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**Cuyahoga County, Ohio** – The new Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County will officially launch operations on July 1, 2009, as the Board of Directors are sworn in and decisions are ratified during its initial General Meeting at 5:30 p.m., in the community room of WKYC TV 3 located at 1333 Lakeside Avenue. The ADAMHS Board emerges as a result of the consolidation of the Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board (CCCMHB) and the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board of Cuyahoga County (ADASBCC).

“This rare opportunity to form a governmental entity by building on the strengths and accomplishments of two strong organizations have allowed us to streamline administrative operations and reinvest financial savings and staff resources to meet the continued and growing demand for behavioral health services,” explained Kathryn E. Gambatese, Board Chair. “We recognize that this consolidation is not a remedy for inadequate funding of behavioral health services, but it is the first step to a more efficient and effective safety net.”

In August 2007, the Cuyahoga County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) charged the CCCMHB and the ADASBCC to consolidate and enhance provisions of behavioral healthcare in light of limited county resources and to mirror the trend of providing integrated behavioral health services to many individuals living with a co-occurring mental illness and alcohol or other drug addiction. To ensure an effective transition, the CCCMHB and ADASBCC participated in a 20-month planning process that was transparent and inclusive of input from consumers, providers, family members, staff, county partners and other stakeholders.

William M. Denihan, Chief Executive Officer, stated, “The ultimate goal of the ADAMHS Board is to be consumer focused, provide superior services and be a cost efficient organization to benefit consumers of mental health and alcohol and drug addiction services.”

More information on the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County can be found at [www.adamhsc.org](http://www.adamhsc.org).

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