

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 15-02-01**

**APPROVAL OF 2015 ADVOCACY ACTION AGENDA**

**WHEREAS**, the 2015 Advocacy Action Agenda was developed with the over-arching goal of supporting mental health; alcohol and other drug, opiate and gambling addiction treatment programming in the schools and in the community; employment and vocational opportunities; prevention, and increased funding to support Non-Medicaid services; and,

**WHEREAS**, the 2015 Advocacy Action Agenda supplements the daily advocacy efforts that the ADAMHS Board provides through its work to ensure that behavioral health services and supports are available to help children and adults reach personal recovery. It also reflects collaboration with groups, such as the Mental Health Advocacy Coalition, NAMI and the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities in promoting other advocacy efforts; and,

**WHEREAS**, the ADAMHS Board's messages and communications to legislators, state agencies, policy makers, consumers/clients, providers and the general public will be in sync with the advocacy issues identified in the 2015 Advocacy Action Agenda; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Community Relations & Advocacy Committee supports and recommends the proposed 2015 Advocacy Action Agenda to guide its advocacy efforts throughout 2015.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The ADAMHS Board of Directors adopts the 2015 Advocacy Action Agenda to guide its advocacy efforts throughout 2015.
2. The ADAMHS Board of Directors authorizes the Chief Executive Officer to distribute the 2015 Advocacy Action Agenda to the community.

On the motion of Reginald C. Blue, Ph.D., seconded by Robert Fowler, Ph.D., the foregoing resolution was adopted unanimously.

**AYES:** D. Biegel, R. Blue, E. Caraballo, E. Cash, R. Fowler, C. Handler, P. Jones, S. Killpack, R. Romaniuk, E. Saffran, H. Snider, E. Thoms, M. Warr, A. Williams

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**DATE ADOPTED:** February 25, 2015

## Background:

The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County has developed this **Advocacy Action Agenda** to guide its advocacy efforts for 2015. This agenda was developed with the overarching goal of promoting recovery from mental illness and dependency on alcohol and other drugs. Recovery is a process unique to each individual that is measured by reaching small and continuous goals built on partnership, trust, hope, choice, dignity, respect and excellent care.

The ADAMHS Board uses the Advocacy Action Agenda to develop messages to legislators, state agencies, policy makers, clients, families, providers and the general public to advance important behavioral health issues.

Items on this agenda are in addition to the advocacy that the Board provides on a daily basis through its work of ensuring that mental health, addiction treatment and prevention services and supports are available to help children and adults reach recovery.

The Board also collaborates with other groups, such as the Mental Health and Addiction Advocacy Coalition, NAMI and the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities in promoting other advocacy efforts. Some items on the Advocacy Action Agenda may take higher priority at different times throughout the year.

## Overarching Advocacy Goal for 2015:

- Support recovery through **mental health; alcohol and other drug, opiate and gambling addiction services and supports** in the **schools and the community, employment and vocational opportunities; prevention, and increased funding** to support Non-Medicaid services.

## Funding Goals:

- Support the **Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) FY16-17 State Budget Platform**.  
Keep services and supports in local communities through an increased allocation of \$30 million per year in the 421 Continuum of Care line item so that Boards can ensure **peer services and supports, crisis services and housing, detox/medication-assisted treatment and early detection, identification, and intervention**.
- Support the Urban Board Association and its **efforts to achieve appropriate State funding for community behavioral health support services, and to obtain parity in Board funding throughout the State**.
- Support **participation in the Three C Recovery & Health Network** to ensure the implementation of the **SHARES billing and data collection system** so that the ADAMHS Board can track and provide accurate data to make Non-Medicaid funding decisions.

## System of Care Goals:

- Support the **State-wide Recovery is Beautiful** movement and ensure that a **Recovery Oriented System of Care** is developed and running in Cuyahoga County within five years, through client and family involvement; community education; integrated behavioral health, spirituality and wellness; timely access to services and quality of care, and performance-based contracting and financing.
- Support efforts to **eradicate the heroin/opiate epidemic in Cuyahoga County and the State of Ohio**.
- Support efforts to work with the Department of Justice, Cleveland Division of Police and the City of Cleveland to have Cleveland Police Officers and Dispatchers trained in Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) techniques, to help solve issues of excess force identified during a Department of Justice Investigation.
- Support efforts for youth participation in ADAMHS Board activities and issues to ensure sustainability, vitality and long-term success of the Board and its programs, while preventing stigma, addictions and suicide, and offering the opportunity for professional development and first-hand experience to effect social change in the community.
- Recognize and advocate for **spirituality in the recovery process and** support efforts of the **Faith-based Outreach Committee**.
- Support statewide and national efforts to **stop using the term "consumers" when referring to people living life with a mental illness**.
- Develop a **formal position on the medical use of marijuana and its legalization** in the State of Ohio.
- Support efforts for the development of **AoD Residential Treatment, Recovery Housing and Sober Beds**.
- Support efforts for **the timely implementation and promotion of the multi-county Crisis Stabilization Unit**.
- Support efforts to **increase employment for people living with mental illness and/or addictions, especially with the ADAMHS Board provider agencies, and development of a temporary employment pilot program where people who have failed a drug test can obtain work while receiving treatment**.
- Support efforts to **expand mental health and addiction support services to individuals returning to the community after incarceration**.
- Support **state and federal legislation that benefit people living with mental illness and/or addictions**.
- Support **prevention activities, public awareness efforts and training, to reduce mental illness and/or addictions and educate the community and providers**.