

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

RESOLUTION NO. 19-11-01

APPROVAL OF 2020 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, at the beginning of each year, the prior year's Advocacy Action Agenda is reviewed by the Community Relations and Advocacy Committee to determine success, a new agenda is set and recommended to the full Board by the Committee for the current year; and,

WHEREAS, the Advocacy Action Agenda for 2020 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 2020 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 2020 Advocacy Action Agenda.
2. The ADAMHS Board of Directors authorizes the Chief Executive Officer to distribute the 2020 Advocacy Action Agenda to the community.

On the motion of Reginal C. Blue, Ph.D., seconded by Katie Kern-Pilch, ATR-BC, LPC-S, the foregoing resolution was adopted.

AYES: R. Blue, C. Bryant, E. Caraballo, R. Fowler, B. Gohlstin, G. Howard, P. James-Stewart, K. Kern-Pilch, S. Killpack, M. Rodas, H. Snider, M. Step, M. Van Voorhis

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

DATE ADOPTED: November 20, 2019

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 email 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 email 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. 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 follow us on Social Media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) @ADAMHSBoardCC.

Cover artwork was created by a client of Far West Center's Art Helps and Heals (AHH!) art therapy program, which allows for personal expression while encouraging recovery.

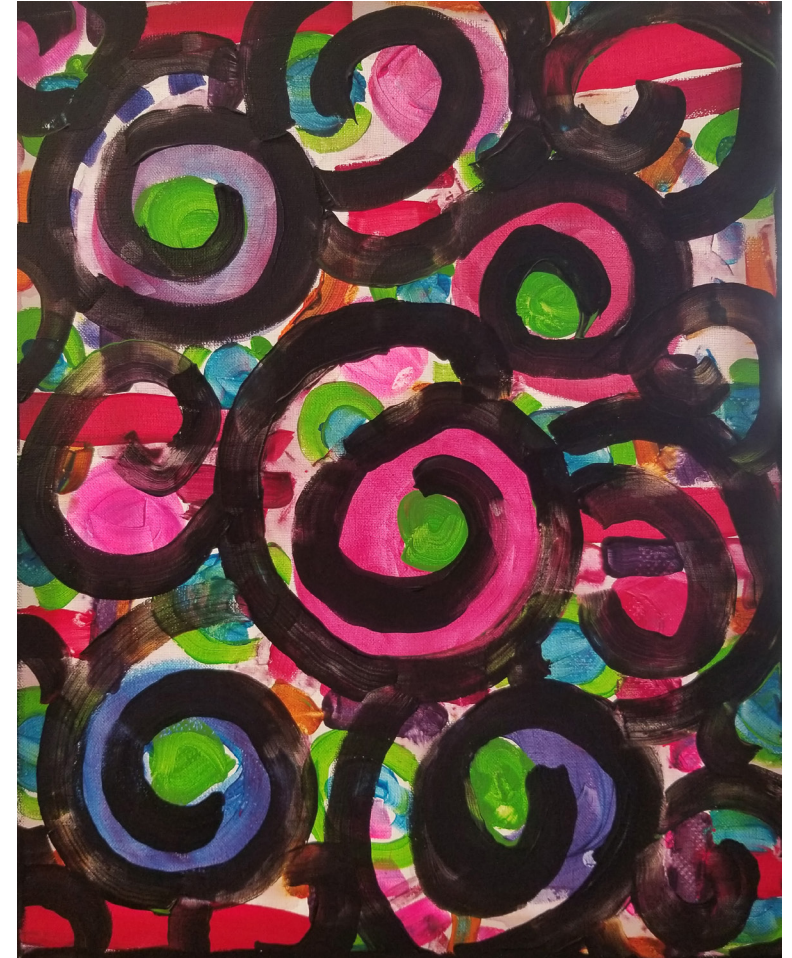


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*Reverend Benjamin F. Gohlstin, Sr.
Board Chair*

*Scott S. Osiecki
Chief Executive Officer*



2020 Advocacy Action Agenda

Overarching Advocacy Objectives for 2020:

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 2020. 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:

- Support efforts to **ensure opioid lawsuit settlement funding is utilized to support an ongoing continuum of care** for individuals and families living with substance use disorders including prevention, early intervention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery supports services.
- Support **trauma-informed resources and care** for peer support specialists, recovery coaches, and first responders to reduce the effects of secondary trauma.
- Advocate for OhioMHAS to accept SFY2021 (begins July, 2020) **Capital Plan recommendations** made by the ADAMHS Board.
- Include community stakeholders in development of the **Strategic Plan**.
- Utilize **needs assessment to inform** decision making for **2021 funding recommendations**.
- Continue collaboration with MetroHealth to **improve access and quality of care for persons in the jail that have a mental illness and/or substance use disorders** and evoke a change in culture to reduce stigma.
- Continue to **partner with the County** on creating a **diversion center** and providing recommendations on **best practices for behavioral healthcare**.
- Support continued **Crisis Intervention Training** for Officers throughout Cuyahoga County.
- 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.
- 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**.

- **Expand prevention programs and early intervention initiatives** to reduce addictions, mental illness and suicide in Cuyahoga County.
- Support efforts to **increase access to high-quality housing for individuals living with and recovering from mental illness and addictions**.
- 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**.
- 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**.
- Support efforts to **increase employment for people living with mental illness and/or addictions**, including **certified Recovery Coaches**, with the **Board provider agencies**.
- Support efforts to **ensure that culturally competent programs are in place to address health equity and disparities in Cuyahoga County**.
- 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**.
- Seek **new funding from various sources** (grants, corporate partnerships, community partners, etc.) for programming, prevention and education.
- Support efforts that **address barriers and access to treatment and recovery through innovation and continuity of care**.