



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**FISCAL YEAR 2024**

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## MESSAGE

This year, our board continued to navigate complex challenges in mental health and substance use recovery. Through strong community partnerships, innovative programming, and steadfast commitment, we expanded access to care and improved outcomes for those our community providers served. As Executive Director, I am incredibly proud of the resilience and dedication demonstrated by our team and community partners. We launched three new initiatives, improved coordination with local providers, and prioritized the underserved population. Our commitment to workforce development has been innovative and rewarding, and I believe it will make a difference in our community for years to come.

Our operating budget of approximately 12 million dollars is strongly supported by the 45% of local levy dollars provided by the people of Allen, Auglaize, and Hardin Counties. My goal is to ensure we use those funds responsibly. We have worked hard to communicate to the public the MHR SB's role in their community and the importance of the community-funded local levy.

This past year has proven again how vital the role of our 18-volunteer board is in shaping a compassionate, community-rooted response to mental health and addiction. These volunteers—our neighbors, educators, professionals, and advocates—donate their time, insight, and passion to guide our system forward. The board has representatives from all three counties with diverse backgrounds. It meets monthly to review policy proposals, discuss community concerns, and ensure local voices shape our services.

The MHR SB received the Above and Beyond Award from the Lima/Allen County Chamber of Commerce. It recognizes businesses or individuals who demonstrate significant contributions to the region, outstanding service to clients, support for employees, and practice excellence and integrity.

The award directly reflects the hard work and commitment of every staff member and the MHR SB. This team has challenged itself to be the example of hard work, help, and hope. We do all this knowing that nothing can be accomplished without strong relationships with our community stakeholders and service providers.

Our board adopted a new logo and a 3-year strategic plan this year. The logo represents the counties we serve as three pillars, with the MHR SB demonstrating the strength of all three counties under one board. The seal reminds our communities that we have a statutory responsibility to serve and have been an established sub-division since 1968 working on behalf of the people. The staff and the board worked tirelessly to get the messaging right and set a steady path to ensure people are cared for in an unknown and unsteady future.

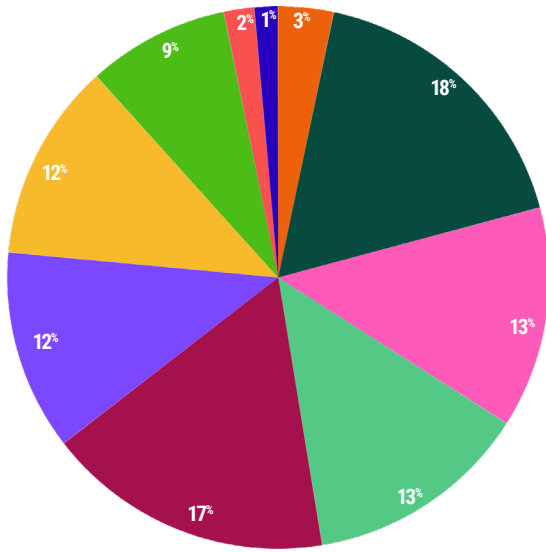
Finally, but with equal appreciation and honor, the MHR SB received a donation from the Dear Nicholas Foundation. Kim Bader, her family, and her board held a Bow Tie event in honor of her son Nicholas Bader, who died by suicide. The goal of the event was to bring people together for mental health and suicide awareness and to show that it's not just professionals who can make a difference in the life of someone who needs help.



**Tammie Colon**  
MHR SB Executive Director

# GENERAL MHR SB SERVICES FUNDING

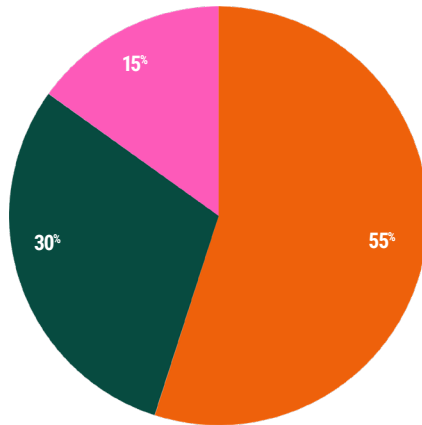
## NON MEDICAID SERVICES



Psychiatry/Adolescent Psychiatry	\$410,786
Outpatient	\$2,179,624
Special Projects	\$1,640,342
Crisis Services	\$1,659,870
Community & School Based Prevention	\$2,129,165
Housing	\$1,484,731
Criminal Justice	\$1,468,272
Board Administration	\$1,053,495
Workforce Development	\$225,210
Capital Improvements	\$174,564
Total	\$12,426,060

- Psychiatry/Adolescent Psychiatry 3%
- Outpatient 18%
- Special Projects 13%
- Crisis Services 13%
- Community & School Based Prevention 17%
- Housing 12%
- Criminal Justice 12%
- Board Administration 9%
- Workforce Development 2%
- Capital Improvements 1%

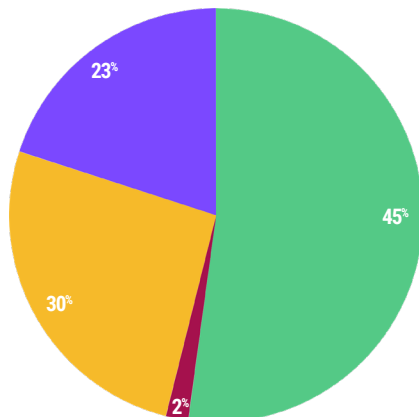
## LEVY COLLECTIONS



- Allen 55%
- Auglaize 30%
- Hardin 15%

Allen	\$2,889,169
Auglaize	\$1,574,153
Hardin	\$793,908
Total	\$5,257,230

## BOARD FUNDING BREAKDOWN



- Levy 45%
- Other 2%
- State 30%
- Federal 23%

Levy	\$6,069,024
Other	\$240,345
State	\$4,013,982
Federal	\$3,110,587
Total	\$13,433,939

# ALLEN COUNTY

## TREATMENT

### MOMS Program

**38 moms served**

In partnership with Coleman Health Services and Mercy Health, this program serves pregnant mothers who are struggling with substance use disorders to provide wrap-around services for mom and baby to lead to a healthier future.

### Daytime Crisis

**73 students served, 15 hospitalized**

A service that provides crisis response to the schools to conduct a crisis assessment and connect the student to the identified treatment, safety plan, or hospitalization. Operated by Family Resource Center.

### I Mind

**27 students served**

The I Mind program is an early intervention strategy for youth using substances. Facilitated by PASS.

### Intensive Family Services

**119 families served**

The MHR SB partnered with SAFY of Ohio to offer family support and treatment services that include case management, therapy, and group services. SAFY Lima Behavioral Health moved to a community-based model for providing intensive family services as part of their total reimagining of services.

*This new partnership aims to prevent the breakdown of families and promote positive relationships and resiliency.*

## PREVENTION & POSTVENTION

### CISM

**22 responses**

Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) responds to community tragedies to help people process the incident, become resilient, and recover from a critically stressful incident. Facilitated by PASS.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

### Pretrial Services at Lima Municipal Court

**480 individuals served; reduction of 330 jail bed days with a cost savings of \$867,114 in jail bed days.**

Pretrial Services provide early intervention and connection to behavioral health treatment rather than jail time for misdemeanor offenders.

### Allen Juvenile Court Behavioral Health Navigation

**200 youth served**

Behavioral Health Navigation increases access to services for youth involved with the juvenile court.

## SPECIALTY PROJECTS AND INNOVATION

### Guardianship Board

**55 individuals served**

The Guardianship Board provides guardianship services to individuals with behavioral health and developmental disabilities who are unable to make medical decisions on their own and lack a legal guardian. This service is in partnership with United Way of Greater Lima, Allen County Probate Court, Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities, and our local hospitals.

*Due to insufficient funding, the guardianship board has a waiting list and cannot further develop its volunteer program. The MHR SB has and will continue to seek funding opportunities to expand this valuable service for our communities. Hardin and Auglaize Counties also desire this program, but staffing and funding limitations hinder this growth.*





## Family Stabilization Navigation

**164 families served; 95 remained in parent custody**

Family Stabilization Navigation is a program in collaboration with Allen County Children's Services that connects parents to substance use treatment to avoid the removal of their children from the home.

## Changing Seasons

**144 adults served**

The adult drop-in center provides support, food, activities, and resources to increase socialization and connection. Operated by Coleman Health Services.

## Youth Drop-In Center

**115 youth served**

The drop-in center provides skill-building, groups, support, and resources for youth. Operated by SAFY.

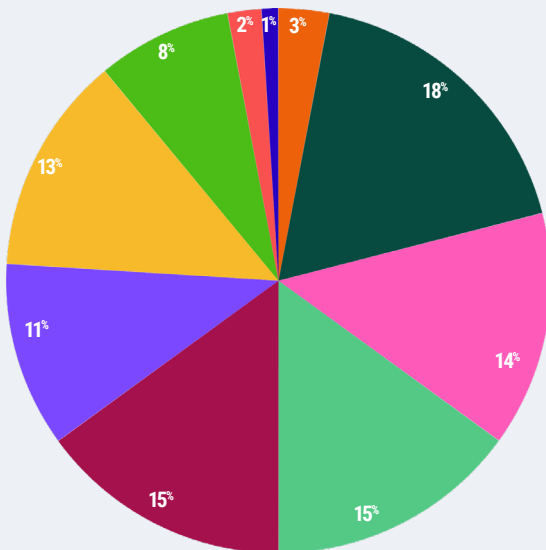
## EAP Navigation

**57 businesses; 2,037 employees covered**

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provides employees of enrolled small businesses a quick connection to mental health counseling.



## FUNDING SPENT - ALLEN COUNTY



- Psychiatry/Adolescent Psychiatry 3%
- Outpatient 18%
- Special Projects 14%
- Crisis Services 15%

- Community & School Based Prevention 15%
- Housing 11%
- Criminal Justice 13%

- Board Administration 8%
- Workforce Development 2%
- Capital Improvements 1%

Psychiatry/Adolescent Psychiatry	\$214,385
Outpatient	\$1,486,002
Community & School Based Prevention	\$1,208,260
Housing	\$850,613
Workforce Development	\$128,020
Criminal Justice	\$1,018,213
Special Projects	\$1,198,010
Crisis Services	\$1,164,589
Capital Improvements	\$99,501
Board Administration	\$600,963
Total	\$7,968,556



# AUGLAIZE COUNTY

## TREATMENT

### Daytime Crisis

**42 students served; 8 hospitalized**

A service that provides crisis response to the schools to conduct a crisis assessment and connect the student to the identified treatment, safety plan, or hospitalization. Facilitated by Family Resource Center.

### Child Psychiatrist Dr. Wei

**278 youth served**

Coleman Health Services serves adolescents through psychiatric and other supportive services at their Wapakoneta location.

*There is a severe national shortage of child psychiatrists. Dr. Wei increases access to this youth service in Auglaize County, which is even more prone to shortages as a rural area.*

### School Navigation

**278 students served**

School Navigation provides on-site support to all schools for circumstantial concerns through the SBIRT model and assists families in navigating to recommended services. Facilitated by SAFY, Family Resource Center, and Key to Recovery Services.

## PREVENTION & POSTVENTION CISM

**6 responses**

Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) responds to community tragedies to help people process the incident, become resilient, and recover from a critically stressful incident. Facilitated by PASS.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

### Jail Behavioral Health Coordination

**300+ individuals served**

This service helps inmates at the Auglaize County Jail connect with behavioral health services and support and provides navigation services as they re-enter the community.

## SPECIALTY PROJECTS AND INNOVATION

### Changing Seasons

**96 adults served**

The adult drop-in center provides support, food, activities, and resources to increase socialization and connection. Operated by Coleman Health Services in Wapakoneta.

### EAP Navigation

**10 businesses; 669 employees covered**

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provides employees of enrolled small businesses a quick connection to mental health counseling.

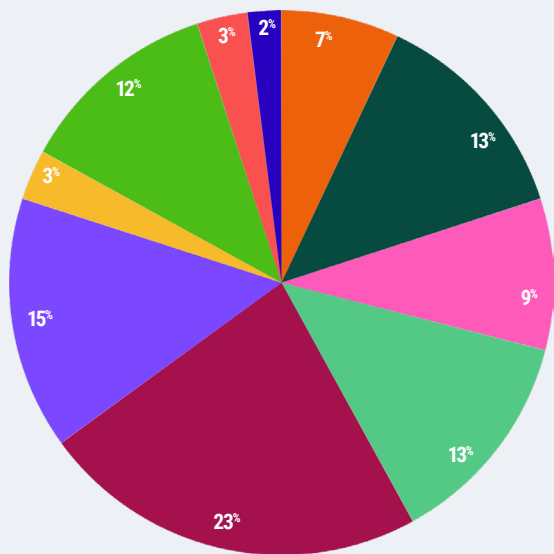


Auglaize County Health Department  
for Be Seen with Green





## FUNDING SPENT - AUGLAIZE COUNTY



Psychiatry/Adolescent Psychiatry	\$162,727
Outpatient	\$310,901
Community & School Based Prevention	\$525,658
Housing	\$342,421
Workforce Development	\$59,457
Criminal Justice	\$58,727
Special Projects	\$195,107
Crisis Services	\$298,224
Capital Improvements	\$45,387
Board Administration	\$273,438
Total	\$2,272,047

- Psychiatry/Adolescent Psychiatry 7%
- Outpatient 13%
- Special Projects 9%
- Crisis Services 13%

- Community & School Based Prevention 23%
- Housing 15%
- Criminal Justice 3%

- Board Administration 12%
- Workforce Development 3%
- Capital Improvements 2%



# HARDIN COUNTY

## TREATMENT

### Daytime Crisis

**13 students served; 6 hospitalized**

A service that provides crisis response to the schools to conduct a crisis assessment and connect the student to the identified treatment, safety plan, or hospitalization. Facilitated by Family Resource Center.

### I Mind

**26 students served**

The I Mind program is an early intervention strategy for youth using substances. Facilitated by PASS.

*This year, the I Mind program expanded to Auglaize and Hardin County locations.*

### School Navigation

**205 students served**

School Navigation provides on-site support to all schools for circumstantial concerns through the SBIRT model and assists families in navigating to recommended services. Facilitated by SAFY and Health Partners of Western Ohio.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

### Jail Navigation for Multi-County Correctional Facility

**173 client contacts**

Coleman Health Services provides navigation services to Hardin County residents re-entering the community from the Multi-County Correctional Facility to connect individuals with treatment services.

## PREVENTION & POSTVENTION

### CISM

**6 responses**

Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) responds to community tragedies to help people process the incident, become resilient, and recover from a critically stressful incident. Facilitated by PASS.



Kenton Community Health Center for Be Seen with Green



Hardin Leadership 2024 class for Be Seen with Green



# SPECIALTY PROJECTS AND INNOVATION

## Wings Drop-In Center

110 individuals served

Wings Peer Support and Recovery operates the drop-in center for adults with behavioral health disorders. It provides various skill-building opportunities, including financial training.

## FCFC Coordinator

26 families served

Family and Children First Council (FCFC) coordination supports the care of Hardin County youth involved in multiple systems, helping the youth and their families receive services and support.

## EAP Navigation

11 businesses; 315 employees covered

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provides employees of enrolled small businesses a quick connection to mental health counseling. Operated by ENI.

## 911/988 Interoperability

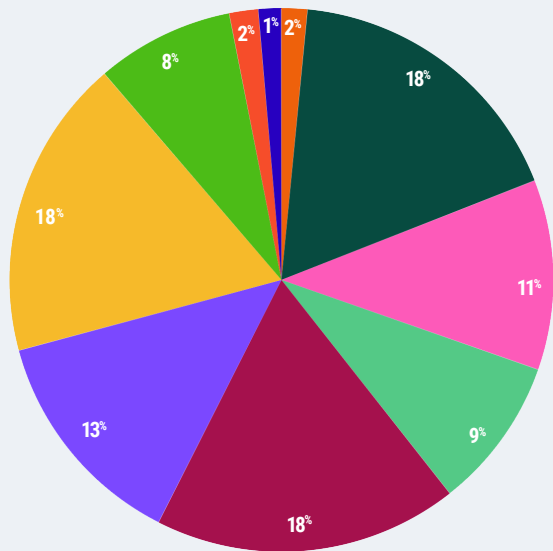
A pilot project in Hardin County working to improve

and enhance the interoperability process between the 911 and 988 systems. The Hardin County Sheriff—911 dispatch—and Coleman Health Services—988 operator—are working with Clear Pathways consultants to develop a memorandum of understanding.

*The 911/988 Interoperability goal is to transfer calls between systems for maximum efficiency and the most appropriate responders.*



# FUNDING SPENT - HARDIN COUNTY



Psychiatry/Adolescent Psychiatry	\$33,674
Outpatient	\$382,721
Community & School Based Prevention	\$395,247
Housing	\$291,697
Workforce Development	\$37,734
Criminal Justice	\$391,331
Special Projects	\$247,225
Crisis Services	\$197,058
Capital Improvements	\$29,676
Board Administration	\$179,094
Total	\$2,185,456

- Psychiatry/Adolescent Psychiatry 2%

● Outpatient 18%

● Special Projects 11%

● Crisis Services 9%
- Community & School Based Prevention 18%

● Housing 13%

● Criminal Justice 18%
- Board Administration 8%

● Workforce Development 2%

● Capital Improvements 1%

# GENERAL MHR SB SERVICES

## HEALTH EQUITY

The MHR SB continues to work with a Health Equity and Cultural Competence (HECC) consultant to help effectively reach and provide vital behavioral health prevention and treatment services for the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities.

The HECC Consultant initiated the Mental Health Ambassadors group, which has **grown to 54 supporters**, to raise awareness around behavioral health services. The group provides specialized Mental Health First Aid opportunities and has **trained over 150 individuals, with five training sessions in 2024.**

### "I'm At Promise" Event

In February 2024, the Jegna Corporation partnered with the MHR SB to host professional development for the "I'm At Promise" event. Dr. Chike Akua led the training for local juvenile justice, behavioral health, and social service staff.

MHR SB staff attended the "I'm At Promise" Brunch, featuring keynote speakers Dr. Akua and Principal Kafele. They discussed shifting the "Cradle to Prison" to a "Cradle to Careers" pipeline through literacy, arts, and hip-hop. The Jegna Corporation held a Music is Medicine concert with local and professional artists that evening.

## DATA IMPROVEMENTS

In partnership with Ascend Innovations, the MHR SB is formalizing our data processes to close gaps and identify common reporting standards from provider. As part of this process, we are working to collect data through web-based applications.

The MHR SB and our contract agencies receive notification when individuals seek assistance at local emergency departments to ensure they get connected to local treatment services. People not yet connected with our providers receive Prevention Awareness Support Services (PASS) outreach

services to assess and inform them how to access community services. We are working to collaborate with all Emergency Departments and Hospital Systems.

### Notify Text Alerts

The MHR SB partnered with Allen County Public Health to install a notify text alert system. Those who sign up receive information about services, resources, education, events, Narcan availability, and overdose spikes caused by drug interdiction. Friends, family members, professionals, caregivers, clients, or community members can sign up.

*To get alerts, text **START** to **888-701-2578.***

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

YARAS is working with partner agencies to obtain certification for state and federal loan reimbursement programs as a retention and recruitment tool. YARAS also attends career fairs to promote partner agency job openings.

The MHR SB continued its partnership with The Ohio State University, Lima Campus, to increase social work students' interest in local behavioral health positions. OSU places students at partner agencies for their internships and provides clinical supervision for students.

PASS held their Summer Career Paths program with **28 high school students** to educate them on careers in behavioral health and complete tours of partner agencies.

The MHR SB works with a consultant to help staff in our three counties navigate Public Student Loan Forgiveness (PSLF). This year, **\$298,000 of debt was forgiven** for our behavioral health system staff.



## SUICIDE PREVENTION COALITIONS

The Suicide Prevention Coalitions are community-based prevention groups in each county supported by MHR SB and facilitated by PASS. In Fiscal Year 2024, the Coalitions:

- Held a Suicide Awareness & Remembrance Walk in Allen County
- Added a youth suicide prevention sub-committee
- Implemented Life Side Ohio, a suicide prevention outreach dedicated to the firearms community

## BE SEEN WITH GREEN

May is National Mental Health Awareness Month, with green symbolizing mental health. The MHR SB encourages communities to participate in our “Be Seen with Green” campaign during May to help raise awareness.



## WEEK OF APPRECIATION FOOD TRUCK EVENT

The MHR SB once again received funding from the Ohio Association of Behavioral Health Association to honor frontline workers serving individuals challenged with mental health and substance use. Each year, we recognize an agency that has been a strong partner to our behavioral health professionals and other providers.

We hosted our first food truck event in every county, handed out small gifts, and expressed our appreciation for their work. It was a great time, with agency staff consistently enjoying the Week of Appreciation.



## 2023 AND 2024 LEVY RENEWALS

We invested significant time and effort in educating our communities about the local 10-year levy. Staff spent hours speaking to stakeholders, mailers were sent to residents, and a public marketing campaign was developed. Frontline staff were key supporters, which expanded our reach beyond our abilities. The behavioral health agencies were partners in this venture. Without them, we would not have connected with the community members as we did. The levy passed, yet there was more work to be done. We needed to prepare for the 2024 levy.

The “no” votes did not necessarily reflect a lack of support for our mission. The MHR SB team recognized many voters did not know who we are or our role. They needed to understand the levy’s importance to our communities as we prepared for a second levy in consecutive years. This drove our campaign strategy for the 5-year levy on the ballot in November 2024.

## FIRST ANNUAL CHILI FOR CHARITY

With funding from the MHRSB, Activate Allen County launched an application process for community agencies to enhance their behavioral health program. Three finalists were awarded funds from the MHRSB and presented their proposals during a \$10 chili lunch event. Attendees voted on which proposal should receive 100% of the funds raised by the participation fee.

The goal is to make this an annual event, focusing on different behavioral health topics each year, to boost participation and awareness around important community issues. While three finalists received the awards, the MHRSB partnered with two other promising applicants to support their work. This opportunity to build more local partnerships and support outcome-driving programs is extremely valuable.

## FIRST ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS BREAKFAST

We had over 50 attendees at our first Mental Health Awareness Breakfast, including county commissioners, mayors, city council members, schools, businesses, providers, and partners. They came to learn about statewide behavioral health and how the MHRSB aligns our work with state priorities. We also showcased our innovative, locally developed programs that deliver impressive results. Attendees enjoyed the event. We plan to host breakfasts in each county next year, allowing for more questions and dialogue to enhance understanding between the community and the board.

## ACCESS TO WELLNESS

*7 people served in the three months operated during FY 2024*

The MHRSB partnered with We Care Regional Quality Recovery Housing to run the Access to Wellness (ATW) program, funded by OhioMHAS. ATW provides financial support for individuals with mental illness who have experienced hospitalization, crisis stabilization admissions, or incarceration due to their disability. The funds offer many recovery resources to help them become stabilized in the community.

## STATE HIGHWAY PATROL NOTIFICATION

The MHRSB has partnered with the Ohio State Highway Patrol to participate in Operation New Beginnings. We receive information on drivers arrested for impaired driving in our three-county area and give them details about available treatment services. PASS then contacts these individuals to help them access these local services.





# **2024** **COMMUNITY** **CONNECTION**

## August 2023

- Overdose Awareness Event in Downtown Lima

## September 2023

- Week of Appreciation Food Truck Event for Behavioral Health Workforce
- Suicide Remembrance Walk at Ottawa Metro

## October 2023

- Emergency Medical Certificate Training

## November 2023

- New 3 Year Strategic Plan
- Chief Supermarket, Fresh Encounters, Inc. Donation Presentation
- Healthy Families Expo
- 10-Year Levy Renewed

## January 2024

- Sponsored Martin Luther King Dinner

## February 2024

- Presentation at Wapak Schools
- Presentation for OSU students

## March 2024

- First Annual Chili for Charity Event

## April 2024

- Sertoma Club Presentation

## May 2024

- Lima/Allen County Chamber of Commerce's Above and Beyond Award Winner
- Mental Health Breakfast Event
- Be Seen with Green

## June 2024

- Cenovus Health Fair



## MEMBERSHIPS

### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**Allen:** Lima, Bluffton

**Auglaize:** Southwestern Auglaize, St. Marys and Wapakoneta

**Hardin:** Ada, Hardin Co. Chamber  
**FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL**

### NAMI (+MINORITY)

**ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION  
 ASSOCIATION OF OHIO**

**OHIO SUICIDE PREVENTION FOUNDATION**

**AUGLAIZE CO. HOMELESS COALITION**

**AUGLAIZE CO. AT RISK YOUTH COUNCIL**

## BOARD STAFF



**TAMMIE COLON**  
*Executive Director*



**KELLY MONROE**  
*Associate Director*



**SHERI STRAWN**  
*Fiscal Director*



**AMY MORMAN**  
*Associate Fiscal Director*



**KATIE WALKER**  
*Clinical Director*



**TRISHA TERRY**  
*Office Manager*



**DAN FARAGLIA**  
*Crisis Infrastructure Specialist*

## BOARD MEMBERS

### ALLEN COUNTY

**Appointed by the Allen County Commissioners**

- Mary Early, *Treasurer*
- Aaron McLaurine
- Barb Link
- Jim Bronder, *Vice Chair*

**Appointed by Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services**

- Tyler Smith
- Amber Martin
- Priscilla Burt
- Arlette Pollock-Evans
- Brooke Featheringham
- Jody Shaw

### AUGLAIZE COUNTY

**Appointed by the Auglaize County Commissioners**

- Robert Warren
- Chad Dunlap
- Mark Huber

**Appointed by Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services**

- Amy Freymuth, *Chair*

### HARDIN COUNTY

**Appointed by the Hardin County Commissioners**

- Kim Everhart
- Matt Manns

**Appointed by Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services**

- Tracy Wright

# LOOKING AHEAD

## ONE OHIO

In partnership with the Allen County Commissioners and the City of Lima, the MHR SB applied for funding on behalf of ten organizations. Unfortunately, only two of the programs received funding from One Ohio. To address this, the commissioners and the city council committed their local opioid funding to fully support these programs.

This approach aims to prevent service duplication, enhance the existing system of care, and ensure evidenced-based outcomes. These partnerships help maximize limited funds to bring a greater impact to our communities.

## OHIO DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

We are partnering with Allen County Ohio Means Jobs to increase interest in local behavioral health by providing paid work experience for college students pursuing behavioral health degrees for FY25.

## EXTENDED STAY UNIT

The MHR SB is building a nine-bed extended stay unit connected to the current Crisis Stabilization Unit. The ESU will provide temporary housing to individuals released from hospitals, CSUs, or jails who are not yet ready to live independently due to their disability. The stay is limited to six months, and the unit is expected to open in November 2025.

## APPLIED FOR CMHI GRANT

The MHR SB partnered with Allen County Juvenile Justice Services, Coleman Health Services, and the Allen County Children Services Board to apply for a SAMHSA grant aimed at reducing trauma and recidivism rates for youth in domestic violence situations through specialized support for the youth and their families.

## LANDLORD INCENTIVE

*2 persons served in the two months of operating during FY 2024*

With funding from OhioMHAS, the MHR SB partnered with West Ohio Community Action Partnership (WOCAP) to offer financial incentives to landlords willing to rent to people with a legal charge that would otherwise disqualify them for a rental.

## UNIVERSAL SCREENING

The MHR SB continues to explore ways to implement Universal Screenings in our K-12 schools as a best practice model for early detection and intervention for behavioral health concerns.



## EAP TESTIMONIALS

"NexGen has been the one of the best EAPs we have worked with! They are personable, accessible, the reporting process is manageable, and they make the referral process client and provider friendly. NexGen has truly been a gift to clients we serve and we are honored to partner with them. Thank you for all the work you do to make mental health services accessible to so many!"

- Kari Taylor, Cornerstone Of Hope, Lima, OH.

"My coach is just amazing!! My first session went great, and I can't wait to see her again. She was so helpful."

"My dad passed away two months ago, and I just really needed to talk to someone. Of course, the waiting list to get into counselors here is months out, and I didn't feel I could wait. I called the number and they set me up with a counselor that day. She's incredible. I've been talking with her ever since. I just talked to her today. I'm just so grateful it was there."

"It has been a tremendous resource for our agency and we are so grateful to have the opportunity to participate."

"My family and I consistently use this resource."

# In Crisis?



## Community Resources



Get Connected. Get Help.™

Call or visit [211allen.org](https://211allen.org)

## Stay Informed



Text **START** to **888-701-ALRT (2578)**



528 W. Market St.  
Lima, OH 45801  
419-222-5120

[wecarepeople.org](https://wecarepeople.org)  
[facebook.com/wecarepeople](https://facebook.com/wecarepeople)  
[instagram.com/wecarepeople](https://instagram.com/wecarepeople)  
[youtube.com/@WeCarePeople](https://youtube.com/@WeCarePeople)