



The regularly scheduled meeting of the Alcohol, Drug Addiction, Mental Health Services Board of Erie County was held on **March 17, 2026**, at 247 Columbus Avenue, Sandusky, Ohio.

CALL TO ORDER

THE MEETING was **CALLED TO ORDER** at **4:02 P.M.** by Steve Poggiali, Chair.

The presence of a quorum was established.

WELCOME

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Steve Poggiali, Thomas Tucker, Nancy McKeen, Lisa Crescimano, Nancy Martin, Celine Hemminger, Adrienne Gibbs

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Rob Quinn

STAFF PRESENT

Diane Taylor, Alyssa McGue

GUESTS PRESENT

Bayshore Counseling, Erie Shore Network, Firelands Counseling and Recovery, NAMI, SARCC

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- David Hemminger, NAMI of Erie County
 - An event at Sawmill Creek Resort for the 3rd annual “Color of Emotions” fundraiser was announced for April 18, 2026. Tickets are \$75.
- Mary Supina, Sandusky Artisans
 - The upcoming Soberoke activity has been changed to 7-8:30 PM on 3/20/26.
- Amanda Hass, Firelands Counseling & Recovery Services
 - Fireland’s Hope Line will be discontinuing services effective 3/21/2026.
- Brenda C. Baum, Executive Director, Erie Shore Network, Inc.
 - “Painting for Paws” fundraiser announced for April 13, 2:00-4:30 PM.
- Anita Biggins
 - Expressed the need for ongoing peer support within the community. Diane encouraged her to reach out to the Board’s providers that currently have peer support services.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion	THE BOARD CHAIR ASKED FOR A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 17, 2026, MEETING MINUTES OF THE ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BOARD OF ERIE COUNTY. MOTION CARRIED.		
Motion Made by:	Lisa Crescimano	Seconded:	Tom Tucker

PRESENTATIONS

NO PRESENTATIONS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NO PLANNING OR FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD IN MARCH.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- **HIRING UPDATE** – Recruitment efforts for the Office Manager position remain unsuccessful. The Board has worked with Erie County Human Resources and a staffing agency; however, candidates referred have not met minimum qualifications. The staffing agency has not provided applicants with basic office skill sets, including proficiency in Microsoft Office. In response, the job description has been revised to focus more specifically on core office management responsibilities to attract a more qualified applicant pool. The minimum qualifications, including an associate degree and relevant experience, have not been reduced. The position has been reposted through the County. Due to ongoing vacancies across County departments, competition for qualified applicants remains high. Interim solutions, including utilizing part-time County employees, are being explored.
- **STATE & REGIONAL UPDATES** – The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) will be hosting levy training in Columbus. Diane and Board leadership will participate to prepare for the upcoming levy renewal in November 2026. Early planning efforts are underway, with Community Relations Coordinator, Caleb Stidham identified as taking the lead on campaign coordination. Given the current economic and political climate, including public discourse surrounding property taxes, the Board anticipates potential challenges and plans to begin preparation efforts early.

Diane reported ongoing coordination with regional 988 leadership in preparation for the transition from the Hope Line. Erie County's designated 988 provider, based in Lorain and serving a 14-county region, will play a key role in supporting local crisis response moving forward. Diane has initiated regular communication with 988 representatives to help ensure a smooth transition and to address any gaps in service delivery. A regional 988 meeting is scheduled for April to further align processes, expectations, and communication strategies across counties. The Board acknowledged that this transition represents a significant shift for the community and emphasized the importance of continued collaboration and education to ensure residents and providers understand how to access crisis services through 988.

- **MOU FOR REGIONAL CRISIS GRANT** – Erie County will participate in a regional crisis services grant administered through Lucas County (Toledo), covering a 24-county

region. The Board will receive funding as part of a pilot initiative focused on enhancing crisis response services. This funding will support the implementation of a mobile crisis response team operating approximately 8 hours per day, with a long-term goal of expanding to 24/7 coverage. The program will require extensive data collection and reporting. An MOU is currently in draft form and will be presented to the Board for approval once finalized and reviewed by legal counsel.

- **FIRELAND'S HOPE LINE & RELATED PLANS** – Firelands' Hope Line services will be discontinued effective March 2026 due to the withdrawal of financial support from other surrounding Boards. As a result, Erie County will transition to relying on the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline as the primary crisis response resource. Significant community education efforts are underway to ensure providers, law enforcement, detention facilities, and the public understand this transition. A revised crisis response structure will remain in place, including, continued crisis assessment services, a dedicated referral line for providers during business hours and after-hours coordination directly with behavioral health providers. While the Hope Line will no longer be available, crisis services will continue to be accessible through updated pathways.
- **QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PROVIDER'S CONTRACT MEETING** – A provider meeting was held to discuss the upcoming contract cycle. Providers were informed they may request programmatic changes within their contracts, provided there is no increase in funding requested. All proposed changes will be reviewed by the Executive Director and brought before the Board for final approval to ensure alignment with both provider and Board strategic priorities.
- **POTENTIAL GRANT TO COVER SOME CRISIS-RELATED COSTS** – The Board is actively pursuing additional funding through a Department of Justice grant focused on crisis services and community response. The grant would allow for expanded staffing and service capacity, similar to the M.O.R.E. program model. The grant is highly competitive, with limited awards nationwide; however, the Board's grant writer has a strong track record of successful submissions. The application is scheduled for submission by the end of March.
- **RFP FOR FORENSIC MONITORING** – Diane Taylor reported that a Request for Proposals (RFP) has been issued for forensic monitoring services, as Firelands is discontinuing its role in providing forensic monitoring. The Board will be seeking a qualified provider to assume these responsibilities moving forward. In addition, an RFP has been issued related to the Beacon Group Home property, including potential repairs and future use. Volunteers of America has expressed interest in the property. The Board will review proposals as they are received and move forward with appropriate recommendations and approvals.
- **UPDATE ON CHIEF'S MEETING** – Diane attended a recent Chiefs Meeting at the Erie County Sheriff's Office to discuss the upcoming transition from the Fireland's Hope Line to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. The purpose of the meeting was to prepare law enforcement agencies and local municipalities for the change in crisis response procedures. Historically, law enforcement and detention facilities have relied on the Hope Line as a resource for individuals in crisis. With the discontinuation of that service, agencies will need to redirect individuals to 988 for crisis support. Feedback from law enforcement was generally receptive, though some concerns were expressed regarding the transition and how it will function in practice. Ongoing outreach and education efforts

will continue to ensure a smooth transition and to reinforce appropriate use of 988 moving forward.

- **BEACON APARTMENTS** – The Beacon Apartments property is currently vacant and has experienced multiple incidents of trespassing and break-ins, raising safety and liability concerns. The property is owned by the Erie County Commissioners, and any disposition will require coordination with them. Current considerations include potential transfer to the Erie County Health Department for continued behavioral health use and interest from external parties, which would require repayment of state funding tied to the property. Due to repeated security concerns and the property remaining unoccupied, the Board emphasized the need to expedite a resolution.

FISCAL MANAGER REPORT

Alyssa McGue, Fiscal Manager, reviewed the FY2026 board revenues, expenses, cash balance summary, changes in fund balances, and docket.

MOTIONS REQUIRING ACTION

The Chair called for motion(s) to approve the following Resolutions:

Motion	RESOLUTION 03-2026-01 Accepting the report of the fiscal manager on Expenditures and Vouchers Processed for Payment during March 2026 in the amount of \$416,563.77 . Protocol: Roll Call Vote . Resulted: Resolution Carried .		
Motion Made by:	Steve Poggiali	Seconded:	Lisa Crescimano
YES _ LISA CRESCIMANO	YES _ ADRIENNE GIBBS	YES _ CELINE HEMMINGER	
YES _ NANCY MARTIN	YES _ NANCY MCKEEN		
YES _ THOMAS TUCKER	YES _ STEVE POGGIALI		
Motion	RESOLUTION 03-2026-02 Approving Reimbursement of SOR Funds to General Levy Fund in the amount of \$27,783.58 . Protocol: Roll Call Vote . Resulted: Resolution Carried .		
Motion Made by:	Steve Poggiali	Seconded:	Nancy Martin
YES _ LISA CRESCIMANO	YES _ ADRIENNE GIBBS	YES _ CELINE HEMMINGER	
YES _ NANCY MARTIN	YES _ NANCY MCKEEN		
YES _ THOMAS TUCKER	YES _ STEVE POGGIALI		

OTHER BUSINESS

Invoice approval limits were discussed. The Fiscal Manager’s approval limit will be increased from \$3,000 to \$10,000. No formal motion was required.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:43 p.m.

CHAIR SIGNATURE 