

For Immediate Release:

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Contact: Scott S. Osiecki, Chief of External Affairs, 216-215-3599
Katie Boland, External Affairs Officer, 216-296-3585

***AWARDS HONOR EXCEPTIONAL WORK
IN CUYAHOGA COUNTY'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM***

CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO – “The compassionate work of the individuals and programs we will honor is truly inspiring,” remarked Eugenia Cash, Board Chair, as she spoke about the recipients of the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County annual awards. The awards will be presented during the Board’s Annual Meeting on Monday, May 16, 2016. “Their extraordinary contributions are helping children and adults with mental illness and addictions on their path to recovery.”

William M. Denihan, Chief Executive Officer, noted that “The actions of each of our recipients are helping to alleviate the stigma that is still too often associated with mental illness and addictions. Their achievements embody what community treatment and recovery support is all about.”

The award recipients are:

- **Mental Health Professional of the Year - Susan Neth, MS, LSW**, Executive Director, FrontLine Service, for dedicating her career to the public mental health system and ensuring that people living with mental illness and addiction have the help they need when in crisis.
- **Addiction Treatment Professional of the Year - Jason Jerry, MD**, Cleveland Clinic's Alcohol and Drug Recovery Center; Assistant Professor of Medicine, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, for dedicating his career to helping people with addictions. We also want to acknowledge his efforts in providing the ADAMHS Board with factual information about marijuana, as well as speaking publicly against the legalization of marijuana -- all which helped in the defeat of Issue 3.
- **Legislator of the Year Award: Federal Level - Senator Sherrod Brown** for working with the Senate to support the bipartisan Recovery Enhancement for Addiction Treatment (TREAT) Act that will allow health care providers to treat larger numbers of patients struggling with addiction. Senator Brown's dedication to helping people living with addiction is admirable and appreciated by the ADAMHS Board and the residents of Cuyahoga County.
- **Legislator of the Year Award: State Level - State Senator Michael J. Skindell** for his continued support of the mental health and addiction treatment community and having in-depth discussions with the ADAMHS Board to stay informed on state legislation that impacts behavioral health and relaying the critical information to the Ohio Senate.
- **Legislator of the Year: Local Level - Cuyahoga County Councilman David Greenspan** for his work as Chair of the Finance & Budgeting Committee and supporting the restoration of funding to the ADAMHS Board in the CY16/17 County budget. His actions ensured that people living with mental illness and/or addictions could continue to receive potentially life-saving services.
- **Consumer/Client Involvement Award - The Life Exchange Center**, a peer to peer empowerment center, for all of the remarkable recovery programs and opportunities provided to clients. The willingness of its members to share personal recovery stories with the community has helped create an awareness that recovery is possible.

- **Family Involvement Award - Harvey A. Snider, Esq.**, for sharing all of his life experiences as a family member to better the lives of all clients not only in Cuyahoga County, but the entire State of Ohio, through his involvement in NAMI and as an ADAMHS Board Member.
- **Community Partner Collaboration Award (Recipient 1) - Tandra M. Rutledge, MA**, Business Development Manager, Windsor Laurelwood Center for Behavioral Medicine, for her efforts and dedication in making the Board's Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention Training program a success. Ms. Rutledge provided 16 trainings and the evaluations of those trainings confirmed that she is a dedicated and knowledgeable trainer and a true partner of the ADAMHS Board
- **Community Partner Collaboration Award (Recipient 2) Jim Joyner, LICDC-CS, ICCS**, Founder, Joyner and Associates, LCC, for his efforts and commitment to assisting the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County defeat Issue 3: Ohio Marijuana Legalization Initiative. The volunteer work that Mr. Joyner did in planning and participating in the Town Hall Meetings, meeting with the Board regularly to provide vast knowledge in the field of addiction, as well as his personal commitment, made a significant impact in the defeat of Issue 3.
- **Contract Agency Collaboration -Stella Maris, Inc.**, and Cleveland Treatment Center for participation in the ADAMHS Board Sober Bed Pilot Program. Through contracts with area halfway houses, the agencies are helping the Board provide long-term living environments to provide aftercare support to a newly sober individual rather than returning the person to the setting where the addiction may have begun.
- **Media Award - Sarah Buduson, WEWS News Channel 5**, for her in-depth, fair and accurate investigative reporting of mental health and addiction issues, especially for her report on the lack of mental health state funding and stories that focus on mental health addressed in the U.S. Department of Justice and the City of Cleveland Settlement Agreement.
- **CEO Award- Craig Tame, Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee Manager for the U.S. Department of Justice**, for his work as a liaison across county, state and federal systems to promote that recovery from mental illness and addictions is possible, as well as to help ensure quality behavioral health services to individuals returning to the community from incarceration.
- **Advocates of the Year: Adults - Kathleen H. Stoll**, for dedicating her life-long career to helping people with mental health and addiction issues. We also want to acknowledge that we appreciate Ms. Stoll sharing her wealth of information with the Board and other community organizations and her efforts to document the history of mental health in Cuyahoga County and the State of Ohio through her book.
- **Advocate of the Year: Children - Gabriella Celeste, J.D., Policy Director, Co-Director: Childhood Studies Minor, Schubert Center for Child Studies, Case Western Reserve University** for her dedication in ensuring that the needs of Cuyahoga County's children are met through the development of public policy. This became especially apparent through her work on the Mental Health Response Advisory Committee as Ms. Celeste continued to remind us that the treatment of individuals in crisis by the police and the behavioral health system is just as important for children as for adults.

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