

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 15-05-02**

**Opposing the Legalization of Marijuana in the State of Ohio**

**WHEREAS**, in preparation of the Board developing and adopting a formal position of the legalization of marijuana, a cross-section of Board staff met internally to discuss a proposed Ohio Constitutional Amendment to legalize medical and recreational marijuana, as well as the pros and cons of the legalization of marijuana, and a consensus was reached that the ADAMHS Board should oppose the amendment; and,

**WHEREAS**, community leaders have contacted the ADAMHS Board CEO about the Board's formal position on an upcoming Ohio Constitutional Amendment to legalize medical and recreational marijuana and urged the Board to lead a campaign against the amendment; and,

**WHEREAS**, members of the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County Community Relations & Advocacy (CR&A) and the Planning & Oversight (P&O) Committees have discussed the pros and cons of the legalization of marijuana and the proposed amendment: and,

**WHEREAS**, both the CR&A and P&O Committees recommend that the full Board adopt a formal position opposing the upcoming Ohio Constitutional Amendment to legalize medical and recreational marijuana that is positioned to be placed on the November 3, 2015 ballot, and authorize the ADAMHS Board to take a leadership position on a campaign against passage of the amendment.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. The ADAMHS Board has thoroughly vetted and discussed the pros and cons of the legalization of marijuana.
2. The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County formally adopts the attached position statement that opposes any attempts to legalize, promote, grow and sell marijuana for recreational purposes in the State of Ohio and states that marijuana for medical purposes should be subject to the same research, consideration, and study as any other potential medicine, under the standards of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
3. The ADAMHS Board authorizes the Chief Executive Officer and staff to lead and assist in efforts to defeat any actions to legalize marijuana including the proposed Ohio Constitutional Amendment to legalize recreational and medical marijuana that is positioned to be placed on the November 3, 2015 ballot.

On the motion of Rev. Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr., seconded by J. Robert Fowler, Ph.D., the foregoing resolution was unanimously adopted.

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

**DATE ADOPTED:** May 27, 2015



## **Position on the Legalization of Marijuana**

The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County opposes any attempts to legalize, promote, grow and sell marijuana for recreational purposes in the State of Ohio, and will lead and assist in efforts to defeat any actions to legalize marijuana including an Ohio Constitutional Amendment.

This decision is congruent with the Board's efforts to prevent mental illness and addictions and ensure that recovery services are available. The Board believes that the use of marijuana is not benign -- which is consistent with major medical organizations -- as studies clearly outline the physical harm of marijuana including increasing the risk of psychotic disease by five times, and that adolescents are especially vulnerable to its many known adverse effects.

In addition to the physical effects, the Board also believes that there would be ramifications on society, including exacerbating a current problem of employers not being able to hire candidates or retain employees because of failed drug tests, decreased adolescent perceptions of marijuana's harmful effects, and a potential increase of individuals developing addictions to marijuana and other drugs.

The Board also believes that marijuana for medical purposes should be subject to the same research, consideration, and study as any other potential medicine, under the standards of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).