

**VALERIA A. HARPER, MA, CDCA
BIO**

Valeria A. Harper, MA, CDCA, is the Chief Executive Officer of the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County (effective August 1, 2017). Ms. Harper has been employed at the ADAMHS Board for nearly 30 years. Prior to assuming the Chief Executive Officer position, she was the Vice President of Operations. Ms. Harper and her team were responsible for program planning, development and monitoring in the areas of Adult and Children services; Residential Programs and related services; Operations; Vocational/Employment services; Consumer Operated and Peer Support services; Community Support Network and Community Teams tied to the state psychiatric hospital system.

As Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Harper will lead and oversee the staff of the ADAMHS Board and will be responsible for advocacy, planning and management of a recovery oriented system of care that delivers quality services through a network of contract agencies.

Ms. Harper earned a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work with a minor in psychology from Cleveland State University. She completed her graduate studies at John Carroll University and received a Master's in Arts degree in Counseling and Human Services. Ms. Harper holds a Chemical Dependency Counselor Assistant (CDCA) license. She is also a graduate of the 2003 Cleveland State University Leadership Academy – Class XII, and was the recipient of the Outstanding Class Leader Award.

As a veteran in the behavioral health system for 35 years, Ms. Harper began her career at Northeast Community Mental Health Center as a Mental Health Social Worker. After expressing an interest in housing for individuals living with mental illness, she was promoted to the Manager of Residential Services with the primary responsibility of enhancing services provided in group homes throughout the County. Additionally, Ms. Harper is credited as having started the first client employment service at Northeast Community Mental Health Center.

Ms. Harper is also recognized as a member of the early pioneer team responsible for structuring the Case Management System in Cuyahoga County during her work at the Murtis H. Taylor Multi-Purpose Center as a supervisor. Her energy and commitment to improving the delivery of services to individuals living with mental illness was noticed by the then Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board (CCCMHB) and Ms. Harper was recruited to join the staff in 1988. She was initially hired to aid in the development of the case management system countywide, now known as Community Psychiatric Supportive Treatment (CPST).

Holding numerous leadership positions with a wide range of responsibilities, including serving as Acting Chief Executive Officer of the former CCCMHB and Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of Operations for the ADAMHS Board has prepared Ms. Harper for her role as Chief Executive Officer.