

Crisis Center Groundbreaking

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.

This center will renovate the crisis stabilization unit that is located at 3920 Lovers Lane in Ravenna. The crisis stabilization unit will have 10 single beds with private bathrooms where people can stay for up to 2 weeks as a step-down from or in lieu of hospitalization. The center will also have a 23-hour involuntary hold area for adults and family rooms for children and will feature a first responder drop off center. Coleman Health Services will provide services in both areas.



From left is John Garrity, Mental Health and Recovery Board of Portage County; Michelle Allison-Smith, OHMHAS; George DeBord, Mental Health and Recovery Board of Portage County; Gail Pavliga, Ohio State Representative for District 72; Bill Russell, Coleman Chief Officer for Portage County; Hattie Tracy, Coleman President and CEO; David Potts, Plus Detail Architects; and Karyn Kravetz, Mental Health and Recovery Board of Portage County

Youth Gather to Plan Positive Messaging Campaigns

Portage County high school students gathered in February to brainstorm ways to support their fellow students and to make their school environments more positive at the annual Youth Leadership Summit hosted by Townhall II and the Mental Health & Recovery Board.

Portage County Commissioner Sabrina Christian Bennett was on hand to welcome the students from Kent, Ravenna, Rootstown, Southeast, Streetsboro, and Waterloo school districts in the morning and offer them encouragement.

After being led through a few group activities by national facilitator Joe Markiewicz, the students analyzed Portage County survey data to prioritize risk factors in their schools that lead to problem behaviors such as substance abuse, mental health issues, bullying, and violence.

They learned about protective factors that buffer youth from problem behaviors and identified which of those assets they would like to incorporate into their plans for their schools.

Each school team developed an action plan to take back to their school, such as a safe prom campaign, positive messaging, and school assemblies.

Tiffany Martin, the Youth Led Coordinator at Townhall II, will meet with the student teams on a regular basis after the summit to assist them carry out their plans.

“I’m really looking forward to working with these young people and seeing their projects develop over the course of this year,” said Martin.

Townhall II received a \$10,000 grant from the United Way to help fund the students' projects.

“We’ve held the summit for three years, and feel it is very important and worthwhile,” stated Karyn Kravetz, Associate Director of the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County. “Youth-led prevention develop young people's knowledge, skills and attitudes to be catalysts for positive change within their school and communities.”



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MENTAL HEALTH & RECOVERY BOARD OF PORTAGE COUNTY
 155 E. Main Street, Kent, OH 44240
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2023 HIGHLIGHTS



The Board received the CARE Community Award of Appreciation for 2023 from the Chemical Abuse Reduced by Education Committee of the Six District Educational Compact. The Board was recognized for funding prevention programs for Kent City Schools.



Portage County students learned how to make a positive change in their schools during a Youth Leadership Summit hosted by the Board and Townhall II. The event was facilitated by Joe Markiewicz, a national youth trainer. They learned about protective factors that buffer youth from risk and created action plans to take back to their schools for implementation.



Portage County agency administrators, staff, and consumer advocates from the mental health, substance use, and criminal justice system participated in a workshop to develop strategies to effectively identify and respond to the needs of justice-involved adults with co-occurring mental and substance use disorders. Sequential Intercept Mapping facilitated by Ohio's Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence is a workshop designed to help communities identify existing community resources, service gaps, and opportunities for improved service coordination and communication between mental health, substance use, and criminal justice professionals.

Mental Health & Recovery Board OF PORTAGE COUNTY

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

DIRECTOR'S DESK



I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to all the voters of Portage County for the passage of the Mental Health & Recovery Board's levy that was on the ballot in November of 2023. The Board has three 10-year levies, and 69% of the Board's revenue is generated from local property tax. The passage of the replacement levy will allow us to invest in further crisis services, community outreach, and workforce in the future. Myself, our Board members and our staff, are grateful that our community values mental health and recovery services. Thank you!

The Board voted to commit \$1.5 million to build the Portage Crisis Center in Ravenna. This center will renovate the crisis stabilization unit that is located at 3920 Lovers Lane in Ravenna. The crisis stabilization unit will have 10 single beds with private bathrooms where people can stay for up to 2 weeks as a step-down from or in lieu of hospitalization. The center will also have a 23-hour involuntary hold area for adults and family rooms for children and will feature a first responder drop off center. Coleman Health Services will provide services in both areas. They will have a nurse on site and will be able to handle some of the medical clearances to relieve the constant use of the emergency department at University Hospitals Portage Medical Center.

Additional capital funding was secured from the State of Ohio Operating Budget through Rep. Pavliga, ARPA I Crisis Funds, and Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services Capital funds grant, totaling over \$7 million. The Board and Coleman Health Services are finalizing the plans with the architects and plan to break ground on this project in 2024.

The Board received funding from the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Service's State Ohio Response Grants in fiscal year 2023. AxessPointe Community Health Centers received funds to provide medication assisted treatment, wound care, and harm reduction services to Portage County residents at their Federally Qualified Health Center. Hope Town received funds for recovery housing for their men and women facilities in Windham. The Townhall II clinic received funding to continue to serve clients with opioid and stimulant use disorder and Children's Advantage will continue providing early diversion services and group programs for families affected by substance use issues.

The Portage County Guardianship Board completed its first year providing guardianship services for incapacitated adults when no one else is willing and qualified to serve. They have initiated 19 adult guardianship applications and have been appointed in 11 cases to serve as the ward's legal guardian. The Board, along with the Board of Development Disabilities and Probate Court, provides funding for these new services.

I am looking forward to the expansion of our crisis system as we continue to improve services for people with mental health and addiction issues.

John Garrity, PhD, Executive Director

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HELPING PORTAGE COUNTY CHILDREN & ADULTS

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

1,400 adults received treatment for trauma, emotional problems, mental illness and substance use disorders.

36,005 contacts with people through the 24-HR crisis calls, information and referral calls, incidents of walk-in counseling, crisis outreach and screening for hospitalization.

147 admissions through the Coleman Crisis Stabilization Unit.

9,151 youth and adults participated in prevention education programs.

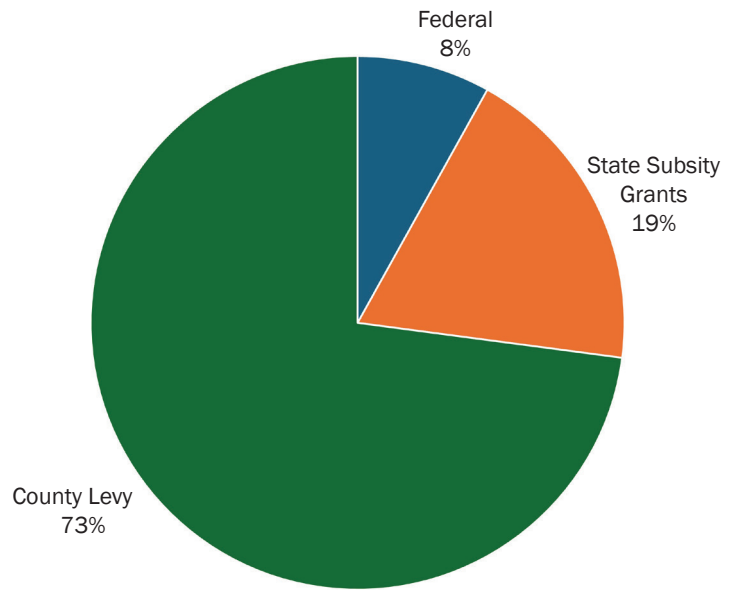
261 students identified at risk and screened in all Portage County School Districts through a program funded by the Board. **54%** were identified as having mental health issues requiring therapy and/or psychiatry services.

LOCAL FUNDED PROVIDERS:

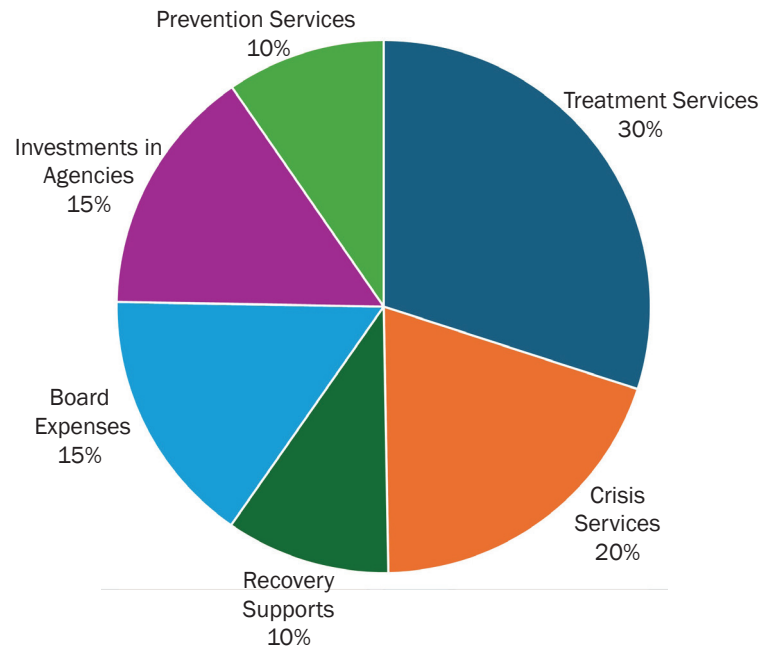
Children's Advantage
Coleman Health Services
Family & Community Services
Townhall II



REVENUE SOURCES FOR FY2023 TOTAL REVENUE = \$9,004,195



TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR FY 2023 = \$8,769,851



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The Board & the Portage County Police Chief's Association gave Crisis Intervention Team honors for 2023 to Ptl. Matthew Meyers and Ptl. Brad McDougal, Ravenna PD for Officer of the Year; Ofc Josh Bartholomew, Streetsboro PD and K9 Tucker and Ptl. Steve Lincoln, Ravenna Police Department for CIT Champions of the Year; and Ami Bowery, Ravenna PD for Dispatcher of the Year.

