



For Immediate Release: March 15, 2013

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**Citizens of Cuyahoga County
Participate in Medicaid Expansion Advocacy Day and Address the Legislature**

Columbus, Ohio – Three charter buses full of over 120 Cuyahoga County residents who rely on mental health and addiction services traveled to Columbus with William M. Denihan, CEO of the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County, on March 14, 2013. The group joined over 500 hundred other advocates from around the state to demonstrate support to legislators for the Governor’s proposal to extend Medicaid to those up to 138% of the federal poverty level.

The crowd heard from Governor John Kasich and expressed appreciation to him for the compassion he has shown for individuals who struggle with untreated mental health and substance use disorders and their families.

In addition to attending the event, the group from Cuyahoga County attended the Health & Human Services Sub-committee of the House Finance Committee where Mr. Denihan, Chris Morgan Jr., and Chris Morgan, Sr., testified on the importance of Medicaid Expansion and how it will open the door to recovery for thousands of Ohioans who need treatment services. They also drove home the point for increased Non-Medicaid funding for support services not covered by Medicaid, such as housing, medication, prevention, education, detoxification, vocational/employment, crisis, education and peer support.

“Without appropriate Non-Medicaid funding people will receive treatment for their mental illness and/or addiction, but not the needed services that truly support recovery. Without a place to live, without support from peers, without employment and vocational training, consumers and clients will not have the full opportunity to recover and lead full and productive lives,” expressed Mr. Denihan.

During the hearing, Mr. Denihan introduced the group representing Cuyahoga County by asking them to stand and show the legislature the faces of people who will directly benefit from Medicaid Expansion and from Non-Medicaid services that keep them on the road to recovery.

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