



## Boards to Consolidate

On September 10, 2007, the Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board (CCCMHB) and the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board (ADASB) of Cuyahoga County announced that the Boards are jointly developing a plan for consolidation. The Cuyahoga County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) charged the Boards to consolidate and enhance provisions of behavioral healthcare, and have until December 1, 2007, to complete the plan. A consolidation date has not yet been established.

"The ultimate goal of this consolidation is to benefit consumers of mental health and alcohol and other drug addiction services in Cuyahoga County by bringing two successful organizations together to provide

greater efficiency and effectiveness in the behavioral health system," stated Kathryn E. Gambatese, Chair of the CCCMHB.

Russell Johnson, Chair of the ADASB, added, "Further integrating multiple behavioral health programs to meet the demand for services are among other expected outcomes of this consolidation."

"We take this charge as an opportunity to form a new entity that will build on the strengths of both organizations and advance a best-fit service delivery system for all residents of our community," explained Dr. Russell Kaye, the Executive Director of the ADASB.



William M. Denihan, Chief Executive Officer of the CCCMHB further explained, "Consolidating Boards goes beyond making just good business sense to deal with similar Medicaid documentation, funding streams and other administrative duties. Consolidating mirrors the trend of providing integrated behavioral health services to many individuals living with a co-occurring mental illness and alcohol or other drug addiction."

## Consolidation Planning Teams



Planning teams comprised of staff and board members from the CCCMHB and ADASB have been established to thoroughly review operations and services of both boards. The teams have been meeting and making recommendations to the consolidation Executive Steering Committee.

The consolidation planning teams are:

- Executive Steering Committee
  - By-Laws
  - Facilities/Location
- Finance
- Human Resources and Personnel
- Communication
- Programming and Program Development
- Research, Evaluation and Needs Assessment
- Agency Evaluation and Oversight
- Training
- Grants Management
- Client Rights and Confidentiality Issues
- MACSIS and IT

The Executive Steering Committee developed eight Consolidation Guidelines to assist all teams with the consolidation planning process to ensure movement on the same path. The guidelines range from the top priority of designing a new public board that best supports health, strength and safety of consumers and the residents of Cuyahoga County to ensuring that the consolidation process is transparent and inclusive of service providers, other stakeholders and consumers.

The Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services Board  
of Cuyahoga County  
The Cuyahoga County Community  
Mental Health Board

## Planning Retreat

The Executive Steering Committee (Kathryn Gambatese, CCCMHB Chair; Russell Johnson, ADASB Chair; William Denihan, CCCMHB CEO; and Dr. Russell Kaye, ADASB Executive Director) facilitated a consolidation planning retreat on Friday, October 5, and Saturday, October 6, 2007.



On Friday, members of each consolidation planning team met and discussed the strengths, challenges, vision, and resources needed to develop a new behavioral health board for Cuyahoga County. Each team presented its outcomes to the entire group. After the presentations, common themes, surprises, unique areas and thoughts on location were identified.

During Saturday's session, team co-leaders and board members from each organization gathered to share an overview of the two boards and

further discuss the consolidation planning teams' outcomes from Friday. Board members' input was added to each team outcome and presented to the entire group.

Planning teams will refine their recommendations based on input from the retreat, and outcomes will be included in the Consolidation Report to the Cuyahoga County BOCC. Future retreats and meetings will be planned throughout the process.

## Community Input/Surveys

The ADASB and the CCCMHB have solicited input from providers, consumers, staff, family members and other stakeholders about the consolidation through separate surveys. Results of the surveys will be used by the Executive Steering Committee throughout the consolidation process.

The Boards will hold joint meetings for all stakeholders on Monday, October 22 from 1:00 - 4:30 p.m., and on

Thursday, November 15 from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. Both meetings will be held on second floor of the building that houses the CCCMHB offices, 1400 West 25th Street.

The Cuyahoga County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) will host a public meeting on Friday, October 26 at the Cleveland Foodbank, 15500 S. Waterloo Rd., at 10:00 a.m., to discuss the purpose of the consolidation and gather the community's reactions and views.



## Some Board Facts

The CCCMHB is responsible for the planning, funding and monitoring of public mental health services. The primary focus is to provide a "safety net" of care for the needs of adults with severe mental disabilities, as well as children and adolescents with severe emotional disturbances. This "safety net" consists of over 35 provider agencies that have contracts with the CCCMHB to deliver mental health and supportive services. The CCCMHB's annual budget is \$118 million and it has 65 budgeted full-time employee positions with 52 positions currently filled.

The ADASB plans, monitors, and evaluates alcohol and other drug services that encourage wellness, prevention, and recovery. The ADASB administers federal, state, and local funding for substance abuse prevention and treatment services, and contracts with a network of over 50 agencies that provide over 100 programs. Together, these agencies represent a continuum of care from prevention and early intervention to residential, outpatient, and aftercare

treatment services. The ADASB's annual budget is \$34 million, and it has 33 employees.

*Consolidation Update* is a joint publication developed and distributed by the communication staff of the Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board and the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board of Cuyahoga County to keep the community informed on the consolidation process.

### Consolidation Executive Steering Committee

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