

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

RESOLUTION NO. 21-01-01

APPROVAL OF 2021 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 2021 was developed with the over-arching goal of promoting recovery of individuals living with mental illness and addictions by adopting and acting on the six 2021-2025 Strategic Plan Goals, which align with the Recovery Oriented System of Care principles:

1. Strengthening Service Delivery System
2. Measuring Impact
3. Maximizing Available Funding
4. Maintaining a High-Performing Organization
5. Strengthening Behavioral Health Workforce
6. Sharing Information; 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 2021 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 2021 Advocacy Action Agenda.
2. The ADAMHS Board of Directors authorizes the Chief Executive Officer to distribute the 2021 Advocacy Action Agenda to the community.

On the motion of Sharon Rosenbaum, MBA, seconded by Katie Kern-Pilch, ATR-BC, LPC-S, the foregoing resolution was adopted.

AYES: A. Bhardwaj, R. Blue, G. Boehm, C. Bryant, E. Cade, R. Fowler, G. Howard, P. James-Stewart, K. Kern-Pilch, S. Killpack, J. Olsen, M. Rodas, S. Rosenbaum, H. Snider

NAYS: None

DATE ADOPTED: January 27, 2021



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

*Scott S. Osiecki
Chief Executive Officer*



2021 Advocacy Action Agenda

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.

Overarching Advocacy Objectives for 2021:

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 2021. This agenda was developed with the overarching goal of promoting recovery of individuals living with mental illness and substance use disorders by adopting and acting on the **six 2021-2025 Strategic Plan Goals, which align with the Recovery Oriented System of Care principles:**

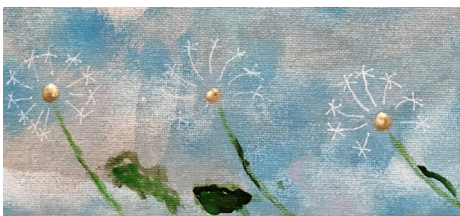
- 1. Strengthening Service Delivery System.**
- 2. Measuring Impact.**
- 3. Maximizing Available Funding.**
- 4. Maintaining a High-Performing Organization.**
- 5. Strengthening Behavioral Health Workforce.**
- 6. Sharing Information.**

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, such as Racism as a Public Health Crisis, COVID-19, the opioid epidemic, suicide prevention efforts and best practices in treatment and recovery support services.

Goals:

- **NEW - Expand co-responder team programs** to help connect individuals with mental health and substance use disorders to treatment rather than jail.
- **NEW - Support programs that reach underserved populations identified in the 2020 Needs Assessment**, including transitional-aged youth, pregnant women and single parent families with children.
- **NEW - Advocate for and support provider agencies' use of a broader range of treatment modalities**, specifically including models for diverse communities.
- **NEW - Support efforts to ensure that culturally competent and specific programs are in place** to address structural racism in Cuyahoga County's behavioral health care system.
- **NEW - Educate providers** about new efforts at the Board related to **compliance and outcomes data collection.**

- **NEW** - Support **trauma-informed resources and care** for peer support specialists, recovery coaches, behavioral health care workers and first responders to reduce the effects of secondary trauma.
- **NEW** - Increase **Crisis Intervention Training** for Officers in Cuyahoga County as part of Diversion Center efforts.
- **NEW** - **Direct social media and advertisements to diverse populations** to increase awareness of mental health issues and substance use disorders, available resources for care and training.
- **NEW** - **Manage effective programs at the Diversion Center** and advocate for law enforcement to use it.
- **NEW** - Support efforts to **increase access to high-quality housing for individuals with mental illness and/or substance use disorders for specialized populations** (i.e. youth, pregnant women, single parent families with children, transitional-aged youth and homeless persons).
- **NEW** - Strengthen the understanding of media and providers about recovery and best practices in public health messaging to **reduce stigma and educate the community about mental health and substance use disorders**.
- **NEW** - Implement **Community NaloxBox Plan**, support efforts to **combat the evolving fentanyl/opioid epidemic** and respond to rising stimulant abuse trends.
- **NEW** - Communicate importance of behavioral health in daily life to **generate interest in working in the behavioral health field** and educate middle school, high school and college students about career opportunities in behavioral health.
- Develop a **Crisis Intervention Policy** for the community behavioral health system detailing what Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officers can expect from our provider network.
- Share **legislative** updates that impact **individuals and families living with mental illness and/or addictions** and the behavioral health system with providers and the public.



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 substance use disorder 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 substance use issues 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
216-241-3400, ext. 812

Find client and family information, service providers, facts about mental health and alcohol and other substance use disorders, news and legislation, Board publications and general information about the ADAMHS Board on the website at www.adamhsc.org. Be sure to follow us on Social Media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) @ADAMHSBoardCC.



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