

**ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

RESOLUTION NO. 12-09-02

**OPPOSITION TO MEDICAID'S THREE TIERED PLAN
FOR MENTAL HEALTH MEDICATION**

WHEREAS, as a cost saving measure the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS) recently decided to implement a three tiered preferred drug list for mental health medication prescribed by nurse practitioners and physicians other than psychiatrists to patients covered by Medicaid Fee for Service, and;

WHEREAS, implementation of the three tiered system where a patient must fail on two trials of at least two weeks on a medication on the preferred drug list before a non-preferred antipsychotic medication can be prescribe, will create potential harm and suffering for consumers and unnecessary obstacles for non-psychiatric prescribers to utilize medications for their patients, and;

WHEREAS, this decision was made by ODJFS personnel even though the ODJFS Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee overwhelmingly opposed the three tiered system after careful review and consideration, and;

WHEREAS, all patients with a mental illness do not have easy access to a psychiatrist, other physicians and nurse practitioners must have the ability to prescribe a medication believed to be the most effective as soon as possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County opposes ODJF's decision to implement a three tiered preferred drug list for mental health medication prescribed by nurse practitioners or doctors other than psychiatrists.
2. The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County requests that ODJF reconsider its decision to implement the three tiered preferred drug list so that:
 - a. All prescribers have an opportunity to manage patients covered by Medicaid effectively.
 - b. Patients may have the best chance at recovery without suffering continued symptoms while waiting to be finally prescribed a medication that the prescriber believes will be the most effective.

On the motion of Mary R. Warr, seconded by Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., the foregoing resolution was adopted.

AYES: C. Brown, E. Cash, R. Fowler, B. Gohlstin, P. Jones, R. Romaniuk,
M. Warr, A. Williams

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

DATE ADOPTED: September 19, 2012