

Members Present: Albert Barber, Denise DePerro, Dina Douglas, Elaine Harlin, Jeff Langstaff, Roy Mosley, William Nome, Valerie Root, Emily Schmidlin, Jennifer Schumm

Members Not Present for Board Meeting: LaTesha Dukes, Audrey Kessler, Iris Meltzer

Board Staff Present: John Garrity, Karyn Kravetz, George DeBord, Terra Howell-Muth, Rebecca Rood, Joshua Collins, Gina Dufour, Laura Dotts

Guests: *Children's Advantage*: Ryan Ferguson; *Coleman Health Services*: Hattie Tracy, Bill Russell; *Axess Family Services*: Mark Frisone, Renee Kleric, Greg Musci, Will Kornbau; *Safer Futures*: Lauren Webb, Sydney Shahan; *Townhall II*: Tammy Hunter

The quorum was met with 10 members present.

William Nome called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Introductions and rollcall
2. Staff reports: Regional/state/local issues

a. Director's Report: A Director's Report was included in the Board mailing the week prior to this meeting. A copy of the report is on file with these minutes.

John Garrity reviewed the motions that will be presented for approval.

He gave a summary of expenses paid during May for the Portage Crisis Center.

He gave an update on the merger of Children's Advantage and Axess Family Services. We received notice from Axess Family Services and Children's Advantage that the merger date of July 1 is changed to September 1 to accommodate administrative transitions that need to take place. We received an email from Children's Advantage CEO Kathy Regal on Wednesday 5/28 providing notice of her retirement from Children's Advantage effective 5/31/2025. Her letter further stated that their Board of Directors approved Ryan Ferguson to provide leadership services until the merger with Axess Family Services is complete, anticipated September 2025. John clarified that Kathy's retirement was a personal decision.

John reported on the progress of the Board Strategic Plan.

b. Community Relations Report: A Community Relations report was included in the Board mailing the week prior to this meeting. A copy of the report is on file with these minutes. Karyn Kravetz reported that there was a lot of community activities.

Digital ads will be starting on TV monitors in the Giant Eagle and Marc's stores for 988. These monitors are above the checkout lines and will be installed in July.

c. Director of Quality Improvement, Compliance, and Finance Report: A report was included with the Board mailing the week prior to this meeting. A copy of the report is on file with these minutes. Rebecca Rood reported.

She sent respective recipients various State outcomes reports they need to complete. Those reports will be filed in June and July.

Rebecca continues work on the FY26 contracts, gathering information that will be needed for the next COQ review, and Board Policy Updates.

Rebecca has been working with both George and Josh in finance and it has been going very well.

d. Clinical Manager's Report: A report was included with the Board mailing the week prior to this meeting. A copy of the report is on file with these minutes. Terra Howell-Muth reported.

Terra met with Lynn Bango, new NAMI Portage Chair. Lynn is working on getting peer support groups restarted and wants to have multiple meetings across the County. She is also working on recruiting individuals to facilitate Family Support meetings and Family-to-Family, as well as general members for NAMI Portage.

Terra will be participating in several upcoming trainings.

3. Committee Reports:

- a. Finance Committee: Albert Barber reported on the committee meeting that was held just prior to this meeting. A copy of the meeting report, invoice lists, and agenda are on file with these minutes. 8 motions will be presented to the board.
- b. Nominating Committee: Denise DePerro reported. The Nominating Committee met through email and has nominated William Nome as Chair and Albert Barber as Vice Chair for FY2026. Any nominations from the floor will be accepted.
- c. CEO/Executive Director Agency Reports:

Children's Advantage: Ryan Ferguson reported. Progress of the merger with Axess Family Services is going well. All services remain strong. School based services are wrapping up for the year. Some former staff want to return. There is currently a waiting list of 70. He anticipates that it will be eliminated quickly as additional staff are hired.

Axess Family Services: Mark Frisone reported that he had nothing to add to the report given by Ryan Ferguson.

Coleman Health Services: Bill Russell reported. Contracts for RMP and MRS were reviewed and approved. He updated on the progress of the Crisis Center. Their budget was reviewed. Hattie Tracy mentioned the upcoming Beam Raising Ceremony. Hattie visited the State Senate Finance Committee in Columbus and spoke with State legislators.

Townhall II: Tammy Hunter reported:

- BOD met on 5/19/25
- Horizon House bed numbers are increasing nicely and is currently full as of today.
- Crisis Intervention Service Certification through the state is scheduled for Wednesday.
- Hired a new HR Director
- Groundbreaking event for the new shelter scheduled for late this month.
- Community Picnic scheduled for 9/11/25.
- New mural is being painted on the side of the building by Kimmy Henderson, the Creator of the Bipolar Butterfly Project. It should be done inside of the next few weeks.
- Our independent financial audit has been completed with no findings.

Hope Town: No report.

4. Public Comment: Lauren Webb, Sydney Shahan from Safer Futures introduced themselves and thanked the board for funding.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Approve Agenda

MOTION I Roy Mosley moved to amend the agenda adding 3.b. Officer Elections. Jennifer Schumm seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 10 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION II Albert Barber moved to approve the agenda as amended. Jeff Langstaff seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 10 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

2. Minutes

MOTION III Elaine Harlin moved to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2025, board meeting. Jennifer Schumm seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 6 Nay: 0 Abstain: 4 – not present at May meeting.)

3. Business items

a. Approve Financial Motions

MOTION IV Albert Barber moved to approve all invoices paid in May 2025. Jennifer Schumm seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 10 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION V Albert Barber moved to that we join with the Portage County Commissioners granting the MHRB staff a paid Appreciation Day for their dedicated service to the citizens and organizations we serve, in accordance with the Commissioners journal entry passed on April 10, 2025. Staff who were employed as of April 1, 2025, may use an approved floating holiday, and be paid by the last payday of 2025.

Jeff Langstaff seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 10 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION VI Albert Barber moved to allow the Executive Director to create a PO as follows:

Provider/Vendor	PO	Proposed Not to Exceed Amount	Grant Period
Coleman Health Services	Additional board requested staffing for FY25	\$200,000.00	1/1/25-6/30/25

Denise DePerro seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 10 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION VII Albert Barber moved to allow the Executive Director to create the following contract with Partner Solutions:

Provider/Vendor	Contract	Proposed Not to Exceed Amount	Grant Period
Partner Solutions	Annual Service Contract	\$74,196.00	7/1/25-6/30/26

Roy Mosley seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 10 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION VIII Albert Barber moved to allow the Executive Director to contract with Our Place to pay for Rent and Utilities in FY26 utilizing Levy dollars.

Provider/Vendor	Contract	Proposed Not to Exceed Amount	Grant Period
Our Place	Rent and Utilities support	\$22,800.00	7/1/25-6/30/26

Denise DePerro seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 10 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION IX Albert Barber moved to allow the Executive Director to change the current language in the following two contracts approved 4/14/25: Axess Family Services Main Contract for Services (Previously Children's Advantage Non-Medicaid Mental Health, School Consultation Case Management, ECMH), and Axess Family Services Youth Contract (Youth in Crisis, Youth Prevention & Educational Outreach).

Current contract language to be changed: *4.8 The delivery of Services provided under this Contract shall not be sub-contracted without prior approval of the BOARD, subject to such conditions as the BOARD may require.*

Proposed changes for two Axess Family Services contracts identified above whereby Children's Advantage will be providing the services: *The Board approves the interim sub-contracting of services under this Contract to Children's Advantage, to remain in effect until the merger between Axess Family Services and Children's Advantage is finalized. This sub-contractual arrangement shall be limited to the term of this Contract and shall not continue thereafter unless expressly authorized under a separate, duly executed agreement.*

Jennifer Schumm seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 10 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION X Albert Barber moved to allow the extension of the cash advance repayment deadline for Children's Advantage from June 30, 2025, to December 31, 2025. Denise DePerro seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 10 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION XI Albert Barber moved to approve the transfer of the two Lovers Lane properties, the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) facility and the new CSU currently under construction to Coleman Health Services now instead of a future date after the Crisis Center building project is complete. Jennifer Schumm seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 10 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

b. Officer Elections

MOTION XII Denise DePerro moved to elect William Nome as Board Chair for FY 2026. Jeff Langstaff seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 9 Nay: 0 Abstain: 1 William Nome)

MOTION XIII Denise DePerro moved to elect Albert Barber as Board Vice Chair for FY 2026. Audrey Kessler seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 9 Nay: 0 Abstain: 1 Albert Barber)

4. Comments by board members: None.

5. Executive Session: Not needed.

6. Adjournment:

MOTION XIV Jeff Langstaff moved to adjourn. Albert Barber seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.
(Aye: 10 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Dotts

SIGNATURES
x William Nome
x Jenn Schunen
x Denise DePerro