



RESOLUTION NO. 13-01-06

**A Call to Respond to the Mental Health Needs of Ohioans
In the Wake of the Tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut**

WHEREAS, the nation has been focused on gun control and mental health since the Sandy Hook tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut on December 14, 2012 and the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County is taking an active role in convening the community for a discussion to address the role of mental health in the hopes of preventing tragedy from happening in our community; and,

WHEREAS, Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper exhibited the courage to go beyond just discussion and announced his ideas on overhauling his state's mental health system, which included doing a better job of identifying and helping people who are a threat to themselves and others; modernizing mental health commitment records that would be cross-checked in real time with background checks for gun purchases; and,

WHEREAS, Governor Hickenlooper's plan also highlights better treatment options that include more public hospital beds, more specialists in state mental health institutions and five 24-hour psychiatric crisis centers; and,

WHEREAS, Governors from around the United States, including Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker; Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, and Kansas Governor Sam Brownback have announced new mental health initiatives and increased funding for mental health services; and,

WHEREAS, Ohio Governor John Kasich announced the release of \$5 million to develop crisis intervention programs for children and young adults with mental illnesses to address potential volatile mental health situations, and;

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama unveiled his proposals for toughening gun laws which included increased access to mental health services, and;

WHEREAS, the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County commends President Obama and Governors Hickenlooper, Walker, Patrick, Brownback and Kasich for their efforts; and,

WHEREAS, the ADAMHS Board believes that more must be done in the State of Ohio to address its grossly underfunded mental health system and that now is the time for Governor Kasich and the Ohio Legislature to prioritize mental health and addiction treatment and fund the behavioral health system so that needed services are available to all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ADAMHS BOARD OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY:

1. Commends President Barack Obama and Governors Hickenlooper, Walker, Patrick, Brownback and Kasich for their efforts.
2. Respectfully encourages Governor John Kasich and the Ohio Legislature to prioritize mental health and addiction treatment and prevention services and to sufficiently fund the behavioral health system to ensure that services are available to all Ohioans.
3. Respectfully encourages Governor John Kasich to include Medicaid Expansion through the Patient Protection and Affordability Care Act in the SFY 14-15 Budget and the Ohio Legislature to support the expansion, which will mean more Ohioans will have access to behavioral health services, less untreated mental illness and addiction and a healthier Ohio.
4. Directs that this resolution be sent to President Barack Obama; Governors Hickenlooper, Walker, Patrick, Brownback and Kasich; Tracy Plouck, Director of ODMH; Orman Hall, Director of ODADAS, Cheri Walter, CEO of the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA), and each member of the Cuyahoga County Delegation in the Ohio House and Senate.

On the motion of Reginald C. Blue, Ph.D., seconded by Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., the foregoing Resolution was unanimously adopted on January 23, 2013.

**D. Biegel, R. Blue, M. Boyle, C. Brown, E. Caraballo, R. Folbert, R. Fowler, B. Gohlstin,
P. Jones, R. Romaniuk, H. Snider, E. Thoms, W. Tobin, M. Warr, A. Williams**