

WHEREAS, the 18 local volunteer citizen members of the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County are committed to assuring that residents of Cuyahoga County live healthier lives through access to quality mental health and addiction prevention, treatment, and support services; and,

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) is proposing to cut \$7.5 million from Cuyahoga County's 507 state allocation through the Mid-Biennium Review process and is planning to use this 507 allocation in a manner not congruent with the original legislative intent of using the funds to solve local community needs - to now use the funds to meet State determined priorities; and,

WHEREAS, Chapter 340 of the Ohio Revised Code assigns local ADAMHS Boards the right and responsibility to assess the county's addiction and mental health needs, evaluate programs funded with public dollars and set priorities for community addiction and mental health services; and,

WHEREAS, the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County along with community stakeholders, including schools, courts, human service organizations, providers and the people we serve, have identified our local needs and empowered community action on issues concerning mental health and addiction prevention, treatment and recovery support services that are not paid for by Medicaid, including employment/vocational, housing, crisis, and self-help and peer empowerment that are necessary to meet the needs of Cuyahoga County; and,

WHEREAS, the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County, being closest to the people in need of mental health and addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery supports in Cuyahoga County, is an accountable form of local government and is held responsible for any decisions made; and,

WHEREAS, local communities have the best understanding of the mental health and addiction services needs of their residents and such needs are best met and planned for and implemented locally; the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County opposes any action which would curb, limit, or remove local authority for mental health and addiction services from the 18-member volunteer citizen controlled ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The 18-member volunteer citizen controlled ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County urges the Ohio General Assembly to:

1. Stop OhioMHAS from making any language changes that would divert 507 funding from the local Boards in the SFY 2015 budget.
2. Stop OhioMHAS from taking away local Board control and allowing priorities to be set by the state, since local communities have the best understanding of the mental health and addiction services needs of their residents and such needs are best planned for locally – not at the state level.
3. Stop OhioMHAS from making funding changes mid-stream through the 2014/15 biennium budget, because it will cause disruption to the people who rely on Board services.
4. Keep 507 funding and the way it was distributed in State Fiscal Year 2014 to local Boards for State Fiscal Year 2015 and urge OhioMHAS and local Boards to jointly determine funding decisions going forward to best meet the needs of our citizens, and examine the impact of Medicaid Expansion on the Recovery Oriented System of Care (community mental health and addiction treatment support services system).

On the motion of Ericka Thoms, seconded by Richard Folbert, the foregoing resolution was adopted.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

DATE ADOPTED: March 26, 2014