to Hancock County ESC to determine if there are any school taxes on the ballot in November 2026
 - b. A request was submitted to Hancock County Board of Elections for early voting/precinct demographic data.
 - c. A meeting has been scheduled with 50North (7.17.26) to discuss collaboration.
 - d. Marketing material materials from 2022 Campaign were provided.
 - e. The final board resolution language (resolution) was approved by the Commissioners and sent to the Board of Elections.
 - f. Staff have been assigned to assist with Campaign strategies (see updated 2026 Levy Tasks List, attached).

**2026 Hancock County ADAMHS Levy Campaign Committee
Citizens Committee for Mental Health & Substance Use Services**



Dr. William Kose & Mr. Mark Rimelspach, *Co-Chairs*
Ms. Ann Woolum, *Treasurer*

- c. Gubernatorial Race – Ohio will be holding a highly contested and volatile Governor’s race which may impact people’s decisions about other ballot issues.
- d. Local Concerns and Challenges – increased mental health crisis among youth; limited, reduced, and uncertain grant funding; stagnant state allocations; and, diminished and overworked workforce.
- 3. **Levy Timeline/Tasks.** Two documents were shared with the Committee outlining the work to be completed by the Levy Campaign Committee. Due to early voting (beginning October 6), campaign tasks should be completed by mid August.
- 4. **Overall Campaign Strategy Brainstorm.** Levy Campaign Committee members discussed potential outputs to create to share the importance of the levy and encourage community members to vote in support of the levy. More specifically, it was recommended to collaborate with 50 North, which will also be asking for a Levy renewal in November.
- 5. **Committee Membership.** The Levy Campaign Committee is open to any community member who desires to support to the work of passing the levy. Committee members may attend as often as their schedule allows.
- 6. **Establishing Standing Meeting Schedule.** The Committee will meet weekly.

ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- 1. Determine if there are any school taxes on the ballot.
- 2. Provide early voting/precinct demographic data.
- 3. Open discussion with 50North about collaboration.
- 4. Provide examples of marketing materials from 2022 campaign.
- 5. Committee members asked to consider additional partners to join Levy Campaign Committee; potential opportunities to present/speak about levy in community.
- 6. Determine status of board resolution; ballot language, assignment of ballot issue number.
- 7. Begin researching cost of large/small signs, window clings, social media strategies

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, July 16, 2026

2026 Hancock County ADAMHS Levy Campaign Committee
Citizens Committee for Mental Health & Substance Use Services



Dr. William Kose & Mr. Mark Rimelspach, *Co-Chairs*
 Ms. Ann Woolum, *Treasurer*

MEETING REPORT:

Thursday, July 30, 2026, 7:00 – 8:00 a.m., ADAMHS Office
 Cheryl Preston, Recorder

MEMBERS (Attendees in **BOLD)**

NAME	ORGANIZATION	EMAIL
Dr. Bill Kose, Chair	BVHS	wkose@bvhealthsystem.org
Mark Rimelspach, Vice Chair	Former ADAMHS Board Member	mprimelspach@yahoo.com
John Bindas	Family Resource Center	john.bindas@frcohio.org
Sue Sorg – Virtual	Family Resource Center	Sue.sorg@frcohio.org
Brandon Montague	NAMI	brandon@namihancockcounty.org
Brooke Nissen	FOCUS	brooke@focusrwc.org
Kathy Hirschfeld	Community Advocate	kathysueh@aol.com
Carla Benjamin - Virtual	Welcome to a New Life	director@welcometoanewlife.org
Debra Pees-Arce	Community Advocate	debrapeesarce@gmail.com
Stacy Shaw – Virtual	Children’s Mentoring Connection	stacy@cmchancock.org
Shawn Carpenter – Virtual	Juvenile Court	srcarpenter@co.hancock.oh.us
Dr. Mary Beth Dillon	ADAMHS Board Chair	marybeth.dillon@gmail.com
Rachael Helms - Virtual	ADAMHS Board Vice-Chair	rhelms@steppingstonesfindlay.com
Retired Judge Joseph Niemeyer	ADAMHS Board	bdniemeyer@hotmail.com
Retired Sheriff Mike Heldman	ADAMHS Board	meheldman@gmail.com
Cheryl Lentz	ADAMHS Board	CherylLentz145@gmail.com
Ann Woolum	ADAMHS Board	Awhcpa07@gmail.com
Joe Loy	ADAMHS Board	jloy59@roadrunner.com
Kris Napier	ADAMHS Board	krnapier409@yahoo.com
Rick Walter - Virtual	ADAMHS Board	fgwalter@hotmail.com
Anthony Stateler	ADAMHS Board	anthony@statelerfamilyfarms.com
Zach Thomas	ADAMHS	zthomas@yourpathtohealth.org
Cheryl Preston	ADAMHS	cpreston@yourpathtohealth.org
Deb Twining	ADAMHS	dtwining@yourpathtohealth.org
Steve Dillon	ADAMHS	sdillon@yourpathtohealth.org
Jennifer Swartzlander	ADAMHS	jswartzlander@yourpathtohealth.org
Amy Beach	ADAMHS	adamhs@yourpathtohealth.org

DISCUSSION:

- Follow-up on Action Items from 7.16.25** – See below for updates.
- Finalization of Budget.** An updated budget, with estimates for planned purchases (e.g. media, fair give-a-way) was presented for review. No concerns were raised regarding anticipated expenses.
- Brochure/Talking Points Cards.** The Logan/Chapaign ADAMH Board has developed an informational postcard to promote its levy. ADAMH Staff have determined this card will serve as a good model to assist in developing HCADAMHS informational postcard. The postcard will be the primary communication piece for the Levy. It was recommended that the informational postcard be used in a bulk mailing.
- Campaign Letters, Endorsement, Speaking Engagements to Date, Testimonials.**
 - Campaign Letters – a final draft was reviewed. The Committee recommended adding an additional “way to support mental health” which includes an opportunity to make

**2026 Hancock County ADAMHS Levy Campaign Committee
Citizens Committee for Mental Health & Substance Use Services**



Dr. William Kose & Mr. Mark Rimelspach, *Co-Chairs*
Ms. Ann Wolcott, *Treasurer*

2. Marketing Strategies (Signs, Social Media, Print Media, Radio)

- a. Steve Dillon will reach out to people on the sign distribution list and will coordinate sign placement no later than mid-September (for large signs [3'X5']). Small signs (24"X24", approx. 250) will be made available at the Board office for Committee members to distribute. Large signs will be picked up/removed on November 4th.
 - b. Steve Dillon will price digital billboards, The Courier ads (¼ page and bottom ribbon), assist with drafting editorials, and support social media strategies.
 - c. Amy Beach will support social media strategies, including Facebook live videos (interviews; video documentation of the work of the Committee).
 - d. Committee members stressed the importance of utilizing Facebook by posting and sharing posts for more exposure.
3. **Talking Points Development.** Two documents were shared with the Committee; updates will be made to the document on why to support the 2026 Levy and the letter asking for support/ways to support the Levy, and be made available at the next meeting for final review. The Committee discussed the rules/laws of promotion – Zach will check into the statute.
4. **Testimony Collection Process.** Levy Campaign Committee members discussed potential outputs to create to share the importance of the Levy and encourage community members to vote in support of the Levy. Amy Beach will manage the collection of testimonies.
5. **Speakers Bureau Process.** The Levy Campaign Committee reviewed and discussed the speakers bureau information that was included in the packet. A cover letter with a request for speakers will be drafted and be made available for review at the next meeting. The speakers bureau presentation list will be updated and condensed. Committee members are asked to assist with confirming opportunities for people to speak on behalf of the Campaign.
6. **Action Items for Next Meeting.** Due to a large number of tasks to be completed internally by Staff, it was agreed to meet in two weeks in order for Staff to have time to complete the tasks.

ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING (Updated since 7.16.26 in RED):

1. Check with Gary Pruitt from the Parks Department for his list of large sign placement.
2. Provide early voting/precinct demographic data.
3. Open discussion with 50North about collaboration. **Meeting completed 7.17.26.**
4. Committee members confirm contacts for large signs and solicit for testimonials.
5. Budget and quotes will be provided at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, July 30, 2026, ADAMHS Office (and via Teams Meeting if necessary).

Hancock County Coalition for Mental Wellbeing

Guiding Team

REPORT

Monday, August 10, 2026

9:00am-10:00am

Room 120 – College of Business/Student Life Building, University of Findlay

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

>	Debra Parker – Chair, University of Findlay	>	Brian White – FPD	>	Michelle Ladd – Chamber of Commerce
>	Mark Miller – Third District Court of Appeals	>	Carla Benjamin – Welcome to a New Life	>	Bill Kose – BVHS
	Rob Martin – City of Findlay	>	Ash Saum – FOCUS	>	Jeff Hunker – Hancock County Commissioner
	Kim Thomas – BVHS		Allie Yurcak – HPH		Ashley Bell – CASA
	Chris Biltz – University of Bluffton	>	Derek Puchtra – FRC	>	Ginny Williams – FRC
>	Victoria Graham – OhioGuidestone		James Mathias – FPD		Justin Hendren – FPD
>	Jodi Firsdon – University of Findlay	>	Kati Rinker – FRC		Keith Lane – Findlay Treatment Services
	Liana Gott – NAMI		Sara Arthurs – The Courier	>	Shawn Carpenter – Juvenile Court
	Stacy Shaw – Children’s Mentoring Connection		Triena Miller – JFS		Nicole Shively – Custom Staffing
	Kalynn Sommers – HPH		Nichole Coleman – TurboVets	>	Patrick Bzrozka – Adult Probation
	Pastor Gregg Fox				

BOARD/STAFF

	Dr. Mary Beth Dillon – ADAMHS Chair		Rachael Helms – ADAMHS Vice Chair	>	Jennifer Swartzlander – ADAMHS
>	Zach Thomas – ADAMHS		Steve Dillon – ADAMHS		

DISCUSSION:

1. **Committee Progress.** Co-chairs of the coalition subcommittees provided the following updates:
 - a. Prevention Committee – update will be provided at the next Guiding Team meeting (next Prevention Committee meeting will take place August 17, 2026).
 - b. Suicide Prevention Committee – a workgroup has been developing a localized campaign, *Make It Awkward*, which provides messaging and tips to help people have difficult conversations with people about suicide. The campaign will launch at the Hancock County Fair ADAMHS Booth, and will include an event at the October 2, 2026, Findlay High School home football game.
 - c. Treatment & Recovery – the committee will be convening the local Medication Assisted Treatment collaborative to discuss medication interventions for people with stimulant use disorder; FOCUS Recovery & Wellness Community will be hosting RecoveryPalooza on Saturday, September 19, 2026, at St. Mark’s DOCK.
 - d. Legislative Committee – the committee is supporting discussion with the City of Findlay regarding the use of marijuana sales excise taxes to support local prevention strategies.
2. **2026 ADAMHS Levy Campaign.** Guiding Team Members were encouraged to become ambassadors for the levy; talking points and suggestions on how to support the levy were shared with the Members.
3. **ROSC and ADAMHS Strategic Planning.** The Guiding Team will continue to provide community voice on maintaining, enhancing, and expanding the Recovery Oriented System of Care. Over the course of the year, the ADAMHS Board will be working through a strategic planning process; Guiding Team Members were provided a copy of the current strategic plan and were asked to share comments for the Board to consider as it develops its updated strategic plan:
 - a. Work with a consultant to complete a third-party review of the current ROSC Implementation Framework.

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- e. Volunteers are needed for several upcoming activities. Kathy Hirschfeld volunteered to assist with placing stickers on coffee sleeves and preparing yard signs.
 - f. The Committee agreed to not carry out a door-to-door campaign.
 - g. The postcard should include the name of the Campaign Co-Chairs and Treasurer.
2. **Budget Review.** The current balance remaining is \$8,645.93. Items yet to be purchased include print ads in The Courier, supplies for the Halloween Parade, and table tents. Cost for bulk mailing is still being investigated. It was noted that donations to ADAMHS are tax-deductible contributions.
3. **Action Items for Next Meeting.** The following items are to be prepared/completed for the next meeting (8.27.26):
- Draft editorials
 - Outreach to Josh Eberle and community leaders for requests for editorial, quotes/statements, radio ads voices
 - Outreach to County Commissioners regarding County Trustees meeting
 - FRC to present proposal for Halloween Parade
 - ADAMHS Staff will update postcard to include Campaign Committee leadership
 - Continue progress on 2026 Hancock County ADAMHS Levy Campaign Committee Task List

NEXT MEETING:

August 27, 2026, 7:00am, ADAMHS Office

**2026 Hancock County ADAMHS Levy Campaign Committee
Citizens Committee for Mental Health & Substance Use Services**



Dr. William Kose & Mr. Mark Rimelspach, Co-Chairs
Ms. Ann Woolum, Treasurer

MEETING REPORT:

Thursday, August 20, 2026, 7:00 – 8:00 a.m., ADAMHS Office

MEMBERS (Attendees in **BOLD)**

NAME	ORGANIZATION	EMAIL
Dr. Bill Kose, Chair	BVHS	wkose@bvhealthsystem.org
Mark Rimelspach, Vice Chair	Former ADAMHS Board Member	mprimelspach@yahoo.com
John Bindas – Virtual	Family Resource Center	john.bindas@frcohio.org
Sue Sorg	Family Resource Center	sue.sorg@frcohio.org
Brandon Montague	NAMI	brandon@namihancockcounty.org
Kathy Hirschfeld	Community Advocate	kathysueh@aol.com
Carla Benjamin	Welcome to a New Life	director@welcometoanewlife.org
Debra Pees-Arce	Community Advocate	debrapeesarce@gmail.com
Stacy Shaw – Virtual	Children's Mentoring Connection	stacy@cmchancock.org
Shawn Carpenter	Juvenile Court	srcarpenter@co.hancock.oh.us
Dr. Mary Beth Dillon	ADAMHS Board Chair	marybeth.dillon@gmail.com
Rachael Helms	ADAMHS Board Vice-Chair	rhelms@steppingstonesfindlay.com
Retired Judge Joseph Niemeyer	ADAMHS Board	bdniemeyer@hotmail.com
Retired Sheriff Mike Heldman – Virtual	ADAMHS Board	meheldman@gmail.com
Cheryl Lentz	ADAMHS Board	CherylLentz145@gmail.com
Ann Woolum	ADAMHS Board	Awhcpa07@gmail.com
Joe Loy	ADAMHS Board	Jloy59@roadrunner.com
Kris Napier	ADAMHS Board	krnapier409@yahoo.com
Rick Walter	ADAMHS Board	fqwalter@hotmail.com
Anthony Stateler – Virtual	ADAMHS Board	anthony@statelerfamilyfarms.com
Zach Thomas	ADAMHS	zthomas@yourpathtohealth.org
Cheryl Preston	ADAMHS	cpreston@yourpathtohealth.org
Deb Twining	ADAMHS	dtwining@yourpathtohealth.org
Steve Dillon	ADAMHS	sdillon@yourpathtohealth.org
Jennifer Swartzlander - Virtual	ADAMHS	jswartzlander@yourpathtohealth.org
Amy Beach	ADAMHS	adamhs@yourpathtohealth.org

DISCUSSION:

1. **Critical Tasks Discussion.** Zach Thomas reviewed updated to the 2026 Hancock County ADAMHS Levy Campaign Committee Task List. Items to note include:
 - a. Retired Judge Joseph Niemeyer will work with other judges to create an editorial offering support for the Levy; Dr. William Kose and Mark Rimelspach will write an editorial from the viewpoint of the Campaign Co-Chairs; Zach Thomas will write an editorial from the viewpoint of the ADAMHS Executive Director; Dr. William Kose will write an editorial from the viewpoint of the medical community, impact of ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences).
 - b. Ann Woolum suggested asking Josh Eberle to write an editorial.
 - c. Retired Sheriff Michael Heldman suggested asking prominent community leaders to provide a quote or statement of their support of the Levy.
 - d. Dr. William Kose suggested asking the Commissioners about the upcoming County Trustees meeting and asking to offer a presentation on the Levy.

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NEXT MEETING:

August 13, 2026, 7:00am, ADAMHS Office

ADDENDUM:

The August 13, 2026, meeting was postponed until August 20, 2026, to allow time for ADAMHS Staff to continue with Task List. The following correspondence update was provided in lieu of meeting:

August 13, 2026

Good morning, Committee Members,

The following documents are provided as an update on the progress of the campaign:

- 2026 Levy Tasks List – Updated 8.13.26. *Tasks that have been completed/in progress are detailed.*
- Talking Points Document – FINAL. *For use by Committee Members to have important facts/data points on hand to discuss the Levy.*
- Cover Letter & Talking Points – FINAL. *Letter offers ways community members can support/promote the Levy.*
- Levy Campaign Logo. *Please use this graphic to attach to your email signature (if allowed by your employer) to promote the levy.*

The ADAMHS website now has a page dedicated to the Levy. A QR code to this page will be on the postcards. You can access the page [HERE](#).

If you would like to volunteer at the Fair Booth, please use the following link to sign up: [CLICK HERE TO SIGN-UP](#)

We are also inviting Committee Members to volunteer on the days of the fair that our contract agencies manage. If you would like to volunteer on any of those days (Wed-Sat), please email Deb Twining (dtwining@yourpathtohealth.org).

Potential Volunteer Opportunities:

- Halloween Parade (October 27, 2026) – *FRC's Prevention Team will be organizing this event (details to come).*
- Card Writing Campaign – *Committee members may be asked to send 5-10 postcard, with a personalized note, to people in their networks.*
- Stickers Campaign – *Placing Levy Campaign stickers on coffee sleeves. This is yet to be finalized with Coffee Amici.*
- Sign Distribution – *Steve will be managing this Large Sign distribution process. Yard signs will be available for pick-up at the office within the next week.*
- Door-to-Door – *If determined necessary, a team of Committee Members/Volunteers will be dispatched in certain precincts to knock on doors to promote the Levy.*

We thank you for your continued engagement and commitment to this endeavor.

Sincerely,
Zach

THE DELEGATION – A Collaborative to Expand Belonging for All People

August 18, 2026

1:00-2:00 p.m.

Findlay-Hancock County Public Library

Report



Delegation Members (Attendees in **BOLD**)

Kimberly Bash – Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation	Jennifer Swartzlander – ADAMHS	Dionne Neubauer – Findlay- Hancock County Chamber of Commerce
Zach Thomas – ADAMHS	Lindsay Summit – Hancock Public Health	Hiro Kawamura – University of Findlay
Chris Caldwell – Black Heritage Library & Multicultural Center	Scott Lammers – Family Resource Center	Jerome Gray – Black Heritage Library & Multicultural Center
Sarah Foltz – The Alliance	Jaclynn Hohman – City of Findlay	Andy Hatton – Findlay City Schools
Rene Gabriel – Mission Possible	Hachemy Gabriel – Mission Possible	Melissa LaRocco – Legal Aid of Western Ohio
Amber Kear – The Hysteria Company	Kristy Szkudlarek – Findlay-Hancock County Public Library	Sarah Clevidence – Findlay-Hancock County Public Library
Gary Bright – 50North	Jason Aldrich - WOFB	Crystal Whipkey – CCE/Findlay City Schools
Monika Zimmerman – Community Advocate	Peggy Dillon – Hot Yoga Findlay	Sarah Fedirka – University of Findlay
Nichole Coleman – Hancock County Veterans Services	Cyprian Syeunda – Mennel Milling	Lok Lew Yan Von – University of Findlay
Heather Kensinger – Findlay City Council	Gordon Griffin – Community Advocate	Inci Yilmazli – Awakening Minds Art
Mary Fanning – Legal Aid of Western Ohio	Brandon Montague – NAMI Hancock County	Chris Chilcote – Findlay for All
Kevin Cullen – City Council		

DISCUSSION:

1. **Hancock Civic Academy.** Sarah Foltz led a discussion regarding the latest curriculum and implementation plan for the Academy. Sarah has spent several months gathering feedback and guidance on the curriculum and has developed a comprehensive implementation plan that will provide an additional learning opportunity for the community. The Delegation Members participated in a meaningful conversation about the plan.
2. **Insight for Maria White.** Maria White served as consultant for the Delegation in 2020-2021. The Delegation Members were asked to offer what they would share with Maria regarding changes and/or needs since her work with the Delegation. This conversation centered around the lack of desire/ability for people to engage in civil discourse, a post-literate society, and the need to engage in humble curiosity.
3. **Book Study Discussion.** *Mattering*, Chapters 6-7. Little time was left for discussion; the Delegation will begin its next meet with this discussion (September).

AREAS OF FOCUS/PRIORITY/ACTION

1. *Mattering* Book Discussion
2. Civic Leadership Academy
3. Photovoice Project

NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, September 15, 2026
1:00-2:00pm

Memorials After a Suicide Death

While memorials can be held for any type of loss, they are especially common after a suicide death. Suicide often leaves loved ones and communities with deep grief and strong emotions, and careful planning is important to support those who may be vulnerable. When done thoughtfully, memorials can honor a life, promote healing, and help turn grief into hope for the community.

Understanding Risk: Contagion and Clusters

- Suicide contagion occurs when exposure to suicide or suicidal behavior influences others to consider or attempt suicide. While rare, it is important to be aware of, especially among adolescents and young adults, who are more vulnerable to imitative behavior. All communities can benefit from careful planning to reduce potential risk.¹
- A suicide cluster happens when multiple suicides occur close together in time or within the same community, peer group, or family. Clusters are uncommon but highlight the importance of thoughtful postvention.²
- Memorials are not inherently harmful. When planned thoughtfully, they can honor a life, promote healing, and support hope, while minimizing potential risk.

The Value of Policies

Having a memorialization policy in place before a loss occurs helps communities respond thoughtfully rather than reactively. Proactive policies provide organizations with a clear framework for transforming grief into safe, meaningful remembrance.

Strong policies help organizations:³

- Ensure consistency and fairness for all deaths, reducing stigma and avoiding hurtful comparisons.
- Establish expectations for safe, time-bound memorials, both online and in person.
- Clarify roles and boundaries for staff, students, or colleagues.
- Promote hope-focused memorials that honor life and foster connection, healing, and access to resources.
- Encourage collaboration with families and community partners to respect cultural traditions and personal preferences.



Open communication is key in postvention, supporting healing after a loss and laying a foundation for prevention.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Does this memorial honor the person's life in a safe and meaningful way?

Could this memorial unintentionally affect someone who may be at risk?

What are the family's preferences and cultural considerations?

Is this the right time for a memorial?

Could the memorial incorporate hope, connection, or prevention?

Are there safer alternatives to physical or permanent memorials, such as service projects or temporary memory books?

Understanding how to honor someone safely is key to supporting healing and reducing potential harm.

Safe Memorial Best Practices⁴

Memorials can be meaningful and healing when thoughtfully planned. Following these principles helps honor a life while supporting hope, healing, and connection in the community.

Consider the following principles:

- Focus on life, not death. Highlight the person's strengths, relationships, and impact rather than the details of their death.
- Include resources and support. Provide information about 988 and local mental health or postvention services.
- Use safe, hopeful language. Avoid romanticizing or glamorizing death in any messaging, online or in person.
- Make memorials time-bound. For online tributes, consider a temporary window of 30–60 days to honor the person safely.
- Engage the family. Collaborate with loved ones to ensure memorials are meaningful, culturally appropriate, and respectful.

Suggested activities:

- Community service day in the person's honor
- Mental health awareness events or walks
- Volunteering with local mental health agencies
- Fundraising for 988 or other crisis/support resources
- Temporary memory books or an online platform for condolences and messages, which can later be shared with the family

Considerations by Setting

Schools: Adolescents are more susceptible to imitative behavior, so memorials require extra care. Students may want to leave temporary items, such as notes or flowers, in a locker or collection box. These items can later be shared with the family. Students must be heard, supported, and given space to grieve while doing this safely. Communication and collaboration with school staff and families help ensure memorials are meaningful and culturally appropriate.⁵

Workplaces: Memorials should balance remembrance with workplace responsibilities. Digital memory books or shared platforms allow colleagues to post messages that can later be shared with the family safely. Clear policies support life-affirming actions for any workplace loss, such as volunteering, awareness events, or fundraising, while guiding respectful and hope-focused memorials.

References

1. Walling MA. Suicide Contagion. *Current Trauma Reports*. 2021;7(4):103-114. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40719-021-00219-9>
2. CDC. Suicide Clusters. Suicide Prevention. Published May 30, 2024. <https://www.cdc.gov/suicide/prevention/cluster.html>
3. Stubbe DE. When Prevention Is Not Enough: The Importance of Postvention After Patient Suicide. *FOCUS*. 2023;21(2):168-172. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.focus.20230003>
4. Workshop 1 Handout Memorials: Special Considerations When Memorializing an Incident. <https://nmwvrc.org/media/son/jkwww/special-considerations-when-memorializing-an-incident-nasp.pdf>
5. After a Suicide: A Toolkit for Schools. American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Published December 24, 2019. <https://afsp.org/after-a-suicide-a-toolkit-for-schools/>

ABOUT

OHIO SUICIDE PREVENTION FOUNDATION

Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation (OSPF) educates, advocates for, and builds connections and support for individuals, families, and communities to prevent suicide.



(614) 429-1528 / [OhioSPF.org](https://ohiospf.org)



WE KNOW WHAT WORKS - A PERSON CENTERED APPROACH

Focus on SMI and SPMI

Reduces costs, enhances communities

Alternatives to Criminal Justice

Decreases expenses, improves outcomes

Stable Housing Opportunities

Lowers costs, fewer jail days

Meaningful Day Activity

Reduces costs, improve quality of life

Family Engagement

Reduces costs, addresses workforce

THE SOLUTION: A PERSON-CENTERED APPROACH

01 Publish a Dashboard

Create transparency and accountability by defining operational criteria for SPMI and tracking spending, services, and housing outcomes across sectors.

KPI: Publish common metrics across all funding initiatives for individuals with SPMI.

02 Scale the Missing Services

Build out the crisis services continuum, expand stable housing options for SPMI, and grow meaningful day/vocational activities (Clubhouses, Supported Employment, Peer Centers).

KPI: Reduced ED/inpatient admissions, arrests/incarceration, homelessness, and increased vocational participation.

03 Accountability & Family Engagement

Implement customer service expectations that enable families to become active care team members, reducing costs and enhancing recovery.

KPI: Family engagement vs. reductions in ED/inpatient admissions.

ROADMAP TO ACTION

2025 – Spring 2026	Established Blueprint Structure and Priorities
Spring - Fall 2026	Engage stakeholders, complete research, establish KPIs, design dashboard
Fall - Winter 2026	Coordinate action across NAMI affiliates; align public-private partners to blueprint
Late 2026 – 2027	Complete Blueprint and launch dashboard

Through thousands of conversations each year, NAMI Ohio hears directly from individuals and families navigating serious mental illness. Their experiences continue to highlight the need for earlier intervention, stronger community supports, stable housing, meaningful day activities, and greater family involvement in care.

“THE NEED IS CLEAR—ACTION CANNOT WAIT... Now is the time to prioritize and support the development of the needed foundational services for people with Severe and Persistent Mental Illnesses across Ohio. Ohio does not need another listening session or commission. Ohio needs action.” — Jack Sherman,

NAMI Ohio Board President

NAMI Ohio Stands Ready

We will work with all stakeholders to prioritize those most in need. Stronger support services and clear accountability will improve outcomes — with current resources. It is time to be intentional.

NAMI IS OHIO'S MOST EXPANSIVE MENTAL HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Ohio's Blueprint for Mental Health

Consensus-driven priorities to improve outcomes for adults with serious mental illness and their families



4K +

Free Programs Delivered
Statewide



50K +

Individuals Served



85/88

Ohio Counties with Affiliates



~\$1B

Family Care Annually

“Ohio must address the elephant in the room – our state will not grow and thrive as long as thousands of our loved ones cannot succeed because of untreated mental illness. This lack of support services negatively impacts our families, schools, businesses, and communities. Ohio can be the innovator and leader in this movement.”

— Luke Russell, NAMI Ohio Executive Director

THE CHALLENGE: UNTREATED SEVERE & PERSISTENT MENTAL ILLNESS

Serious & Persistent Mental Illness – diagnoses that need a more consistent level of care. We are defining SPMI as long-term, complex mental health disorders that significantly impair a person's daily functioning, requiring ongoing treatment and support services.

Families are often the first responders to mental health crises, yet many report struggling to find services before a situation escalates. NAMI families consistently describe navigating fragmented systems, long wait times, limited housing options, and a lack of ongoing community supports for their loved ones.

-  **1% of population, 20%+ of Medicaid costs** Adults with SPMI are vastly overrepresented in spending despite being a small share of the population.
-  **Incarceration** For every 1 person in a psychiatric hospital, 4 people with SPMI are in the criminal justice system.
-  **Crisis & ED Overuse** Adults with SPMI account for disproportionate ED visits, longer stays, and 4x the hospital readmission rate.
-  **Homelessness** 2,131 homeless Ohioans are living with a serious mental illness, cycling through housing instability.
-  **Health Disparities** Individuals with SPMI die earlier and are 4x more likely to have co-occurring physical health conditions.
-  **Underserved** Despite \$3 billion in Medicaid funding, fewer than half with SPMI receive adequate treatment.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: Greater Dayton Region (11 Counties)

\$12.65B lost GDP | **\$3.25B** health & social costs | **\$9.92B** lost quality of life

More than 100 stakeholders were engaged during the development of this Blueprint. While common themes emerged, NAMI Ohio was unable to gather verifiable consensus data across stakeholder groups, highlighting the need for continued engagement and collaboration.