

Local Voices, Local Solutions: Community Partners for Innovation

Hamilton County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board
2024 Annual Report



HAMILTON COUNTY
**Mental Health &
Recovery Services Board**

Local Voices, Local Solutions: Community Partners for Innovation

Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (MHRSB) provides leadership in public behavioral health care as the authority charged under ORC §340 with planning, funding, and evaluating behavioral health care in Hamilton County. MHRSB is statutorily prohibited from providing direct care to clients and instead contracts with numerous non-profit agencies to provide direct care in a community based (non-hospital) setting.

Our stakeholders include clients and their families, board members, behavioral health providers, and elected officials.

Our partners include adult and children's protective systems, court and judicial systems, county and city school systems, county government agencies including law enforcement and corrections, and the Hamilton County Addiction Response Coalition.



HAMILTON COUNTY
**Mental Health &
Recovery Services Board**

2024 Annual Report



LaNora Godfrey
President/CEO

Dear Community Members and Partners,

This past year has been transformative, marked by new leadership, new partnerships, and new challenges, all underscored by a renewed commitment to meeting our community's behavioral health needs. We are enthusiastic about the path forward and the positive impact we can continue to make in the community.

Our theme, "Local Voices, Local Solutions: Community Partners for Innovation," reflects our belief that by working together, we can create meaningful and lasting change. Our strong and enduring partnerships with human services, law enforcement, education, public health, criminal justice, faith communities, government entities, and other critical allies ensures a comprehensive and effective behavioral health system that addresses the needs of our clients where they are and creates a lasting positive impact on the community.

As part of this commitment we are focusing resources on six priority areas that will provide community behavioral health services that will have the most impact on individuals and the community:

- ▶ **Crisis Response**
- ▶ **Children and Youth**
- ▶ **Substance Use Disorder**
- ▶ **Housing**
- ▶ **Behavioral Health Workforce Support**
- ▶ **Client Employment and Vocational Support**

Recognizing that our community's collective effort is vital in driving innovation and progress, together we are implementing solutions that recognize Hamilton County's unique needs and capitalize on its exceptional strengths.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our staff, partners, board members, and the community for their unwavering support and dedication. As we move forward, let us continue to work together, inspired by our shared vision of a healthier, more resilient Hamilton County.



Thomas L. Gabelman
Chair
Board of Trustees



Gary E. Powell
Vice Chair
Board of Trustees



Ashlee Young
Secretary
Board of Trustees



Matt Curoe



Gwen DiMeo



Sandra Driggins-Smith



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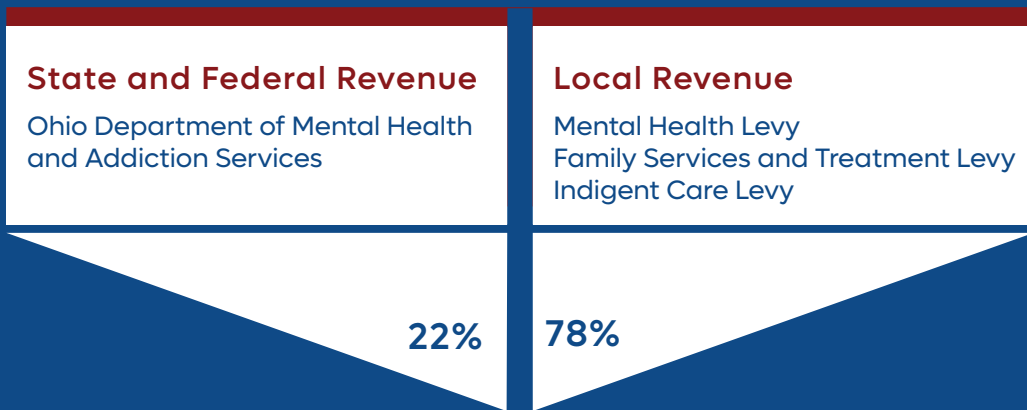
Jonathan L. Steinberg, PHD



Christine Wilder, MD

Traci Henry
Not Pictured

HCMHRSB System of Care



HAMILTON COUNTY
Mental Health & Recovery Services Board

Planning, Funding, Managing and Evaluating Behavioral Health Care in Hamilton County

MHRSB Network of Contract Providers
36 Non-profit agencies who deliver non-hospital behavioral health services — crisis care, outpatient, residential, treatment, prevention, employment and vocational, peer recovery supports, and housing — to Hamilton County residents

Client/Receipients of Care
Hamilton County residents receive care from an MHRSB contract provider based on a sliding fee scale

Contract Provider Agencies

Alternative Living Solutions	Hamilton County Juvenile Court
Addiction Services Council	Hamilton County Sheriff's Department
Beech Acres Parenting Center	HER Cincinnati
Best Point Education and Behavioral Health	IKRON Corporation
Camelot Community Care, Inc	Foundations for Living
Center for Addiction Treatment	Lighthouse Youth and Family Services
Central Connection <i>Central Clinic</i>	Mental Health America of Northern Kentucky & Southwest Ohio, Inc
Central Clinic Outpatient Services	NewPath Child and Family Solutions
Cornell Abraxas Group, LLC	Pressley Ridge
Drug and Poison Information Center	PreventionFIRST!
Excel Development Co, LLC.	Prospect House
First Step Home, Inc	Recovery Center of Hamilton County
Freestore Foodbank	Salvation Army
G.L.A.D. House, Inc	Shelterhouse Volunteer Group
Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services	Sunstone Life
Hamilton County Department of Adult Probation	Talbert House
Hamilton County Department of Pre-Trial & Community Transitions Services	Tender Mercies
Hamilton County Drug Treatment & Recovery Court	The Crossroads Center
	UMADAOP <i>Urban Minority Alcohol and Drug Abuse Outreach Program</i>

Our Impact

- ▶ 126,428 calls — Hotlines, Help Lines & Referral Services
- ▶ 43,361 individuals — Prevention Services
- ▶ 18,687 individuals — Recovery Supports
- ▶ 7,825 individuals — Crisis
- ▶ 1,097 individuals — Employment Services
- ▶ 3,075 individuals — Justice Related Services
- ▶ 2,490 individuals — Family Services

Who We Serve

- ▶ 89% live below the federal poverty level
- ▶ 41% were women
- ▶ 43% identified as Caucasian
- ▶ 54% identified as African American

Our Investments

\$60,371,822



34,106,416	Treatment
8,500,668	Prevention
8,210,424	Crisis
5,249,300	Housing
3,646,257	Recovery Supports
658,757	Workforce

Investing in behavioral health services is vital for our community's well-being. By prioritizing treatment, prevention, crisis intervention, housing, and recovery supports, MHRSB addresses the root causes of mental health and addiction challenges. Additionally, supporting the behavioral health workforce ensures access to skilled care, strengthening the overall impact of our initiatives. These investments demonstrate our commitment to a healthier, more resilient Hamilton County for all residents.

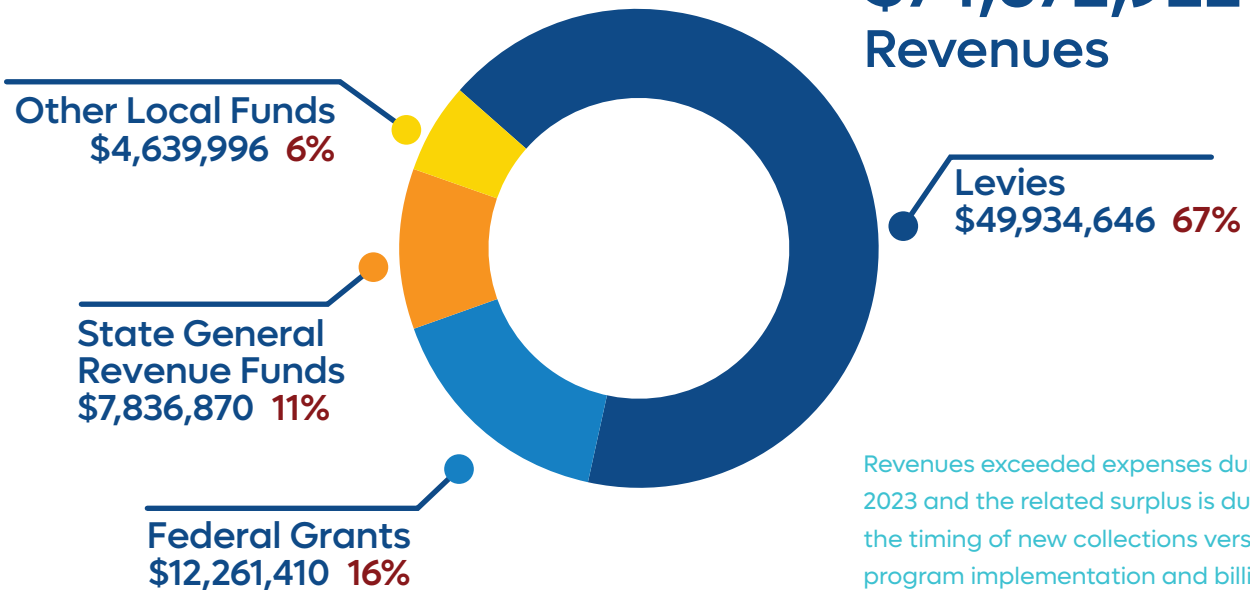
The mission of the Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board is to develop and manage a continuum of mental health, addiction, and prevention services that have a positive impact on the community, are accessible, results oriented, and responsive to individual and family needs.

2023

\$64,423,327 Expenses



\$74,672,922 Revenues



Revenues exceeded expenses during 2023 and the related surplus is due to the timing of new collections versus program implementation and billing.

CRISIS CONTINUUM

Right Care • Right Time • Right Place

Suicide is the 12th leading cause of death in the State of Ohio. *CDC 2022 data*

In Hamilton County, approximately 5 people per day die by suicide and 5,252 adults were hospitalized for behavioral health instability.

Our system of crisis care saves lives and resources, emphasizes a systematic approach, and is available for anyone, anywhere, anytime.

Crisis Text Lines

Adult Crisis — text TALBERT to 839863

Youth Crisis — text 4HOPE to 839863

Crisis Services

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (National)

281-CARE Crisis Hotline (Local)

After Hours Mobile Engagement

8 PM - 8 AM .. 513-620-RING (7464)

Pediatric MH Urgent Care (Best Point)

Mon - Fri 3 - 10 PM .. 513-527-3040

Childrens Psychiatric Intake (Cincinnati Childrens) .. 513-636-4124

Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) .. 513-636-4124

Mobile Crisis (Youth & Adult) .. 513-584-5098



In 2023

▶ **MOBILE CRISIS TEAM (MCT)**

\$6 million in ARPA funding allocated by HCMHR SB to expand the capacity of the MCT

70% (3,510) of MCT responses were in-person

80% of the time MCT responded on scene in less than **60 minutes**

▶ **EXPANDED SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMMING**

100 Metro buses promoted the *Life is Better with You Here* campaign

44,156 callers served by the local crisis hotline

30,069 callers served by warmline

▶ **ACCESS TO WELLNESS**

\$66,794 funding allocated by HCMHR SB to increase recovery supports for individuals with severe mental illness

241 individuals served

62% did not experience a psychiatric hospitalization

▶ **CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING (CRT)**

1,762 First Responders and MH Providers received 445 hours of CRT

842 Cincinnati Police Officers participated in CRT



**Life is better
with you here.**



Crisis and ongoing resources are available for you to use and share because **life is better with you here.**
Supported by the Hamilton County Suicide Prevention Coalition

Children and Youth Services

Our role is crucial in guiding efforts to improve the well-being of local children by strategically addressing challenges and optimizing community resources.

▶ An estimated **one** in **five** youth has a diagnosable mental, emotional, or behavioral disorder – yet many do not receive the help they need.

The Hamilton County Suicide Prevention Coalition raises awareness about the rising risk of suicide in young people within the Black community.

Crisis and ongoing resources are available for youth to use and share, because life is better with them here.



In 2023



- ▶ **120,000** youth participated in evidence based prevention programs
- ▶ **77%** enrolled in intensive treatment services resulting in a decrease in psychiatric hospitalizations
- ▶ **5,000** youth were served by the local crisis hotline



▶ **Journey to Successful Living (Journey)**

81 youth participated in Independence City – an event aimed to equip youth with practical skills and resources for their path to living independently.

92 youth attended #askmewhoiam – a program to empower young adults by fostering self-awareness, self-advocacy, and resilience.

Criminal Justice

Vital partnerships with law enforcement and criminal justice systems ensure that individuals with mental health and substance use disorders receive appropriate care and support, rather than solely punitive measures. Such collaborative efforts not only improve outcomes for affected individuals but also enhance overall community well-being and safety, reducing recidivism and alleviating the burden on the criminal justice system.

1 in 5 US adults lost to suicide had a recent jail experience

- ▶ **5** Felony Mental Health Specialty Dockets
 - ▶ **236** individuals were served
 - ▶ **41%** had their criminal charges expunged



Substance Use Disorder

393 fatal overdose deaths were recorded in Hamilton County

- ▶ **\$3,185,980** allocated from a state opioid and stimulus response grant to combat addiction and prevent overdose deaths
 - ▶ **18** projects were implemented
 - ▶ **3,194** individuals received treatment
 - ▶ **45** participants completed Peer Recovery Coach training
 - ▶ **267** individuals were provided recovery housing
 - ▶ **539** individuals received intensive critical care at the Engagement Center

In 2023

African American Engagement Workgroup (AAEW)

During 2023, the number of African American adults dying from overdose rose while other ethnicities saw a decline. AAEW began to target the African American community through the faith-based community.

169 AAEW community outreach events

698 contacts engaged

166 African Americans connected to local treatment



The AAEW launched the Trimming the Stigma campaign in response to the rising drug overdose rate among African Americans. AAEW has partnered with more than 20 local barbershops and salons in Hamilton County, empowering their barbers and stylists with tools and resources to engage their clients in meaningful conversations about substance use.



Critical Housing Support

MHR SB provides critical housing services to promote stability, integration, and recovery while preventing homelessness for individuals with mental health or substance use conditions.

- ▶ **178** new permanent supportive housing units
- ▶ **1,300** individuals provided permanent supportive housing
- ▶ **267** individuals provided recovery housing



Behavioral Workforce Support

Despite the critical need for prevention, treatment, and supportive services, the scarcity of qualified professionals limits the capacity of our providers to meet community demand. This shortage affects timely access to care, continuity of services, and the overall quality of behavioral health interventions. Without a robust and well-supported workforce, the goal of delivering effective, community-based care remains a daunting task.

To address this issue, in 2023, MHR SB allocated funding to be used specifically for workforce support. This funding led to significant impacts:

- ▶ **\$658,757** was used by providers for employee retention bonuses, incentives, and pay increases.
- ▶ More than **1,050** behavioral health employees benefited from this financial support.



**RECOVERY FRIENDLY
HAMILTON COUNTY**

Recovery Friendly Workplaces support their communities by recognizing recovery from substance use disorder as a strength and by being willing to work intentionally with people in recovery.

In 2023

Employment and Vocational Support

Substance use disorder (SUD) significantly impacts the workforce, with over 60% of working-age Americans affected by SUD actively employed (SAMHSA, 2022). To address this critical issue, we have partnered with Hamilton County Public Health and the Hamilton County Recovery Friendly Workplace initiative to implement the following strategies:

Workforce Integration:

Through our partnership, we focus on creating pathways for individuals in recovery to successfully reintegrate into the workforce.

Barrier Removal:

Together, we work to eliminate obstacles to employment for those recovering from SUD, ensuring they have access to essential resources and opportunities.

Workplace Assistance:

We collaborate with local employers to address substance use disorder among their staff, providing the necessary tools and support to manage its impact.

Stigma Reduction:

As part of our joint efforts, we are committed to reducing the stigma surrounding addiction and recovery, promoting a more supportive and understanding community.

Looking Ahead

▶ OVERARCHING GOALS

Continue to establish constructive partnerships and collaborations to maximize impact.

Create a holistic and integrated approach to behavioral health and wellness.

Advocate for additional funding through traditional sources and seek alternative funding opportunities.

▶ CRISIS

Spearhead the establishment of a centrally located crisis center in collaboration with local agencies experienced in crisis services.

Implement a coordinated crisis response plan involving law enforcement, hospitals, emergency responders, clients, and other stakeholders.

▶ CHILDREN & YOUTH

Continue to address youth mental health and substance use challenges and service gaps through active leadership in the *HEY* steering committee and workgroups.

Fund new initiatives for youth to increase access to prevention, treatment, and specialized services.

▶ **HOUSING**

Engage in a strategic, multifaceted project aimed at systematically evaluating our current housing investments.

Support the long-term goal of significantly increasing the number of clients in housing while enhancing the quality of their accommodations.

▶ **SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER**

Continue to place a strong emphasis on addressing substance use disorders by expanding prevention, treatment, and recovery supports.

▶ **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE**

Continue to invest in provider initiatives to attract, retain, and train professionals to ensure high-quality care.

Develop and participate in programs aimed at improving employment opportunities and economic stability.

We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community...

Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own.

– Cesar Chavez



Community Partners for Innovation

