



## Board Name Selected

During its December 1 meeting, the Consolidated Board voted unanimously to name the new Board the **Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County** (ADAMH). This name was recommended by the Orientation and Communication Committee since it accurately represents the business of the Board. In addition, other Boards throughout the state carry the ADAMH label and it is well respected and recognized among state legislators and decision makers.

The Orientation and Communication Task Force's next step will be to develop and recommend a tag line that can be used along with the ADAMH name to further enhance the public's understanding and recognition of the Board's mission.

## Executive Director Appointed

The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County with Provisional Authority has voted to name William M. Denihan to serve for three years as Executive Director of the soon-to-be-consolidated agency. The appointment will be effective July 1, 2009, when the new agency comes into existence. Mr. Denihan is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board (CCCMHB).

The decision comes after nearly six months of careful deliberation on the qualities and qualifications needed

to lead the new organization, which unites the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board of Cuyahoga County (ADASBCC) and the CCCMHB.

The provisional board voted December 1 to limit the search to the two incumbent executives, William M. Denihan and Dr. Russell S. Kaye, the Executive Director of the ADASBCC .

Mr. Denihan will be on loan to serve as the Executive Director under the terms of a memorandum of understanding while continuing to direct the CCCMHB.

"We take very seriously both our stewardship of the public's mental health and drug and alcohol addiction services dollars, and our charge to assess and quickly respond to the community's growing need for lifesaving behavioral healthcare services," said Mary McElrath, ADAMH Board Co-Chair. "We want this agency to be the gold standard for good government in Cuyahoga County, and Bill is the person to take us there."

"The search committee had two highly competent and accomplished candidates to choose from, and the decision was not an easy one," said Kathryn Gambatese, ADAMH Board

Co-Chair. "However, in the end we felt that Bill is best suited to lead the consolidated board at this point in time. His particular combination of skills and track record of experience were significant deciding factors."

There were five essential skills required by the new Executive Director for which Mr. Denihan has a demonstrated track record:

1. Ability to maintain as many revenue dollars as possible to proactively seize opportunities for growth, and to efficiently manage the budget with priority on service provision over administration.
2. Strong political networking skills and contacts to fight for the financial resources needed for the clients/consumers as well as other regulatory issues.
3. Amazing interpersonal skills to deal with human resources issues in creating an integrated consolidated board.
4. Leading/developing an integrated culture in the new ADAMH Board.
5. Exceptional leadership and management skills to integrate all parts of the developing organization.

## Site Committee Reviewing Administrative Office Space Proposals

Equis Corporation, PMC and the Consolidation Site Committee received 17 proposals for office space for the ADAMH of Cuyahoga County.

The proposals were received in response to an RFP issued on November 5, with a closing date of December 5.

Proposals will be formally reviewed on Monday, December 29.

## Consolidated Board Staff Team-building Event

Building effective staff relationships is essential to the successful transition to a Consolidated Board. Therefore, the External Affairs and Human Resources Consolidation Teams planned ConsolidationFest, an afternoon team-building event for the staff of the CCCMHB and the ADASBCC on Friday, December 12.

The two teams also facilitated the event, which included several exercises with the goals of having staff work as a team; engage in problem solving; improve communication; work with others, and learn about alcohol, drug addiction and mental health issues.

*Photos, clockwise from top:* Brenda Bennett decorates a stress ball; DeAnne NiBlack poses with her decorated stress ball, Miss Diva; Mike Sosnick reads his team's "ConsolidationLibs" story while others look on; Christine Paternoster explains the rules; and Julie Fogel marshalls a playfully intense game of "Consolidation Challenge" between Ralph Piatak and Nick Papadorotheou.



### **Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County**

#### **Co-Chairs:**

Kathryn Gambatese  
Mary McElrath

#### **Members:**

Luis Felipe Amunategui  
Reginald Blue  
Eugenia Cash  
J. Robert Fowler  
Rev. Benjamin Gohlstin  
Janet Hnanicek  
Rick Kemm  
Amy Leopard  
Cynthia Miller  
Harvey Snider  
Rev. Charlotte Still Noble  
Ericka Thoms  
Lisa Thomas  
Mary Warr  
Anngela Williams

#### **Executive Director:**

William M. Denihan

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

*Editors:* Scott Osiecki, CCCMHB  
Julie Fogel, ADASBCC



## Upcoming Consolidation Meeting

**On Thursday, January 22, 2009, from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., on the second floor of the CCCMHB building, all contract service providers are invited to meet with staff team Co-Chairs to offer further ideas and suggestions regarding the consolidation. MCS consulting will facilitate this meeting.**