

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

RESOLUTION NO. 12-10-09

**PARTICIPATION IN THE GREATER CLEVELAND CONGREGATIONS'
NORTHEAST OHIO MEDICAID EXPANSION COALITION**

WHEREAS, the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County strives to foster partnerships with faith-based communities and advocates for mental health and addiction services that lead to personal recovery for as many people as possible, and;

WHEREAS, the ADAMHS Board CEO and Director of External Affairs met with members of the Greater Cleveland Congregations which has decided to advocate for mental health and addiction issues, and;

WHEREAS, the Greater Cleveland Congregations has formed the Northeast Ohio Medicaid Expansion Coalition (NEO-MEC) which is an expanding partnership of religious congregations, health care providers, community organizations, businesses, insurers, medical professionals, consumer groups and advocates working together to help expand Medicaid to all Ohioans now eligible under the Affordable Care Act, and;

WHEREAS, NEO-MEC believes that Medicaid expansion is vital to our region and state for the following reasons:

1. The health and well-being of hundreds of thousands of uninsured members of our community will be greatly enhanced by access to life-saving medical coverage that Medicaid can provide.
2. We can better address the issue of health care "hot spots" by bringing uninsured persons onto care and into patient centered medical homes.
3. The economic impact of Medicaid expansion will bring tens of thousands of new jobs and millions of dollars in new tax revenue to our region.
4. The sustainability of our world-class health care facilities, a major centerpiece of Northeast Ohio's economy, requires adequate reimbursement for the care provided. Medicaid expansion will be an important funding source to cover our uninsured residents. The current path is unsustainable.
5. Ohio businesses will continue to be disadvantaged by higher health insurance premiums if we don't dramatically reduce the number of uninsured Ohioans, and;

WHEREAS, current membership of the NEO-MEC includes the Center for Community Solutions; Centers for Families & Children; The Center for Health Affairs, Cleveland Clinic, MetroHealth, Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation; Sister of Charity Health Care System; The Free Clinic and University Hospitals, and;

WHEREAS, the NEO-MEC is planning to meet with Governor Kasich to encourage the expansion of Medicaid sometime in November 2012, and;

WHEREAS, the ADAMHS Board has been invited to participate as a member of the NEO-MEC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County believes in the mission of the NEO-MEC and has agreed to participate as a member of the group.
2. The NEO-MEC may include the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County on its membership listing.
3. The CEO and/or his designees may participate in NEO-MEC meetings and efforts.

On the motion of Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., seconded by Charles E. Brown, the foregoing resolution was adopted.

AYES: D. Biegel, R. Blue, M. Boyle, C. Brown, E. Caraballo, S. FallCreek, R. Folbert,
R. Fowler, B. Gohlstin, P. Jones, E. Thoms, B. Tobin, M. Warr, A. Williams

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

DATE ADOPTED: October 24, 2012