

## 2025 HIGHLIGHTS



Hope Town held a grand opening for their new Recovery Community Center in Windham. The renovation of this facility was made possible with funding by the Board, and will be a safe, welcoming place offering support groups, resources, and connection.



The Board members, staff along with Coleman Health Service's leaders toured the construction site of the Portage Crisis Center as it was close to being completed. This project will offer expanded mental health crisis services for youth and families. The new center will house crisis stabilization beds and 23-hour observation units for adults and children.



Celebrating recovery through movement and expression, the Board hosted a walk, resource fair, and poetry reading in September. Participants shared powerful stories of hope, resilience, and healing.

# Mental Health & Recovery Board OF PORTAGE COUNTY

## 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

### DIRECTOR'S DESK



This past year reinforced both the challenges and the strengths of the mental health and addiction services system in Portage County. As a community, we continue to navigate growing behavioral health needs while remaining committed to ensuring that residents have access to timely, effective, and compassionate care.

One of the most significant milestones of the year was the start of construction on the Portage Crisis Center in the winter of 2025. This center will be the first of its kind in Portage County and will greatly strengthen our local continuum of care. Once open, the Portage Crisis Center will provide accessible, short-term behavioral health services for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. Services will be operated by Coleman Health Services.

The project has been made possible through funding from the State of Ohio, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and local community resources. The center will include crisis stabilization beds as well as 23-hour observation units for both adults and youth. We look forward to the center opening in 2026 and the expanded support it will provide to our community.

This year also marked an important development in the provider network with the merger of two behavioral health nonprofits, Axess Family Services and Children's Advantage. By combining their expertise and expanding their range of services, this partnership will strengthen support for children and families throughout our region.

We were also pleased to welcome two new members to our Board, Elaine Harlin and Jared Hostetler. At the same time, we extend our deep gratitude to Iris Meltzer, who retired from the Board after 12 years of dedicated service. During her tenure, Iris served as Vice Chair of the Board and chaired the Nominating, Personnel, and Advocacy Committees. She was also an active member of several steering committees and coalitions, and her leadership and commitment have had a lasting impact on our work.

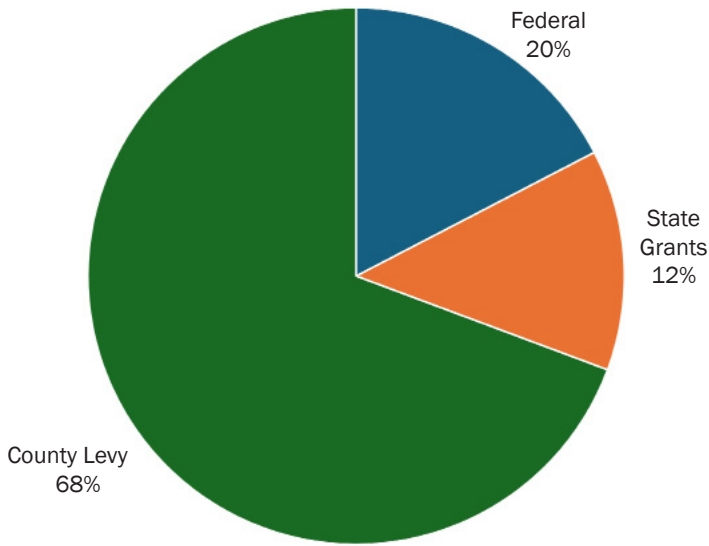
Finally, I would like to share that I will be retiring as Executive Director of the Mental Health & Recovery Board in September. It has been a privilege to serve this community and to work alongside such dedicated partners, staff, and board members who are committed to improving the lives of Portage County residents. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and confident that the strong foundation we have built will continue to support the important work ahead.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "John Garrity".

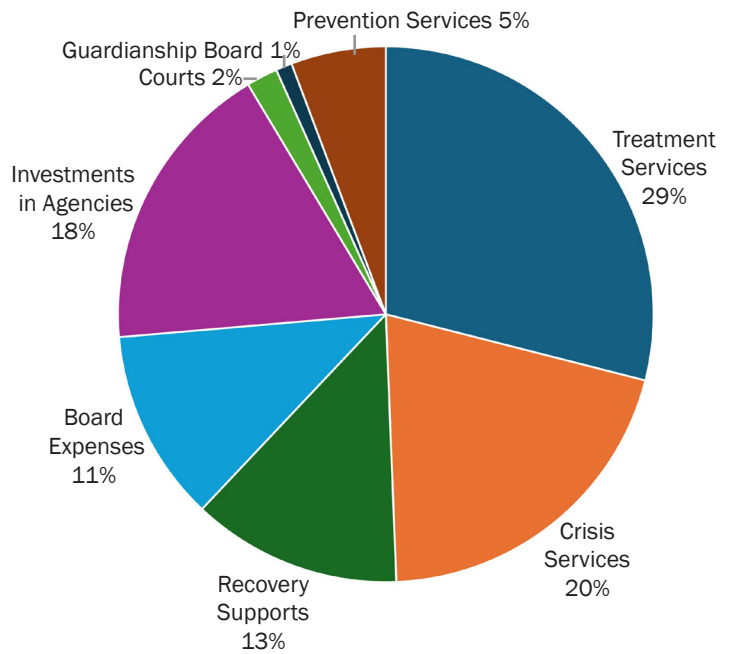
John Garrity, PhD, Executive Director

# FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

REVENUE SOURCES FOR FY2025  
TOTAL REVENUE = \$9,866,348



TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR FY 2025 = \$10,204,828



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Chairman**  
William Nome

**Vice Chair**  
Iris J. Meltzer

Albert Barber  
Denise DePerro  
Dina Douglas  
LaTasha Dukes  
Elaine Harlin  
Jared Hostetler

Audrey Cielinski Kessler  
Jeff Langstaff  
Roy Mosley III  
Valerie Root  
Emily Schmidlin  
Jennifer Schumm

## LOCAL FUNDED AGENCIES



The community gathered for a celebration for Mental Health Month in May. State officials joined to greet the crowd to remind everyone that mental health is just as important as physical health. Attendees were able to engage in mindfulness activities such as rock painting and gratitude letter writing.

Throughout the month, the Board set up letter writing stations at Portage County libraries along with resources & 988 Lifeline materials.