

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 18-11-02**

**ACCEPTANCE OF 2019 ADVOCACY ACTION AGENDA**

**WHEREAS**, the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County develops and approves an Advocacy Action Agenda each year to focus its efforts and develop messages to legislators, state agencies, policy makers, clients, families, providers and the general public to advance important behavioral health issues; and,

**WHEREAS**, the prior year's Advocacy Action Agenda was reviewed by the Committee of the Whole to determine success; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Advocacy Action Agenda for 2019 was developed with the over-arching goal of promoting recovery of individuals living with mental illness and addictions by adopting and acting on the five Recovery Oriented System of Care principles:

1. Focusing on Clients and Families
2. Ensuring Timely Access to Care
3. Promoting Healthy, Safe, and Drug-Free Communities
4. Prioritizing Accountable and Outcome-Driven Financing
5. Locally Managing Systems of Care; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Advocacy Action Agenda is in addition to the advocacy and collaboration that the Board provides on a daily basis through its work of ensuring that mental health, addiction treatment and prevention and recovery services and supports are available to help children and adults reach and sustain recovery; and,

**WHEREAS**, adoption and implementation of the 2019 Advocacy Action Agenda will help facilitate the implementation of the Recovery Oriented System of Care by focusing Board efforts, activities, decisions and funding to advance recovery issues and initiatives.

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

1. The ADAMHS Board of Directors adopts the 2019 Advocacy Action Agenda.
2. The ADAMHS Board of Directors authorizes the Chief Executive Officer to distribute the 2019 Advocacy Action Agenda to the community.

On the motion of Eugenia Kirkland, LSW, MSSA, CDCA, seconded by Harvey A. Snider, Esq., the foregoing resolution was adopted.

**AYES:** R. Blue, G. Boehm, R. Fowler, B. Gohlstin, C. Handler, G. Howard,  
K. Kern-Pilch, S. Killpack, E. Kirkland, H. Shannon, H. Snider, M. Step

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**DATE ADOPTED:** November 28, 2018

## Stay Informed About Advocacy Efforts

The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County offers Cuyahoga County residents an opportunity to stay informed and become involved as advocates for mental health and alcohol and other drug addiction issues. Clients, family members, providers and the public may request placement on the ADAMHS Board's e-mail distribution list.

Being on our distribution list allows you to stay informed by receiving the latest news and action alerts about legislation and other issues impacting mental health and alcohol and other drug addiction in Cuyahoga County, the state of Ohio and the United States.

To have your name placed on our e-mail distribution list, or to obtain more information about the Advocacy Action Agenda, contact:

Beth Zietlow-DeJesus, Director of External Affairs

dejesus@adamhsc.org or 216-241-3400, ext. 812

Another way to stay informed is to visit the ADAMHS Board's Web site at [www.adamhsc.org](http://www.adamhsc.org). You can find client and family information, service providers, facts about mental health and alcohol and other drug addiction, news and legislation, Board publications and general information about the Board. You can also find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

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*Cover artwork was created by a client of JFSA -The Plan. The client did a vegetable stamping project as part of the art therapy program, which allows for personal expression while encouraging healing.*

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Reverend Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr.  
Board Chair

Scott S. Osiecki  
Chief Executive Officer



## 2019 Advocacy Action Agenda

## Overarching Advocacy Objectives for 2019:

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 2019. This agenda was developed with the overarching goal of promoting **recovery of individuals living with mental illness and addictions by adopting and acting on the five Recovery Oriented System of Care principles:**

1. **Focusing on Clients and Families.**
2. **Ensuring Timely Access to Care.**
3. **Promoting Healthy, Safe, and Drug-Free Communities**
4. **Prioritizing Accountable and Outcome-Driven Financing**
5. **Locally Managing Systems of 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.

## Goals:

- **NEW:** Support the *State-wide Recovery is Beautiful* movement to ensure that a **Recovery Oriented System of Care** is developed and implemented in Cuyahoga County, through **client and family involvement; community education; integrated behavioral health, spirituality and wellness; peer support; timely access to services; quality of care and performance-based contracting and financing.**
- **Expand prevention programs and early intervention initiatives** to reduce addictions, mental illness and suicide in Cuyahoga County.
- **NEW:** Support efforts to **combat the evolving fentanyl/opioid epidemic in Cuyahoga County and the State of Ohio** and prepare for historical trend of stimulant abuse following such crises.
- **NEW:** Support efforts to **increase access to high-quality housing for individuals living with and recovering from mental illness and addictions.**
- **NEW:** Support efforts to **increase the number of practitioners** available to provide mental health and addiction services, including MAT and psychiatric services for both youth and adults and **assist provider network in recruiting staff.**
- Support **prevention activities, public awareness efforts and training to reduce the stigma of mental illness and/or addictions and educate the community by featuring client personal recovery success stories.**
- Support continued **Crisis Intervention Training for Officers** throughout Cuyahoga County.

- Develop a **Crisis Intervention Policy** for the community behavioral health system detailing what Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officers can expect from our provider network.
- Support efforts to **increase the availability of peer supporters** for both mental health and addictions in Cuyahoga County.
- Support efforts to **address increasing suicide rates through suicide prevention education, awareness and training.**
- **NEW:** Support efforts to **increase employment for people living with mental illness and/or addictions, including certified Recovery Coaches, with the Board provider agencies.**
- **NEW:** Support efforts to ensure that **culturally competent programs are in place to address health equity and disparities in Cuyahoga County.**
- **NEW:** Support efforts to **increase coordination with managed care organizations** to help integrate services.
- Support and evaluate **state and federal legislation** to determine if it **benefits individuals and families living with mental illness and/or addictions** and communicate the Board's position to the community.
- **Develop partnerships with stakeholders to increase access to services** while developing a community provider network that is responsive and **available 24-hours per day.**
- Support efforts to position the ADAMHS Board as the **authority on behavioral health issues and convener of stakeholders to address the local mental health and addiction recovery needs** of the community, including the continuation of the **Addiction Recovery Advocacy Meetings.**
- Support **efforts to achieve dedicated local funding** for mental health and addiction support services by examining opportunities for a **dedicated ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services levy.**
- Support the **Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) 20/21 Biennial Budget platform** that focuses on increasing state funding to **support a Recovery Oriented System of Care.**
- **NEW:** Seek **new funding from various sources** (grants, corporate partnerships, community partners, etc.) for programming, prevention and education.
- **NEW:** Support efforts that **address barriers and access to treatment and recovery through innovation and continuity of care.**