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**Online Screening Program Helps Identify Mental Illness & Alcohol Addiction:
ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County offers screenings with Video Doctor at www.adamhsc.org**

CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO - In observance of October -- National Substance Abuse Prevention Month and Mental Illness Awareness Week, October 7-13 -- the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County is promoting free alcohol addiction and mental health screenings at www.adamhsc.org. The online screenings are anonymous, non-threatening and allow individuals to identify warning signs and learn about local treatment resources.

The online screenings for depression and alcohol include Video Doctor, a web-based tool to help bridge the gap between mental health and alcohol addiction screenings and treatment. Video Doctor simulates a conversation with a doctor that guides a person through a series of questions about his/her emotional well-being and readiness to seek help. Video Doctor launches after a person completes the online screening and scores positive for having symptoms of depression or alcohol abuse. The program provides the opportunity to interact with a pre-taped actor about issues related to depression and alcohol misuse and also provides self-care tips and recommendations on how and where to access local resources.

"Recent statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that about half of American adults will develop a mental illness in their lifetime and almost 18 million Americans are classified with alcohol dependence or abuse," says William M. Denihan, CEO of the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County. "Our goal is to increase awareness and understanding about depression and alcohol addiction, reduce the stigma associated with the diseases and let people know that help is available."

Screenings for Bipolar Disorder, Eating Disorders, General Anxiety Disorder, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Adolescent Depression are also available. Research supports the use of online mental health screenings as a means of helping individuals identify symptoms that may be consistent with a mental health and/or addiction disorder and to seek treatment if needed. After completing a screening, participants will receive referral information to local agencies that offer further evaluation and treatment.

The online screening program and Video Doctor are education initiatives of Screening for Mental Health, Inc., and all screenings are informational, not diagnostic; diagnoses and treatment recommendations are not provided.

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