



Boards Pass Joint Resolution Supporting Consolidation

At a historic special joint meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services Board of Cuyahoga County and the Board of Governors of the Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board held on Monday, December 3, 2007, a joint resolution supporting the consolidation of the two currently independent boards was voted on and approved by both boards.

In the 2nd floor conference room of the building that houses the CCCMHB, the Consolidation Executive Steering Committee (Kathryn E. Gambatese, CCCMHB Chair, Russell E. Johnson, ADASBCC Chair, William M. Denihan, CCCMHB CEO and Dr. Russell S. Kaye, ADASBCC Executive Director) took turns presenting the plan, calling the evening a “dress rehearsal” for the meeting that would occur just days later with the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) where they would deliver recommendations for a new behavioral health board for Cuyahoga County.

Shortly after reviewing the working mission and vision statements, board members of both the CCCMHB and the ADASBCC were asked to vote on Joint Resolution # 07-12-01: Support for the Consolidation of Boards to Advance Behavioral Health in Cuyahoga County.

The joint resolution offers both boards’ written commitment to using the BOCC’s charge to consolidate as an opportunity to maximize behavioral

health delivery in Cuyahoga County, with the top priority being the creation of a board that best supports the health, strength and safety of consumers/clients and residents. Additionally, it outlines the dual commitment the plan’s designers have to keeping equal consideration of the mental health and alcohol and other drug prevention and treatment service needs of the community while enhancing integrated treatment as appropriate.

The joint resolution also included language regarding staffing of the new organization, areas of possible administration efficiency and the composition of the new organization’s board, recommending that nine existing board

members from each organization be “grandfathered” onto the board of directors of the consolidated board. After some discussion around the structure of the combined board, each respective board voted in favor of the resolution.

The Consolidation Executive Steering Committee indicated that in addition to presenting their plan to the BOCC, they would also request the BOCC approve the joint resolution as well as their request for funding for a facilitator who will assist with the next phase of the consolidation planning process.



Excerpts of the Joint Resolution:

... Whereas, the two boards recognize the “golden” opportunity to craft a new public board, building on the strengths and accomplishments of each, and

Whereas, the top priority that defines the foundation of all consolidation planning is the crafting of a new public board that best supports the health, strength and safety of consumers/clients and the residents of Cuyahoga County, and

Whereas, the plan designers will work toward a dual commitment to excellence, with equal consideration of the mental health and alcohol and other drug prevention and treatment service needs of the community, enhancing integrated treatment as appropriate, but not losing sight of the uniqueness of each board’s base populations, and

Whereas, to demonstrate this dual commitment, the boards recommend that the state departments and board of county commissioners “grandfather” nine existing board members to the board of directors of the new consolidated board in such a way as to create a board composition consisting of nine members with a mental health interest and nine members with an alcohol & other drug interest, and

Whereas, the staff of both boards will be carried forward into the new board, in recognition of their commitment, investment and expertise, and

Whereas, administration efficiency, where appropriate, will be sought, with no destruction of value, and dollars saved will be reinvested in services, and

Whereas, it is recognized the consolidation will not remedy the inadequate funding for behavioral health services in Cuyahoga County...

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

BOCC Responsive to Proposed Consolidation Plan

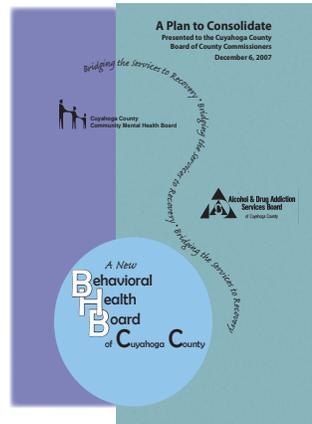
As scheduled, the Consolidation Executive Steering Committee met with the Board of County Commissioners Thursday, December 6, 2007, to present their recommendations for the consolidation of the Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services Board of Cuyahoga County and the Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board.

With a consolidation completion date of no later than June 30, 2009, the plan provided the BOCC with an 18-month timeline and an overview of what it will take to create a combined behavioral health board from the two currently independent boards.

The plan identified a number of large-scale key issues and provided recommendations concerning specific areas of function, including: agency evaluation and oversight; client rights and confidentiality; communication; facility/location; finance, MACSIS and information technology; grants management; human resources and personnel; program development; quality improvement; and training.

As found in the joint resolution, the plan also included the statement that such a consolidation would not remedy the inadequate funding for mental health and alcohol and other drug services.

PDF copies of the Consolidation Steering Committee's presentation, A Plan to Consolidate, presented to the



Cuyahoga County Board of County Commissioners December 6, 2007, are available for download on either the CCCMHB's or the ADASBCC's website:
www.cccmhb.org
www.adasbcc.org

After the meeting, Dr. Russell S. Kaye, Executive Director of the ADASBCC reported that the BOCC was pleased with the work done to this point.

Russell E. Johnson, ADASBCC Chair, added that there was no debate surrounding the plan's recommendation that the new organization have a balanced Board of Directors – achieved by grandfathering nine members of each organization's current boards into

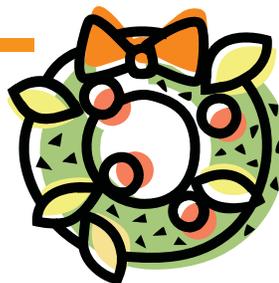
positions with the new organization's governing body. Nor was there debate about carrying forward staff from both the CCCMHB and the ADASBCC.

CCCMHB Chair Kathryn E. Gambatese explained that the next phase of planning will see the Consolidation Executive Steering Committee expand to include Dr. Robert Carson and Eugenia Cash, Vice Chairs of the CCCMHB Board of Governors, as well as the ADASBCC Board of Trustees' Vice Chair, Mary McElrath, and its Operations Chair, Darlene Darby Baldwin.

Among the first orders of business for the soon-to-be eight-member Consolidation Executive Steering Committee, aside from revving up the Consolidation Planning Teams, will be to address the new organization's facility and space needs and explore potential locations, added Mr. William M. Denihan, CEO of the CCCMHB.

The Consolidation Executive Steering Committee anticipates the BOCC will adopt the joint resolution supporting the consolidated board as well as the plan for consolidation it presented to them this week after the holiday season, in January 2008.

Happy Holidays!



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

Kathryn E. Gambatese, CCCMHB Chair
Russell E. Johnson, ADASB Chair
William M. Denihan CCCMHB CEO
Russell S. Kaye, Ph.D., ADASB Executive Director

Editors: Scott Osiecki, CCCMHB & Julie Fogel, ADASB