

RESOLUTION NO. 13-02-08

Support of Medicaid Expansion in Ohio



WHEREAS, Governor John Kasich stated during his State of the State Address that supporting Ohio's mentally ill and addicted population is a priority for the State of Ohio and included Medicaid Expansion in his proposed SFY 14-15 state operating budget; and,

WHEREAS, Since 2002, State General Revenue Funding (GRF) for NON-MEDICAID alcohol, drug addiction and mental health prevention, treatment and support services has declined by \$140 million or 62.68%; and,

WHEREAS, Ohio's mental health and addiction services support system is in a state of crisis and nearly every week our communities experience the tragic results of this fragile system and the people we serve; and,

WHEREAS, The SFY 14-15 budget is an opportunity to rebuild this system, to cement Ohio's status as a premier state in the nation for workforce growth and development, and to further address the impact that mental illness and addiction have on our communities; and,

WHEREAS, The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County strongly supports the expansion of Medicaid in Ohio to provide treatment and services to many of Ohio's uninsured population; and,

WHEREAS, Infusion of Medicaid dollars will allow up to \$103 million to be redirected for Non-Medicaid services once the expansion is fully implemented and while Medicaid expansion will have a significant and positive impact on mental health and addiction care, the amount of funding freed up, will only provide 50% of what has been lost since 2002; and,

WHEREAS, The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County supports investing additional state GRF funding in the new Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services budget to fund important Non-Medicaid services that help people stay on the road to recovery and also keep Medicaid costs down, such as housing, medication, prevention, education, vocational/employment and peer support.

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

1. Strongly supports Medicaid Expansion in Ohio's SFY 14-15 Budget.
2. Respectfully request that each member of the Ohio House and Senate support Medicaid Expansion which will allow more Ohioans to have access to mental health and addiction services resulting in less untreated mental illness and addiction and an overall healthier Ohio.
3. Directs that this resolution be sent to each member of the Cuyahoga County Delegation in the Ohio House and Senate; Governor John Kasich; Tracy Plouck, Director of ODMH; Orman Hall, Director of ODADAS, and Cheri Walter, CEO of the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA).

On the motion of Mary Boyle, seconded by William J. Tobin, the aforementioned resolution was adopted unanimously.

AYES: D. Biegel, R. Blue, M. Boyle, E. Cash, R. Folbert, R. Fowler, B. Gohlstin, P. Jones, R. Romaniuk, H. Snider, W. Tobin, M. Warr, A. Williams

DATE ADOPTED: February 27, 2013