

Members Present: Albert Barber, Denise DePerro, Dina Douglas, Audrey Kessler, Iris Meltzer, William Nome, Valerie Root, Emily Schmidlin

Members Not Present for Board Meeting: LaTesha Dukes, Elaine Harlin, Jeff Langstaff, Roy Mosley, Jennifer Schumm

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

Guests: *Children's Advantage*: Kathy Regal; *Coleman Health Services*: Hattie Tracy, Bill Russell; *Axess Family Services*: Greg Musci, Crystal Ashire, Angela DeJulius; *Townhall II*: Tamera Hunter, Bob King; *Hope Town*: Ted St. John

The quorum was met with 8 members present.

William Nome called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Introductions and rolcall
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.

The expenditures on the Crisis Center project in March were for site inspections paid with levy dollars. The project expenditure spreadsheet is attached to your packet. We opened a contract with Turner Construction using State Legislative dollars in March. We are also requesting approval of a motion to allow the Portage County Board of Commissioners to create a new fund for the Mental Health Board for the use of the ARPA dollars for the Crisis Center project.

As the Board approved at the February Board meeting, we are transferring the building that the Board currently owns, the new crisis center building, and the two parcels of land they are situated on to Coleman Health Services. OMHAS had initially indicated the transfer should take place after the completion of the entire project. However, they have now indicated that it would be better to transfer the property immediately and we are moving forward with that process.

Work continues on the merger between Children's Advantage and Axess Family Services.

We are asking for approval of the FY26 provider budgets. This includes combined budgets for Axess Family Services and Children's Advantage, and the budgets for Hope Town, and Townhall II. We are still in discussion with Coleman Health Services and will bring that budget to the Board for approval at the May meeting.

The Board is due to create a new Strategic Plan. Melissa Celko, a local consultant, contacted us recently and specializes in strategic planning. She is a Kent resident, and a former Cleveland Clinic and Kent State employee, who now runs her own consulting firm. She is also a Kent City Council member and knows Portage County well. If the Board is interested, she would like to give us a discount. We can have contract details at the May meeting. We would like to start the process by the Fall.

Outcomes report information was discussed.

The Shooting S.T.A.R. Bookshelf (Start, Talking, About, Recovery) is a donation through Family Solution Finder Learning Centers of 1,200 fully vetted Addiction Self-Help books. The purpose is to increase awareness of recovery through learning, reduce stigma, and create steppingstones for community collaboration

- 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.

May is Mental Health month, and we are planning a few activities to celebrate mental health and spread awareness.

For the Stepping Up Portage Initiative, I compiled the information on the work that is being done in the criminal justice system and behavioral health areas to help keep people with mental illness and substance use disorders out of jail. A copy of this report is included in your board packet. Other areas of concern for the committee are housing and transportation.

We held a one-day CIT Refresher training class with 10 attendees. Officer Josh Bartholomew led the class. Terra and Kelly MacMullin from Coleman provided some of the training as well. Thanks to Gina for organizing this successful training!

- c. Director of Compliance and Quality Improvement 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.

The agency SOS4 quarterly reports required by the Federal government for quarter 2 were sent out to corresponding agencies. I also sent the corresponding agencies their SOS4 semi-annual progress reports required by the Federal government. Those reports will be submitted in February.

The staff met on March 21st to review our safety procedures and to hold our annual tornado and fire drills. After the review we are asking for approval of 6 policy updates.

- 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.

NAMI Family Support group resumed on 3/13/2025 at 6:30pm at the MHRB office, still hoping to resume Family-to-Family by fall 2025.

Attended the American Association of Suicidology annual conference 3/29/2025 – 4/4/2025. Providing information on Soul Exhaustion/Soul Care from one of the trainings I attended.

Access to Wellness update (3 clients have used the funding this FY; still have \$11,647 from previous FY allocation).

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. 5 motions will be presented to the board. Motions were reviewed. 2024 financials were reviewed.

- b. CEO/Executive Director Agency Reports:

Axess Family Services: Greg Musci reported.

Children's Advantage: Kathy Regal reported that the agency's board discussed financial and work on the merger with Axess Family Services continues.

Coleman Health Services: No meeting.

Townhall II: Tammy Hunter reported.

- The Board of Directors last met on March 24th.
- Sarah McCully, Director of Prevention, celebrated her 25-year work anniversary
- We have been working on an agency fundraiser for Fall 2025
- Hiring a Emergency Services Coordinator
- We are now a local provider for Red Cross First Aid and CPR training.
- We have had a few additional overdoses near KSU this past month as well as 2 overdoses in Ravenna on marijuana vape pens laced with fentanyl.

Hope Town: Ted St. John reported on the agency. They are in the process of recertification for both recovery houses. They are waiting on permit approvals for the recovery community building.

4. Public Comment: Angela DeJulius showed the board a drawstring bag that will be provided to clients in their Safe Point (harm reduction) program. She also had brochures for the board.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Approve Agenda

MOTION I Albert Barber moved to approve the agenda. Denise DePerro seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 8 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

2. Minutes

MOTION II Audrey Kessler moved to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2025, board meeting. Denise DePerro seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 6 Nay: 0 Abstain: 2 – not present at February meeting.)

3. Business items

a. Approve Financial Motions

MOTION III Audrey Kessler moved to approve all invoices paid in March 2025. Albert Barber seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 8 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION IV Audrey Kessler moved to allow the Portage County Board of Commissioners to create a new fund for the Mental Health Board for the use of the ARPA dollars for the Crisis Center project. Iris Meltzer seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 8 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION V Audrey Kessler moved to allow the Executive Director to create the following contracts with Axxess Family Services for FY26

Provider/ Vendor	Contract	Proposed Not to Exceed Amount	Grant Period
Axxess Family Services	Main Contract for services (Previously Family & Com Services) (Case manager for Minority Communities, Re-Entry Peer Support, First Responder Officer, Skeels Youth, Miller House Youth & Safer Futures Advocate, Harm Reduction)	\$210,790	7/1/25- 6/30/26
Axxess Family Services	Housing Contract (Previously Family & Com Services) (PARC/OTTR, Roothouse, Recovery Housing, Youth Advocate Miller House, and Safer Futures	\$624,535	7/1/25- 6/30/26
Axxess Family Services	Main Contract for services- (Previously Children's Advantage) (Non-Medicaid Mental Health, School Consultation, Case Management, ECMH,)	\$715,017	7/1/25- 6/30/26
Axxess Family Services	Youth Contract- (Youth in Crisis, Youth Prevention & Education Outreach)	\$44,501	7/1/25- 6/30/26

Dina Douglas seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 8 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION VI Audrey Kessler moved to allow the Executive Director to create the following contracts with Hope Town for FY26:

Provider/ Vendor	Contract	Proposed Not to Exceed Amount	Grant Period
Hope Town	Contract for services (Peer Support, Recovery Housing, Recovery Services)	\$370,663	7/1/25- 6/30/26

Iris Meltzer seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 8 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION VII Audrey Kessler moved to allow the Executive Director to create the following contracts with Townhall II for FY26:

Vendor	Contract	Proposed Not to Exceed Amount	Grant Period
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Townhall II	Main Contract for Services (ATP Hope & Rise Courts, ATP Admin, Hotline/Helpline & Outpatient, Horizon House	\$1,084,816	7/1/25-6/30/26
Townhall II	Prevention Contract (Gambling, SUD/MH, Mothers in Recovery)	\$521,203	7/1/25-6/30/26

Albert Barber seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 7 Nay: 0 Abstain: 1)

b. Approve Revised Policy

MOTION VIII Iris Meltzer moved to approve the updated The Board's Bylaws BL1 Policy as presented. Denise DePerro seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 8 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION IX Iris Meltzer moved to approve the updated Biennial Insurance Review Policy GP 3 Policy as presented. Dina Douglas seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 8 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION X Iris Meltzer moved to approve updated and revised Health and Safety Reviews and Emergency and Disaster Planning GP15 Policy as presented. Albert Barber seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 8 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION XI Iris Meltzer moved to approve the updated Incident Reporting GP 16 Policy as presented. Audrey Kessler seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 8 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION XII Iris Meltzer moved to approve the updated and revised Use of Board Property PP 11 Policy as presented. Albert Barber seconded. Discussion: It was clarified as to what Board Property entails. Motion carried. (Aye: 8 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

MOTION XIII Iris Meltzer moved to approve the updated Employee Development PP 21 Policy as presented. Denise DePerro seconded. No discussion. 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. Albert Barber seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. (Aye: 8 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Dotts

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