



**ANNUAL  
REPORT**  
Fiscal Year 2022

**Mental Health &  
Recovery Services  
Board of Allen, Auglaize  
and Hardin Counties**

# EMPLOYEE DIRECTORY

**TAMMIE COLON**  
Executive Director

**KELLY MONROE**  
Associate Director

**AMY MORMAN**  
Associate Operating Officer

**KATIE WALKER**  
Clinical Director

**HELENA NOLTE**  
Executive Administrative Assistant



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### ALLEN COUNTY

APPOINTED BY ALLEN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- Aaron McLaurine
- Jim Bronder
- Brooke Featheringham
- Barbara Link
- APPOINTED BY OHIO MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
- Mary Early, *Treasurer*
- Arlett Pollock-Evans
- Priscilla Burt
- LaVonne Ward
- Tyler Smith

### AUGLAIZE COUNTY

APPOINTED BY AUGLAIZE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- Robert Warren
- Chad Dunlap
- Steve Henderson
- APPOINTED BY OHIO MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
- Amy Freymuth, *Vice Chair*

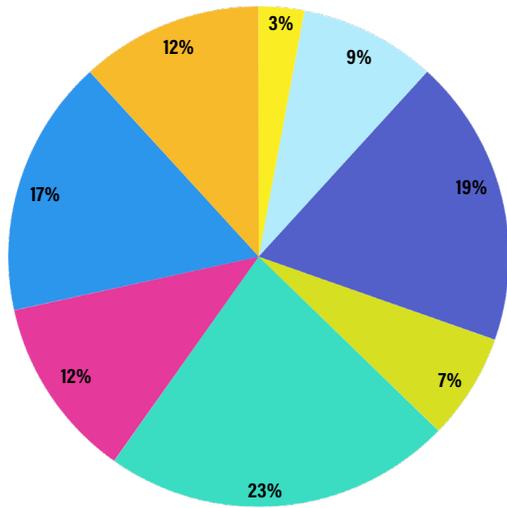
### HARDIN COUNTY

APPOINTED BY HARDIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- Tracy Wright
- Dan Marshman, *Chair*
- APPOINTED BY OHIO MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
- David Collins

# GENERAL MHR SB SERVICES FUNDING

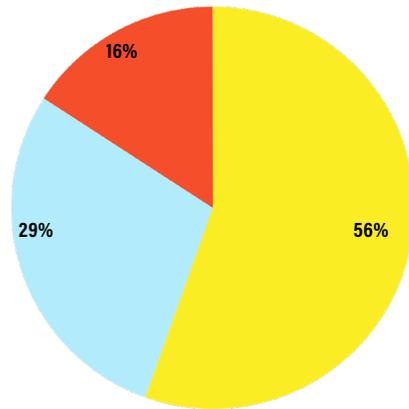
## NON MEDICAID SERVICES



Psychiatry/Adolescent Psychiatry	\$270,925
Outpatient	\$2,205,290
Special Projects	\$1,241,837
Crisis Services	\$1,935,273
Prevention	\$1,751,609
Housing	\$928,861
Criminal Justice	\$1,196,929
Board Administration	\$723,867
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,254,591</b>

- Psychiatry/Adolescent Psychiatry 3%
- Outpatient 23%
- Special Projects 12%
- Crisis Services 19%
- Prevention 17%
- Housing 9%
- Criminal Justice 12%
- Board Administration 7%

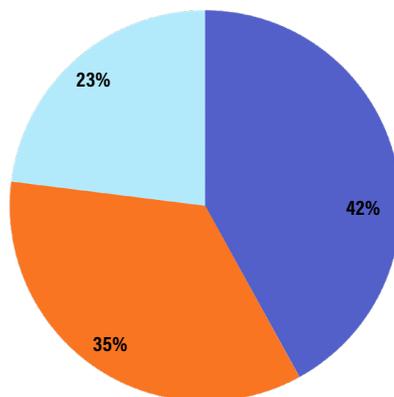
## LEVY COLLECTIONS



- Allen 56%
- Auglaize 29%
- Hardin 16%

Allen	\$2,906,548
Auglaize	\$1,477,782
Hardin	\$814,431
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,198,761</b>

## BOARD FUNDING BREAKDOWN



- Levy 42%
- State 35%
- Federal 23%

Levy	\$5,198,761
State	\$4,301,301
Federal	\$2,753,953
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,254,015</b>

# ALLEN COUNTY

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Partnerships are crucial to providing quality and accessible behavioral health services in Allen County. Addressing basic needs help the Board better serve mental health and recovery needs. The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (MHRSB) continued to build and strengthen community partnerships to provide a complete Continuum of Care in 2022.

## TREATMENT

The MHRSB provides many treatment services in Allen County. The **Mercy Office Based Opioid Treatment Clinic** is a partnership between Mercy Health St. Rita's outpatient private practice and the MHRSB to increase access to Medically Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorders. In 2022, the clinic served 306 individuals in Allen County. The clinic helps these patients connect to the best community resources and supportive services.

Another partnership is between Coleman Health Services and Health Partners of Western Ohio at the **Hepatitis C Clinic**. The clinic treats people who have contracted Hepatitis C to optimize their overall health. They served 41 individuals, with 30 completing treatment.

The Board partners with agencies to provide multiple services in local schools to reach our youth. Local schools facing a crisis have access to **Daytime Crisis** through the Hopeline, who then sends a licensed clinician to the school. The clinician conducts a crisis assessment. From there, they connect the student to their designated treatment, safety plan, or hospitalization if necessary. Daytime Crisis served 131 students in Allen County; 28 were hospitalized.

**The Embrace or MOMS Program**, serves pregnant mothers struggling with substance use disorders. In the past year, the program served 35 moms-to-be. They were provided wrap-around services to lead both mom and baby into a healthier future.

## PREVENTION & POSTVENTION

**Critical Incident Stress Management**, or CISM, is a volunteer team of public safety and affiliate officials serving fire, EMS, law enforcement, industry, education, and other organizations involved in any critical incident. This sophisticated, cross-industry collaboration has evolved to help people be more resilient and recover from a critically stressful incident. CISM provided 51 responses in Allen County in 2022.

In partnership with the Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities (serving Allen and Hardin counties), a **Behavioral Support Specialist** provides classroom observation, consultation, and strategies to support positive behavior and refer to needed services. They respond in 48 hours to all school referrals for behavioral concerns. 85 students were served.

Research shows that 60% of children under 12 spend their after-school time at home alone. **The Youth Commission**—a partnership between the City of Lima, the United Way of Greater Lima, MHRSB, Lima City Schools, and others—seeks to change that situation and enrich the lives of these children.

**Enriching our Community and Children through Opportunities (ECCO)** is an innovative after-school program that offers educational and social development activities in a structured environment at North Middle School. Family Resource Center developed evidence-based activities for ECCO to support mental wellness and provide meaningful opportunities.





## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Pretrial Services at Lima Municipal Court is a partnership between Lima Municipal Court and MHR SB.

### *Celebrate You: For Mental Health Awareness*

Celebrate You was a free event from the MHR SB, Mental Health Ambassadors, Downtown Lima Inc, and Lima Symphony Orchestra. It celebrated our diverse communities.

We had local mental health resources available and provided free meals.

The family-friendly afternoon had the food trucks, entertainment, exercise classes, and MBK/Jengna Lima. The adult-oriented evening had live performances, spoken word artists, and Courtney Owens as the MC.

It provides immediate access to treatment services for those charged with substance-related misdemeanors. These services aim to decrease recidivism or reduce repeat offenses. The program served 284 individuals, with a reduction of 212 jail bed days.

The Allen Juvenile Court Coordination increases access to behavioral health services for youth involved with the Juvenile Court. The Coordination program served 85 individuals this past year. They were provided service coordination, behavioral health screenings, assessments, and connection to treatment services.

## HOUSING

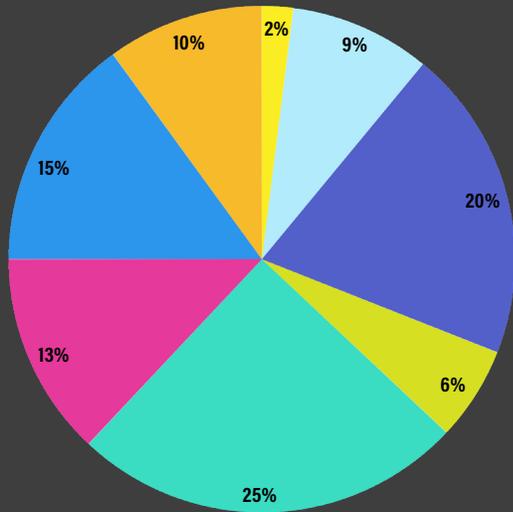
A partnership with Blass Construction and Remodeling provided an opportunity to expand Permanent Supportive Housing and develop ten units on Metcalf that will serve approximately 16 individuals. Coleman Health Services will provide supportive services as needed to ensure residents reach their full potential and reduce instances of acute care.

Lighthouse Behavioral Health Solutions expanded Recovery Housing and Substance Use treatment availability this year. Lighthouse now has 57 out of 68 beds full, 60% of which are Allen County residents.

MHR SB partners with We Care Regional Quality Recovery Housing to improve access and quality of local recovery housing providers. WCRQRH served 196 people this year. The Board added case management services at WCRQRH to better support these individuals in their journey to recovery from a substance use disorder.

Together, the MHR SB and Coleman Health Services will bring new services to the Union Square apartments to support the residents. The Union Square apartments are owned and operated by Coleman Health Services. They will coordinate activities and community events, developing more community involvement for residents. All 24 Union Square units are filled, and 75% of residents receive treatment services.

# FUNDING SPENT - ALLEN COUNTY



- Psychiatry/Adolescent Psychiatry 2%
- Outpatient 25%
- Housing 9%
- Special Projects 13%
- Crisis Services 20%
- Prevention 15%
- Board Administration 6%
- Criminal Justice 10%

Psychiatry/Adolescent Psychiatry	\$155,601
Outpatient	\$1,682,423
Housing	\$599,644
Special Projects	\$882,558
Crisis Services	\$1,330,883
Prevention	\$987,725
Board Administration	\$419,843
Criminal Justice	\$702,238
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,760,915</b>

## SPECIALTY PROJECTS & INNOVATION

Partnerships played a key role in our special projects. One such partnership with United Way and Area Agency on Aging 3 led to our development and implementation of 211 in Allen County. 211 is a local information and referral line that works alongside other lines, such as 911 and 988. The information can also be accessed at [allen211.org](http://allen211.org).

The MHR SB partnered with Activate Allen County and Mercy Health St. Rita's in their **Activated School Challenge**. The challenge is to implement strategies that create a healthy and active school environment in Allen and Auglaize Counties. We provided additional grant funding to include a mental health component in their school programs. This was included at four schools, reaching 836 total students.

The MHR SB joined with Allen

County Public Health to expand **Naloxone distribution** in the county. This included increasing public awareness through marketing. The MHR SB increased the Naloxone supply by 420 units. Allen County was selected to partake in the national study, Healing Communities, for next year which will also increase public awareness.

In collaboration with Allen County Children's Services, we developed **Family Stabilization Navigation**. The program links parents to substance use treatment immediately, to decrease removal of children from their homes. Family Stabilization Navigation served 77 individuals and 14 children remained with their parent.

Sometimes adults need a legal guardian due to mental health, substance use, and/or developmental disabilities. There has been a shortage in our community of family members and attorneys with the ability to take on guardian duties. Along with local partners,

MHR SB established a **Guardianship Board** from a group of community volunteers to address this problem. This local Board serves as legal guardian for adult residents of Allen County who have mental health, substance use and/or developmental disabilities. The Guardianship Board served 14 individuals this year.

The MHR SB also partnered with Life Bio to offer their **My Hello service** to our aging population. The weekly call service provides connection to combat depression. My Hello served 11 seniors in Allen County. On the other end of the age range, the **SAFY Youth Drop-in Center** served 48 children and teens. It is open six days a week. The Drop-in Center provides groups, support, and resources for local youth.

**Changing Seasons** served 197 adults this year. It is the center for activity, support, food, and resources for individuals with mental health or substance use disorders. Changing Seasons increases socialization and connections in the community.

# Mental Health Ambassadors

It takes a village to make the hope of a healthier community for all groups of people a reality. Every minority community has different stigmas and barriers to treatment for professional help. Salon owners, barbers, and small business owners are the center for community connection. They hear life stories, joys, hardships, and sometimes signs a person needs more than a listening ear. Enter the Mental Health Ambassadors program.

Mental Health Ambassadors are representatives from within minority groups. They help their community be healthier through education, fellowship, and growing trust between mental health agencies and communities. An Ambassador becomes trained on how to respond to signs of mental illness and substance use through Mental Health First Aid. Ambassadors can connect their customers with the right mental health resources.

“Mental health is just big and I need to know more. I need to know how to communicate with my clients, and how to direct them, and different stuff like that. So, I was like, 'let me get trained, let me get educated, let me educate myself.'”

Shawna Glover,  
MH Ambassador

“I just want people to know you don't have to go through situations alone. There's often a stigma in the Black Community because we don't often talk about it or you know when you do talk about mental health issues this label of crazy comes about. I'm addressing what I've seen in my community and how we can help bring those walls down.”

Courtney Owens | MH Ambassador



# AUGLAIZE COUNTY



The heart of caring for a community is service. The MHRSB provides vital prevention and treatment through our services and programs. We are here to serve the residents of Auglaize County. To best reach residents, we offer support where they already are. The Board brings services to our local schools, jails, and partnering treatment centers.

## TREATMENT

The MHRSB provides help to our youth by bringing services to local schools. **Daytime Crisis** sends a licensed clinician to the schools when facing a crisis. Schools activate this service by calling the Hopeline. The clinician conducts a crisis assessment and connects the student to their designated treatment, safety plan, or hospitalization if necessary. In Auglaize County, Daytime Crisis served 20 students; 8 were hospitalized.

The **Mercy Office Based Opioid Treatment Clinic**, in partnership with Mercy Health St. Rita's outpatient private practice, provides Medically Assisted Treatment

for Opioid Use Disorders. The clinic served 42 individuals in Auglaize County.

## PREVENTION & POSTVENTION

**Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)** was developed to help people during a crisis when normal coping mechanisms are stretched to their limits. It is a volunteer team of public safety and affiliate officials serving fire, EMS, law enforcement, industry, education, and other organizations involved in any critical incident. CISM has evolved to help people be more resilient and recover from a critically stressful incident. CISM provided 8 responses in Auglaize County.

Another school service, provided by Strategies for Behavioral Management, is a **Behavioral Support Specialist** who delivers a 48-hour response to all school referrals for behavioral concerns. This supportive program provides classroom observation, consultation,

and strategies to support positive behavior and refer to necessary services. Strategies for Behavioral Management served 14 students.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

**Jail Coordination** is a service collaboration between the MHR SB and Auglaize County Jail. This service connects those incarcerated to treatment services for mental health and substance use disorders. Those preparing for re-entry to the community are linked to relevant supports and programs. This service also facilitates groups like Chance to Change and Anger Management in the jail. Jail Coordination served 511 individuals at the Auglaize County Jail.

## SPECIALTY PROJECTS & INNOVATION

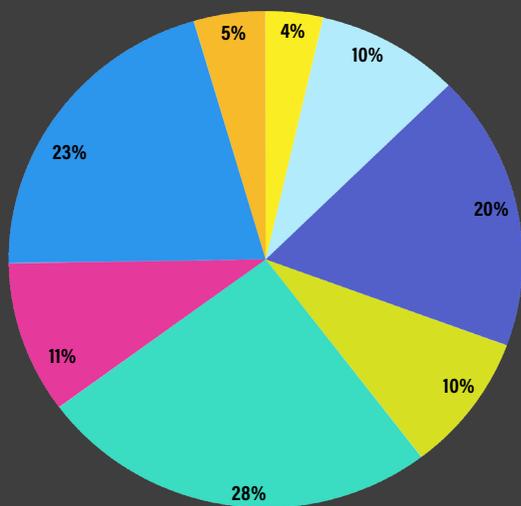
The MHR SB serves our aging population through the **My Hello** service. This weekly call service provides connection to combat depression and loneliness.

Many older people experience isolation and loneliness, especially if they live alone. Talking with a friendly caller once a week is an effective solution to the mental health threats from such isolation. My Hello served 11 seniors in Auglaize County.

**Changing Seasons** served 125 adults in Auglaize County. This center in Wapakoneta is a safe haven for individuals managing mental health conditions, substance use disorders, and homelessness in our community. Changing Seasons provides support, food, and resources to increase socialization and connections in the community.

By partnering with Activate Allen County and Mercy Health St. Rita's, we were able to bring mental health education and support into our local schools. **Activated School Challenge** challenges schools to come up with strategies to create a healthy and active school environment. The MHR SB gave additional grant funding to include a mental health component in their applications and programs at schools. We reached 534 students in two schools through this program.

## FUNDING SPENT - AUGLAIZE COUNTY



- Psychiatry/Adolescent Psychiatry 4%
- Outpatient 28%
- Housing 10%
- Special Projects 11%
- Crisis Services 20%
- Prevention 23%
- Board Administration 10%
- Criminal Justice 5%

<b>Psychiatry/Adolescent Psychiatry</b>	<b>\$70,508</b>
<b>Outpatient</b>	<b>\$314,812</b>
<b>Housing</b>	<b>\$172,153</b>
<b>Special Projects</b>	<b>\$189,545</b>
<b>Crisis Services</b>	<b>\$348,796</b>
<b>Prevention</b>	<b>\$415,903</b>
<b>Board Administration</b>	<b>\$180,967</b>
<b>Criminal Justice</b>	<b>\$87,183</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,779,865</b>

# Suicide Prevention In Auglaize County

Throughout the pandemic years, 13 people in Auglaize County died by suicide. MHRSB partner agencies, community members, and the Auglaize County Suicide Prevention Coalition are working to prevent suicide in rural communities.

Each county has its own Suicide Prevention Coalition working to find the best activities to reach their community. The Auglaize County Suicide Prevention Coalition has found the Purple Stop Signs are an effective method. The signs have the local Hopeline and Veterans Crisis helpline and are placed in remote areas where suicide attempts are more likely.

The Coalition hosts Safe Servers trainings, where employees are updated on Ohio liquor laws and learn how to help people considering suicide. This summer, they held a Safe Server training for employees from Salty Heifer Fan's in Waynesfield, Village Cafe in Cridersville, Alfa Cafe in Wapakoneta, and Greenhorn in Bluffton.

Gatekeepers are student-led groups in all three counties' local schools focused on suicide prevention and mental health awareness. There are now groups in most schools. During the 2021-22 school year, students wore Break the Stigma t-shirts, chalked positive messages on sidewalks, held mental health days with a therapy dog, and shared self-care tips on posters. Schools also held the Lifelines Suicide Prevention program in the last year.

“A powerful question that most people are afraid to ask is, 'Are you thinking about taking your own life?' Because when I tell people that, they say, 'What if they do say yes?' You've just made an impact.

You could be saving that person's life. If they say yes, you say, 'I understand. Let's go somewhere. There's somebody that I'd like you to talk to you.' Get them help in that moment.”

Chad Dunlap | Board & Coalition Member



# HARDIN COUNTY



Expanding access to mental health care allows us to serve more people and take more immediate action to provide help. The MHR SB is committed to keeping mental health & recovery services local in Hardin County. The MHR SB expanded in Fiscal Year 2022 by contracting with new providers, providing new services, and constructing a new two-million-dollar building.

## TREATMENT

**Wings Support and Recovery** in Kenton provides Peer Support Services to adults. Peer Support Services play a vital role in sustained recovery and are provided by others in recovery from mental illness and/or addiction.

**Lighthouse Behavioral Health Solutions** is providing new services for adults with substance use disorders in Hardin County. They also provide **Recovery Housing** and Permanent Supportive Housing assistance.

In addition to the new providers, the **Mercy Office Based Opioid Treatment Clinic** served 76 people in Hardin County. The clinic is a partnership with Mercy Health St. Rita's outpatient private practice that provides Medically Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorders.

**Daytime Crisis** provides expanded access to care for youth by partnering with local schools. When facing a crisis, schools call the Hopeline for dispatch of a licensed clinician to conduct a crisis assessment. The clinician then connects the student to their designated treatment, safety plan, or hospitalization if necessary. Daytime Crisis served 31 students; 10 were hospitalized.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

**Wings Support and Recovery Services** expanded access to peer support services in Hardin County. Peer Support Services is a

strengths-based support for people with addictions. Wings works with outpatient organizations serving individuals with substance use disorders to provide peer support services. Partnerships include Hardin County Courts and Hardin County Children Services.

The MHR SB continued supporting **Court Coordination** for both **Recovery Court** and **Family Court**. Court Coordination helps connect individuals in those courts to the relevant services they need. Family Court served 6, and Recovery Court served 47 people.

To ensure access to care for residents, we offer **Jail Navigation** through Coleman Health Services to the Multi-County Correctional Facility. These are navigation services for Hardin County residents re-entering the community from the Multi-County Correctional Facility.

Coleman connects individuals with treatment services, including medically assisted treatment, as well as other community resources to promote stability and decrease recidivism. Jail Navigation served 161 re-entering individuals.

## HOUSING

Lighthouse Behavioral Health Solutions gives people safe and secure housing as they work to maintain their long-term recovery. Meeting these basic needs increases chances for success. Lighthouse opened two Recovery Housing locations in Hardin County. These homes provide care to those recovering from substance use disorders. One house is for women with 4 beds, and one house is for men with 5 beds available.

The MHR SB completed one of its largest projects to expand services in Hardin County this year. We opened Permanent Supportive Housing. The newly constructed building has 12 units.

Permanent supportive housing combines housing with supportive services on-site. The non-clinical services include medication monitoring, addressing personal hygiene needs, maintaining their apartments, and other activities of daily living to support their recovery.

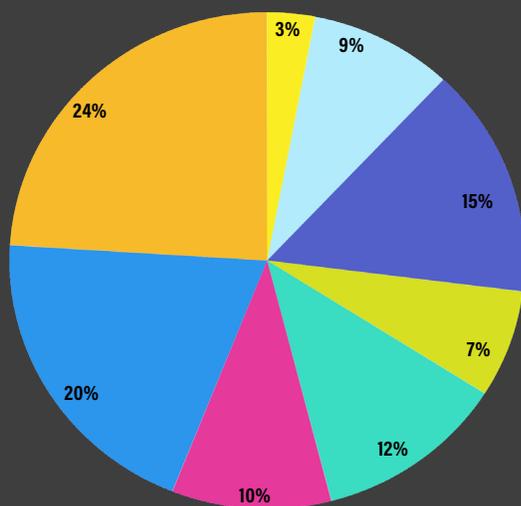
## PREVENTION

Part of the MHR SB's expanded access to care is serving our youth where they are. We serve youth in the Juvenile Court through many programs. One of those is the Class Action curriculum facilitated by Prevention Awareness and Supportive Services (PASS). 21 students involved with Juvenile Court participated in Class Action. The curriculum educates teenagers through an evidence-based alcohol prevention program that uses real-world social and legal consequences of underage alcohol use.

Critical Incident Stress Management, or CISM, serves Hardin County. CISM is a volunteer team of public safety and affiliate officials serving fire, EMS, law enforcement, industry, education, and other organizations involved in any critical incident. This socially and geographically far-reaching team helps people be more resilient and recover from a critically stressful incident. CISM provided 18 responses in Hardin County this year.

The MHR SB offers a broader access to care through community partnerships. The Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities (serving Allen and Hardin counties) provides a 48-hour response to all school referrals for behavioral concerns through Behavioral Support. Together, we provide classroom observation, consultation, and strategies to support positive behavior and refer to needed services. They served 5 individuals.

## FUNDING SPENT - HARDIN COUNTY



- Psychiatry/Adolescent Psychiatry 3%
- Outpatient 12%
- Housing 9%
- Special Projects 10%
- Crisis Services 15%
- Prevention 20%
- Board Administration 7%
- Criminal Justice 24%

Psychiatry/Adolescent Psychiatry	\$44,816
Outpatient	\$208,057
Housing	\$157,064
Special Projects	\$169,735
Crisis Services	\$255,594
Prevention	\$347,981
Board Administration	\$123,057
Criminal Justice	\$407,508
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,713,812</b>



## **Kenton Permanent Supportive Housing**

Trying to find housing on a limited income is hard enough. Add in mental health or substance use disorders, and it can become extremely difficult.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) gives people who are chronically homeless a place to live and the services they need to maintain housing stability.

The newly constructed apartment building in Kenton has 12 units, which are already full. Residents receive support right there. This is not a temporary shelter. It's a real home. The building is full of helpful services, caring staff, and neighbors on the same recovery journey. And it works long-term. Supportive Housing has a 90% success rate in helping people maintain independent living.

**“I love my new apartment. I have never had my own place before. I have a place I can call home, and I love that it is all brand new and has laundry.**

**I feel better all around by having my own place and people who care about me and my health. I am so happy and get along with my neighbors and have made new friends.”**

**Jackie | Kenton PSH Resident**

# General MHR SB Services

Beyond the county-specific services, the MHR SB provides support across all communities through various efforts. These services, projects, job positions, partnerships, and innovations make up the foundation for continued service and tackle unique barriers to care.

In partnership with We Care Regional Quality Recovery Housing, the MHR SB successfully completed Recovery Residence Certification. The National Alliance for Recovery Residences creates national quality standards for recovery houses. The MHR SB is proud to meet the most up-to-date national standards.

The MHR SB expanded transportation accessibility through a partnership with Find-A-Ride, operated by Area Agency on Aging 3. Access to reliable, convenient, safe transportation is intertwined with mental health. Mental health issues can affect a person's ability to access reliable transportation. A lack of reliable transportation can isolate people, which increases the risk of certain mental health issues.

To eliminate this issue of access to transportation, we invested funding with Find-A-Ride. They can now coordinate transportation for an individual needing crisis care and/or psychiatric care. The MHR SB also has grant-funded transportation through Coleman Health Services to ensure open and active clients can access their care.

Helping our youth through school connections continues to be a priority. We offer monthly school newsletters and school behavioral health connections meetings throughout the school year. These efforts inform families and school staff about local resources, services, and advice for promoting mental wellness among youth.

## HEALTH EQUITY

The MHR SB hired a Health Equity and Cultural Competence consultant. The consultant helps identify opportunities to effectively reach communities of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and others to provide behavioral health prevention and treatment

opportunities to all residents of Allen, Auglaize, and Hardin Counties.

Health Equity Efforts Objectives:

- To evaluate equity regarding the availability and delivery of behavioral health services and identify disparities in the behavioral healthcare sector for minority community members across the lifespan in Allen, Auglaize, and Hardin Counties.
- To evaluate and inform organizational policy and procedures on how to prioritize and monitor equitable community outcomes.
- Evaluate the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board's current contract behavior and develop a plan to guarantee the process is available to all community members.
- Evaluate contracting agencies' policies and practices.

This health equity work is vital to ensure all our community members have access to prevention, treatment, and recovery services to strengthen the health of our community as a whole.

The mission of the MHR SB is to support communities across all three counties by providing continuity of care. Currently, the flow of data from partners and providers to the MHR SB leaves gaps. We are in the early stage of developing and formalizing MHR SB data processes to close these gaps and identify common reporting standards from providers.

Our partnership with Ascend will allow us to improve systemic data collection. We will be able to perform an initial analysis of available hospital patient and treatment claims and establish relationships between potential data owners, such as hospitals, providers, law enforcement, and community stakeholders.

The MHR SB is committed to providing access to mental health care for our First Responders, non-profit organizations, and small & mid-size businesses employees. ENI hired the EAP Business Navigator in November 2021 to act as a liaison between the MHR SB, Working Partners®, and ENI to serve companies enrolled in ENI's NextGen PLUS program.

This position was created to launch the Working Partners® EAP/Business Navigator System, which was designed to:

- Assist employers with second chance policies to ensure quick and efficient return-to-duty procedures, effective communication, and timely follow-up.
- Make it easier for small companies to afford the same Employee Assistance Program (EAP) services obtained by larger organizations.
- Maximize employees' use of services by providing proactive support.
- Help retain quality employees who test positive on a drug test to reduce unemployment in Northwest Ohio.
- Promote EAP services, raise awareness of available resources to prevent and respond to substance misuse, and promote holistic well-being.

## WORK FORCE EFFORTS

Our nation faces an increasing shortage of social workers, affecting Northwest Ohio. The MHR SB has taken proactive steps to limit deficits in Allen, Auglaize, and Hardin Counties. The MHR SB is committed to the recruitment, internal advancement, and retention of professional community behavioral health providers.

Some of our workforce development efforts this year included work with YARAS, Public Student Loan Forgiveness, We Need You Career Event, and Summer Career Pathways.

The MHR SB hired a consultant to create and provide oversight for a community-wide recruitment,

advancement, and retention system. This role will present options for local, state, and federal funding for educational opportunities. They will also identify loan repayment, scholarships, and loan forgiveness programs that would benefit students and employees within service areas of MHR SB's partner agencies.

In partnership with The Ohio State University at Lima, the MHR SB funded the campus' new Behavioral Health Specialist position. The goal of this 3-year position (Autumn 2022 through Spring 2025) is to increase social work students' interest and willingness to fill vacant behavioral health positions in Allen, Auglaize, and Hardin Counties. This goal requires creating interest and excitement for behavioral health careers and better aligning classroom learning experiences with clinical in-agency experiences through internships. To retain students in the social work program, we carefully match student interest to the agency best suited to provide that internship.

The Behavioral Health Specialist will generate interest in behavioral health through their own career and by teaching behavioral health-focused courses on the OSU Lima campus. They will be required to recruit, select internships for students within specific agencies, place students, and provide clinical supervision for students completing their internships. Additionally, the Specialist will increase the number of social work students interested in behavioral health while expanding the number and types of internships in agencies available to students.

The Intercultural Development Inventory® (IDI®), an online

assessment, assesses intercultural competence—the capability to shift cultural perspective and appropriately adapt behavior to cultural differences and commonalities. This is evaluated at an individual and organizational level to build cultural competence in schools and organizations. Our staff participated in IDI for Cultural Diversity.

Studies have identified Intercultural competence as a critical capability in the overseas effectiveness of international sojourners, international business adaptation and job performance, international student adjustment, international transfer of technology and information, international study abroad, and inter-ethnic relations within nations.

## HOMELESS OUTREACH

The MHR SB partnered with Connected Hope Ministry and Family Promise in our homeless outreach. Family Promise helps families and children experiencing homelessness through a community-based response. Connected Hope Ministry is a nighttime bus ministry through local churches that helps meet the basic needs of people experiencing homelessness.

We provide Navigation Services to individuals without homes and impacted by COVID-19 in Allen, Auglaize, and Hardin Counties who are experiencing mental health or substance use conditions. Those needing outpatient mental health or substance use treatment will be assisted and connected to the necessary services.



Our partnering agencies also receive referrals from hospitals, first responders, and detention centers. They coordinate admittance into emergency shelters and transport to those sites. All these efforts include:

- Facilitating transportation
- Working with the onsite manager & hotel staff to ensure a room is available and prepped
- Complete initial intake paperwork and send it to the program manager
- Provide basic setup needs

MHR SB's partner agencies also provided onsite coordination and supervision Monday through Sunday.

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Screenings allow for early identification and intervention, which lead to better outcomes. They can be the first step to seeking help or getting a loved one help.

The best way to provide early intervention and improve the effects of behavioral health challenges later in life is to provide universal screenings at an early age. This was the first year the MHR SB implemented Universal Screening in schools. Three schools participated in this first year. Family Resource

Center offers universal screening using Connor's Clinical Index screening tool. They give this screening for an entire grade level at the school's request. This brand-new service screened 280 students in the spring of 2022.

Behavioral health is a vital part of overall health and well-being. Health screenings are frequently used across our nation. We are working to make behavioral health screenings just as widely available. The MHR SB provides access to 14 free and anonymous online mental health and substance use screenings. The Mindwise Screenings are anonymous and confidential. Screenings are the quickest way to determine if an individual or someone they care for should connect with a behavioral health professional. Immediately following the brief questionnaire, individuals will see their results, recommendations, and suggested resources. There were 472 screenings completed on our website.

In partnership with Area Agency on Aging 3, we provide counseling for aging people. The Stages Behavioral Health Program offers person-centered and strength-based therapeutic techniques to adults aged 60+ experiencing anxiety, depression, grief, trauma, recent life adjustments, and role transitions. The program served 33 adults.

The MHR SB also has a partnership with Activate Allen County. Activate Allen County is a locally funded initiative that educates and inspires people in our community to make healthy choices. They also work to inform people about the relationship between policy, environment, and community design and how that relates to their health and well-being. Part of that is making changes that remove barriers and increase access to healthy behavior.

Activate Allen County now includes mental health and addiction activities in their Activate Challenges to increase education and reduce stigma. They also include Mental Health and Substance Use in routine community assessments to help identify services that meet the needs of at-risk and disadvantaged populations.

The Suicide Coalition placed more purple stop signs in public areas and other places where someone might be experiencing suicidal thoughts. The Coalition also put signs with positive messaging in local schools. Along with these public efforts, they distributed positive mental health messaging and coasters with the local HOPEline number.

# ENI Employee Assistance Program

When employees thrive, businesses and communities thrive. Employers are the best way to reach adults with mental health help. Businesses can make an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) a part of benefits packages to support well-being. Companies enrolled in ENI's NextGen PLUS program give employees access to a national network of resources, including behavioral health counseling. The program has already helped many local employees and their families.

Businesses are excited to take advantage of the Mindfulness Training and E-Learning opportunities. They now host monthly Lunch & Learns to help their employees with time

management skills, manage life stressors, and learn the signs of depression. These are proven prevention services that lead to positive mental health.

From one report, an employee had been experiencing anxiety issues. This became a more common mental health issue since the pandemic. She used the behavioral health counseling benefits to get help for her anxiety. This same service is available to any other employees experiencing anxiety or depression.

Anything from death, accidents, suicide, violence or natural disasters can and do happen in the workplace. Yet many people are not well-prepared to handle their trauma response. A traumatic event occurred at a company's office. They called NexGen EAP Plus. The program provided an Onsite Trauma Response Session to help employees cope with the event.

Youth suicide rates continue to rise. An employee's child made a suicide attempt. Luckily, the child survived. The employee used the short-term counseling benefit before the child could get into a treatment center. Families need more support than ever. The EAP is there to help.



Cornerstone of Hope is a proud participant of the NexGen EAP

## Satisfaction Survey Results

We conduct a yearly satisfaction survey to better understand our community's experience with services and agencies.

### STAKEHOLDER RESULTS

- 91% indicated that they were able to successfully access assistance for their needs with local behavioral health agencies
- 87% indicated that they were treated as a highly valued customer
- 74% indicated that the person they referred got better
- 61% indicated that they received feedback on the progress of their referral
- 91% indicated that they would recommend the agency to a family or friend

### CONSUMER RESULTS

- 97% indicated they were treated with kindness
- 97% indicated they were treated with respect
- 95% indicated they received the help that they needed
- 94% indicated they received services in a timely manner
- 96% indicated that they would recommend the agency to a friend or family member

# 2022

## COMMUNITY CONNECTION

### AUGUST 2021

- First Annual Celebrate You Event
- Sponsor of Facilitating Learning, Resilience and Hope in Our Students and Ourselves with Mary Vicario (2 offerings)

### SEPTEMBER 2021

- Auglaize Co. Suicide Walk September 18th
- Hardin Co. Suicide Walk September 19th
- Allen Co. Suicide Walk September 25th
- Sponsor of First Responder Event

### OCTOBER 2021

- Sponsor of the Community Enrichment Dinner
- Sponsor of Girls Day Part 1

### NOVEMBER 2021

- Healthy Families Expo

### DECEMBER 2021

- Sponsor of First Christmas and Beyond

### FEBRUARY 2022

- We Need You Event

### MARCH 2022

- Sponsor of Emotional Poverty in All Demographics training with Dr. Ruby Payne
- Sponsor of Girls Day Part 2

### MAY 2022

- Be Seen with Green

## MEMBERSHIPS

### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Allen: Lima, Bluffton

Auglaize: Southwestern Auglaize, St. Mary's and Wapak

Hardin: Ada, Hardin Co. Chamber

Family and Children First Council Allen, Auglaize, and Hardin Counties

National Alliance on Mental Illness

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Association of Ohio

Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation

Auglaize Co. Homeless Coalition

# Be Seen with Green

May is Mental Health Awareness Month.

The MHRSB started *Be Seen with Green* in 2022 to help raise awareness for mental health in our communities. The green ribbon is the international sign for mental health awareness. We set aside a week for community members to wear green t-shirts and wristbands provided by the Board, put up green string lights, sell green items, and more.

Participants took photos "showing their green" to share on social media with #BeSeenwithGreen. The Board also encouraged people to show off their green past the week and keep sending in photos.

Businesses, county commissioners, city governments, partner agencies, middle and high schools, non-profits, and many others participated in *Be Seen with Green*.

The awareness event sparked conversations and sent many to [wecarepeople.org](http://wecarepeople.org) for resources. We plan to grow the event after such a successful first year.



"To Reach Out  
and Provide  
Vital Prevention  
and Treatment  
to Any Resident"



Mental Health &  
Recovery Services  
Board of Allen,  
Auglaize, and  
Hardin Counties

*wecarepeople.org*

*facebook.com/wecarepeople*

*instagram.com/wecarepeople*

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