



**RESOLUTION 15-03-01:  
Need for Stable Behavioral Health Funding in the SFY 2016/17 Budget**

**WHEREAS**, the local volunteer citizen members of the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County thank the legislature for continued recognition of mental health and addiction treatment and recovery support needs of all Ohioans as evidenced by providing the additional \$50 million per year in 507 funds in the SFY 2014/15 Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) budget that ensured communities had the resources to provide effective prevention and recovery support services; and,

**WHEREAS**, in SFY 2014/15, Cuyahoga County received \$7.2 million in 507 funding that was used for prevention, crisis, substance abuse, drug court sustainability and recovery housing services that are not covered by Medicaid; and,

**WHEREAS**, the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County, along with Boards throughout the State, is requesting stable funding to communities through local Boards to ensure the continuation and expansion of recovery support services; and,

**WHEREAS**, the 507 funding is being eliminated in the upcoming SFY 2016/17 budget and we are respectfully urging the State Legislature to keep recovery services and supports in local communities by restoring \$30 million per year of the \$50 million and placing it in the OhioMHAS 421 Continuum of Care line item; and,

**WHEREAS**, Cuyahoga County's funding today for mental health, addiction treatment and recovery supports is \$405,000 which is \$0.32 per citizen while the statewide average is \$4.46 per citizen; and,

**WHEREAS**, increasing the investment in the 421 Continuum of Care line item will provide the necessary financial stability to ensure the successful development of Ohio's local Recovery-Oriented System of Care by providing the ability to plan and develop services and supports that will continue on a multi-year basis and ensure that Boards can continue to provide peer services and supports, crisis services and housing, detox/medication-assisted treatment and early detection, identification, and intervention through the numerous programs that were started in the last biennium; and,

**WHEREAS**, Medicaid Expansion is a huge benefit for the residents of Ohio and its continuation is critical to the Ohioans who are relying on this program for a better life; however, there is a misconception that ADAMHS Boards have received an influx of cash as a result of Medicaid Expansion and we wish to clarify that expansion allowed for a reallocation of local funding from mental health treatment services, such as counseling, pharmacological services and partial hospitalization, for individuals not previously eligible for Medicaid, to recovery support services that help people stay on the road to recovery, which are not covered by Medicaid, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Medicaid Expansion cost savings projected by OhioMHAS to all Boards fell short of the \$69 million at \$54 million, which for Cuyahoga County amounted to \$4 million that was able to be redirected to support services instead of the projected \$6 million.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County respectfully requests the Ohio General Assembly to:

1. Continue its recognition of mental health and addiction treatment and recovery support needs of all Ohioans.
2. Provide stable funding to Board areas so that local communities can plan and develop services and supports that will continue on a multi-year basis to ensure the successful development of Ohio's local Recovery-Oriented System of Care.
3. Restore \$30 million of the \$50 million of 507 funding that will be lost in the SFY 2016/17 biennium budget and place the \$30 million in the OhioMHAS 421 Continuum of Care line item so that local Board areas can continue and expand recovery support services such as, peer services, crisis services, housing employment/vocational services and early detection, identification and intervention.
4. Support continuation of Medicaid Expansion that is critical to the people of Ohio, while recognizing that Medicaid Expansion did not result in new funding to Board areas, but rather allowed for a reallocation of local funding that was already being spent.

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

**AYES:** R. Blue, E. Caraballo, E. Cash, R. Fowler, B. Gohlstin, P. Jones, S. Killpack, C. Rerko, R. Romaniuk, E. Saffran, H. Snider, A. Williams

**DATE ADOPTED:** March 25, 2015