

Members Present: Albert Barber, Denise DePerro, Elaine Harlin, Audrey Kessler, Jeff Langstaff, William Nome, Emily Schmidlin, Jennifer Schumm

Members Not Present for Board Meeting: Dina Douglas, Roy Mosley, Valerie Root

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

Guests: *Axess Family Services*: Greg Musci, Gene Brown, Angela DeJulius, Renee Kleric; *Children's Advantage*: Ryan Ferguson; *Coleman Health Services*: Bill Russell; *Hopetown*, Ted St. John; *Townhall II*: Kurt Ruhl; *Thrive Humans*: Melissa Celko

The quorum was met with 8 members present.

William Nome called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

Jeff Langstaff and Jennifer Schumm were sworn in by William Nome.

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.

Melissa Celko has created a draft of the Strategic Plan and will be presenting and distributing copies for feedback.

Progress on construction of Crisis Center continues on schedule. To date we have spent \$1,518,259.18 with a balance of 6,981,740.82 remaining. A complete year-to-date detailed budget is included in your board finance packet.

As we have discussed, we are transferring the building that the Board currently owns, the new crisis center building, and the two parcels of land the building is situated on, to Coleman Health Services. The title transfer was signed by William Nome and John Garrity.

A draft of the FY26 Operation Budget was presented to the Board at the June Board meeting. We are seeking approval of the actual budget. A copy was included in your Board packet.

We are requesting approval of another Healthcare Officer for Coleman Health Services. A copy of their resume was included in your board packet.
 - b. Strategic Plan Draft (Melissa Celko, consultant): John Garrity introduced Melissa Celko. Melissa thanked the board for the opportunity to do this strategic plan work. She distributed the strategic plan draft. She sent out surveys, and interviews were conducted with members of our Board of Directors, Board staff, and with an array of key stakeholders including provider agencies, clients receiving services, and other community partners. Melissa distributed her card so that board members can contact her with feedback.
 - c. 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 is working with the Portage County Health District for the Drug Overdose and Suicide Fatality Review Committee. Their first meeting is scheduled for 7/31/2025.

Terra gave a Harmony Court update. Harmony Court is held in the probate court and is presided over by Judge Smith.

Terra is planning to complete a clinical audit with Coleman, Axess Family Services, Townhall II, and Children's Advantage by the end of July (for clients served July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024).

Terra has received ACE (adverse childhood experiences) data from agencies.

Attending the "Do It For James" event on 7/19/2025.
 - d. 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. Summer

camp bags for children were created and distributed at King Kennedy, Community Action Council, and Portage Metropolitan Housing. The bags contained fun worksheets for kids such as positive affirmation word search, coloring sheet, and feelings wheel, as well as information for parents on handling stress, adult alcohol consumption, and vaping, along with 988 wristbands, and Mop Top stress balls. In total, 150 bags were distributed.

Several of the police stations are no longer offering drug disposal boxes. We have identified other locations to direct community members to, such as CVS pharmacies, Giant Eagle pharmacies, etc. I am updating our website with this information. We also have a limited number of Detera pouches that we are distributing at community events. An article about this was published in the Record Courier with quotes from Gina.

We will be partnering with NAMI Portage County at the Portage County Fair.

- e. 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.

State reports that were due in June were filed. Additional State and Federal outcomes that need to be completed were sent to the respective agency recipients. Those reports will be submitted in July and August.

Contracts for the Main agencies were completed and forwarded to the agencies for signature.

Rebecca has been working with Terra to set up training for the staff to stay in compliance with Culture of Quality. It will be for Drug Free Workplace which will keep the Board in compliance with the Culture of Quality but is also one of the steps required for the Board to obtain the designation of a Recovery Friendly Workplace through Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. The Recovery Friendly Workplace designation is designed to help employers and employees promote mental health in the workplace.

No policies for this month to approve. Rebecca has been working on updating policies and continuing to work with the County prosecutor to update various policies.

3. Committee Reports:

- a. Finance Committee: Audrey Kessler 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. The committee reviewed the motions and the FY26 budget. 5 motions will be presented to the board.

- b. CEO/Executive Director Agency Reports:

Children's Advantage: Ryan Ferguson reported. Continuing merger process and day-to-day business.

Axess Family Services: Greg Musci reported that the agency directors' meeting focused on the usual housekeeping.

Coleman Health Services: Bill Russell reported that the agency is closing out the fiscal year's duties. Bill listed the changes in staff positions.

Townhall II: Kurt Ruhl reported:

- The BOD last met 6/23/25
- The groundbreaking event for shelter is 7/17 11:30am
- IOP in Ravenna is up and running smoothly
- Sanctuary Community Picnic is scheduled for 9/11
- We are running a fundraiser/magic tournament this weekend at our main office during Wizardly Weekend
- 4 staff got certified to provide social media safety trainings through an evidenced based practice held by Exodus Rd

Hope Town: Ted St. John reported that they have hired a 2nd auto tech. Ted thanked the board for their support. The electricity is on at the recovery community and the plumbing will soon be inspected. He is expecting to receive the certificate of occupancy in August.

4. Public Comment: Gene Brown, Minority Coordinator for Axxess Family Services, outlined his work at the agency.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Approve Agenda

MOTION I Elaine Harlin moved to amend the agenda Moving agenda item 2. Approval of Healthcare Officer appointment to 3.b. Jeff Langstaff seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 8 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION II Albert Barber moved to approve the agenda as amended. Jeff Langstaff seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 8 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

2. Minutes

MOTION III Denise DePerro moved to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2025, board meeting. Jennifer Schumm seconded. No discussion Motion carried. (Aye: 7 Nay: 0 Abstain: 1 – not present at June meeting.)

3. Business items

a. Approve Financial Motions

MOTION IV Audrey Kessler moved to approve all invoices paid in June 2025. Jennifer Schumm seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 8 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION V Audrey Kessler moved to allow the Executive Director to create a contract as follows:

Provider/Vendor	Contract	Proposed Not to Exceed Amount	Grant Period
Axxess Family Services-Family & Community Services	Permanent Supportive Housing	\$45,413.86	1/1/25-6/30/25

Albert Barber seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 8 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION VI Audrey Kessler moved to allow the Executive Director to create a PO as follows:

Provider/Vendor	Contract	Proposed Not to Exceed Amount	Grant Period
Axxess Family Services-AxxessPointe	Permanent Supportive Housing	\$45,413.86	1/1/25-6/30/25

Denise DePerro seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 8 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION VII Audrey Kessler moved to allow the Executive Director to contract with Axxess Family Services to pay for non-Medicare billable services (case management, intensive outpatient treatment, aftercare group counseling) for an individual on AOT (only during AOT commitment) utilizing Levy dollars.

Provider/Vendor	Contract	Proposed Not to Exceed Amount	Grant Period
Axxess Family Services	AOT Service	\$25,000.00	7/1/25-12/31/25

Jennifer Schumm seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 8 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION VIII Audrey Kessler moved to approve the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Portage County's FY26 Operation Budget as presented at the Finance Committee Meeting. Jennifer Schumm seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 8 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

b. Approval of Healthcare Officer Appointment

MOTION IX Jeff Langstaff moved to appoint the following employee of Coleman Health Services as Portage County Designated Health Officer: Benford Frazier. Denise DePerro seconded. Discussion: The board was informed about these employees' current duties. Motion carried. (Aye: 8 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

4. Comments by board members: None.

5. Executive Session: Not needed.

6. Adjournment:

MOTION XIV Denise DePerro moved to adjourn. Jeff Langstaff seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 8 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Dotts

SIGNATURES

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