



Ohio Revised Code

Section 340.03 Boards of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services; powers and duties.

Effective: September 30, 2025

Legislation: House Bill 96 - 136th General Assembly, Senate Bill 138 - 136th General Assembly

(A) Subject to rules issued by the director of behavioral health after consultation with relevant constituencies as required by division (A)(10) of section 5119.21 of the Revised Code, each board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services shall:

(1) Serve as the community addiction and mental health planning agency for the county or counties under its jurisdiction, and in so doing it shall:

(a) Evaluate the need for facility services, addiction services, mental health services, and recovery supports;

(b) In cooperation with other local and regional planning and funding bodies and with relevant ethnic organizations, evaluate strengths and challenges and set priorities for addiction services, mental health services, and recovery supports. With respect to setting priorities, all of the following apply:

(i) A board shall include treatment and prevention services when setting priorities for addiction services and mental health services.

(ii) When a board sets priorities for addiction services, the board shall consult with the county commissioners of the counties in the board's service district regarding the services described in section 340.15 of the Revised Code and shall give priority to those services, except that those services shall not have a priority over services provided to pregnant women under programs developed in relation to the mandate established in section 5119.17 of the Revised Code.

(iii) As part of setting priorities through its community addiction and mental health plan, a board may consider any local mechanisms that have been established for determining eligibility for services and supports.

(c) In accordance with guidelines issued by the director of behavioral health under division (G) of section 5119.22 of the Revised Code, annually develop and submit to the department of behavioral health a community addiction and mental health plan that addresses both of the following:



(i) The needs of all residents of the service district currently receiving inpatient services in state-operated hospitals, the needs of other populations as required by state or federal law or programs, and the needs of all children subject to a determination made pursuant to section 121.38 of the Revised Code;

(ii) The department's priorities for facility services, addiction services, mental health services, and recovery supports during the period for which the plan will be in effect. The department shall inform all of the boards of the department's priorities in a timely manner that enables the boards to know the department's priorities before the boards develop and submit the plans.

In alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health service districts that have separate alcohol and drug addiction services and community mental health boards, the alcohol and drug addiction services board shall submit a community addiction plan and the community mental health board shall submit a community mental health plan. Each board shall consult with its counterpart in developing its plan and address the interaction between the local addiction and mental health systems and populations with regard to needs and priorities in developing its plan.

The director shall approve or disapprove the plan, in whole or in part, in accordance with division (H) of section 5119.22 of the Revised Code. Eligibility for state and federal funding shall be contingent upon an approved plan or relevant part of a plan.

If a board determines that it is necessary to amend an approved plan, the board shall submit a proposed amendment to the director. The director shall approve or disapprove all or part of the amendment in accordance with division (I) of section 5119.22 of the Revised Code.

The board shall operate in accordance with the plan approved by the director.

(d) Promote, arrange, and implement working agreements with social service agencies, both public and private, and with judicial agencies.

(2) Investigate, or request another agency to investigate, any complaint alleging abuse or neglect of any person receiving addiction services, mental health services, or recovery supports from a community addiction services provider or community mental health services provider or alleging abuse or neglect of a resident receiving addiction services or with mental illness or severe mental disability residing in a residential facility licensed under section 5119.34 of the Revised Code. If the person is a resident of a service district other than the district represented by the board that received the complaint, the board that received the complaint shall refer the complaint to the board of the district where the residential facility is located for that board to investigate the complaint.

If a board's investigation substantiates the charge of abuse or neglect, the board shall take whatever action it determines is necessary to correct the situation, including notification of the



appropriate authorities. Upon request, the board shall provide information about such investigations to the department.

(3) For the purpose of section 5119.36 of the Revised Code, cooperate with the director of behavioral health in visiting and evaluating whether the certifiable services and supports of a community addiction services provider or community mental health services provider satisfy the certification standards established by rules adopted under that section. In addition, a board may provide input and recommendations to the department when an application for certification or the renewal of a certification has been submitted by a provider or when a provider is being investigated by the department, if the board, in either of those circumstances, is aware of information that would be beneficial to the department's consideration of the matter.

(4) In accordance with criteria established under division (D)(1) of section 5119.22 of the Revised Code, conduct program audits that review and evaluate the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of addiction services, mental health services, and recovery supports provided by community addiction services providers and community mental health services providers under contract with the board and submit the board's findings and recommendations to the department of behavioral health;

(5) In accordance with section 5119.34 of the Revised Code, review an application for a residential facility license and provide to the department of behavioral health any information about the applicant or facility that the board would like the department to consider in reviewing the application;

(6) In accordance with guidelines issued under division (E) of section 5119.22 of the Revised Code and any related rules adopted under that section, review any annual financial audit reports that have been submitted to the board regarding each community addiction services provider and community mental health services provider with which the board has contracted under section 340.036 of the Revised Code to provide services and supports certified under section 5119.36 of the Revised Code;

(7) Recruit and promote local financial support for addiction services, mental health services, and recovery supports from private and public sources;

(8) In accordance with guidelines issued by the department as necessary to comply with state and federal laws pertaining to financial assistance, approve fee schedules and related charges or adopt a unit cost schedule or other methods of payment for addiction services, mental health services, and recovery supports provided by community addiction services providers and community mental health services providers that have contracted with the board under section 340.036 of the Revised Code;



(9) Submit to the director and the county commissioners of the county or counties served by the board, and make available to the public, an annual report of the addiction services, mental health services, and recovery supports under the jurisdiction of the board, including a fiscal accounting;

(10) Establish a method for evaluating referrals for court-ordered treatment and affidavits filed pursuant to section 5122.11 of the Revised Code in order to assist the probate division of the court of common pleas in determining whether there is probable cause that a respondent is subject to court-ordered treatment and whether alternatives to hospitalization are available and appropriate;

(11) Designate the treatment services, provider, facility, or other placement for each person involuntarily committed to the board pursuant to Chapter 5122. of the Revised Code. The board shall provide the least restrictive and most appropriate alternative that is available for any person involuntarily committed to it and shall assure that the list of addiction services, mental health services, and recovery supports submitted and approved in accordance with division (B) of section 340.08 of the Revised Code are available to persons with severe mental disabilities residing within its service district. The board shall establish the procedure for authorizing payment for the services and supports, which may include prior authorization in appropriate circumstances. In accordance with section 340.037 of the Revised Code, the board may provide addiction services and mental health services directly to a person with a severe mental disability when life or safety is endangered and when no community addiction services provider or community mental health services provider is available to provide the service.

(12) Ensure that housing built, subsidized, renovated, rented, owned, or leased by the board or a community addiction services provider or community mental health services provider has been approved as meeting minimum fire safety standards and that persons residing in the housing have access to appropriate and necessary services, including culturally relevant services, from a community addiction services provider or community mental health services provider. This division does not apply to residential facilities licensed pursuant to section 5119.34 of the Revised Code.

(13) Establish a mechanism for obtaining advice and involvement of persons receiving addiction services, mental health services, or recovery supports on matters pertaining to services and supports in the alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health service district;

(14) Perform the duties required by rules adopted under section 5119.22 of the Revised Code regarding referrals by the board or community mental health services providers under contract with the board of individuals with mental illness or severe mental disability to class two residential facilities licensed under section 5119.34 of the Revised Code and effective



arrangements for ongoing mental health services for the individuals. The board is accountable in the manner specified in the rules for ensuring that the ongoing mental health services are effectively arranged for the individuals.

(15) Perform the duties required by section 9.21 of the Revised Code regarding credit card accounts, including the requirement to adopt a written policy before first holding a credit card account.

(B) Each board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services shall establish such rules, operating procedures, standards, and bylaws, and shall perform such other duties, as may be necessary or proper to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(C) A board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services may receive by gift, grant, devise, or bequest any moneys, lands, or property for the benefit of the purposes for which the board is established, and may hold and apply it according to the terms of the gift, grant, or bequest. All money received, including accrued interest, by gift, grant, or bequest shall be deposited in the treasury of the county, the treasurer of which is custodian of the alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services funds, to the credit of the board. The money shall be made available for use by the board for purposes stated by the donor or grantor.

(D) No member or employee of a board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services shall be liable for injury or damages caused by any action or inaction taken within the scope of the member's official duties or the employee's employment, whether or not such action or inaction is expressly authorized by this section or any other section of the Revised Code, unless such action or inaction constitutes willful or wanton misconduct. Chapter 2744. of the Revised Code applies to any action or inaction by a member or employee of a board taken within the scope of the member's official duties or employee's employment. For the purposes of this division, the conduct of a member or employee shall not be considered willful or wanton misconduct if the member or employee acted in good faith and in a manner that the member or employee reasonably believed was in or was not opposed to the best interests of the board and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe the conduct was unlawful.

(E) The meetings held by any committee established by a board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services shall be considered to be meetings of a public body subject to section 121.22 of the Revised Code.

(F)(1) A board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services may establish a rule, operating procedure, standard, or bylaw to allow the executive director of the board to execute both of the following types of contracts valued at twenty-five thousand dollars or less, as determined by the board, on behalf of the board without the board's prior approval:



- (a) Emergency contracts for clinical services or recovery support services;
 - (b) Standard service contracts pertaining to the board's operations.
- (2) If a board establishes a rule, operating procedure, standard, or bylaw under division (F)(1) of this section, both of the following shall be the case:
- (a) The board shall define the scope of contracts described in divisions (F)(1)(a) and (b) of this section in that rule, operating procedure, standard, or bylaw.
 - (b) The board shall disclose the existence of a contract executed pursuant to the rule, operating procedure, standard, or bylaw at the first board meeting that occurs after the contract was executed and ensure that a record of that disclosure is included in the written minutes of that meeting.

The Legislative Service Commission presents the text of this section as a composite of the section as amended by multiple acts of the General Assembly. This presentation recognizes the principle stated in R.C. 1.52(B) that amendments are to be harmonized if reasonably capable of simultaneous operation.