



Kevin L. Miller, RSC Executive Director • **Orman Hall**, ODADAS Director • **Tracy J. Plouck**, ODMH Director

March 4, 2011

Finding employment for individuals with severe substance abuse and mental health disabilities has reached a critical point. Current economic forces and advances in care coordination mean we can no longer rely on the traditional thinking of the past and outdated strategies. As Gov. John R. Kasich has declared, it is a new day for Ohio, and as such, there's a new way of doing business. By identifying forward-thinking, solutions-oriented strategies we can transform Ohio into a model of health and economic vitality.

As part of this new way, the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission (RSC), the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS), the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) and the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) have partnered to develop a statewide return to work program for individuals with disabilities, including addiction and mental illness, who are in need of treatment to attain the goal of employment. This innovative approach will allow representatives from the partner agencies to work with local communities to find treatment for those Most Significantly Disabled due to their mental health and/or addiction issues. As local partners, we ask you to work with us to embrace this new paradigm shift with patience and a sense of enthusiasm as Ohio systemically identifies treatment opportunities that bring these individuals into the workforce.

As we move forward with this project, RSC will provide training to county board representatives and their providers to ensure that eligibility for services and Individual Plans for Employment (IPE) are completed, which is mandated to meet federal statutory requirements. ODADAS and ODMH staff, meanwhile, will train RSC staff on the critical components of drug and alcohol and mental health treatment necessary for the stabilization of an individual as he/she prepares to enter the workforce.

We are committed to this collaboration and look forward to working together to make this new and exciting venture a success in achieving positive outcomes for our consumers.

Kevin L. Miller, Executive Director
RSC

Orman Hall, Director
ODADAS

Tracy J. Plouck, Director
ODMH

c: Hugh Wirtz, CEO, Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers
Cheri L. Walter, CEO, Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities