

Olentangy Well-Being and Mental Health Board Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 17, 2026 6:30- 7:58 PM

Olentangy Administrative Offices: Berlin Room

Members Present: Brandon Lester, Allison Houle, Allisha Berendts, Samantha Norman, Rachael Morocco, Peter Stern, Michelle Gordon, Felita Moran, Liz Poprocki, Joel Badanes, Caryn Martinez, Anuki Liyanage

1. Welcome, Call Meeting to Order

2. Call Role

A quorum was present.

3. Approval of May 2026 Meeting Minutes

Approved

4. Approval of June 2026 Meeting Agenda

Approved

5. Committee Updates

The committee reviewed student representatives from the high schools that needed to be replaced due to students graduating. Acceptance notices were sent to the students, and consents will be emailed to guardians once the students accept.

The Wellness Department provided an update on the Council on Accreditation (COA). Accreditation was granted and was expedited due to nothing found to be out of compliance. Next steps are to renew the Department of Behavioral Health (formerly OHMHAS) certification by February 2027 as well as explore funding opportunities through both the state and national levels.

Peter Stern, Assistant Director of Student & Staff experience provided an update on the current state level restorative practices training that has been taking place at Liberty Middle School June 16-18. Students from Olentangy Schools as well as schools across the state were participating.

6. Parent Support/Discussion Groups

The committee discussed dissemination of the "Parent Handbook" purchased through the Wellness Department. It was determined for the books to be spread evenly through district, providing school counselors the directive to place one copy in student services and one in the main office. The remainder at each school can be provided to parents as needed through the school counselor and mental health staff. It was also discussed to provide a QR code on the books to direct parents to the Wellness Department webpage as well as the possibility to request an order. It was also suggested to have it available at open house, curriculum night, parent teacher conferences, Kindergarten registration/6th grade parent meetings, and looking into a partnership with the Delaware County library.

The committee discussed the NAMI parent support group and determined it would be best to collect more data on what parents would want/need and to find more ways to provide information about resources that already exist. Suggestions included using social media, hyperlink to the website, partner with Delaware Morrow Mental Health and Recovery Services Board to also post on social media or highlight the schools' resources, creating magnets with QR code, Hello Olentangy podcasts, pediatricians in the area, and utilizing the Handle with Care platform. The discussion continued around not only getting information but also priming caregivers to use it, addressing the achievement culture, and what is our messaging. Cultural considerations related to wellness/mental health/achievement, tapping into alumni/peer groups for messaging, peer matching, and utilizing the State of the Schools we also discussed.

7. Possible Focus/Topics for Upcoming Meetings

Mr. Lester brought up future topics of safety and mental health and having the Director of Safety, Security, and Preparedness present at a future meeting as well as artificial intelligence and its implications on mental health.

8. 26-27 Meeting Dates

It was determined that meeting dates will remain on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, excluding July and August as the committee will break for summer.

9. Adjournment

Next Meeting: September 16, 2026