



## Richland County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board Meeting Minutes February 17, 2026

**Present:** Scott Arnold, Dr. Jay Haar, Dave Krenrick, Jennifer Lemon, Lonnie McGhee, Jeff O'Brien, Crystal Shaffer, Bret Snavelly, Brian White

**Excused:** Carla James

**Unexcused:**

**Staff Present:** Sherry Branham, Carey Vogt, Angie Parker, Scott Basilone, Mike Sizemore

**Guests:** Commissioner Tony Vero

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### CALL TO ORDER:

O'Brien called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

#### 1. **Board Composition Discussion** – Tony Vero

Commissioner Vero greeted the Board of Directors and introduced himself as the new Board liaison. Vero mentioned that he was proud of the work being done by the Homeless Response Team and the benefit that it shows our community. He referenced Ohio Revised Code section 340.02 which states that County Commissioners determine the size of the Boards they oversee. He mentioned that Boards with a high number of members can make management more difficult and can make for longer Board meetings. Other Boards under the governance of the County Commissioners who serve higher populations than the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board operate with fewer Board members. Vero mentioned that reducing the size of the Board of Directors for the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board to 9 members would be desired and can make the Board operate more efficiently. If the size of the Board of Directors is reduced to 9 members it would be for a 4-year time frame. The Board of Directors were supplied with documentation from the County Commissioners Association of Ohio and OACBHA, regarding this topic. Some of the OACHBA data illustrated to the Board of Directors that there is no other Board in the State of Ohio with a population area over 100k that functions with fewer than a 12-member board.

Director Branham commented that the diversity amongst the current Board of Directors is vast and beneficial. The Board of Directors is a multi-disciplinary body with a wide range of experience, and the importance of diversity was highlighted. Krenrick also voiced his concern about how diversity would be more difficult to achieve with fewer Board members.

Vero agreed that diversity is important and he said that if the Commissioners decide to go to a 9 member Board, 6 of those seats would be appointed by the Commissioners and 3 seats would be appointed by the State. Snavelly mentioned that it would be difficult to continue operating with the number of current committees if the Board size is reduced to 9 members. Board members recommended moving to a 12-member board. Vero stated he would take the recommendation back to the commissioners.

2. **\*Approval of Minutes** – Jeff O’Brien

O’Brien called for a motion to approve the board meeting minutes for January 20, 2026. Lemon motioned to approve the minutes, White seconded the motion. Krenrick abstained. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

3. **\*Monthly Payables** – Jeff O’Brien

O’Brien called for a motion to approve the expenditures for the month of January 2026. Lemon motioned to approve the January expenditures, Arnold seconded the motion. Shaffer abstained. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

4. **Associate Director/CFO Report** – Carey Vogt

o Cash Position for January 2026 –

The beginning balance at the end of December 2025 was \$5,106,520.89. During January, a total revenue of \$911,556.29 was added. The total expenditures for this period were \$661,627.15, leaving the fund balance in our operating fund on 1/31/2026 at \$5,356,450.03. This is an increase of \$249,929.14.

o Board Assistance Review (BAR) – Ohio Department of Behavioral Health

Our Board will be undergoing a Board Assistance Review (BAR). This is conducted by the State. Director Branham and Associate Director Vogt had a meet and greet call with them. A virtual review is due to take place in March and April, and they will be reviewing SFY2024.

o O’Brien asked Vogt how the Review would be of assistance. Vogt replied that the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health who is conducting the Board Assistance Review wants to evaluate, make recommendations and add value to the Board.

o 2025 County Calendar Year Audit -

We received the first request from the State Auditor for the 2025 County Calendar Year Audit, it was regarding the public records requests our department received during 2025.

5. **Program Director Report** – Scott Basilone

○ Clinical Audits-

The Clinical Audits with the help of the Lake County ADAMH Board are scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup> – March 19<sup>th</sup>. One day will be spent at each treatment agency.

○ SOS Supplement Funding for Recovery Housing –

An SOS supplemental grant was applied for and awarded to be used for Recovery Housing for clients aged 18-24. The amount of the grant award is \$18,000. Ignited was chosen as the grant recipient and they will be asking about referrals to utilize the grant.

○ Bikes/Rack –

Richland Public Health is in the process of donating bicycles and a bicycle rack to Danielle’s Lighthouse. The donation was made possible by the Creating Healthy Communities Grant. We are hoping that the residents can get recreational use from these and we thank the Richland Public Health Department.

○ 2023-2025 Community Assessment Plan –

The data has been finalized for the 2023-2025 Community Assessment Plan. Data collection is starting for the 2026-2028 Community Assessment Plan.

○ 120 Day Notices –

Notices are being drafted at this time for all 6 community partners and are due to be sent on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Snavelly asked if there had been significant changes to the notices. Basilone mentioned that this would be discussed more tomorrow amongst staff before letters are issued.

○ 988 Community Awareness / RCT Mini-Grant –

A grant was awarded to Richland County Transit to promote the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. Basilone and Asia Groff are working in partnership with RCT to use grant funding for bus advertising wraps and to make cards available on the buses.

6. **Executive Director’s Report** – Sherry Branham

○ Temporary Reassignment of Duties –

In anticipation of Director Branham’s upcoming retirement at the end of March, Branham assured the Board of Directors that the Board staff are well cross trained in various duties in the office. Branham is working to onboard others in the areas of Human Resources, Strategic Planning, Culture of Quality (COQ) and Buildings and Grounds to name a few of her major duties.

- Jail Service Agreement Update –

The updated Jail Services Agreement has been finalized and has been approved by the prosecutor.

- Jail MOU –

The Jail Memorandum of Understanding defines programmatic pieces.

- Executive Director Policy –

The Executive Director policy has been drafted for review.

- OACBHA Membership Meeting –

Dr. Amy Acton will be speaking at the March OACBHA Membership Meeting in Columbus. Vivek Ramaswamey is being sought after to speak as well. Board members were invited to attend the meeting.

7. **Nomination for Vice Chair** – Jeff O'Brien

- Call for Nominations for Vice Chair

O'Brien has asked two members of the Board of Directors about their interest in the Vice Chair position and they have declined.

Snavelly asked White if he would be interested in the Vice Chair position. White accepted the nomination.

- \*Vote on Nomination

O'Brien called for a motion to accept the nomination for White as Vice Chair. Dr. Haar motioned to approve the nomination, Snavelly seconded the motion. White abstained. There was a majority vote for White as Vice Chair amongst the Board of Directors.

8. **Executive Director Search Committee** – Jeff O'Brien

- \*Creation of Search Committee

O'Brien asked for 5 volunteers to form a search committee for Executive Director candidates. O'Brien called for a motion to create the Search Committee. Krenrick motioned to create the Search Committee, Dr. Haar seconded the motion. There were no abstentions and no discussion. The motion carried.

Vogt mentioned that OACBHA can also be a resource for the Board during their search for the next Executive Director. Commissioner Vero commented that county HR could also be of assistance.

- Nominations or Volunteers for Committee

After a discussion amongst the Board of Directors there were 5 volunteers for the Committee. The volunteers decided upon were Snavely, White, Krenrick, O'Brien and Shaffer.

- \*Vote on Committee Member Appointments

O'Brien called for a motion to accept the committee member appointments. Krenrick made a motion to approve the committee member appointments, Dr. Haar seconded the motion. There were no abstentions and no discussion. The motion carried.

9. **\*Interim Executive Director Discussion** – Jeff O'Brien

O'Brien began to discuss this section and suggested to move into Executive Session. A separate discussion began to determine if the Board of Directors could enter into Executive Session during a Board meeting without an Executive Session being previously listed on the meeting agenda. Vogt mentioned that the prosecutor's office had previously advised that a public notice must be released prior to the meeting and must include the reason for the Executive Session.

Commissioner Vero mentioned to the Board of Directors that he would make a call to see if this was permitted. Vero exited the meeting to call about this. Upon return, he advised the Board of Directors that moving into Executive Session during a Board Meeting was permitted.

After this was determined, O'Brien called for a motion to move into Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, promotion or compensation of a public employee or official. White motioned to move into Executive Session, Dr. Haar seconded the motion. There were no abstentions and no discussion. The motion carried. A roll call was taken and the Executive Session began at 7:01 PM. All Board staff members were asked to leave the meeting. Commissioner Vero remained in the session. O'Brien asked Vogt to enter the Executive Session at 7:26 PM. At the conclusion of the Executive Session the Board staff were asked to enter the room. O'Brien called for a motion to move out of Executive Session. Krenrick motioned to move out of Executive Session, White seconded the motion. There were no abstentions and no discussion. The motion carried. An exit roll call was taken. The Executive Session concluded at 7:32 PM.

Once the Executive Session was over, O'Brien called for a motion to appoint Carey Vogt as Interim Executive Director beginning April 1<sup>st</sup> 2026. A compensation agreement will be presented prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>. White made a motion to approve the appointment, Dr. Haar seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. The motion carried.

10. **Chair Report** – Jeff O'Brien

None discussed.

11. **Old Business** –

None discussed.

12. **New Business** –

None discussed.

13. **Future Agenda Items** –

- Length of Board Meetings / Time limit to submit to Agenda

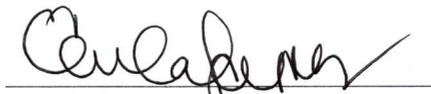
There was discussion about adding a time limit to submit agenda items prior to the monthly Board meetings. This topic is due to be discussed further at the March Board meeting.

14. **\*Adjournment** –

O'Brien called for a motion to adjourn. Krenrick made the motion, Shaffer seconded the motion. There were no abstentions and no discussion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

**ATTESTED BY:**

  
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Jeff O'Brien, Chair

  
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Carla James, Secretary