





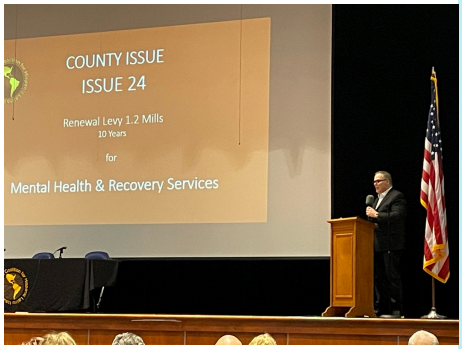




ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Mental Health, Addiction & Recovery Services Board of Lorain County

Message from the Executive Director



As I reflect on 2024, I'm proud of how far we've come as a community. This past year, the MHARS Board of Lorain County remained focused on strengthening a system of care that is not only effective—but also compassionate, accessible, and grounded in the real needs of the people we serve.

Through strong collaboration with our provider network, dedicated partners, and local stakeholders, we expanded crisis services, deepened prevention efforts, and enhanced recovery supports for individuals and families throughout Lorain County. These efforts have helped more than 13,000 residents—24% of whom are children—access care and support when they need it most.



One of the most meaningful milestones this year was the successful passage of our replacement levy in November. This renewal ensures $8.6 million in annual funding, allowing us to continue offering critical services without interruption. We are deeply grateful to the residents of Lorain County for their trust and support at the ballot box.



I want to express my heartfelt thanks to our Board of Directors for their leadership, to the MHARS staff for their tireless dedication, and to our providers who show up every day to deliver high-quality, compassionate care. This work is not easy—but it is necessary, and it is deeply valued.

This report reflects the measurable progress of 2024—and the strength of a community that believes in hope, healing, and the power of working together.

With gratitude,

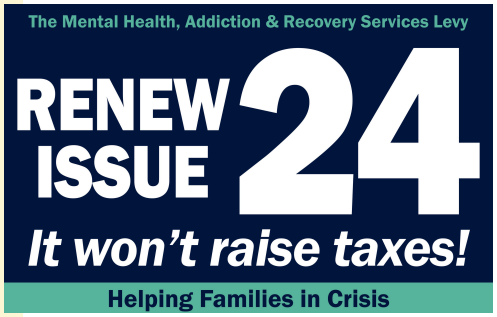


Michael Doud
Executive Director
Mental Health, Addiction and Recovery Services Board of Lorain County

Mission, Vision & Strategic Priorities



Mission: The MHARS Board serves as the local authority for communitymental health and substance use services. The Board is thecounty agency responsible for the planning, evaluation andfunding of needed programs and facilities for addiction andmental health services. The Board assesses community mentalhealth and addiction needs including setting priorities anddeveloping plans for the operation of community substance useand mental health services and programs in Lorain County.



Vision: A community where mental health and addiction services are embraced, accessible, and stigma-free.

2022–2025 Strategic Priorities:

- Expand crisis response and access to care
- Invest in prevention and early intervention
- Advance recovery-oriented systems of care
- Promote equity and reduce disparities

Lorain County Racial Equity Leadership Institute for Youth.



Seventeen young people from across Lorain County spent two days at the YWCA's Elyria Racial Equity Center, working with counselors and participating in the Lorain County Racial Equity Leadership Institute for Youth. Students received training in Question, Persuade and Refer (QPR), a suicide prevention method, along with mental health and racial equity training. The institute gave young people an opportunity to learn, connect, and develop skills they can use to support themselves and others in their schools and communities. The event was made possible through a partnership between the MHARS Board of Lorain County, Lorain County Urban League, Educational Service Center, Communities That Care, YWCA Elyria, Rural Response Network, Lorain County Suicide Prevention Coalition, and Lorain County Public Health.











Lorain County International Overdose Awareness Day Memorial Event - August 30th

Each year, around International Overdose Awareness Day on August 31, the Lorain County Opioid Action Team (LCOAT) hosts a community memorial event to remember those lost to overdose, support people in recovery and bring the community together to promote awareness and prevention.

The annual event was held August 30 at the Spitzer Conference Center at Lorain County Community College in Elyria, honoring the 118 Lorain County residents who lost their lives to accidental overdose in 2023.

Family and friends who have lost loved ones to overdose, people in recovery, and community members committed to making a difference came together for an evening of remembrance, conversation, music and hope.

Advocate and speaker John Nimmo delivered the keynote address and led participants in a Sound Bath meditation. A video presentation highlighted local residents who have overcome addiction and mental health challenges. Inspirational music and performances by Chrissy Strong and LUV (Matt Radel) added to the evening.

The MHARS Board and more than 20 behavioral health providers hosted resource tables offering information about treatment, recovery support, Narcan and other community resources. The event was free and open to the public.

International Overdose Awareness Day provides an opportunity to remember those we have lost, support those in recovery and recognize the impact overdose has on families and communities. The annual event also reminds us that overdose can affect anyone and that each of us has a role in prevention, recovery and supporting those who need help.



OACBHA 2023 Award for Legislative Excellence

The 2023 Award for Legislative Excellence was presented to Senator Nathan Manning. According to Michael Doud, Executive Director of the Mental Health, Addiction and Recovery Services Board, “I am pleased to recognize Senator Manning for his support of investments in mental health addiction, education, and prevention initiatives. Senator Manning worked across the aisle and with members of both Chambers to support funds for the crisis receiving center in Lorain County. His efforts have helped us move forward with a project that will improve access to crisis care and reduce costs.”

The Mental Health, Addiction and Recovery Services Board of Lorain County Financial Summary

Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1,2023 - June 30, 2024)

Revenues $25,825,961

Local Levies	$12,450,958	48.2%
State Allocations & Grants	$2,741,968	10.6%
Federal Allocations and Grants	$5,637,318	21.8%
Local Grants & Other Revenues	$215,250	0.8%
Capital Reimbursements	$3,698,897	14.3%
Pass-through & Fiscal Agent	$1,081,570	4.2%

Expenses $24,600,982

Board Administration	$2,684,835	10.9%
Community Services & Programs	$1,822,370	7.4%
Capital - Crisis Recovery Center	$3,555,595	14.5%
Pass-through & Fiscal Agent	$1,901,522	7.7%
Provider Agency Contract Services	$14,636,660	59.5%

Provider Agency Contract Services Distribution

Treatment	$4,928,984
Crisis Services	$2,472,033
Prevention	$1,032,226
Housing	$4,457,997
Miscellaneous	$1,745,420
TOTAL	$14,636,660

Lorain County Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)



The Mental Health, Addiction and Recovery Services Board of Lorain County is proud to graduate 24 officers from the 40 hour week-long Lorain County Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training.
Training consisted of how to properly engage with someone experiencing a mental health crisis which included de-escalation skills and QPR training for persons who may be suicidal. The officers also heard from individuals and families with lived experience to better understand how to help people in crisis. Presentations were given from several Lorain County agencies that work with those struggling with mental illness and substance use disorders.
The officers learned about the many resources in Lorain County aimed at getting the assistance they need to prevent, among other things, unnecessary incarcerations and use of force.

Graduates were from the following departments:

Avon Lake Police Department
Avon Police Department
Elyria Police Department
LCCC Campus Safety
Lorain County Adult Probation
Lorain County Sheriff's Office
Sheffield Village Police Department
Oberlin Police Department
University Hosp.- Elyria Public Safety
Oberlin College Campus Safety
Wellington Police Department

NARCAN door-to-door



The MHARS Board of Lorain County was proud to partner with Lorain County Public Health, community organizations, and dozens of dedicated volunteers to go door-to-door throughout neighborhoods in Lorain and Elyria, distributing free naloxone overdose prevention kits and sharing life-saving information with residents.
Every conversation matters. Every naloxone kit has the potential to save a life. By working together, we're helping reduce the stigma surrounding substance use, increasing access to critical resources, and making sure individuals and families know that help is available and recovery is possible.



Operation Bridge

The MHARS Board of Lorain County was proud to partner with the Lorain County Sheriff's Office and many community organizations for Operation Bridge: Knock Down the Barriers to Recovery. This collaborative event connected residents with valuable resources, promoted recovery, and reinforced our shared commitment to helping individuals and families affected by addiction and mental health challenges. Together, we're building pathways to hope and recovery.



Family Fun Day - Wellington

A ride in the country led to Family Fun Day at Brasee's Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch in Wellington, Ohio.
The Lorain County Opioid Action Team presented a free day on the farm for families affected by substance use disorders. Those in recovery and their families were given the opportunity to share a day creating memories with a corn maze, face painting, hayrides, petting zoo, kid zip lines and a free lunch! And, lots of pumpkins to pick from for the Halloween season. The MHARS Board of Lorain County is proud to help families in recovery. It was a great day with lots of smiles down on the farm.

Board of Directors

Chairperson
Daniel T. Urbin (Avon Lake)

Vice Chairperson
Mike Babet (North Ridgeville)

Chief Governance Officer
James Schaeper (Avon Lake)

Secretary
Sandra Premura (North Ridgeville)

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Patricia Bell (Oberlin)
Kreig Brusnahan (Avon Lake)
Tim Carrion (Lorain)
Wanda Ewing (Sheffield Lake)
Michael Finch (Avon/Avon Lake)
Michele Flanagan (Avon/Avon Lake)
Patrick McGervey (Avon/Avon Lake
John Nisky (Oberlin)
Clifton Oliver (Elyria)
Robert Stipe (Lorain)

Our Providers

Applewood Centers, Inc.

Beech Brook

Bellefaire JCB

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Catholic Charities of Lorain County

El Centro De Servicios Sociales, Inc.

Far West Center

Gathering Hope House

Let's Get Real, Inc.

Lorain County Health & Dentistry

Lorain County Safe Harbor, Inc.

Lorain UMADAOP

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry

MedMark Treatment Centers Amherst

NAMI of Lorain County

Neighborhood Alliance

New Directions

New Sunrise Properties

Northern Ohio Recovery Association

OhioGuidestone

P2R Training and Resource Center Inc.

Pathways Counseling & Growth Center

Riveon Mental Health & Recovery

Road to Hope House, Inc.

Silver Maple Recovery

Stella Maris, Inc.

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Joe Wilbert
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Mental Health,
Addiction & Recovery
Services Board of
Lorain County

1173 North Ridge Road East, Suite 101
Lorain, Ohio 44055

216-233-2020

www.mharslc.org