

2024 HIGHLIGHTS



The Board held a ceremonial groundbreaking for the Portage Crisis Center expected to be completed in 2026 with services provided by Coleman Health Services. This project will offer expanded mental health crisis services for youth and families. Funding has been provided by the State of Ohio, Ohio Dept of Mental Health & Addiction Services, and local dollars. The new center will house crisis stabilization beds and 23-hour observation units for adults and children.



The Mental Health & Recovery Board was honored to receive the Community Impact Award from the Portage County NAACP that was presented at their annual Freedom Fund Scholarship Luncheon.



The Board welcomed two new members, Valerie Root (left) and Dina Douglas (right) to the Board of Directors. Ms. Root is a resident of Ravenna and a longtime advocate for behavioral health services in Portage County. Ms. Douglas is a resident of Kent and is Director of Services and In-Home Clinical Supervisor with Bellefaire JCB in Summit County. Longtime members Hal Farrier, Janice Hambleton, and Scott Swan retired from the board this year.

Mental Health & Recovery Board

OF PORTAGE COUNTY

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

DIRECTOR'S DESK



The demand for mental health and addiction services in Portage County remains a critical priority. Thanks to the hard work and collaboration of our dedicated staff, board members, and community partners, we have made significant strides in strengthening our community-based behavioral health treatment, prevention, and recovery services.

This year, we have expanded our services to reach even more individuals in need. This includes an increase in prevention services, expanded recovery housing, and the introduction of transportation options for individuals in recovery to help improve access to care.

Our partnership with the criminal justice system has also grown. In 2024, we worked closely with Portage County Probate-Juvenile Court Judge Patricia Smith to establish Harmony Court, an Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program that served three individuals. AOT is a structured approach to support individuals with severe mental illness who have difficulty adhering to voluntary treatment plans. This court-ordered treatment aims to divert individuals from the correctional system and reduce the need for hospitalization.

Additionally, we have been proud to support the Guardianship Service Board, formed in 2023 under the Probate Court, and we are excited to see its continued success and growth.

Our Board has also focused on workforce development, helping our contracted agencies hire and retain skilled staff to better serve the community.

I am pleased to share that the Board has received a full three-year Culture of Quality certification from the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities. This voluntary certification, awarded after a thorough review by peers and association staff, confirms that our Board meets 142 standards based on a careful evaluation of relevant federal and state laws, regulations, and best practices within the system.

We are grateful for the support of our dedicated board members and valued partners as we look forward to continuing to serve our community.

John Garrity, PhD, Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman

William Nome

Albert Barber

Denise DePerro

Dina Douglas

LaTasha Dukes

Audrey Cielinski Kessler

Vice Chair

Iris J. Meltzer

Jeff Langstaff

Roy Mosley III

Valerie Root

Emily Schmidlin

Jennifer Schumm

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

HELPING PORTAGE COUNTY CHILDREN & ADULTS

1,223 children and teens received treatment for trauma, emotional problems, mental illness and substance use disorders.

3,298 adults received treatment for trauma, emotional problems, mental illness and substance use disorders.

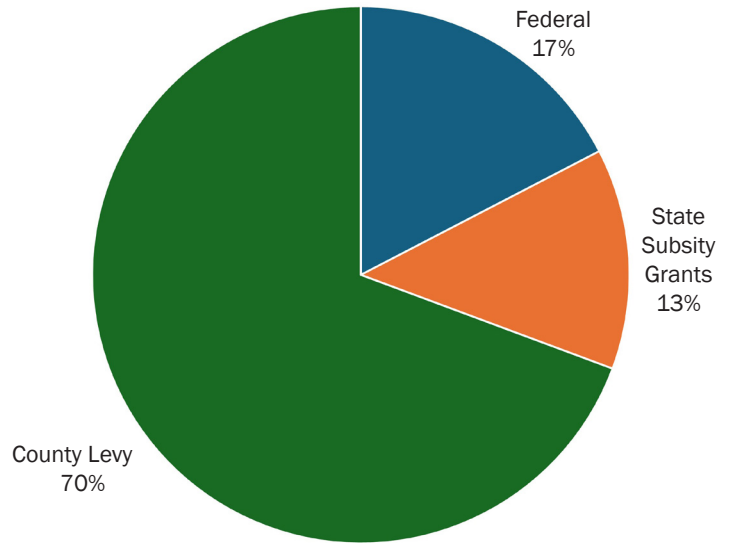
28,326 contacts with people through 24-HR crisis calls, information and referral calls, incidents of walk-in counseling, crisis outreach and screening for hospitalization.

190 admissions to the Coleman Crisis Stabilization Unit.

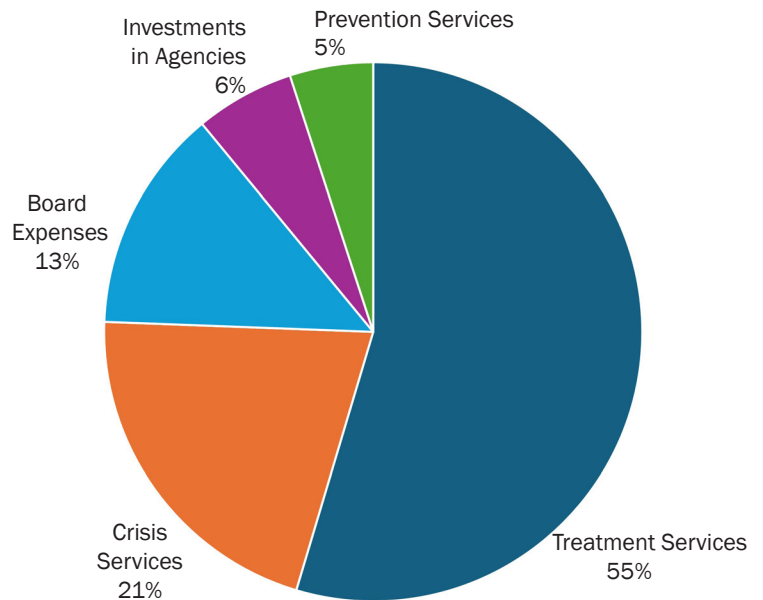
4,097 youth and adults participated in prevention education programs.

763 students identified at risk and screened in all Portage County School Districts through a program funded by the Board. **31%** were identified as having mental health issues requiring therapy and/or psychiatry services.

REVENUE SOURCES FOR FY2024 TOTAL REVENUE = \$9,866,348



TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR FY 2024 = \$9,435,451



LOCAL FUNDED PROVIDERS:

- AxessPointe
- Children's Advantage
- Coleman Health Services
- Family & Community Services
- Hope Town
- Townhall II



www.mental-health-recovery.org • 330.673.1756 • 155 E. Main Street, Kent, OH 44240



The Board hosted a Portage County Mental Health & Recovery Walk this year. Even in the rain, our community came together to support mental health and raise awareness that treatment works and recovery is possible! The group walked to the Wick Poetry Center where some attendees shared inspirational expressive writings before traveling back through downtown Kent.